



**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL LEADERS FORUM

Democratic National Convention  
August 24-28, 2008  
Denver, Colorado



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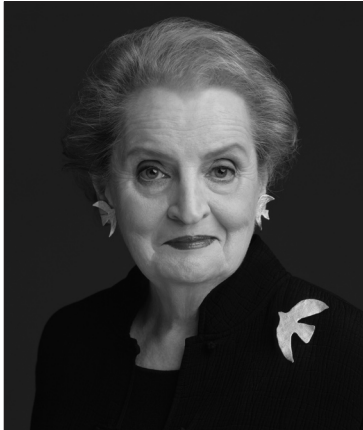
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# welcome from ndi's chairman

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TIMOTHY GREENFIELD SANDERS



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the National Democratic Institute's seventh International Leaders Forum at the Democratic Convention in Denver. The convention is the culmination of the Democratic Party's nomination process and provides an exciting opportunity to witness the selection and hear directly from the nominees for president and vice president.

The NDI Board of Directors and staff have planned a first-rate program that offers participants insights into the American political system and opportunities to observe it in action. We hope that each of our guests will leave with a better understanding of the political process in the United States.

NDI looks forward to sharing with you the best of America's democratic tradition, and to discussing more generally the future of democracy across the globe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine Albright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine K. Albright  
Chairman, National Democratic Institute

# welcome from the dnc chairman

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Welcome to the 2008 Democratic National Convention!

As Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, it is a privilege to welcome our distinguished international leaders to the 45<sup>th</sup> Democratic National Convention and to the National Democratic Institute's International Leaders Forum.

We are proud of NDI's worldwide efforts and are honored to host such a prestigious group of diplomats and political leaders for the International Leaders Forum. In the coming week, you will have opportunities to engage in discussions on many aspects of democracy and presidential politics with distinguished experts.

Over the next few days, we in the Democratic Party will celebrate the strength of our party and present our plan for change to the American people. You will also be present for the culmination of one of the most long-standing political processes in the world – the nomination by the Democratic Party of our candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

We look forward to your participation in these events and welcome your insights in the spirit of a shared commitment to the democratic process in all nations.

Thank you for being part of this historical experience!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howard Dean  
Chairman, Democratic National Committee

# welcome from the mayor of denver



On behalf of the citizens of the City and County of Denver, I would like to welcome each of you on your arrival for the 45<sup>th</sup> Democratic National Convention. Denver is pleased and honored to host the Convention, particularly during the year the city celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The National Democratic Institute has planned an engaging program for you. Your participation in this historic quadrennial convention will provide an excellent opportunity for you to observe key aspects of the American political process in the lead-up to national elections in November.

I can think of no better place for you to experience our political process in action than the Mile High City, with its spectacular mountain backdrop and its vibrant and unique atmosphere created by a rich frontier history and contemporary flare. Denver is a place when outdoor adventure meets high-tech engineering. It has a diverse cultural heritage. Our citizens come from all over the world to live and work here and have woven their traditions into the fabric of our city life.

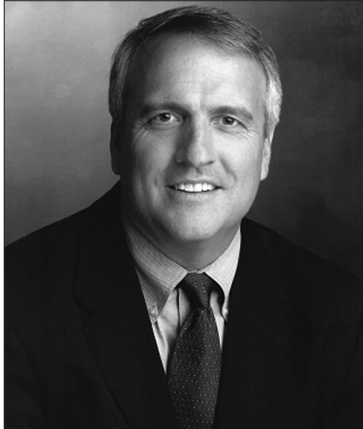
While you are here, it is my hope that you will take advantage of the wonderful hospitality of our communities and businesses, and the exciting opportunities our city has to offer.

Again, welcome to our city!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Mayor, City of Denver

# welcome from the governor of colorado



On behalf of the people of the State of Colorado, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2008 National Democratic Institute's International Leaders Forum.

During the 2008 Democratic National Convention our state will be the center of national and international attention. This will be a truly significant week for Colorado and our country and the International Leaders Forum will contribute to the historic nature of this occasion. As you move forward with your agenda, please take advantage of all that Colorado has to offer. We hope your stay here is a pleasurable one.

I wish you all the best for a successful gathering. It is my hope that you can come and enjoy the beauty of this great western state again.

*Bill Ritter Jr.*

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor, State of Colorado

# message from ndi's president



NDI first hosted international visitors to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, the year of the Institute's inception. This year's International Leaders Forum will carry on our tradition of bringing together international leaders to share in the experiences of the convention.

The Forum provides an opportunity to acknowledge the global democracy movement with some of those who have been on the front lines of promoting peaceful reform and strengthening democratic institutions. NDI is proud to work alongside so many courageous political and civic leaders.

