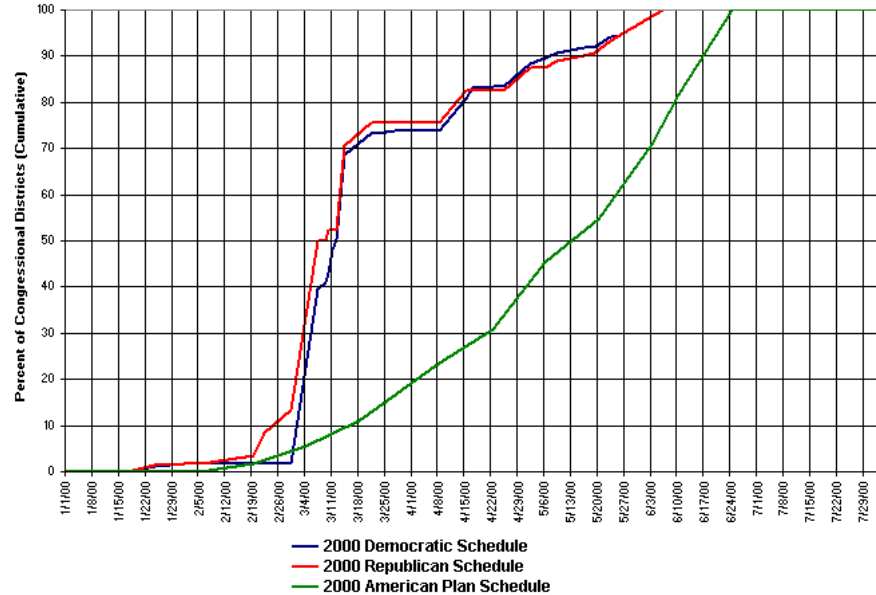
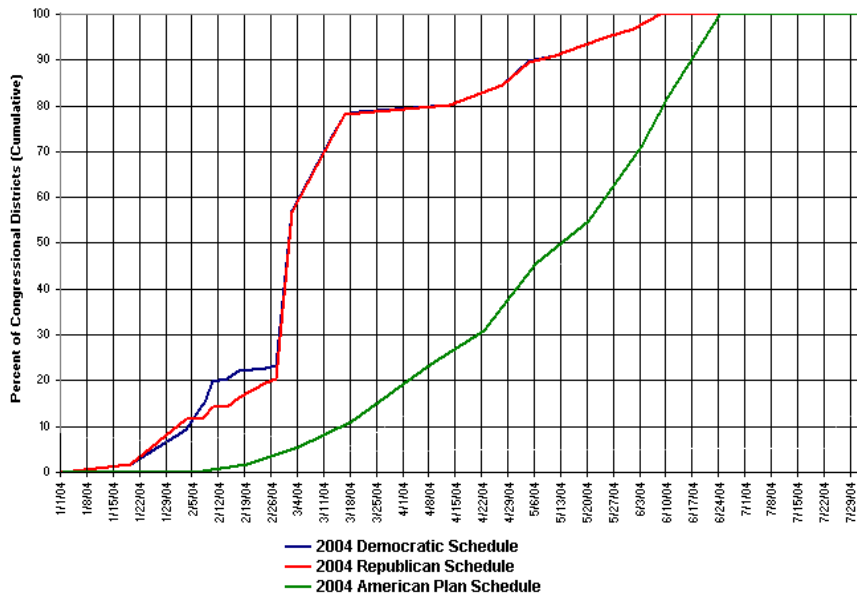


