


Communications Milestones at the Presidential Conventions

1880




The telephone went to its first political convention where James Garfield used a phone to conduct his campaign for the Republican nomination.¹

1924



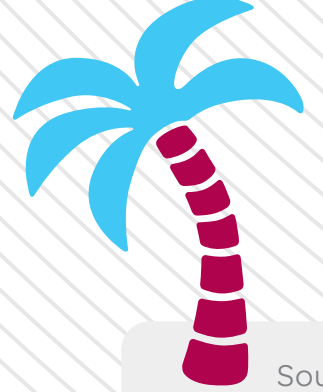
AT&T set up a network of 12 cities connected by telephone lines for radio broadcasting (the convention).¹

1940




With the help of Bell Labs, the convention was the first to be seen on television.¹

1940



Southern Bell installed more than 5,000 lines, 300-400 tele-typewriters, 80 video circuits, and 40 private switchboards for both conventions in Miami Beach.¹

1961




RNC, Dallas
For the first time at a major political convention, reporters filed the news reports at the RNC using Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems' recently turned-on cellular network.³

DNC, San Francisco
Pacific Bell was the DNC's official manager of telecommunications services. The project required an extraordinary 100 video circuits – possibly the most ever used for a California event up to that time.²

1961

RNC, New Orleans
Delegates could instantly call up news, schedules and even weather reports through an audiotext service dubbed, The Big Call®.

1972




DNC, Atlanta
For the first time in the US, the overflow crowds in Atlanta watched the Democrats via the TV of tomorrow – High Definition Television (HDTV) – made possible by Southern Bell's fiber optic network.⁴

1984

RNC, Houston
Southwestern Bell was the lead telecommunications firm for the RNC. The 35,000 attendees in the Houston Astrodome used as many telephones, fax machines and pagers as a typical city of 15,000 people.⁵

1988

DNC, NY City
DNC voting goes high tech. Delegates at the 1992 DNC voted using the AT&T/NCR Electronic Voting System that utilized touch screen technology.⁶



1992




DNC, Chicago
AT&T introduces special prepaid calling cards for the DNC.⁷ Ameritech contributed a site and provided the development work for a location on the World Wide Web devoted to information about Chicago and the convention.⁸

1996

RNC, San Diego
The RNC that nominated Bob Dole had more than 600 people using Pacific Bell's new wireless PCS phones to complete 35,000 calls a day – 400,000 calls and short text messages in all.⁹

2000



DNC, Los Angeles
From online chats to 24-hour Webcams, from wireless messaging to high-speed Internet access, the DNC was a high-tech showcase.¹⁰

2008



DNC, Denver
AT&T saw more than 244 million text messages sent and received via AT&T wireless phones during the four days of the 2008 Democratic National Convention.¹¹

2008

RNC, St. Paul
During the RNC, AT&T saw an estimated 40 percent increase in data sent over the company's wireless network compared with the company's previous highs.¹²

Source: ¹Dallas Times, July 10, 1972; ²Dallas Times, July 10, 1972; ³SBMS Provides First Cellular Services at Political Convention, in Southwestern Bell Telephone's Management Report, vol. 41, no. 35, Aug. 26, 1984, p. 4; ⁴BellSouth Corporation 1988 Annual Report, p. 20; ⁵AT&T Press Release, June 30, 1992; ⁶The GOP Draws Super Communications Support Behind the Scenes in Houston, in SBC's Update, vol. 20, no. 3, 1992, pp. 4-11; ⁷Let (Wireless) Freedom Ring, PCS a Hit at GOP Convention, in Pacific Telesis Group's Connections, Aug. 26, 1996, pp. 1 & 12; ⁸AT&T Press Release, