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## Meet Nevada's delegates to the Democratic National Convention

AUGUST 24, 2008

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Superdelegates Dina Titus and Theresa Benitez-Thompson will not be attending the convention. Alternates will be seated in their place, but have yet to be named. Superdelegate Yvonne Atkinson-Gates could not be reached for this package.

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Pledged delegate Michael Ginsburg, 36, of Henderson, also could not be reached. He supported U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in the caucuses.

### Geoconda Arguello-Kline

Age: 53

Occupation: President, Culinary Workers Union Local 226

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: none

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Bill Clinton

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: We are a state of working families that are used to fighting for change. And that we are a very diverse state with people from everywhere.

What is your favorite drink: no answer

### Kelvin Atkinson

Age: 39

Occupation: management analyst

Home: North Las Vegas

Political experience: Three-term state assemblyman

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

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Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Bill Clinton

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

That we are a diverse state with major challenges and that the voters demand accountability.

What is your favorite drink: Ice tea

**Edna Barbero-Flores**

Age: 82

Occupation: Retired California State employee

Home: Henderson

Political experience: Delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: I am still a supporter of Hillary Clinton but will work hard to help put a Democrat in the White House

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: John F. Kennedy

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I can't answer. I hope he can. Maybe putting Hillary on the ticket?

What is your favorite drink: Lemon water

**Gibran Baydoun**

Age: 19

Occupation: student at the University of Michigan

Home: Henderson

Political experience: none

Who did you support in the caucus: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Will be Obama

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

I think he has to understand the transient nature of the state and the really diverse amount of people that live here. How the rurals look different than Las Vegas and even Reno looks different.

What is your favorite drink: Cherry Lime-aid

**Shelley Berkley**

Age: 57

Occupation: Congress-woman, State of Nevada District 1

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Former Nevada state assemblywoman, former vice chair of the Nevada University and Community College System Board of Regents, United States congresswoman serving Nevada's first district. Conventions attended: '72, '88, '96, '00, '04.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: George McGovern

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

Barack Obama needs to know that Nevadans are united against Yucca Mountain, we need help with mortgage foreclosure, healthcare, education, and he needs to reach out to all Nevadans and let them know that he will be the best president to look out for their interests. Senator Obama has also visited Nevada a

number of times and I have spoken with him and know that he is aware of our issues and committed to helping our state.

What is your favorite drink: Water

**Barbara Buckley**

Age: 47

Occupation: Attorney

Political experience:

Six-term legislator. First-term assembly speaker

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Nevadans, whether Republicans, Democrats or independents, are fiercely independent.

What is your favorite drink: Oreo Blizzards from Dairy Queen

**Catherine Cortez Masto, Superdelegate**

Age: 44

Occupation: Attorney general

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: First-term attorney general

Who did you support in the caucuses: Neutral

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Don't remember.

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

There is an opportunity for him to come in and win as long as he is here and reaching out to the various constituencies that exist and recognizing they are distinct and different but embrace all at the same time.

What is your favorite drink: Water

**Matt Dickson**

Age: 47

Occupation: Commercial banker

Home: Reno

Political experience: Nevada Democratic Party executive board member

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Washoe County is key to winning Nevada and perhaps the entire election.

What is your favorite drink: Single malt Scotch

**Maria Veronica Frenkel**

Age: 46

Home: Las Vegas

Occupation: Human resources employee development and training specialist

Political experience: None

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

Barack needs to win Washoe County to win Nevada. In fact, if he wins Washoe County, he will win the presidency.

What is your favorite drink: Iced coffee

### **Chris Giunchigliani**

Age: 53

Home: Las Vegas

Occupation: Special education teacher and county commissioner

Political experience: Past president of local and state teachers union, eight-term state legislator, first term county commissioner

Who did you support in the caucus: Clinton

Who do you support now: After having the opportunity to vote for (Clinton) at the convention, I plan to support Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

Obama needs to work with the growing Hispanic community. He needs to know that we have the opportunity to showcase renewables and different energy sources here, and finally he needs to have a plan for home ownership since we have such a foreclosure issue here.

What is your favorite drink: Next to a glass of red wine I'd say bourbon and water.

### **Robert Gomez**

Age: 47

Occupation: General manager of Magic Bright Janitorial

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: None.