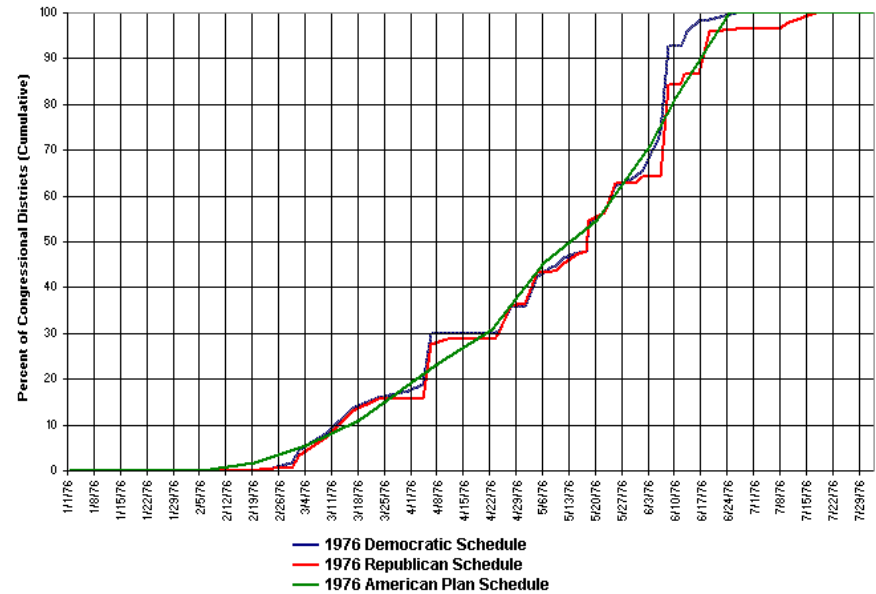
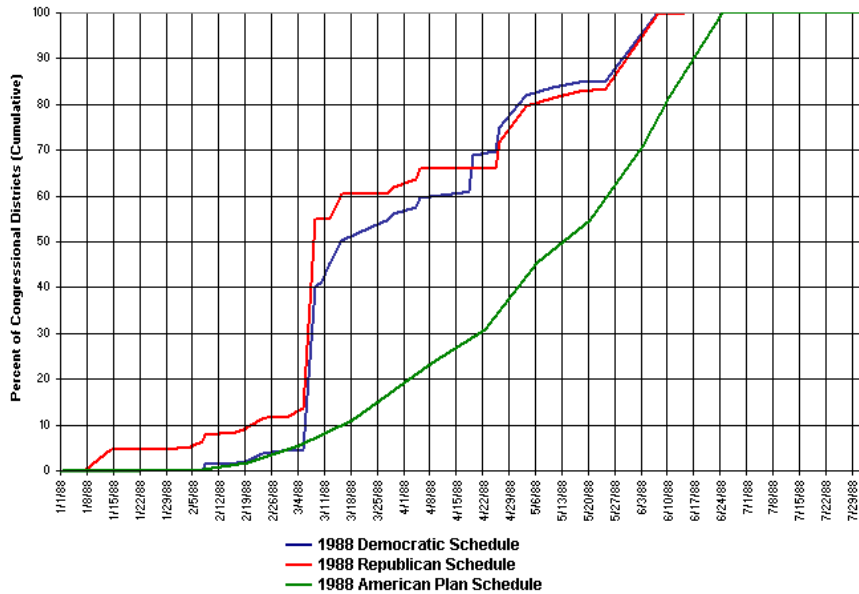
### Looking Backward: Devolution of the Primary Schedule, 2004-1976

Speaking at a symposium in 2001, former chairman of the RNC Rules Committee Tom Sansonetti declared that letting the smallest states begin the contest “allows a grassroots campaign to catch fire. The Jimmy Carter example in ‘76, the Gary Hart example from ‘84, the Eugene McCarthy example for that matter in 1968 (Center for Governmental Studies 2001, 18).” The fact that the chairman of a Republican committee would refer to the campaigns of three Democrats eloquently bespeaks the bipartisan reach of this issue.

Moreover, an interesting question is, if the American Plan had been in place in those years, would it have been conducive to the candidacies of Eugene McCarthy or Jimmy Carter?

These four graphs take you back through time, from today’s front-loaded schedule to the way it was in the 1970s, when the McGovern-Fraser reforms inaugurated the modern era of presidential primaries.





1976 was the year that Jimmy Carter started out with a shoestring campaign and ended up in the White House.

Note that the American Plan faithfully reproduces the schedule profiles for 1976. It does so for 1960 through 1968 as well; however this is of somewhat less relevance, for there were far fewer presidential primaries in those years. In any case, the last

chart answers the question: could a Eugene McCarthy or a Jimmy Carter have made a successful run under the American Plan schedule, and could a Ronald Reagan have challenged the sitting president from his party? Actually... *they did!*

The American Plan restores the nomination schedule under which the 1972 McGovern-Fraser reforms were intended to operate, before front-loading distorted the process beyond recognition.

For more information, visit [www.americanplan.org](http://www.americanplan.org)

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