

## JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL STUDIES



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AUG 9 1972

### P R E S S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, August 8, 1972

#### BLACK REPRESENTATION DOUBLES AT REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

The number of black delegates attending the Republican National Convention this month will more than double that of 1968, although 25 of the 54 delegations will have no black delegates at all, according to Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Williams released today a list of black delegates compiled by the Joint Center, a non-profit, non-partisan organization which assists minority elected officials. The list and other information will appear in Part II of the Joint Center's Guide to Black Politics--1972. Part I of the Guide dealt with the Democratic National Convention and was published last June.

The total number of black GOP delegates has increased from 26 in 1968 to 56 in 1972, an increase of 115 per cent. These delegates will comprise 4.2 per cent of the 1,348 delegates at the Republican National Convention which begins August 21 in Miami Beach. Most black delegates have never participated in a

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political convention.

Twelve black delegates are serving on convention committees, and two are chairmen of subcommittees.

Williams said data collected by the Joint Center show that:

1. Fifteen states which had no black Republican delegates in 1968 now have at least one black delegate. (The states are: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia)

2. Twenty-five delegations had no black delegates as of August 1. (They are: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.)

3. In seven states black delegates this year represent 10 per cent or more of the total delegation. (The states are: Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan and Virginia)

4. In five states the percentage of blacks in the delegations is greater than the percentage of blacks in each state's total population. (The states are: Arizona, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan and Nevada)

5. The largest number of black delegates comes from New York (8), Michigan (5), and California (4). Four states - Arkansas, Washington, D. C., Maryland, and Virginia - each has three black delegates. These seven delegations account

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for 52 per cent of the 56 black delegates to the Republican National Convention.

6. The twelve black delegates serving on convention committees are:

Joan Crawford of Missouri and Annie E. Zachary of Arkansas on the Platform Committee; Edward Bivens, Jr. of Michigan, Melvin H. Evans of the Virgin Islands, and Colston A. Lewis of Virginia on the Committee on Rules & Order of Business; and Sarah Moore Greene of Tennessee, Elaine Jenkins of the District of Columbia, Mary Majors of Iowa, Frank Millican of Louisiana, Madie E. Mitchell of Maryland, Sam Sparks of Arkansas, and O. M. Travis, Jr. of Kentucky on the Credentials Committee.

Mrs. Crawford is chairman of the Community and National Development subcommittee of the Platform Committee, and Mrs. Zachary is chairman of the Human Concerns subcommittee of the Platform Committee.

7. The 56 black delegates include 39 men (69.6 per cent) and 17 women (30.4 per cent). Sixteen (28.6 per cent) of the delegates come from the South.

Williams said effective black political participation is the new cutting edge of the civil rights movement, and predicted more active involvement at all political levels by blacks in 1972 and throughout the seventies. Referring to black political potential, he said: "In the 1972 Presidential election, for example, blacks have a potential of nearly 14 million votes, mainly concentrated in 26 states and the District of Columbia. Moreover, among the newly enfranchised young, blacks comprise 12.8 per cent of all potential voters between 18 and 20 years of age.

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In six southern states and the District of Columbia, young black voters comprise 30 per cent or more of the total youth vote."

Another indication of potential black political influence, he said, is the existence of 57 Congressional districts, including 34 in the South, with 30 per cent or more black population. "At least two Congressional districts - the 18th in Texas and the 37th in California - may well produce their first black Congressmen this fall."

Williams said the Joint Center's findings and projections indicate that "a sophisticated and enlarged black electorate could well prove decisive in some key states in 1972 as it has in the past." He noted that in 15 states with an aggregate of 281 electoral votes blacks could well hold the balance of power in a close two-party Presidential race.

Williams said his optimism about increasing black influence in politics stemmed from three factors: the success and sophistication achieved by blacks in the sixties; the national apathy toward civil rights issues demonstrated so far in the seventies; and the broad black community acceptance of politics as a major tool for community advancement.