

When Were Vice Presidential Running Mates Announced?

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It wasn't that long ago that major-party presidential nominees announced their vice presidential running mates during the presidential conventions (or that the conventions made the decisions themselves). These days the presidential nominees select their running mates ahead of the nominating conventions, as the chart below shows. Dan Quayle, who ran on the Republican ticket with presidential nominee George H.W. Bush in 1988, was the last non-incumbent vice-presidential nominee whose selection was announced after the convention began. In 2004, Democratic nominee John Kerry announced his running mate choice, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, twenty days before the party convention started -- apparently the longest such gap in history.

Democrats				
Year	Convention Began	Nominee	VP Selection Announced	Days Before
2004	<i>July 26</i>	<i>John Kerry</i>	July 6 (John Edwards)	20
2000	<i>August 14</i>	<i>Al Gore</i>	August 7 (Joseph I. Lieberman)	7
1996	<i>August 26</i>	<i>Bill Clinton</i>	N/A (Clinton/Gore renominated)	-
1992	<i>July 13</i>	<i>Bill Clinton</i>	July 9 (Gore)	4
1988	<i>July 18</i>	<i>Michael S. Dukakis</i>	July 12 (Lloyd Bentsen)	6
1984	<i>July 16</i>	<i>Walter F. Mondale</i>	July 12 (Geraldine Ferraro)	4
1980	<i>August 11</i>	<i>Jimmy Carter</i>	N/A (Carter/Mondale renominated)	-
1976	<i>July 12</i>	<i>Jimmy Carter</i>	July 15 (Mondale)	-3
1972	<i>July 10</i>	<i>George McGovern</i>	July 13 (Thomas F. Eagleton)**	-3
1968	<i>August 26</i>	<i>Hubert H. Humphrey</i>	August 29 (Edmund S. Muskie)	-3
1964	<i>August 24</i>	<i>Lyndon B. Johnson</i>	August 26 (Humphrey)	-2
1960	<i>July 11</i>	<i>John F. Kennedy</i>	July 14 (Johnson)	-3
1956	<i>August 13</i>	<i>Adlai E. Stevenson</i>	August 17 (Estes Kefauver)***	-4
1952	<i>July 21</i>	<i>Adlai E. Stevenson</i>	July 26 (John Sparkman)	-5

Republicans				
Year	Convention Began	Nominee	VP Selection Announced	Days Before
2004	<i>August 30</i>	<i>George W. Bush</i>	N/A (Bush/Dick Cheney seeking re-election)	-
2000	<i>July 31</i>	<i>George W. Bush</i>	July 25 (Cheney)	6
1996	<i>August 12</i>	<i>Bob Dole</i>	August 10 (Jack Kemp)	2
1992	<i>August 17</i>	<i>George H.W. Bush</i>	N/A (Bush/Dan Quayle renominated)	-
1988	<i>August 15</i>	<i>George H.W. Bush</i>	August 16 (Quayle)	-1
1984	<i>August 20</i>	<i>Ronald Reagan</i>	N/A (Reagan/Bush renominated)	-
1980	<i>July 14</i>	<i>Ronald Reagan</i>	July 16 (Bush)*	-2
1976	<i>August 16</i>	<i>Gerald Ford</i>	August 19 (Dole)	-3
1972	<i>August 21</i>	<i>Richard M. Nixon</i>	N/A (Nixon/Spiro Agnew renominated)	-
1968	<i>August 5</i>	<i>Richard M. Nixon</i>	August 8 (Agnew)	-3
1964	<i>July 13</i>	<i>Barry Goldwater</i>	July 16 (William E. Miller)	-3
1960	<i>July 25</i>	<i>Richard M. Nixon</i>	July 28 (Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.)	-3
1956	<i>August 20</i>	<i>Dwight D. Eisenhower</i>	N/A (Eisenhower/Nixon renominated)	-
1952	<i>July 7</i>	<i>Dwight D. Eisenhower</i>	July 11 (Nixon)	-4

*Reagan technically told the convention at 12:15 a.m., on July 17, 1980, that he had chosen Bush as his running mate.

**Eagleton withdrew July 31 and was replaced by Sargent Shriver, who was nominated August 8.

***Stevenson left the decision of a running mate to the Democratic convention, which selected Kefauver.