



The Best of Both Worlds

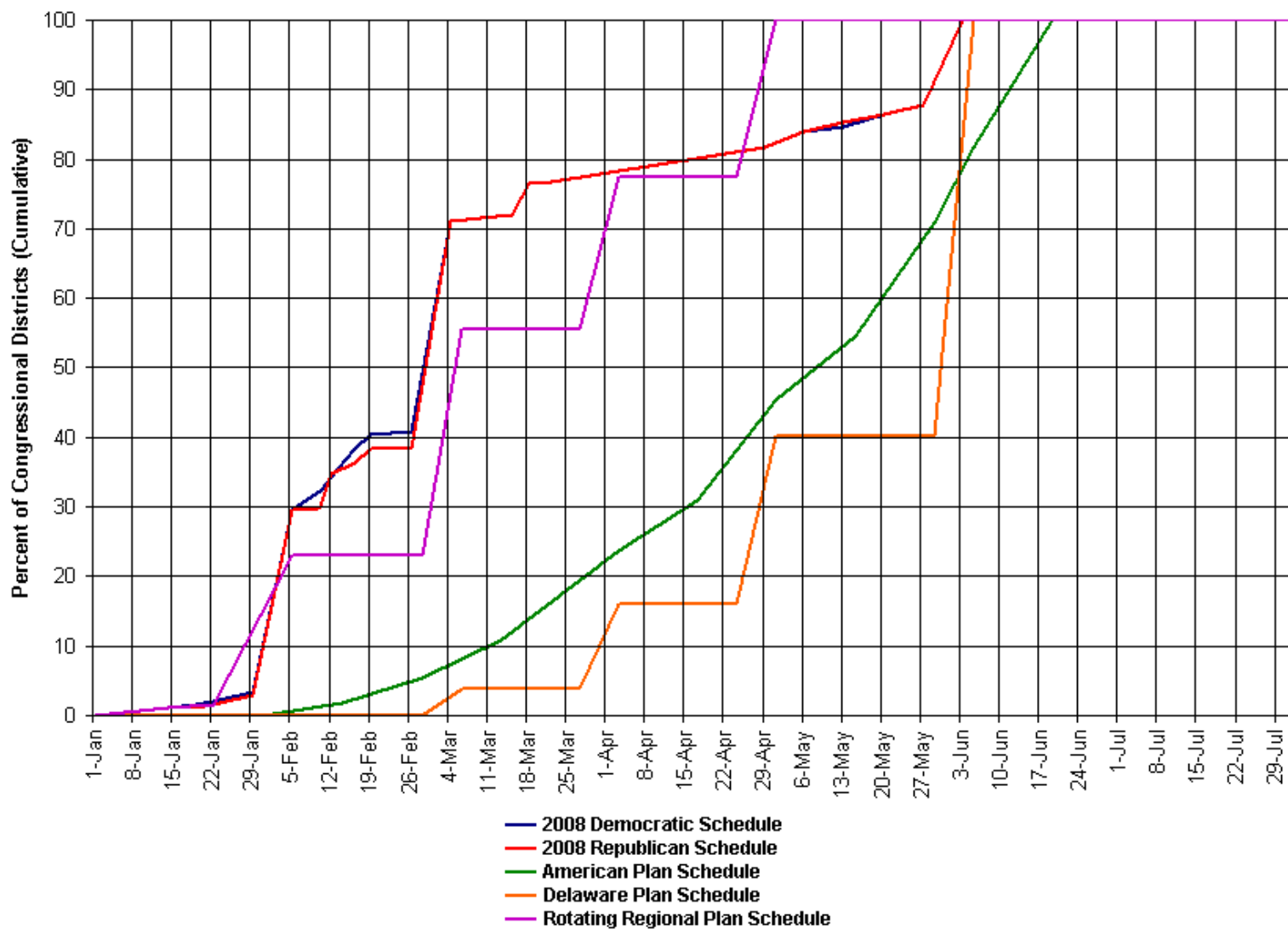
The Delaware Plan and the Rotating Regional Plan each have part of the correct solution. The Delaware Plan provides for a gradual escalation of the campaign, but keeps the states in a static order, with some permanently privileged, and some permanently penalized. The Rotating Regional Plan allows for a dynamic ordering of the states, but does not allow for a gradual escalation of the campaign, thus big money will win over good ideas and good candidates.

Only the American Plan has both a graduated schedule to promote campaign competitiveness, and a dynamic, equitable ordering of the states. The Delaware Plan increases campaign competitiveness but is not fair to all states. The Rotating Regional Plan is fair to all states but does not increase campaign competitiveness. Only the American Plan increases campaign competitiveness and is fair to all states.

