

PRIMARY CHOICES



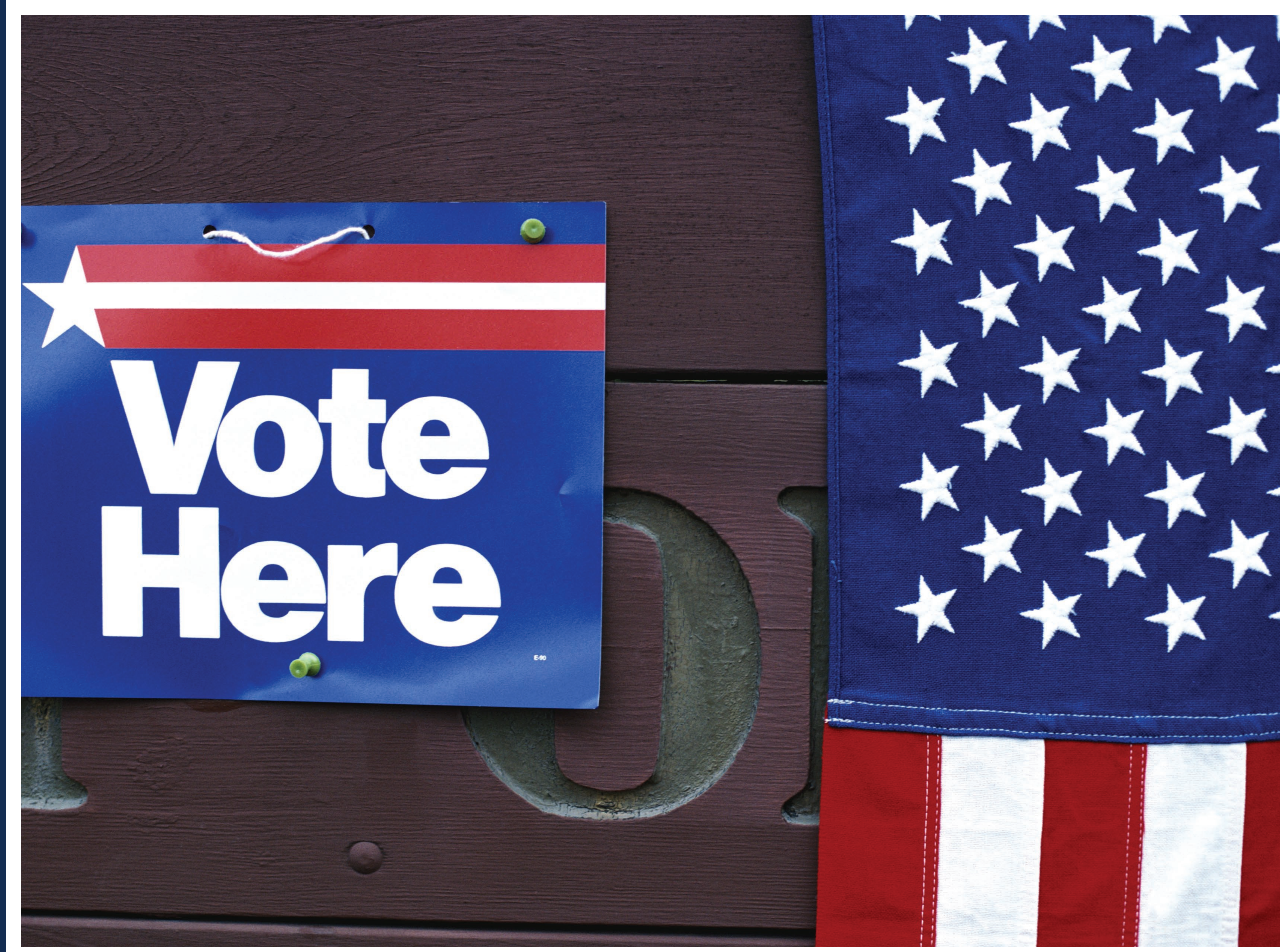
Should states move up their 2008 presidential primaries to shorten the primary election season?

As the 2008 presidential election approaches, the primary election calendar has become a source of controversy.

Since the Framers did not imagine the formation of political parties, the Constitution makes no mention of presidential primaries. But it leaves to the states the power to decide when and how elections are run.

Traditionally the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary are held first, and the other states follow through the spring. Jockeying to move ahead on the election schedule, more than 20 states are now set to hold their primaries

on February 5th, Super Tuesday, and other states are weighing their options.



Supporters of allowing states to move their primaries forward say it puts more states on equal footing, rather than having the few states with the earliest primaries dictate the race. Opponents say that having so many primary elections close together does not allow the candidates to campaign as widely, giving a big advantage

to the top contenders with the most money and name recognition.

Should states move up their 2008 presidential primaries to shorten the primary election season?

YES

- Earlier primaries allow voters in more states to have a say on the nominee, lessening the influence of a few, small states who hold their primaries in January.
- Multiple state primaries on the same day encourage candidates to discuss national policy issues and not cater to regional interests.
- A shortened primary election season allows more time for the nation as a whole to learn about the eventual nominees and the issues they stand for in the general election.

NO

- With multiple primary elections on the same day, candidates will not be able to campaign in as many states and will only focus on the states with the largest populations that provide the most delegates.
- Moving up primary election dates makes it harder for a lesser known candidate to raise enough money or momentum to compete with the front runners.
- A shortened primary season does not give the candidates enough time to properly debate policy issues.