

WASHINGTON WIRE

Blog Search: [input] [button]

Political Insight and Analysis From The Wall Street Journal's Capital Bureau

< McCain Fund-Raiser Has Ties to Equatoria[...] -- Previous | SEE ALL POSTS FROM THIS BLOG | Next -- Sen. Gramm Leaves McCain Camp > July 18, 2008, 6:15 pm

Nevada GOP Cancels Convention, Opts for Conference Call

Brad Haynes reports on the presidential race.

Citing a lack of interest, the Nevada Republican Party has called off its state convention and will instead pick its delegates to the national convention by private conference call.

The state party broke up its original convention in April when supporters of Ron Paul hijacked the proceedings and tried to elect delegates for their candidate to the national GOP convention in September. Party officials tried to reconvene on July 26, but they needed a quorum of 675 and received only 300 RSVPs, according to local reports.

"With so many people concerned about the economy, it simply wouldn't be fair for us to ask delegates from all over the state to spend money to attend a convention if we know that a quorum won't be present," state party Chairwoman Sue Lowden said in a release.

The news provides further evidence of a fractured and unenthusiastic Republican Party in some parts of the country. Last week, the GOP nominee in a North Carolina congressional race suspended his campaign while he confronted fissures in his own party. Polling suggests a significant "enthusiasm gap" on the part of Republican voters this year, which has left the party's candidate, Sen. John McCain, trailing Democratic rival Sen. Barack Obama in the presidential contest.

Paul's outsider candidacy, meanwhile, attracted an unexpected seam of support in the party as he stressed strident libertarian themes in his run for the Republican nomination. Although the Texas representative has dropped out of the presidential race, his standard-bearers in Nevada continue to press his cause, hoping to shift the Republican Party toward the libertarian positions he advocated in his campaign.

Permalink | Trackback URL: http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/18/nevada-gop-cancels-convention-opts-for-conference-call/trackback/ Save & Share: Yahoo! Buzz | Share on Facebook | Del.icio.us | Digg this | Email This | Print Read more: Campaign 2008 More related content

Comments Report offensive comments to washwire@wsj.com

When is the GOP going to wake the hell up????

Comment by NH GPer - July 18, 2008 at 7:01 pm

You make it sound as if Paul's supporters committed a crime when you say they "hijacked" the convention. Baloney! They out-organized McCain's people, pure and simple. And you should note that Paul finished second to Romney in the Nevada caucus election, with McCain in third.

Comment by Mark Smith - July 18, 2008 at 7:07 pm

Wow, you are number than a stump fence, that's all I can say.

There is nothing "fractured and unenthusiastic" about the GOP in Nevada. The problem is that the candidate most people favor is not the one being pushed by the powers that be.

POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS



Sara Murray and Gerald F. Seib summarize the best political analysis on the Web each day. Go to recent columns

advertisement

Should seniors making less than \$50,000 be exempt from taxes? Yes No Not sure VOTE NOW Allstate in association with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

CONFUSED ABOUT COMMENTS?



Take a look at WSJ.com's guidelines for posting comments to our blogs. To report offensive comments email washwire@wsj.com.

ADVERTISING BATTLE 2008>



See a video gallery of the television ads run by McCain, Obama and outside groups, along with commentary and transcripts.

SEE FULL 2008 CAMPAIGN COVERAGE>



Barack Obama speaks during a town hall-style meeting in Dayton, Ohio. (Associated Press)

The Nevada party's need to resort to a closed conference call is not due to Paul supporters "hijacking" the convention. Rather, it's an example of the elite running scared. The LAST thing they want is for Paul to win Nevada (which he would in a fair and open process) because that would enable supporters to nominate him from the floor at the national convention.

Comment by Duke - July 18, 2008 at [7:13 pm](#)

"hijacked the proceeding" and "strident libertarian themes"? What a wonderful example of editorial hackery masquerading as journalism. Really, the WSJ should be above this, and usually is.

Comment by Tharms - July 18, 2008 at [7:45 pm](#)

More proof that the primaries and caucuses are a colossal sham. The voter's preference means ZERO to the party powerbrokers, who will only listen to who among their chosen puppet candidates is the most electable. The founders would be ASHAMED.

Comment by Darryl Schmitz - July 18, 2008 at [7:49 pm](#)

The Republican party is still very strong and very much alive and well here in Nevada. We may not say much in the primary but we will be out in droves for the election.