Criteria	American Plan	Delaware Plan	Rotating Regional Plan
Delays costly, high stakes campaigns in large states until later in the season, allowing a wide field of candidates to run inexpensive campaigns in small states in early contests.	Yes. The first three rounds involve a handful of states: Round 1: 1.8% of electorate. Round 2: 3.6% of electorate. Round 3: 5.5% of electorate.	No. All “pods” contain large numbers of states, making campaigning costly: Pod 1: 17 states and territories. Pod 2: 13 states. Pod 3: 13 states. Pod 4: 12 states.	No. The first interval encompasses 25% of the American electorate, forcing candidates to wage quasi-national campaigns.
Enhances “retail politics” by the graduated nature of the plan, giving opportunity for lesser-known (and less funded) candidates to gain traction in the primary process.	Yes. Every candidate can compete in one or two small states in the first interval. The plan preserves retail politicking in small states early in the season. It gives an under-funded grassroots campaign a chance to catch fire and take off.	No. The first “pod” encompasses 17 states and territories, forcing candidates to wage quasi-national campaigns.	No. Retail politicking is impossible when candidates must campaign in 1/4 of the nation simultaneously. The nominee is determined in the first interval, thus all candidates spend all of their campaign money in this “do or die” round. Big Money wins the race.

Criteria	American Plan	Delaware Plan	Rotating Regional Plan
Lengthens the period of time for the primary contest, enabling sustained voter participation and media interest, and increased discussion of the issues and vetting of the candidates.	Yes. A graduated schedule allows campaign competitiveness to be sustained over a longer portion of the primary season.	Marginal. The plan has a graduated schedule; however, even the first “pod” contains large numbers of states, making campaigning costly and likely giving a candidate insurmountable momentum and increasing the likelihood of candidates dropping out early.	No. The nominee is determined in the first interval. The other three regional primaries don’t matter.
Enables populous states early enough participation in the nomination process to have a strong influence on the outcome.	Yes. IL, PA, OH, and MI are eligible for Round 3, prior to which only 5.5% of the American electorate has voted. CA, TX, NY and FL are eligible for Round 4, at which point only 11% of the American electorate has voted.	No. The 12 most populous states, from CA to VA, are always in the last “pod.”	Yes. Each regional primary includes large and small states.
“A nominating process that remains competitive for a longer period of time in order to give the public a greater opportunity to engage the campaign and to become informed about the candidates.” --Vanishing Voter Project, Kennedy School of Government	Yes. A graduated schedule allows campaign competitiveness to be sustained over a longer portion of the primary season. The plan gives candidates a chance to bounce back from early defeats.	Marginal. A graduated schedule promotes campaign competitiveness; however, even the first “pod” contains large numbers of states, making campaigning costly.	No. Competitive campaigning ends with the first regional primary. The remaining regional primaries are virtually uncontested.
“A briefer interval between the decisive contests and the conventions in order to help people sustain the levels of public engagement and information they had attained when the nominating campaign peaked.” --Vanishing Voter Project, Kennedy School of Government	Yes. The decisive contests do not occur until near the end of the primary season.	Yes. The decisive contests do not occur until near the end of the primary season.	No. The decisive contests occur at the beginning of the primary season.

Criteria	American Plan	Delaware Plan	Rotating Regional Plan
<p>“A system that increases the likelihood that voters in all states will have an effective voice in the selection of the nominees.” --Vanishing Voter Project, Kennedy School of Government</p>	<p>Yes. A graduated schedule allows campaign competitiveness to be sustained over a longer portion of the primary season, and increases the likelihood that voters in all states will have an effective voice in the selection of the nominees.</p>	<p>Marginal. A graduated schedule allows campaign competitiveness; however, with a large first “pod” campaigning is costly and candidates are likely to withdraw, or not even enter the race.</p>	<p>No. In effect, the first region to vote chooses the nominee. Most other candidates drop out of the race. The remaining 3/4 of the country are left with few choices, if any.</p>
<p>Changes made to the '04 schedule were supposed to front load delegates and essentially end the nomination battle early so energy could be focused on Bush. The commission seemed to think this idea failed. -- DNC Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling</p>	<p>Yes. The plan is specifically designed to end front-loading.</p>	<p>Yes. The plan is specifically designed to end front-loading.</p>	<p>No. The plan institutionalizes front-loading by having 1/4 of the country vote on the same day. In comparison, after more than a month of voting, by March 1, 2004, the Democratic Party selected 23% of its delegates in the most front-loaded schedule in history.</p>
<p>There was some sense that a longer selection process helps: deflate the importance of early-acting states, candidates get better known, issue positions get better developed and better understood by voters. -- DNC Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling</p>	<p>Yes. A graduated schedule reduces the importance of early-acting states. A protracted, competitive campaign increases discussion of the issues and vetting of the candidates.</p>	<p>Yes. A graduated schedule reduces the importance of early-acting states. A protracted, competitive campaign increases discussion of the issues and vetting of the candidates.</p>	<p>No. Competitive campaigning, and therefore the discussion of issues and vetting of candidates, ends with the first regional primary.</p>



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