

Understanding S.B. 54

Before S.B. 54 - Why Republicans Voted for Candidates at Convention

The way it used to work:

- In convention we voted for candidates which determined who the party would present as the Republican Nominee to go on the ballot in the November General Election
- A candidate needed to receive 60% of the delegates' votes or higher at convention to bypass the primary and go straight to the General Election
- If it came down to 2 candidates and neither one reached the 60% threshold, both candidates would come out of convention and go to a Primary Election in June to determine who would be the Republican Nominee
- Primaries only had 2 candidates on ballot
- The winner of the primary was then declared the Republican Nominee to go on the ballot in the November General Election

Senate Bill 54 - Passed by the Utah Legislature in 2014

- Established a dual path for candidates to get onto the primary ballot:
 1. By vote of the caucus delegates at the convention and/or
 2. Obtaining a requisite number of active voter signatures (signature path)
- Unlimited number of candidates can now appear on the primary ballot
- Candidates can choose to completely bypass delegates and the convention system, pay money for signatures to be gathered, and still show up on the primary ballot
- Money now plays a much bigger role in races than it did before S.B. 54

After S.B. 54 Passed - Why Republicans Vote for Candidates at Convention

- Now in convention we vote for candidates who the party will present as the Republican "Convention Nominee" to go on the ballot with any signature gatherers in the June Primary
- A candidate must still receive 60% or higher to come out of convention as the sole Republican Convention Nominee
- If it comes down to 2 candidates and neither one reaches the 60% threshold, both candidates go to the Primary Election in June, where they will be mixed in with the "signature gatherer" candidates on the ballot
- The winner of the primary is then declared the Republican Nominee to go on the ballot in the November General Election

What do YOU think of S.B. 54?