

- I. Agenda
 - A. Superdelegates and possible Convention Battle
 - B. Romney gives his candidates to McCain
 - C. The role of the independent voter – Hint – they will decide the election
- II. Superdelegates and Convention Battle
 - A. Definition (source – WSJ 2/7/08 FAQ: Sussing Out Superdelegates by Matt Phillips)
 1. Unpledged delegates
 2. 796 superdelegates versus 3,253 pledgeable delegates (delegates assigned through state primaries or caucuses)
 3. 2,025 delegates needed to win the nomination
 4. Are not chosen by the voters
 5. Officials in form Democratic National committee and party members that hold elected offices such as governor, senator or congressman.
 6. Legally and morally totally free to vote as they see fit.
 7. They may commit to a candidate and then change their mind later.
 8. Created as a result of the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago
 9. It ensures that party leaders/officials will be part of the convention.
 - B. Effect on convention
 1. The nominee will be chosen at the convention
 2. Resolution of Florida and Michigan
 - a) Delegates are not seated at the convention because the primaries were held in January thus violating party rules.
 3. Wooing of superdelegates
 4. Who controls the superdelegates? Back room deals
 - C. Legal Battle
 1. Imagine one candidate winning the popular vote and the other winning the delegate count – Sound familiar? Bush Gore 2000 all over again.
 2. Lawsuits
 - a) Popular vote versus delegate counts
 - b) Seating FL and MI
 - c) Floridians demanding representation at the convention according the primary results
 3. Outcome
 - a) Bad for democrats
 - b) No one wants to see our political process be adjudicated by the courts.
 - c) It will turn off independent voters thus costing the democrats the election
- III. Romney – Gives delegates to McCain
 - A. Per the Wall Street Journal, Romney has 280 delegates and McCain has 843 delegates. Romney is asking his delegates to support McCain. This would bring McCain's count to 1123, 68 short of the nomination.
 - B. McCain no longer has to worry about Huckabee.
 1. It's all about money. Saves money – doesn't need to spend money fighting Huckabee

2. McCain can now concentrate on the convention and preparing to fight the democrats.
- C. It sends a strong message to the party - I, Mitt Romney, the most conservative candidate, endorse McCain - It's time for the rhetoric to stop. If Mitt Romney can back McCain why can't the rest of the conservative talk show hosts and conservative political pundits? It's for the good of the party.
- D. The vice presidency is Mitt's, if he wants it.
 1. It's Mitt Romney's best path to the Presidency
 - a) It would give Mitt 3 to 8 years of national exposure.
 - b) Gives time for Southerners and Evangelicals to get used to the idea of a Mormon in the White House.
- E. The party owes Mitt a favor.
 1. Mitt has proven he's a team player.
- F. This move positions Mitt Romney in a strong position to run again in the future. The party and John McCain will remember what Mitt did for the party.
- G. Huckabee – Why doesn't he drop out? Possible Goals?
 1. National exposure – positioned for the future
 2. Is Arkansas a good state for presidential intentions? Does it provide sufficient depth of experience as CEO of the state to qualify you for the White House?
 - a) You wouldn't think so, however, Two words – Bill Clinton
 3. Makes him a player in the party
 - a) Potential VP slot in 2012 / 16 – provides southern states
 4. Secretary of Agriculture

IV. Independents

- A. Make up 1/3 the electorate.
- B. What are people looking for?
 1. Party Issues
 - a) Bush tax cuts
 - (1) Keep 'em or tax the wealthy
 - b) Healthcare
 - (1) Fix using the markets or using government
 2. Issues are changing
 - a) Iraq
 - (1) Surge is working
 - (2) Little media attention
 - (3) Not a key issue with voters
 - b) Economy
 - (1) Recession
 - (2) Sub Prime Mortgages
 - (3) Some one has to pay
 - (4) Candidates need a strong response
 - c) Immigration
 - (1) Seal the borders!
 - d) Taxes
 - (1) Don't raise them – cut spending

- e) True issue – Political Paralysis
 - (1) Democratic Congress has accomplished little
 - (2) Time for a change
 - (a) Not Clinton
 - (b) McCain or Obama

3. Factors

- a) It's not the issues
- b) It's about getting Congress and the President to address and resolve the issues.
- c) Issues
 - (1) Economy
 - (2) Immigration
 - (3) Fiscal spending
 - (4) Taxes
 - (5) Healthcare
 - (6) Entitlements – though few are aware of the problem
- d) The deciding factor - Intangibles
 - (1) Character
 - (2) Leadership

C. McCain

1. Pro's

- a) Maverick
- b) Willing to reach across the aisle
- c) Romney's endorsement
- d) Middle of the road candidate

2. Con's

- a) Age – 72 (Reagan - 69)
- b) May be viewed as a representative of the problem – more of the same, no change

3. Stand on issues

- a) Immigration
 - (1) Hot Button
- b) Campaign Finance
 - (1) Voters don't care
- c) Tax Cuts
 - (1) Voters say Yes
- d) Stem-cell Research
 - (1) Voters' don't care
- e) Confirmation of Judges
 - (1) Voters don't care – see partisan paralysis

4. Deciding factor – vice president

- a) Win over conservatives
- b) Provide southern states

D. Obama

1. Pro's

- a) Change – Is this the solution to the partisan paralysis

- b) Black
 - c) Young
 - 2. Con's
 - a) Inexperienced
 - b) Speeches are fluff – moves his supporters
 - (1) Web site has the facts
 - c) Too liberal – most liberal senator in congress
 - d) Promise of Hope – doesn't work with Independents
 - 3. Choice for Vice President
 - a) Balance with experience
 - b) Won't be Clinton
 - 4. Future comparison – Another President with insufficient experience to assume the office – Abraham Lincoln
- E. Summary
- 1. Superdelegates will determine the outcome of the nomination of the democratic candidate.
 - 2. Lawsuits will damage the democratic party
 - 3. Romney is well positioned to accept a role in a McCain presidency to become a party leader in 2012/16
 - 4. Independents will decide the election
 - a) 50% won't vote for Clinton
 - b) Want change – stop political paralysis
 - c) Obama and McCain address this need
 - d) Youth versus Wisdom and Experience
 - e) Outsider versus an Insider