
Florida Democratic Party Memo

TO: THE HONORABLE ALEXIS M. HERMAN & MR. JAMES ROOSEVELT
CO-CHAIRS, DNC RULES & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

FROM: CONGRESSWOMAN KAREN L. THURMAN
CHAIRWOMAN, FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

DATE: 5/28/2008

RE: FL DELEGATE SELECTION TO THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

On May 17, the Florida Democratic Party completed the election of delegates as prescribed by our Delegate Selection & Affirmative Action Plan for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. This Plan complied with all DNC Delegate Selection Rules, except for Rule 21.A as determined by the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee in August of last year.

Accordingly, Florida Democrats instituted the Plan and elected one of the nation's most diverse National Convention delegations, broadly representative of our state. The delegation, which is comprised of elected officials, Party leaders, Democratic activists, and labor and minority-group advocates, is the most diverse and truly representative in the history of this state.

FLORIDA'S 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATION: 211 Delegates (& 31 Alternates)

185 PLEDGED DELEGATES (121 District Level, 24 PLEO, 40 At-Large): *Allocated 105 Clinton, 67 Obama, 13 Edwards*

31 ALTERNATES: *Allocated 22 Clinton, 8 Obama, 1 Edwards*

26 UNPLEDGED DELEGATES (10 Members of Congress, 13 DNC Members, 3 Add-Ons): *Endorsed 8 Clinton, 5 Obama*

FLORIDA DELEGATION'S DIVERSITY STATISTICS

African Americans: 57

Asian/Pacific Islander Americans: 2

Military Veterans: 26

Hispanics: 20

GLBT: 24

Youth: 12

Native Americans: 1

People with Disabilities: 21

The Florida Democratic Party, its Affirmative Action Committee and county Democratic parties all worked very hard to achieve this diversity, developing and instituting an unprecedented statewide outreach and education program beginning in March 2007. As a result, the delegate election process saw extraordinary participation at all levels, despite the delegation's seating being in question.

Record numbers of Democratic voters qualified to run for delegate at the Congressional District, At Large and PLEO levels. For many delegate candidates, this was their first time getting involved in the Democratic Party.

Not only did Florida see record numbers of applicants, voters in our Congressional District caucuses also showed up in droves. More than 6,000 of the state's Democrats participated in our District Level caucus elections on March 1, 2008 -- on average 242 Democrats in each District, many of whom were first-time caucus goers and some of whom drove several hours to participate. Even in the Florida Panhandle's heavily Republican 1st Congressional District, 284 Democrats turned out to vote for delegates.

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Our Affirmative Action Committee for Delegate Selection, which included Democrats representing all constituency groups and all geographic locations around the state, worked tirelessly to mobilize and educate their communities on the selection process. Their hard work and dedication paid off. In 2008, the Party achieved a diverse pool of applicants at all levels of the process.

DISTRICT LEVEL – 942 Qualified Applicants for 121 Delegate Positions and 25 Alternate Positions

Preference: 459 Clinton, 86 Edwards, 17 Kucinich, 283 Obama, 2 Richardson, 95 Uncommitted

African American (Includes Caribbean): 149	GLBT: 75
Hispanic: 83	Disabled: 65
Asian/Pacific: 16	Veterans: 109
Native American: 13	Youth: 74
Race - Other: 10	

AT-LARGE – 390 Qualified Applicants for 40 Delegate Positions and 6 Alternate Positions

Preference: 209 Clinton, 4 Edwards, 177 Obama

African American (Includes Caribbean): 89	GLBT: 55
Hispanic: 42	Disabled: 43
Asian/Pacific: 6	Veterans: 43
Native American: 11	Youth: 53
Race - Other: 2	

PARTY LEADER & ELECTED OFFICIALS (PLEO) – 73 Qualified Applicants for 24 Delegate Positions

Preference: 40 Clinton, 33 Obama

African American (Includes Caribbean): 30	Disabled: 9
Hispanic: 5	Veterans: 8
Native American: 1	Youth: 5
GLBT: 7	
