

BLACK REPRESENTATION DOUBLES AT DEMO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Black representation to the 1972 Democratic National Convention will be double that of 1968. The total number of black delegates has increased for 209 in 1968 to 452 in 1972. Blacks make up nearly 15 percent of this year's Democratic delegates.

The Joint Center for Political Studies, a non-profit, non-partisan organization which assists minority elected officials, released the list of names of black delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Miami and an analysis of black representation. The Center also prepared a black delegate profile based on the first 100 returns to a questionnaire sent to all black delegates.

In 15 states black representation increased dramatically over the 1968 figures. Only in Oklahoma is there a smaller percentage of black delegates than there was in 1968.

Eleven states which had no black Democratic delegates in 1968 have at least one black delegate in 1972 -- Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Six states do not have a black delegate this year. They are Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia.

In terms of the standards set by the McGovern Commission, the delegate selection process has been successful in assuring black representation at the Convention in reasonable relationship to their proportion in the population.

Of the states with black delegates, only Florida, Illinois, Maryland and North Carolina have black delegate percentages below those of the black population in the state.

In a majority of states black Democratic delegate representation is proportionately greater than the state's total black population. When compared to the Democratic vote in 1968, however, blacks are underrepresented at the 1972 Convention. While 20 percent of the Democratic vote in 1968 was black, only 15 percent of the delegates in 1972 are black.

Of the 452 black delegates, 40 percent are women. Thirty-one percent of the delegates come from eleven states of the old Confederacy.

A delegate profile based upon the first 100 returns of the Joint Center questionnaire sent to all black delegates reflects their concern with the following national issues: Fifty-two percent of the respondents consider Vietnam a major issue. No single domestic issue was identified as equally important in the minds of black delegates, but individual issues such as welfare reform, education, employment,

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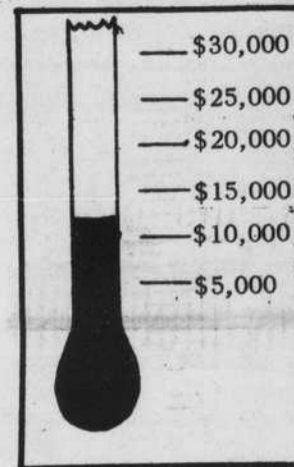
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housing and busing were named by a large majority of delegates as major issues.

The average age of the black delegate is 42, with 26 percent under the age of 30. Only 17 percent of the delegates answering the questionnaire have previously attended a national political convention.

Of the 100 delegates, 24 indicated that they are businessmen or managers; 15 are teachers, nine identified themselves as "politicians" and eight as lawyers. Eight of the delegates are students.

Fifty-two of the 100 delegates responding

now hold a party office. Eighteen are elected public officials ranging from Congressmen to state legislators and city councilmen.

Membership in 51 different community organizations was listed by the 100 delegates. Forty-five belong to the NAACP and 11 to the National Urban League.



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