For more than two decades, NDI has operated in the belief that democracy is inseparable from human dignity and development; that the desire for freedom is universal; that a more democratic world is a more peaceful, secure and prosperous place. The Institute has been engaged in democratic transitions in more than 100 countries, supporting the development of political parties and civic groups, monitoring elections, promoting opportunities for women and helping to build parliaments that are effective and responsive. NDI does not work alone. We are part of an expanding international network that includes intergovernmental bodies, other nongovernmental organizations and governments. Together we are dedicated to building a community of democracies in which we learn from each other, while promoting the ideals to which our citizens aspire.

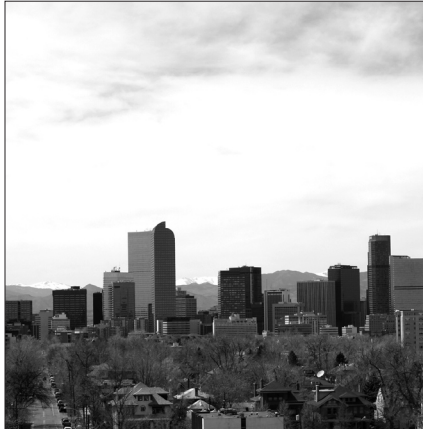
I am delighted to join my colleagues in welcoming you to the 2008 International Leaders Forum at the Democratic National Convention. We have planned an informative program for the week and I look forward to participating in this auspicious occasion with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ken Wollack". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kenneth Wollack  
President, National Democratic Institute



# the week ahead 2008



On Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, NDI will open the International Leaders Forum (ILF) with an evening panel presentation on *The 2008 Campaign: The Role of Primaries, Nominating Conventions and Presidential Debates*, at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. It will be followed by a welcome reception at the same location.

Beginning Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, U.S. elected officials, political leaders from both major parties, political analysts, experts and journalists will conduct daily seminars on domestic and international issues. The seminars will take place at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts each day Monday through Thursday. The issues addressed will include: *Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Campaign – A View from the Press; Campaign 2008 in Ads and Anecdotes; How They Would Govern?; Ensuring Democracy Delivers Real Dividends: A Perspective from Former Presidents and Prime Ministers; Strategies for Winning in November: Reading the Polls and Political Teas Leaves; The New American Consensus on International Cooperation; Enhancing the U.S. Role Around the World; Combating Global Poverty; and Building a Better, Safer World: What Would an Obama Presidency Do?*



Every evening, NDI will host its International Leaders Hospitality Center at the Kacey Building, where convention proceeding will be televised live from the Pepsi Center. Credentials for access to the convention hall itself will be provided to ILF guests on a rotating basis from the Hospitality Center. Throughout the week there will be many occasions for participants to meet with people who are actively involved in the U.S. political process to discuss domestic and international issues.

Invitees to the ILF include elected officials and political party leaders and diplomats from around the world. Participants in the ILF reflect NDI's bipartisan approach to democratic development. We hope that all who take part in the 2008 International Leaders Forum at the Democratic National Convention will gain a better understanding of the U.S. political system and will become part of the Institute's expanding network of partners.

# schedule of ilf events

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## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 4:00pm – 6:00pm | <b>The 2008 Campaign:</b> <i>“The Role of Primaries, Nominating Conventions and Presidential Debates”</i> | Stage Theater, Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) |
| 6:00pm – 8:00pm | <b>Opening Reception</b> (credentialed ILF participants)  | Seawell Ballroom, DCPA                                      |

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

|                   |  |                     |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| 10:00am – 10:30am | <b>Introduction to the International Leaders Forum</b>   | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 10:30am – 12:00pm | <b>Domestic Politics and Policy Forum:</b> <i>“Analysis of the 2008 Presidential Campaign – A View from the Press”</i>   | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 2:00pm – 3:15pm   | <b>Domestic Politics and Policy Forum:</b> <i>“Campaign 2008 in Ads and Anecdotes”</i>   | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 3:15pm – 4:30pm   | <b>Domestic Politics and Policy Forum:</b> <i>“How They Would Govern”</i> – A program organized with the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institution | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 4:30pm – 10:00pm  | <b>International Leaders Hospitality Center</b> (credentialed ILF participants)  | Kacey Building      |

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

|                  |   |                     |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 9:45am – 12:00pm | <b>International Affairs Forum:</b> <i>“Ensuring Democracy Delivers Real Dividends: A Perspective from Former Presidents and Prime Ministers”</i> – A program organized with the Club de Madrid | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 2:00pm – 4:00pm  | <b>Domestic Politics Forum:</b> <i>“Strategies for Winning in November: Reading the Polls and the Political Tea Leaves”</i>   | Stage Theater, DCPA |
| 4:30pm – 10:00pm | <b>International Leaders Hospitality Center</b> (credentialed ILF participants)   | Kacey Building      |

