



THE TAOS NEWS

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News

District 3 Democratic convention delegates selected

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By Patricia Chambers

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Democrats from each of New Mexico's three Congressional Districts elected delegates Saturday (April 19) who will vote at the Democratic National Convention that will be held in Denver, Colo. on Aug. 25-28.

After the delegates elected to vote in the Saturday convention separated into caucus groups for the two contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination, U.S. Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, seven delegates from the district were selected to represent the third Congressional District, which includes Taos County at the party convention. The number of delegates for each candidate was determined by a formula set by the rules of the Democratic Party of New Mexico.

Thomas Tafoya, chairman of the Democratic Party of Taos County, and Carla Arguillos and Johnny Montoya, both of Santa Fe, were selected as pledged delegates supporting Senator Clinton.

Montoya is the husband of New Mexico Rep. Rhonda S. King (D-Dist. 50), who represents Bernalillo, Santa Fe and Torrance Counties.

Since Senator Obama won a majority in the Feb. 5 Democratic Presidential Caucus, the district will send three delegates, plus one alternate to the national convention as pledged delegates for Obama.

The Obama delegates from the Congressional District are: Estevan Gonzales of Santa Fe; Gayle Gravely Pollitt of Santa Fe; Patsy Trujillo, New Mexico Secretary of Aging and Long Term Care and

Sean Stimmel of Los Alamos will be the alternate delegate.

Both Trujillo and Stimmel, who is 19 and a college freshman at New Mexico University Los Alamos, have both actively campaigned for Senator Obama.

The Saturday convention, which brought more than 200 district delegates to Taos, ended with a question about whether state party rules allow a county party chairman to be a delegate to the convention.

Louise Rose of Upper Los Colonias said she was not ask the question in an attack on Taos County Chairman Thomas "Chuby" Tafoya, but felt strongly that the state party should not influence the vote of anyone else.

Tafoya later told Rose that he did nothing to express his support of Senator Clinton prior to the Feb. 5 Presidential Preference Caucus in New Mexico or since. "Most people didn't know I supported Senator Clinton until today," he said.

Joseph Casados, voter file manager with the state party, said he will discuss the matter with State Party Chairman Brian Colón and may ask for a ruling from the state party to clarify Rose's concern.

The state party rules, however, do not exempt party chairs from running as a pledged convention delegate, Casados said.

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