Who did you support in the caucus: Clinton

Who do you support now: That's why I'm anxious to go to the Democratic convention. Obviously we have Barack Obama and I want to see what the ticket is going to be.

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: We have unique problems that are unique to our state and our region, specifically with the energy crisis being what it is.

What is your favorite drink: Plain ice tea with extra lemon

### **Steven Horsford, Superdelegate**

Age: 35

Home: Las Vegas

Occupation: CEO of the Culinary Training Academy and president of Nevada Partners.

Political experience: First-term state senator. Second national convention as national committeeman.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Barack Obama.

Who do you support now: Barack Obama.

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: President Bill Clinton. I volunteered for him as a college Democrat.

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state? My advice for Barack Obama is to stay true to his message of fundamentally changing the way politics work in D.C. and to compare his record of achievement to McCain's support of failed Bush policies that have caused the Nevada and US economies to falter.

What is your favorite drink: A cold beer

### **Gabrielle Keys**

Age: 20

Occupation: Sales associate and student

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: None

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Will be Obama

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win this state: It is a really diverse state and I guess it would be a very blue-collar state. In Southern Nevada, you have to win the culinary vote. In Northern Nevada, just make sure he's got his grass-roots organization and the volunteers are working hard.

What is your favorite drink: Capri Sun

### **Sam Lieberman, Superdelegate**

Age: 47

Home: Las Vegas

Occupation: Nonprofit consultant

Political experience: Chairman of the Nevada Democratic Party. Attended the national convention in 2000.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Neutral

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win this state: The good thing is I think he already knows about the state. He really needs to look at Nevada as a statewide entity. The Obama campaign has a real statewide focus which includes Washoe County and the rurals.

What is your favorite drink: For years it was Coca Cola. Now it's either Bailey's and coffee (without the whip cream) or Orange Crush.

### **Jack Mallory**

Age: 35

Occupation: Union representative

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: None

Who did you support the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: My first vote cast will be for Clinton. Ultimately, I believe Obama will be the nominee and he'll have my full support.

Who was the first presidential candidate you voted for: Bill Clinton

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

He needs to know a little more about the people themselves. A large number of people come from different types of areas. In Las Vegas, we have the largest population, but still people live in small towns and communities. He needs to understand something of a balance exists.

What is your favorite drink: I love coffee.

**Vertis Manuel**

Age: 53

Home: Las Vegas

Occupation: Food server, Wynn Casino & Resort

Political experience: None

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: He needs to concentrate on the economy and fair labor practices.

What is your favorite drink: Red wine

**Kate Marshall**

Age: 49

Occupation: State treasurer

Home: Reno

Political experience: First term state treasurer

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Our Western libertarian bent.

What is your favorite drink: Sparkling water

**Adriana Martinez**

Age: 44

Occupation: Liaison for Las Vegas City Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Ran for state Senate in 2002; chairwoman of the Nevada Democratic Party

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Don't remember

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I think what he needs to know is that we have a tremendous amount of grass-roots folks who really want to see a Democrat elected to office. The more he comes in and does person to person contact and really speaks from the heart, I think that's what people are looking for.

What is your favorite drink: Margarita

**Rusty McAllister**

Age: 48

Occupation: Fire captain

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention

Who did you support in the caucuses: Chris Dodd, first. Obama, second.

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Don't remember

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I think Barack needs to know that Nevada is made up of not only the big city but also a very conservative number outside the city in the rurals. He can't overlook anyone or any place. Also needs to remember that the economy in Nevada is just as bad as everywhere else.

What is your favorite drink: Grey Goose Martini with a twist of lime or a glass of Silver Oak cabernet

### **Arlan Melendez**

Age: 60

Occupation: Chairman, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Home: Reno

Political experience: Tribal government, attended the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Probably Lyndon Johnson

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Needs to know we expect him to visit Nevada a number of times, addressing our issues to win our state.

What is your favorite drink: Mountain Dew

### **Erica L. Norris**

Age: 25

Occupation: Political fundraising consultant

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Campaign staffer and volunteer.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Edwards

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: We are a diverse state with concerns that are completely different from any other state and those issues must be addressed -- for example, Yucca Mountain.

