

A GOP Rule Change Could Deny Trump Nomination

A 2012 GOP Convention Rule Change Benefits Trump



Contested Convention:

- If Trump wins the most delegates, but not a majority, the GOP will have a contested convention
- A new rule sets a higher bar for candidates to be eligible for the nomination in a contested convention



Rule prior to 2012:

- Need a plurality of delegates from at least 5 states to be able to get the nomination

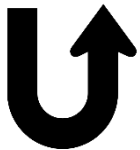
Rule change in 2012:

- Need a majority of delegates from at least 8 states to be able to get the nomination
- This rule change benefits the frontrunner: Romney in 2012 and Trump in 2016
- Under this rule, even if Trump gets the most but not a majority of the delegates, it's possible that his competitors don't satisfy Rule 40 and he'd be the only one on the first ballot at the convention

The Ron Paul Effect:

- The party established the guideline in 2012 to unite supporters behind the presumptive nominee, Mitt Romney, and to silence Ron Paul advocates.
- However, if Donald Trump is the only candidate to win a majority of delegates in 8 states, the change in Rule 40 could come back to haunt the GOP.

The RNC Might Reverse the Rule Change



The GOP could change the rule to stop Trump:

- By returning to the pre-2012 standards, the RNC can assure that Cruz, Rubio are Kasich are eligible for the nomination if any one of them win a plurality of delegates in 5 or more states, but do not secure a majority of delegates in 8 states

Potential Backlash:

- Any efforts to alter the rules at a late date could further inflame Trump supporters, who are angered by the idea that their candidate could be denied the nomination even if he has the most delegates.

Sources: Alex Rogers, "How a GOP Rule Change Could Deny Trump the Nomination," *National Journal*, March 6, 2016; Sergey Demushkin, *The Noun Project*; Bohdan Burmich, *The Noun Project*; Marie Van den Broeck, *The Noun Project*; Yi Chen, *The Noun Project*.