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Primary results placing importance on Presidential Energy Summit

With no obvious frontrunner in either party, the Texas primary and Houston's Presidential Summit could play a huge role in determining the presidential nominees

HOUSTON, TX (JANUARY 11, 2008) – Key primaries have forged an open field rather than frontrunners, as many pundits had prophesied, making it increasingly more likely voters will witness a presidential election showdown in the days leading up to the Texas primary at the Feb. 28 “America’s Energy Future: Houston’s Presidential Summitsm.”

Indications are Democratic and Republican candidates will likely split the states in the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday primaries and come up short in having enough delegates to clinch nominations. In turn, the March 4 Texas primary becomes pivotal to the process.

Houston’s Presidential Summit, an all-energy-focused, nationally-televised event sponsored by the Greater Houston Partnership, comes just five days before the Texas primary making it a prime location for scrambling candidates to campaign.

And with oil prices reaching \$100 per barrel historical highs, energy issues are at the forefront in the minds of voters.

“Energy is a critical part of every American’s household budget,” said Jeff Moseley, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Houston Partnership. “Houston’s Presidential Summit gives all of us a chance to hear the candidates’ visions and what their administration will do if we hire them for the job of president.”

Texas is rich with delegates for both parties, and candidates will fight to secure as many supporters as possible. Texans have a chance to send a firm message to the rest of America clinching the nomination for a candidate with their vote in the March 4 primary.

NBC News and its cable network, MSNBC, remain the broadcast partners for “America’s Energy Future: Houston’s Presidential Summit.” Tim Russert will serve as moderator.

The presidential summit is just part of what will be a daylong event. It will also feature a luncheon with a keynote address by an internationally-recognized guest, an energy symposium that will headline world-renowned speakers and energy executives, and an

array of energy-related exhibits furnished by leading energy suppliers that showcase cutting-edge technologies and innovations.

Additional information on Houston's Presidential Summit, as well as sponsorship, exhibit and ticket opportunities, can be found at www.houstonspresidentialsummit.com. Media wishing to cover the event can register for credentials at www.houstonspresidentialsummit.com/media-center.

The Greater Houston Partnership is a 501(c)(6) organization that is the primary advocate of the Houston-area business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,000 member organizations, the Partnership represents approximately one fourth of the region's work force. It is hosting Houston's Presidential SummitSM to inform and educate the general public on the critical role of energy to the economic prosperity and security of the United States. The Greater Houston Partnership and the Houston's Presidential SummitSM do not endorse, support or oppose any candidate for president. Visit the Greater Houston Partnership at Houston.org.