

# Faithful Citizenship



February 17, 2008

I'll have to admit that I don't totally understand the rationale behind the caucuses that are taking place. On the one hand, they are meant to give party leaders a reading of what their constituents are thinking. But at the same time, the party convention delegates and "superdelegates" don't have to follow the caucus election results. That being said.....

The Republicans seem to have settled on a candidate for '08. John McCain will have his chance. The Democrats have a real dilemma on their hands. The chance to elect the first woman or the first African-American candidate presented itself at the same time. With similar platforms, it will be difficult to decide which is better for the Party. Senator Clinton says that she is the best candidate because she has experience. State Senator Colleen Hanabusa says that Clinton's life-long concern for early-childhood education will benefit Hawaii's efforts to improve our own educational system. Senator Obama says he stands for "change." Representative Abercrombie says that we need "change" in America, that we have been locked into the same way of doing things for too long now. Since he himself has been in some elected office for nearly all of his adult life, I'm wondering if he will embrace "change" when his term is up!

Whoever wins this time around will have to face some serious issues. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are beginning to divide our nation. We need to understand the value of being in those countries as well as the potential consequences of pulling out. Presidential candidates need to address this realistically. No one wants to send our men and women off to combat, so saying we want peace is not enough. Everyone does. Social Security is another huge concern. With the baby boomers just now reaching retirement age, we have only begun to see the effects. More on Social Security next week.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! *Aloha-mary B.*

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