Comment by RonNV - July 18, 2008 at [8:06 pm](#)

It is important to note that the state party leadership recessed the convention in April because the candidates favored by the leadership were losing the elections for delegates to the national convention. Because the party leaders were outnumbered at the April convention, the only way they could stop the election was to recess the convention contrary to the rules of the convention, which required a vote on any recess.

Comment by Robert Holloway - July 18, 2008 at [8:13 pm](#)

I favor endangered species status for non-strident libertarian themes.

Comment by Observer - July 18, 2008 at [8:34 pm](#)

When did liberty become taboo?

Comment by DRUMZ - July 18, 2008 at [8:45 pm](#)

It's funny that the majority vote is called a hijacking rather than the minority who stopped the democratic process and will decide things in a private conference call.

Comment by Bert - July 18, 2008 at [8:58 pm](#)

Hey, this is hilarious. I love watching the Republicans squirm. They talk about reaching out to young, energetic voters, but when they get them, they get upset because those voters turn out to want what Republicanism used to stand for. Of course, prior to that, the Democratic party stood for the same ideals while the Republicans were progressive, which really brings me to my point: party platforms change and the Republican party, in order to avoid dying, is going to have to change again. Instead, they nominate 'nothing wrong' McCain...

Comment by gibbleth - July 18, 2008 at [8:59 pm](#)

I was at the convention and was originally quite upset with the Ron Paul people, but the fact is that the party power brokers chose to ignore the wishes of the voters and tried to select an exclusive group of their friends to go to the convention. I say that any selection list of delegates sent to the national convention should include the proportionate number of Ron Paul delegates as he earned. I will be sending a certified letter to the national committee stating my wishes as a delegate and hope that all the other delegates do likewise. When I next get to vote for a central committee, I will vote Mr. Beers out. His actions are totally reprehensible.

Comment by coffeedoc - July 18, 2008 at [10:11 pm](#)

Hijacked?

What is wrong with you?

Brad, you should be ashamed of this. This is not reporting.

The real Nevada republican convention is complete, and it was completed by the Ron Paul supporters, who did have the enthusiasm, and spent their money to complete the proceedings.

[AMERICA'S NEXT VP>](#)



[Learn more](#) about some of the men and women being considered for the vice presidency.

[VISIT WSJ.COM'S POLITICS & POLICY ▶](#)

OTHER BLOGS FROM WSJ.COM

- Law Blog
- Political Perceptions
- Washington Wire
- Real Time Economics
- The Juggle
- Health Blog
- Environmental Capital
- Business Technology
- The Daily Fix
- MarketBeat
- Deal Journal
- Developments
- The Numbers Guy
- The Wealth Report
- Baghdad Life
- Independent Street
- China Journal
- Buzzwatch

[More](#)

advertisement

MOST POPULAR POSTS

1. [Index Shows Falling Home Prices, Rising Sales of Religious Statuettes](#)
2. [Gore: Working in an Obama Administration Not the 'Best Idea'](#)
3. [Democratic Party Unity Proves Elusive at Netroots Gathering](#)
4. [Mean Street: How A Banker Earns His \\$25 Million Fee](#)
5. [Nevada GOP Cancels Convention, Opts for Conference Call](#)
6. [Covington Partner Demonstrates Treatment of Detainees](#)
7. [If Oil Prices Fall, Will We Still Care About Solar, Geothermal & Wind?](#)
8. [Surprise Visit by Bob Barr at Netroots Conference](#)
9. [Boston Fed Tackles Foreclosure Crisis at Gillette Stadium](#)
10. [Boone's Farm: Oilman Asks Feds to Help Distribute His Wind Power](#)

RELATED ARTICLES AND BLOGS

[More related content](#) Powered by Sphere

ABOUT THIS BLOG



Washington Wire is one of the oldest standing features in American journalism. Since the Wire **launched on Sept. 20, 1940**, the Journal has offered readers an informal look at the capital's comings and goings in a series of newsy, and sometimes even gossipy, items. Now online, the Wire provides a succession of glimpses at what's happening behind hot stories and warnings of what to watch for in the days ahead. The Wire is the collective product of the Journal's Washington bureau, with **Susan Davis** as its lead writer. Susan joined The Wall Street Journal from Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call. Write to Susan at washwire@wsj.com.

CAMPAIGN 2008



See [complete coverage](#) of the 2008 presidential race, including news, features and data.

