



**For Immediate Release**

August 1, 2022

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## **PODERPAC Endorses Nevada's Bid to Host First-In-The-Nation Democratic Presidential Primary**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, PODER PAC, the nation's first and only political action committee dedicated to electing pro-choice Democratic Latinas to federal office, is announcing its support for Nevada's bid to be the first-in-the-nation primary state. DNC officials should vote in favor of this effort because doing so will set a more fair and realistic tone for our nation's presidential candidate nominating process. The Nevada electorate is representative of the vast coalition of voters that make up the Democratic party and are needed to win modern elections.

Since the 1968 DNC, Iowa has been the first nominating contest in the Democratic Party primaries for the presidential election, mainly due to its complex and lengthy caucus process. Unfortunately, as deep-seated as Iowa's place in the presidential primary calendar is to our political process, so are the systemic flaws inherent in the current presidential preference process.

The first nominating contest in the primary process sets the theme and tone of the race and establishes an early frontrunner. We need to center an electorate like Nevada's that represents our nation's vast diversity of thought and identity. Having a state that is not representative of our nation is a grave misstep that has cost the people of this country numerous competitive candidates and, ultimately, quality presidents.

Iowa remains one of the country's least diverse, oldest, and most sparsely populated states. A status quo vote will result in a skewed nominating contest that fails to match the will of the broader electorate in the eventual presidential election. Furthermore, having such a heavily skewed contest early on sets a warped precedent for the remainder of the Democratic primary. Winning the Iowa caucus places a candidate in a preeminent position in media narratives, fundraising, and success in future nominating contests that can be difficult for other candidates to overcome.

While Iowans' views are essential in selecting the Democratic Party's candidate for President, they are not truly representative of the opinions of a winning coalition of Democratic voters. Iowa's electorate is also certainly not representative of those voters that have been essential in delivering big wins for Democratic Presidential nominees and ultimately for the American people.

We can't afford to keep neglecting the voices that deserve more robust representation in this highly consequential primary contest. It's time to recognize the political power of historically



marginalized groups whose influence has long been known despite being the target of systematic restriction and silencing. The Democratic Party's decision to have Iowa kick off its primary contest is an example of this restrictive behavior.

Instead, we need to hear from Latino, Black, AANHPI, Native American, LGBTQ+, Union, rural, and young voters early in the primary process. They are whom we must listen to if we are to elect future Democratic Presidents.

We commend efforts to reconsider Iowa's preeminent position on the calendar; however, we are deeply troubled by reports suggesting party leaders are considering having New Hampshire go first in its place. The future of the Democratic party is not adequately reflected in New Hampshire's demographic profile, comprised of an overwhelming number of white, rural, and elderly voters. The historical and systemic issues embedded in the Democratic primary's presidential nominating process are not solved and are only heightened by having a notably whiter and older electorate take its place.

So instead, at this unique juncture in the history of the Democratic Party, PODER PAC strongly urges the Democratic Party to follow through on its commitment to replace Iowa's prime position on the calendar with Nevada—not New Hampshire.

PODER PAC believes it is time for the first-in-the-nation presidential primary to reflect our party's grand diversity. In doing so, the party would ensure that the values of historically marginalized communities and critical voting blocs are reflected in our party's nominating process and, eventually, our nominee.

Nevada has the tremendous benefit of representing who America is and where we are going. Its voters reflect the nation's changing demographics rather than defying them as Iowa and New Hampshire have. Nevada's electorate comes from all walks of life and comprises the stark urban-rural, union-non-union, young-old divides that demand the thoughtful and vigorous campaigning that makes candidates better and allows the best person for the job to make themselves stand apart.

Additionally, Nevada is a battleground and bellwether state with a strong Democratic Party that has already shown an ability to make national headlines and shake up election night results. It's undeniable that when Nevadans vote, they help change this nation from what we are to what we should be.

We saw it in 2016 when Nevada voters elected U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto. Sen. Cortez Masto, a PODER PAC incumbent protection program endorsee this cycle, became the nation's first Latina ever to be elected to the U.S. Senate. We believe Nevadans have earned the responsibility to set similar precedents in our party's presidential nominating process.



It's the right choice for Latinas, and it's the right choice for America. It's time to let Nevada go first.

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*Founded in 2008, PODER PAC is the only national political action committee solely dedicated to electing Pro-Choice Democratic Latinas to Congress. An organization by Latinas and for Latinas, PODER PAC works to recruit, support, and connect Pro-Choice Democratic Latinas running for Congress.*

*Since our founding, PODER PAC has supported over 60 candidates and has supported 91% of Latinas currently in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.*