

Well national conventions are composed of delegates who are elected or selected by voters in primaries, caucuses in all the states and other places like territories and the District of Columbia all across the United States. These delegates, the elected representatives of voters, assemble, every four years, both for the Democrats and Republicans, in cities that they pick to cast their vote and select the nominee of their respective party. Those delegates are selected through a process. The delegate selection process in the Democratic party, the one I'm most familiar with, is a very involved, detailed process. It has evolved over the course of many years. So for example, in 1968, when Hubert Humphrey was the nominee of the Democratic party, he was actually elected the nominee of the Democratic party by a convention of delegates, even though then-Vice President Humphrey did not participate in a single primary or caucus. So, it was kind of, of course Senator Kennedy was assassinated at the end of that process in 1968, it was a lot of turmoil in the course of that year. But after 1968, the Democratic party got together and said, listen we really want a different nominating process, we want a nominating process where voters pick our candidate for President, not insiders, not people who control delegations from respective states like Governors or other people, other people important in the party as they may be, nevertheless they didn't reflect the expressed sentiments of voters. So, beginning with the 1972 Democratic campaign when George McGovern was the nominee of the Democratic party, the Democratic party began a process of reforming its rules. And that rules reform process continued all the way through the 1980s. And those reforms really changed the way that we pick delegates. The delegate selection process in both parties, because the Republicans began to follow some of this, really became a process driven by voters. And voters participating in primaries and caucuses got more and more power, and insiders, their power was somewhat diminished. We've tried in recent years to achieve a balance between more insiders participating and voters still controlling and that's, that's kind of where we are today.