Subscribe

RSS -- subscribe to updated headlines to read from anywhere on the Web. For more about RSS, click [here](#).

next time, leave your views out "reporter"

 [Washington Wire](#)

Comment by wowanyonecouldbeareporter - July 18, 2008 at [10:24 pm](#)

Save & Share

Is anyone surprised that an East Coast-entrenched journalist doesn't get what's happening in the GOP? The party was hijacked in 1988. We're just putting it back together.

Digg -- submit this item to be shared and voted on by the digg community. For more about digg, click [here](#).

Comment by Greg - July 18, 2008 at [10:31 pm](#)

Del.icio.us -- mark an item as a favorite to access later or share with the del.icio.us community. For more about del.icio.us, click [here](#).

This is a money saver.

Facebook -- share an item with users of Facebook, a collection of school, company and regional social networks. For more about Facebook, click [here](#).

Comment by cliff jones - July 18, 2008 at [11:28 pm](#)

PAST POSTS

The only way the NV convention could possibly be described as "hijacked" is if NV GOP officials somehow thought they alone get to decide the end results while attempting to manufacture a charade of delegate participation by those following convention rules.

I think NV GOP Rep. Dean Heller is right. It is time to clean house and the proof is what happened at the NV GOP convention!

Brad, your reporting is a joke.

Comment by J. O'Brien - July 18, 2008 at [11:30 pm](#)

Party Ideas & Planning

Find simple & fun party tips, ideas & recipes at Disney's Family.com www.Family.com

Actually, this year's Republican Convention had the highest attendance in Nevada history. Actually, the attendees were the most enthusiastic ever. The problem is that we were enthusiastic about Ron Paul and the Constitution. This is our crime. We did not bend over for the coronation of Sen. McCain. The establishment could not allow dissent within the ranks, so State Senator Bob Beers abruptly and illegally recessed the convention.

We did not hijack the proceedings. Sen. Beers did. Rather, we used parliamentary procedure and the party rules to elect delegates who would carry our cause to the national convention. If the GOP actually believes that this is "hijacking the party", then it is not a truly "Republican" party. It is an oligarchy, and I want no part of it. Of course the GOP is in trouble. Under GOP leadership, government is bigger, more intrusive, inefficient, has more debt, and is less responsive to the Constitution.

Sean Fericks
Credentialed Delegate to the April 2008 Nevada GOP Convention

Comment by Sean R. Fericks (credentialed delegate) - July 18, 2008 at [11:35 pm](#)

I was a WSJ subscriber for many years until their shameful reporting of Ron Paul opened my eyes to their hypocrisy. Articles like this only reinforce my decision to have cancelled that rag.

Comment by unregistered user - July 19, 2008 at [12:54 am](#)

The Washoe Delegates have filed suit in court today against this illegal action by the party leadership.

The Nevada GOP is Dead! Long live the Revolution!

Comment by Paul - July 19, 2008 at [1:17 am](#)

Sue Lowden needs to come clean.

Comment by NV Delegate - July 19, 2008 at [2:12 am](#)

Hey Brad!

That makes you one of the "Stupidest Clown" at WSJ. Because I have yet to find one post that's in agreement with your article. And you do report on the presidential race?

The general public are informed, Brad.

The truth is out there Brad. If you dig deep enough...

Comment by Leonardo - July 19, 2008 at [7:38 am](#)

The North Carolina candidate didn't just suspend his campaign because the party was fractured — he also had only five figures cash on hand.

Low five figures.

Comment by North Carolina????? - July 19, 2008 at [8:36 am](#)

Ron Paul did not “drop out” of the race. He suspended his campaign. Ron Paul is free to jump back into the fray at any time if he choses to do so.

Comment by Paul - July 19, 2008 at [11:36 am](#)

Brad Haynes = Just another yellow journalistic hack.

Comment by Don - July 19, 2008 at [11:56 am](#)

Ronald Reagan said, ” Libertarianism is at the heart of Conservatism “, need I say more?

Comment by Dennis - July 19, 2008 at [12:49 pm](#)

Brad. You’re not a real journalist, a real one does proper research and reports all the facts and should not disgrace his profession. Get a conscience.

Comment by richard kent - July 19, 2008 at [1:43 pm](#)

late night Brad? Is this all you could come up with by deadline? Shameful “reporting”....and not even factual at that...

