



ENDORSEMENTS

Warren Rudman, Former United States Senator (R-NH) and Americans for Campaign Reform Co-Chair:

“Democracy works best when large numbers of citizens participate and make their views known. The National Presidential Caucus is a creative initiative to use technology to promote gatherings all across the nation to address the most important issues facing us in these critical times.”

Bill Bradley, Former United States Senator (D-NJ) and Americans for Campaign Reform Co-Chair:

“Harnessing the power of the internet to foster citizen participation through the National Presidential Caucus is an innovative way to encourage citizens to discuss the choices that face us, both in terms of issues and candidates. The National Presidential Caucus is a wonderful opportunity for grassroots activists to impact the national issues agenda.”

Tim Draper, Founder, Managing Director, Draper Fisher Jurvetson:

“Internet driven transformation of the US political system and democracy itself is one of the most significant developments since the founding of the country, and yet we must resist over reliance on only electronic means of participation. The National Presidential Caucus will enable the kind of face to face discussion and deliberation that remains the bedrock of free speech and free assembly.”

Phil Noble, Founder, Politics Online:

“The internet is transforming political processes all over the world, especially democratic ones. The National Presidential Caucus is that rare combination of the newest digital tools for online participation with the oldest form of communication, face to face. The world watches as its oldest democracy tries to cope with these disruptive technologies during the critical process of selecting the next president.”

James Fishkin, Director, Stanford University’s Center for Deliberative Democracy:

“The National Presidential Caucus provides an unprecedented opportunity to combine citizen deliberation with mass participation. New technologies make new forms of politics possible. In order to assess the process, the National Caucus has agreed to make data from its exit polls available to Stanford’s Center for Deliberative Democracy to consider two basic questions: When citizens discuss the issues and become more informed do they change their views? Does it make a difference whether or not participants vote by secret ballot, as in most American elections or vote publicly, as is the common practice in events like the Iowa Caucuses?”

Howard Rheingold, Author, “Smart Mobs”:

“Democracy is not just about voting — it’s about citizens communicating with each other about issues and candidates. The National Presidential Caucus is a wonderful opportunity to bring citizens back into an increasingly professionalized election process, and to give citizens the power to influence electoral processes that have been taken out of our hands.”

Dr. Larry J. Sabato, Director, Center for Politics, University of Virginia:

“One of the greatest challenges our country faces is in connecting all Americans to their political process—improving civic education and participation, and combating easy cynicism. The National Presidential Caucus is a creative attempt to do just that, as we face the critical election of 2008.”



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Peverill Squire, Professor, Political Science, University of Iowa:

"The National Presidential Caucus provides Americans outside of Iowa an opportunity to engage in the nomination process in a meaningful way. The caucus allows voters to do more than simply register their preferences, it affords them the rare and valuable opportunity to deliberate with others over their choices. And the choices National Presidential Caucus participants make are likely to be noted in Iowa and elsewhere."

Doug Bailey, CEO, Unity '08:

"The National Presidential Caucus is a fabulous way to let the people back into the process. It's a straw vote when you don't even have to be bussed across the country to Ames Iowa to take part. Imagine that — the voice of real people might actually be heard."

Jim Dean, Chair of Democracy for America:

"The presidential nominating process has long been dominated by the few. The National Presidential Caucus breaks that tradition and allows all Americans to have their voices heard. With the Internet as their tool, thousands of grassroots activists — rather than a privileged few — will set the national agenda. I can't wait!"

Carol C. Darr, Director, GW's Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet:

"The big donors are placing their bets. The mainstream media is having a say. The bloggers are opining. The interest groups are making endorsements. And before you know it, we will have two de facto nominees. The National Caucus gives ordinary citizens a chance to weigh in before it's too late to make a real difference."

Bob Fertik, President of Democrats.com:

"Who says only Iowans can choose the next President? On December 7, turn off your computer and head to the nearest National Presidential Caucus. Bring your ideas, your passions, and your friends!"

David All of the David All Group and founder of TechRepublican.com:

"We've long noted there's a transformative effect by Internet enabled face-to-face meetings. In 2004, the Bush-Cheney campaign witnessed over 8,000 house "Parties for the President" distributed throughout the nation. The National Presidential Caucus provides a forum for all Americans to get involved in this distributed, participatory format to help improve our democratic process -- and The David All Group and TechRepublican.com are happy to help ensure its success."