What is your favorite drink: Sweet iced tea

### **Raymond D. Pedraza**

Age: 50

Occupation: Department of Public Safety

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Member of the Nevada Democratic Party executive committee

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Yucca Mountain, home foreclosures in Las Vegas, water issues

What is your favorite drink: All of them

**Manita Rawat**

Age: 30

Occupation: Patent attorney

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Campaign volunteer

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Bill Clinton

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

Must have genuine empathy for the people of the state and be able to effectively express such empathy. Nevadans are a great people and many of them have endured hardships in the past eight years, such as individuals who have undergone housing foreclosure in Clark County and the victims of the cancer cluster in Fallon.

What is your favorite drink: Mojito

**Xiomara Rodriguez**

Age: 57

Occupation: self-employed

Home: Reno

Political experience: None

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Bill Clinton

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Work on the Latino votes

What is your favorite drink: I don't drink

**Lance Whitney**

Age: 28

Occupation: Regional field director, Campaign for Change

Home: Elko

Political experience: Chairman of the Elko County Democratic Party, past candidate for Elko mayor and Elko City Council

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Al Gore

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

A strong rural field program is vital (but he and his campaign already know that).

What is your favorite drink: Non-alcoholic, Dr. Pepper; Alcoholic, Jack and Coke

**Harry Reid**

Age: 68

Occupation: U.S. senator

Home: Searchlight

Political experience: Majority Leader of the United States Senate. First elected to the House in 1982 and the Senate in 1986

Who did you support in the caucuses: All Democratic candidates

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Lyndon B. Johnson

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: Remember that Nevada is more than Las Vegas. We have vibrant rural communities with their own issues that need to be addressed.

What is your favorite drink: Vanilla milkshake

### **Rory Reid**

Age: 46

Occupation: Lawyer

Political experience: Chairman of the Clark County Commission, past chairman of the Nevada Democratic Party

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Walter Mondale

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I think he obviously knows what he needs to win. He's right on Nevada issues. He understands we don't want our primary industry regulated in Washington and we don't want to be the country's wasteland. He understands Nevada well.

What is your favorite drink: Milk

### **Elliott Small**

Age: 60

Home: Henderson

Occupation: President and founder of an electric car company

Political experience: Past campaign volunteer

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: George McGovern

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I guess he probably knows this, but from my perspective business-wise the best thing for him to know is the abundant renewable energy sources in Nevada. A lot of wind and geothermal resources here.

What is your favorite drink: Orange juice

### **Randy Soltero**

Age: 46

Occupation: Political director, Sheetmetal Workers Union local 88

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Staff member at the 2000 Democratic National Convention. Delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Who did you support in the caucuses: Clinton

Who do you support now: I support the Democrat. I support whoever the nominee is.

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: I don't remember now. I've always been a yellow dog Democrat. I vote Democrat every election.

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state: I think that what he needs to know is what everybody needs to know. All the delegates from Nevada need to be respected. I believe he knows that already. Everybody in Nevada is very passionate. The best thing for the campaign to know is that everybody needs to be respected on their thoughts and what they believe in.

What is your favorite drink: Patron tequila

### Yvette Williams

Age: 50

Occupation: Mortgage broker

Home: Las Vegas

Political experience: Nevada Democratic Party executive board

Who did you support in the caucuses: Obama

Who do you support now: Obama

Who is the first presidential candidate you voted for: Jimmy Carter

What does Barack Obama need to know about Nevada to win the state:

The residents here are a people person. Folks like you to look them in the eye and still like the good old handshake. We're still like a small town, even in the big cities. People want to feel like you understand them, you know who they are and when you give your word, your word is your bond.

What is your favorite drink: Vanilla malt

## In Your Voice

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Yeringtonreader wrote:

Very scary. We now have two radical obstructionist 'candidates' for the Demo-crits, Oblama and Biding His Time, that have done nothing but stop cold EVERY effort to get this country back going again, and all they have to say is, basically, "It's all the fault of the Republi-can't/won't's, elect US, and we will CHANGE ALL THAT. Well, you two have had the power in Congress for over 40 of the last 45 years, and YOU haven't done anything constructive, just stopped everything you are whining and bleating we need today, that YOU voted against, over and over again. Why is it that right now, YOU ned to get elected to get your hollow promises and lies done, when you have already had the power to effect good change for all those years, and have steadfastly REFUSED to do so, so far? Why should anyone vote for you, when both of you have constantly flip-flopped on EVERY issue put before you. Oblama, Biding His Time, not right for the nation, not right for the people.

08/24/2008 8:25:12 a.m.

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