Comment by moonslippers - July 19, 2008 at [1:56 pm](#)

What we have hear is an infant masquerading as a journalist, who was more concerned over what color crayon he wrote this Amateur Hour piece than actually doing real research as to what happened. including that the convention was completed by a quorum of delegates two weeks ago, following the party bylaws—unlike Lowden and Beers, who broke them with their unvoted recess after Paul had won two delegate votes and while winning the third, leaving those ballot locked up in the hotel safe.

Brad, how much is the GOP paying you to shovel this manure for them?

Comment by Tanim - July 19, 2008 at [1:59 pm](#)

I hate to see all the ugly statements to the writer, but the fact is that the convention was not hijacked.

I am relieved to see there are a few non-Paul supporters that see the injustice and unfairness.

Comment by matt In Alabama - July 19, 2008 at [2:10 pm](#)

The only bright light to come out of this so-called report is the commentors once again correcting fallacious talking-points. It’s also refreshing to see that even those who may not agree with Ron Paul or his supporters will stand up for their fellow Americans’ right to be heard and counted.

Now if only the author could fathom that the Old-Right Conservatives want their party back, and that the “libertarian positions” are actually the same ideals Republicans used to stand for — Barry Goldwater Republicans for example.

A minusia of researching proves this...

Keep pushing this RINO John “I hate the g**ks” McCain. This presumptive nomination signals the death knell of the Neo-Republican Party. Good riddance.

Comment by DJ - July 19, 2008 at [2:51 pm](#)

Brad, are you stupid or just incompetent ?

Comment by Mesk - July 19, 2008 at [3:04 pm](#)

Sue the GOP..not as a collective group..but 1 on 1..drag their asses into small claims..win there hit them on the federal level..and every level in between....have fun doing it and exposing them..yank them before a tv judge..hmmm..Joe Brown maybe? He seems most fair..Any way they can be embarrassed on tv..do it...Maybe use that emanate domain law take their houses

Comment by Misfit4Peace - July 19, 2008 at [3:49 pm](#)

By using the term “hijacked”, unquoted, in your article, you have taken a side, something an objective reporter would not do. As a Delegate to the 2008 NRP State Convention I know what happened. The Chair recessed the convention without motion or second and with no time given for comming out of recess. This in out of order. Time was not really an Issue

as the Peppermill Casino, where the convention was held, would and did give us more time when those shocked Delegates that remained tried to gain quorum and come out of recess. The bottom line, the party did not like the direction the national delegate voting was taking, recessed, and left the building. It was stated by an observer that he had seen factions leave a convention before but never saw a party leave their own convention.

Comment by Nelson Youngster - July 19, 2008 at [4:12 pm](#)

Another fact that seems to have been lost on its way to this story, is that the call to the July 26th convention included a requirement to pay \$35 to attend (after already having paid \$50 to attend the April convention), and an option for a mail-in ballot to elect our national delegates, which is, as I understand it, against our rules. Adding additional costs and presenting an unrealistic option sure makes me wonder if the 'leaders' of the NV GOP ever really intended on reconvening. I also find it telling that they scheduled this date to finish convention business on the last weekend before the deadline to have our delegates selected, leaving no room for other options if things went wrong. How sad that there are so many facets to this story that are time and time ignored.

Comment by HC in NV (NV delegate) - July 19, 2008 at [4:25 pm](#)

This article demonstrates everything that is WRONG with the MSM and why the tide is shifting against this Double Think Propaganda. The NV GOP leadership were the ones who HIJACKED the Democratic process! If people can't see through this yellow journalism they will fall for ANYTHING.

Comment by DavidSaunders - July 19, 2008 at [4:59 pm](#)

It's difficult to decide whether the Nevada Republican party is acting more childlike (stamping their collective foots when they don't get their way) or more NAZI-like (taking over by force or subterfuge when they don't get their way)...? It all sounds pretty illegal..., or immoral, or both.

Comment by Chuck George - July 19, 2008 at [5:37 pm](#)

While I agree with all the posters about the inaccuracy and obvious bias, I will at least give the author the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps he's neither incompetent, uninformed or biased. I smell the evil hand of one Mr. Murdock and News Corp, the proud new owners of WSJ (we won't interfere with editorial policies, honest we won't). Yeah right. Perhaps the author just needs to keep his job. Which makes him a hypocrite of course, but not necessarily stupid.

Comment by GS - July 19, 2008 at [6:10 pm](#)

Revolutionaries did not "hijack" the party from the Conservatives. It is the Neocon and their agenda which is hell bent on dooming the countries economy and monetary system. The Revolution marches full steam ahead! Wake up MSM tools.