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27**

9:00am – 11:30am      **International Affairs Forum: “Enhancing the U.S. Role Around the World”**      Boettcher Concert Hall, DCPA  
– A program organized with the 2008 Rocky Mountain Roundtable, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver

**Presentation: “The New American Consensus on International Cooperation”**  
– A program organized with the United Nations Foundation’s Better World Campaign

**Panel Discussion: “Enhancing the U.S. Role Around the World”**

2:00pm – 4:00pm      **International Affairs Forum: “Combating Global Poverty”** – A program organized with the 2008 Rocky Mountain Roundtable, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver in collaboration with the ONE Campaign Vote ‘08      Boettcher Concert Hall, DCPA

4:30pm – 10:00pm      **International Leaders Hospitality Center** (credentialed ILF participants)      Kacey Building

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28**

10:00am – 12:00pm      **International Affairs Forum: “Building a Better, Safer World: What Would an Obama Presidency Do?”** – A program organized with the Center for U.S. Global Engagement with foreign policy advisors to Senator Barack Obama      Stage Theater, DCPA

12:30pm – 2:30pm      **Closing Luncheon** (credentialed ILF participants)      Seawell Ballroom, DCPA

2:30pm – 10:00pm      **International Leaders Hospitality Center** (credentialed ILF participants)      Kacey Building

**EVENT LOCATIONS**

**Denver Center for the Performing Arts—**  
*Stage Theater, Seawell Ballroom, Boettcher Concert Hall*  
1101 13th Street  
Denver, CO 80204

**Kacey Building**  
(Adjacent to the Pepsi Convention Center)  
1201 Auraria Parkway  
Denver, CO 80204

# democratic national conventions — past & present

Although the Democratic National Convention has been shaped by time and changes in technology, its purpose has remained constant since the first gathering in Baltimore, Maryland more than 170 years ago. By tradition, the convention brings together delegates of the Democratic Party to select candidates for president and vice president. Delegates also discuss and develop the “platform” — the party’s positions on public policy issues.

The convention is a product of the unique political experience in the United States. It is not mentioned in the constitution and has never been the subject of Congressional legislation. Before the 1860s, the convention was a modest affair attended by several hundred delegates and a lesser number of dedicated spectators. Slow communications, the hardships of travel and inclement weather often necessitated that the convention takes place in spring in a centrally located city more than a year before the election.

While the function of the convention remains unchanged, the number of participants has increased through the years to reflect the growing number and diversity of the American people. This year 4,439 delegates and 614 alternates will participate. In addition there will be 824 unpledged delegates, so called super delegates, who officially serve at the convention because of the office they hold or have held without having formally pledged to a candidate. Delegates represent each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands and Democrats Abroad. Through primaries and caucuses, millions of voters have a voice in deciding which candidate will be chosen to lead the party in the election. It is a process that every four years gives the citizens the fundamental choice of determining the direction of the party. Convention procedures have also evolved to make the nomination process fairer and more efficient. To capture the party’s nomination, candidates are required to garner the votes of a

simple majority of delegates instead of the two-thirds vote as was true until well into the 20th century.

Beginning in 1924 with the first radio coverage, the broadcast media has dramatically changed the tone of the convention. Prime time television coverage has transformed a small gathering of party loyalists into a boisterous, public celebration of politics. Keynote speakers bring the Democratic Party’s vision into the homes of millions of Americans. The image of a convention hall crowded with exuberant supporters helps to propel the candidates on the final stretch of the campaign trail.

Conventions have formed the backdrop for many fateful moments in U.S. history. At the convention in 1860, delegates almost deadlocked over the platform’s progressive position on slavery. In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his acceptance speech at the convention pledging “a New Deal for the American people.” In 1960, John F. Kennedy accepted the party’s nomination before 80,000 people

in Los Angeles, proclaiming that the U.S. “is on the edge of a New Frontier.” Only eight years later, protests against the war in Vietnam filled the streets of Chicago and affected the convention proceedings. In 1984, presidential nominee Walter Mondale selected Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate—the first woman placed on the ticket of a major political party. The most recent election primary process marked another historical first with a woman and an African-American as the leading Democratic Party candidates.

These traditions of inclusion and opportunity will be evident at this year’s Democratic National Convention in Denver where delegates will reassemble to nominate the Democratic ticket and set the stage for the 2008 campaign. You will observe a Democratic Party Convention that is unified behind its candidates. Above all, you will witness the workings of party politics that represent the essence of our country’s electoral system since the first Democratic Convention in 1832.

# our thanks

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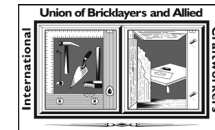
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2030 M Street, NW, Fifth Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-3306  
Tel: 202.728.5500  
Fax: 202.728.5520  
[www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org)

