



**League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
Citizen Education Fund**

133 Portland Street Boston, MA 02114  
lwwma@lwwma.org  
617-523-2999

**Election Selection: From Presidential Primaries to Election Day**

The 2008 presidential election campaign has been underway for many months. Campaign ads, fundraising appeals, debates, and press conferences are omnipresent.

The primary process started with voters in New Hampshire and Iowa expressing their preferences, followed by a smattering of states leading up to “Super-Duper Tuesday” on February 5, which included Massachusetts. But who are voters actually voting for?

They are voting for delegates to political party conventions, where nominees will be chosen by absolute majority of the delegates. The Democratic National Convention is the week of August 25, 2008 in Denver and the Republican National Convention will be held the week of September 1, 2008 in St. Paul.

The delegates are bound by party rules to cast their vote for the candidate they were voted to represent, at least on the first round of voting. There are Super-Delegates (elected officials, party leaders, and others) who are not bound by primary or caucus results. If multiple ballots are required, candidates may release their delegates to vote for someone else.

Strong voter support in primaries and caucuses gives a candidate more clout at the conventions not only for the nomination but shaping the party’s platform which is approved at the convention toward their preferences.

Massachusetts voters have had their say on February 5. Now Massachusetts voters should watch the remaining debates before primaries in other states and learn more about the candidates’ positions. An informed voter is a valuable resource in this presidential selection process.

*For more information about the Presidential Selection Process: From Primaries to the Electoral College, contact the League of Women Voters at 800-882-1649 or visit our website at [www.votinginfo.info](http://www.votinginfo.info)*