Comment by Teflon Ron - July 19, 2008 at [6:15 pm](#)

The GOP is going into this election blind. They continue to fool themselves into thinking that McCain is making the party loyalists want to vote. The only hope is that state issues become big. Bob Barr is doing a number to the GOP and they just deny Barr exists.

Comment by tj - July 19, 2008 at [6:28 pm](#)

I wonder, after a majority of American voters vote for Obama in November and hijack the elections, if this reporter will rave about George Bush holding a conference call to elect McCain.

Comment by Bill Moore - July 19, 2008 at [11:46 pm](#)

C'mon man this is crap and you know it.

Comment by Chris - July 20, 2008 at [12:12 am](#)

the two-party monster eats liberties.

Comment by sean trutt - July 20, 2008 at [12:29 am](#)

"With so many people concerned about the economy, it simply wouldn't be fair for us to ask delegates from all over the state to spend money to attend a convention if we know that a quorum won't be present," state party Chairwoman Sue Lowden said in a release. I think Ms. Lowden would have been more accurate stating "with so many people concerned

about the economy. it simply wouldn't be fair for us to ask delegates from all over the state to attend a convention knowing the John McCain delegates we intend to foist on them have no clue of said economy"

Comment by Roger True - July 20, 2008 at [1:04 am](#)

Welcome to Rupert Murdoch's Wall Street Journal.

Comment by James Tracy - July 20, 2008 at [1:28 am](#)

"With so many people concerned about the economy, it simply wouldn't be fair for us to ask delegates from all over the state to spend money to attend a convention if we know that a quorum won't be present," state party Chairwoman Sue Lowden said in a release."

I find it interesting that the training I attended said I could vote for whoever I wanted to go to National Convention, yet the rules stated I had to vote on the slate. This was not the way they trained a Caucus (hasn't happened in 20 years here in Nevada).

Not only did they exclude the average delegate from supporting their choice for Delegates to the National Convention, they completely shut down convention because they were scared. See Time article at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1821675,00.html>.

Comment by Credentialed Delegate - July 20, 2008 at [2:26 am](#)

What this article neglects to mention that if you attended any candidate fundraisers, you would hear people discuss how it is imperative not to turn in your form, NOT to reconvene. If you send in your forms, you risk the party being in control. Take into consideration that the RP faction also refused to turn in their applications, playing into the hands of the party plan. 500+ returns are impressive, 300+ delegates to a rogue convention - I'm thinking had the rogue conventioners also turned something in, they would have to reconvene, or conveniently lose the return applications.

Yes, the Party conveniently waited until the last minute -they didn't want this convention to go forward.

Everyone played their part perfectly in this farce of an election.

Comment by Credentialed Delegate - July 20, 2008 at [2:30 am](#)

"Political Insight and Analysis From The Wall Street Journal's Capital Bureau" ... Sorry, but the analysis I just read is wrong and the insight is non-existent. The voice of the people was replaced by tools of the GOP establishment... this was an illegal action on the part the GOP leadership... to report anything less is not reporting the facts.

Comment by 2008-Delegate - July 20, 2008 at [2:46 am](#)

The Nevada Republican Party is in violation of it's own rules and is making up new ones also in further violation of their own rules, because the only way they can win is by cheating the Republican people of Nevada out of being represented by their state delegates. What nation does this? How is it that Jimmy Carter oversees the election processes in dictatorial nations, yet allows this to corrupt the process of choosing our United States government? Are we no better than third world dictatorial nations we hypocritically criticize?

Ronald H Levine
1042 E Fort Union Blvd #231
Midvale, Utah 84047-1800
RonaldHLevine@gmail.com

Comment by RonaldHLevine@gmail.com - July 20, 2008 at [4:49 am](#)

Disgusting how corrupt the party has become. Unsurprising how the media reports on it, by ignoring it entirely.

Comment by Richard Wicks - July 20, 2008 at [7:28 am](#)

At the original Nevada State Convention, the so-called GOP Elite turned tail and walked out when the votes being counted showed in favor of Ron Paul. That is a disgrace, and will be brought up in St. Paul.

Comment by Marilyn Townsend - July 20, 2008 at [9:00 am](#)

Bob Beers and Sue Lowden both deserve the 'boot' Their illegal and underhanded tactics are a disgrace to the GOP.
<http://www.campaignforliberty.com/>