



## Why do political parties still hold national nominating conventions?



© AP IMAGES



If the presidential candidates are selected through the primaries and caucuses, why do the two major political parties still hold national nominating conventions?

It's because the conventions give each party the opportunity to promote its nominees and define its differences with the opposition.

The nominating conventions are widely televised and mark the start of the national presidential campaigns.

Americans still watch the nominating conventions to hear speeches by party leaders and nominees, the choice of the nominee's vice presidential candidate (sometimes not announced until the convention), the roll call of delegate votes by the state delegations, and the ratification of the party "platform" (the document that spells out each party's positions on the issues).

- SUPPORTERS CHEER FOR MICHELLE OBAMA, WIFE OF THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE.



The conventions give each party the opportunity to promote its nominees and define its differences with the opposition .