



# The State Delegates



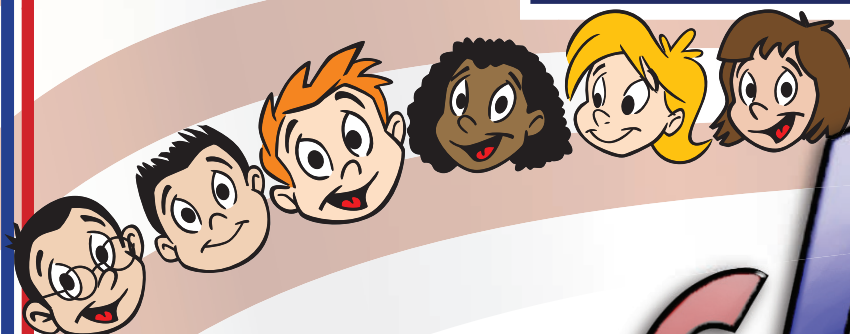
State	Delegates	State	Delegates
Alabama	50	Montana	26
Alaska	27	Nebraska	35
Arizona	29	Nevada	28
Arkansas	36	New Hampshire	12
California	172	New Jersey	50
Colorado	36	New Mexico	23
Connecticut	28	New York	95
Delaware	17	North Carolina	55
District of Columbia	19	North Dakota	28
Florida	50	Ohio	66
Georgia	76	Oklahoma	43
Hawaii	20	Oregon	28
Idaho	32	Pennsylvania	72
Illinois	69	Rhode Island	19
Indiana	46	South Carolina	25
Iowa	28	South Dakota	28
Kansas	40	Tennessee	58
Kentucky	45	Texas	155
Louisiana	46	Utah	40
Maine	24	Vermont	17
Maryland	37	Virginia	49
Massachusetts	41	Washington	43
Michigan	30	West Virginia	31
Minnesota	40	Wisconsin	42
Mississippi	40	Wyoming	29
Missouri	52		



Lesson 2

★ Freedom is Calling ★

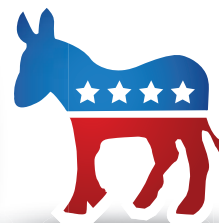
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



# We the CIVICS Kids



★ — A Kid's Guide to — ★  
**Running for President**



Lesson 2

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY  
— SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES —  
KING OF PRUSSIA CAMPUS

# A Kid's Guide to Running for President

So you want to run for president someday. It's great that you are getting an early start! Most presidents started their political careers at a young age by getting involved in their communities. They volunteered in community organizations and programs, voiced their opinions at local meetings, or ran for local offices such as school board, council or mayor. Many went on to state offices like state representatives or even governor. Others moved on to become members of the Senate or the House of Representatives in Washington. All the candidates for the presidency worked for many years to become top leaders in their party. As top leaders, they had the support of their party when they were considering their run for the presidency. (In what ways would you like to start developing your leadership skills?)

When you're ready to "throw your hat in the ring" to become your party's candidate for president, here's what you do...

★ **Announce** your plan to run for the presidency. This usually happens in your home state and is the official beginning of your campaign. (Where did President Obama and Governor Romney announce their candidacies?)

★ Now starts your **nominating campaign** to be your party's candidate. But you are not the only one hoping to be your party's candidate. Others have entered the race. You must go from state to state giving speeches, advertising on TV, radio, and internet, and debating with the other candidates in order to make your ideas heard and win over voters (Besides Governor Romney, who were the other candidates in the Republican Party's nominating campaign? President Obama was the only candidate in the Democratic Party running for president.)



★ Next is the **primary election**, or first election, in the race to the presidency. This gives voters the chance to choose the nominee for their party. Depending on the outcome of the primary election in each state, you will gather delegates who will represent you at your party's convention. If you win the most votes in the state, sometimes you get all the delegates for that state. Other times, you might share the number of delegates depending on how many votes you and the others in the race receive. States schedule their primary elections anytime from January to June. New Hampshire and Iowa are the first to hold their primary elections. Some states have voters participate by going to the polls to cast their vote for the candidate of their choice. Other states hold caucuses where voters meet in groups to discuss the candidates and debate the issues before choosing their candidate. (Why do you think it is important to discuss the candidates and the issues? What are some of the issues in the 2012 campaign? Look at the list of the number of delegates from each state. Which state has the most delegates? Which state has the least? In your nominating campaign which five states would you most try to win? Why do you think some states have more delegates than others?)

★ When all the primaries are over, it's time for the **national convention!** Each party schedules their convention for the summer before the general election. All the delegates that you and others won in the state primaries attend. Here each state will call out their votes – **"The great state of Delaware pledges its 17 votes to (your name?)"**. The candidate who receives the majority of votes is declared the presidential nominee for the party.

Congratulations! You are the nominee! Next you will announce your choice for your running mate – your vice-president. The national convention is also the time for the leaders of the party to discuss and form a platform – a statement of how they stand on important issues such as taxes, education, health care...(Where and when were the Democratic and Republican national conventions held? Who are the vice-presidential candidates running with President Obama and Governor Romney? What issue do you think should be included in the Democrat or Republican platform?)

★ Time to **campaign** again! This time you are campaigning against the presidential candidate from the other party. There are more advertisements on TV, radio, and the internet; more meetings with voters to talk about the issues and your ideas; more interviews on news shows. You and the other nominee will debate on national TV while the whole nation watches. You will talk about your position on important topics and answer questions. You will talk about why your ideas are better than your opponent's. You try to reach as many voters as possible. Sometimes you will visit several states in one day! All your efforts are leading up to the one important day –

## ELECTION DAY!

### Sticky Situation:

Your school has decided to start a student government. Two students are running for president of your student government and some of your friends don't know them. The student candidates are from another class and your friends have never gotten to meet them. Your friends tell you that they are not going to vote at all because they don't know the candidates. Do you think this is the right decision? What might you do or say to change your friends' minds about voting if you think they should vote? How might you suggest the candidates become better known to other students?



### Literacy Links

- **Duck for President** by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin
- **If I Ran for President** by Catherine Stier and Lynne Avril
- **Woodrow for President** by Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes
- **Schoolhouse Rock – Presidential Minute** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H66lxMpZmro>
- **Elections for Kids** - <http://www.gallopade.com/client/electionsForKids/index.html>
- **Scholastic Election 2012** - <http://magazines.scholastic.com/election-2012>
- **Videos – Race for the Presidency and The Race is On**
- **iCivics Election 2012** - <http://icivics.org>
- **Videos – Race for the Presidency and The Race is On**
- **National Constitution Center: Constitution Hall Pass: The Presidency!** - <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/hallpass>