

FEBRUARY

- » **Feb 9:** Louisiana, Washington state, Nebraska (Democratic), Kansas (Republican)
- » **Feb 10:** Maine (Democratic)
- » **Feb 12:** District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia
- » **Feb 19:** Hawaii (Democratic), Wisconsin

» Mr Barack Obama holds a clear advantage in Louisiana and Maine. He looks to sweep Louisiana which has a sizeable African-American population.

» Washington state, with its white liberal population, could also tilt heavily in his favour, but it also has a history of backing women; both women senators from the state have backed Mrs Hillary Clinton.

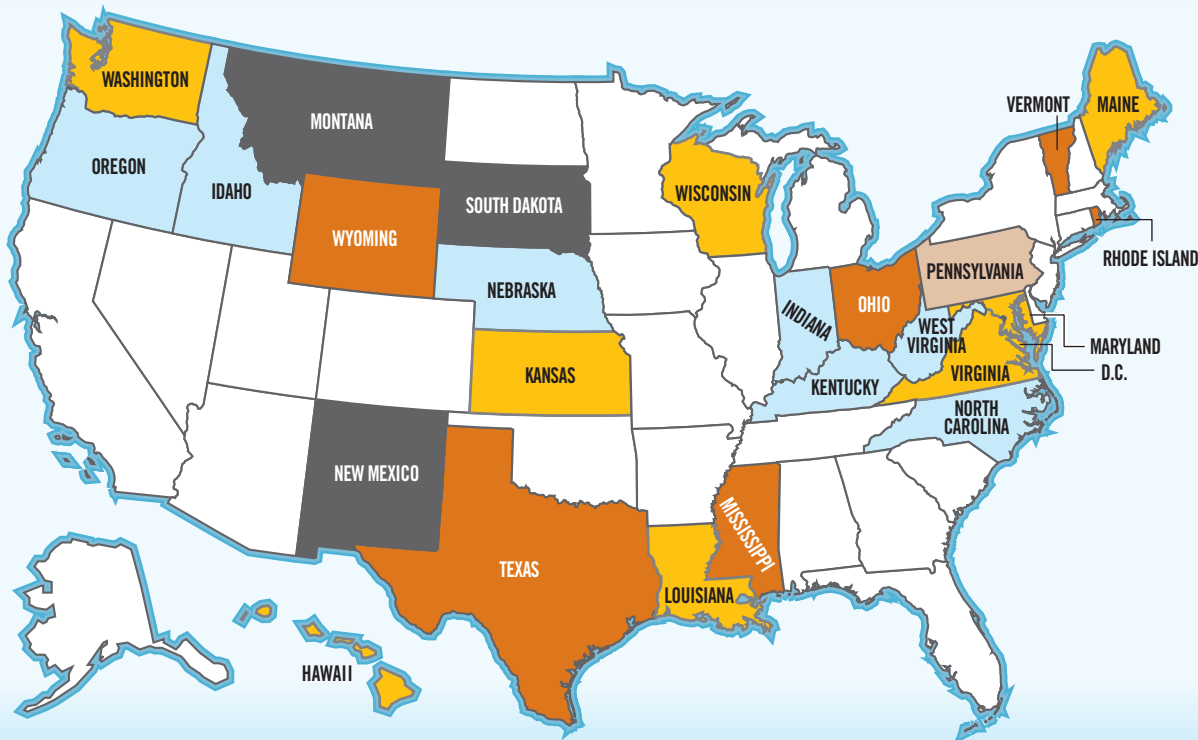
» Social conservatives have a history of packing the Republican caucuses, which could boost Mr Mike Huckabee in the Washington caucus.

» Mr John McCain is expected to draw strength in urban areas, mostly in the south of Louisiana, while Mr Huckabee's popularity is concentrated in the heavily Protestant northern part of the state.

» In Kansas, Mr McCain was favoured even before Mr Mitt Romney's departure. But the state's largest anti-abortion group has endorsed Mr Huckabee.

What's next

The battle for the US presidential nomination is now a straight fight in Republican and Democratic camps. Here is a look at the ensuing polls and what is in store for each candidate in some of the more immediate contests.



MARCH

- » **March 4:** Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont
- » **March 8:** Wyoming (Democratic)
- » **March 11:** Mississippi

» Mrs Clinton is aiming for the big states of Ohio and Texas.

» In Texas, she can rely on the backing of Hispanics, who rallied behind her in California.

APRIL

- » **April 22:** Pennsylvania

Another big state where Mrs Clinton is favoured to win. She has the backing of its governor, Mr Ed Rendell.

MAY

- » **May 6:** Indiana, North Carolina
- » **May 13:** Nebraska (Republican), West Virginia (Democratic)
- » **May 16-18:** Hawaii (Republican)
- » **May 20:** Kentucky, Oregon
- » **May 27:** Idaho (Republican)

» Mr Obama is expected to do well in Nebraska, with state party leaders and lawmakers endorsing his candidature.

JUNE

- » **June 3:** Montana (Democratic), New Mexico (Republican), South Dakota

AUGUST

- » **Aug 25-28:** Democratic National Convention to choose the presidential nominee

SEPTEMBER

- » **Sept 1-4:** Republican National Convention to choose the party nominee