

Cillizza, Chris. "Republican National Convention Night One: Winners and Losers." *WP Politics*. Accessed December 16, 2012. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2012/08/28/republican-national-convention-night-one-winners-and-losers/>.

Congressional Research Service. *The Presidential Nominating Process and the National Party Conventions, 2012: Frequently Asked Questions*. By Kevin J. Coleman. Research report no. 7-5700. Washington, D.C.: n.p., 2012.

This is a government report written by the Congressional Research Service in order to answer frequently asked questions surrounding the nomination of Democratic and Republican candidates as well as the functions of a national party convention. On page 18 of this report, it is stated that the presidential and vice presidential candidates are usually not *decided* at a national convention, but merely ratified, or approved, by the party delegates. According to this document, most candidates are actually chosen before the national convention. This report is specific to the 2012 election because it mentions the possibility of the 2012 Republican candidate actually being decided at the convention rather than before. Delegates from some state caucuses, such as Iowa and South Carolina, are not "bound" to vote for the victor of their state primary. Since the republican campaign season has been so close, some delegates could vote for a different candidate than planned and change the predicted outcome of the convention. This report was written in May 2012, when the republican race was much closer.

Tapper, Jake, and Amy Bingham. "Dems Quickly Switch to Include 'God,' 'Jerusalem'." *ABC News*. Accessed December 16, 2012. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/OTUS/democrats-rapidly-revise-platform-include-god/story?id=17164108>.

This article describes a duty of the national party convention that is not related to selecting a party candidate. On day two of the Democratic National Convention, the public voted to include "god" in their party platform as well as back President Obama in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's political capital. This vote was quite controversial, however. Included in this article is a video of the actual vote taking place, it is clear that the requested two-thirds majority vote was actually not earned by either side, yet convention chairman Antonio Villaraigosa still decided the public voted "yes". This article shows a prime example of how the governing of a political party works: it is non-democratic, and resorts back to the decisions of a leader whose decisions are difficult to oppose. Overall, this article helped me understand the functions of a national party convention aside from choosing a party candidate.