

Contact: Jerid Kurtz
Ph: (216) 392-8198
Fax: (614) 961-3229
jerid@buckeyestateblog.com



New Hampshire Project Outline

WHAT: An independent Ohio voice blogging live from New Hampshire throughout the summer of '07 in the run-up to the Democratic Presidential Primary election.

Coverage at <http://www.buckeyestateblog.com>

WHEN: May 19, 2007 to August 19, 2007

WHERE: New Hampshire. Manchester to Andover, to Hanover, to Keene, to Concord, to everywhere else in the Granite State.

I. Purpose

With eight Commander-in-Chief's in the bag, Ohio is the Mother of Presidents. While the buckeye state hasn't birthed a President in almost a century, the results of the '00 and '04 elections are clear: Those which aspire for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue best be in tune with the most influential state electorate in the nation, Ohio.

Yet, despite the state's commanding might in the general election, Ohio is a weakling in dictating this nation's primary champions. While the Ohio Statehouse has indicated it will not move its primary forward,¹ over 36 states have suggested holding Primary contests prior to our March 4th "Super Tuesday" election.² Come November 4, 2008 Ohio's 20 electoral votes will likely make or break one candidate's presidential ambitions; but that gives us little sway in determining which Democrat will secure our parties' nominations.

¹ John McCarthy, Ohio Not Likely to Tinker with March Primary, AP, <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/news/state/17039999.htm?template=contentModules%2Fprintstory.jsp> (Apr. 6, 2007).

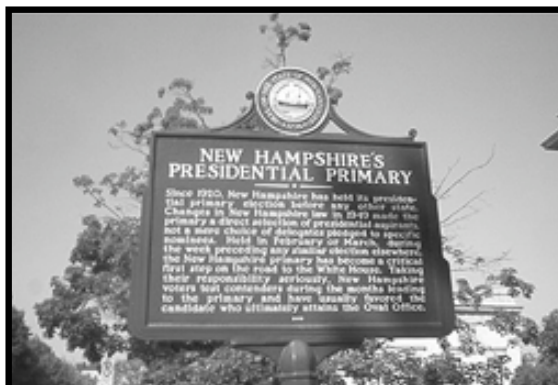
² National Association of Secretaries of State, NASS 2008 Presidential Primaries/Caucuses Calendar, <http://www.nass.org/releases/2008%20Presidential%20Primaries%20Calendar.pdf> (last updated April 9, 2007).

Enter The New Hampshire Project. Ninety-three days and nights of Ma' and Pa' diners , crowded high school gymnasiums, and intimate conversations with the next President of the United States of America. For an entire summer, BSB will traverse the Granite State bloggin' all that's bloggable, as we start the Ohio primary early.

II. The First Primary

New Hampshire's where "it's" at. There is no show greater, nor ground where stories develop quicker, for political junkies that the New Hampshire Primary. The Iowa Caucus may be scheduled first, but like a former NH Governor said, "the people of Iowa pick corn, the people of New Hampshire pick presidents."³

New Hampshire started develop its significance in the Primary calendar in 1952 when Dwight Eisenhower beat Ohio's Robert Taft, and President Truman abandoned his campaign after falling to Kevfauver there. Since 1977 New Hampshire state law has mandated that its primary is first in the nation.⁴ Today winning the New Hampshire primary can mean dominance of the media cycle (as it did for "Comeback Kid" Bill Clinton in 1992) or promises of an eventual party nomination (as has resulted for all but two New Hampshire primary victors).



III. The Plan



On May 19th the Buckeye State Blog's administrator, Jerid Kurtz, will touch down in the Granite State. Armed with a laptop, wireless internet, and audio/video equipment, he will follow – and report back to Ohio – developments in the primary. Currently he is the only blogger nationally to declare an intent to blog full-time for the duration of the summer from the primary.

Depending on the forthrightness of the campaigns, each week he will plan ahead and publish online the itinerary for which candidates he'll be near. Readers from home are invited to stay in touch and suggest questions for candidates, or even recommendations for the Project. In between scheduled

³Kevin Landrigan, Why Iowa caucuses mean so little in New Hampshire, <http://archives.cnn.com/2000/ALLPOLITICS/stories/01/21/iowa.nh/index.html>, CNN Archive, Nashua Telegraph (Jan. 21, 2000).

⁴ Hugh, Gregg. "New Hampshire's First-In-The-Nation Presidential Primary", <http://www.nh.gov/nhinfo/genesis.html> State of New Hampshire Manual for the General Court, (Department of State) No.55, 1997.

speaking events, Jerid will be in close proximity to most candidates' headquarters so plenty of activity can be observed.

Depending on the level of support the effort receives, the New Hampshire Project may become a focal point for other Ohio and national bloggers. The Project is a conduit into the process that establishes our nation's leader. The more voices that are included in that the better.

IV. The Impact

As blogs everywhere have shown, independent journalists have an ability to profoundly impact election activity. Through engaging candidates directly, to frank policy discussions, to the refusal to shy from controversial topics, bloggers make an immense impact in moving forward the national dialogue on anything and everything. Expect as much out of us in New Hampshire.

About the Buckeye State Blog

The Buckeye State Blog (BSB) is Ohio's largest and most influential political blog. Thousands of Ohio politicians, consultants, candidates and activists visit BSB daily for their fill of news, gossip and shenanigans. BSB has been cited in all of Ohio's urban newspapers, Slate, Salon, Roll Call, and numerous other national publications. The Ohio Democratic Party recognizes BSB as a "special media outlet" for publication of information related to the 2008 presidential primary election.⁵



Jerid Kurtz is the current administrator of the Buckeye State Blog. Mr. Kurtz has worked as a Democratic activist, campaign staffer, blogger, and is currently a law student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He can be reached at jerid@buckeyestateblog.com or (216) 392-8198.

To learn more about the project, visit the [Buckeye State Blog](#).

⁵ Ohio Democratic Party, 2008 Ohio Delegate Selection Plan, <http://filer.case.edu/jkk3/Ohio%20Primary/DelegateSelection08.pdf> (Mar. 16, 2007).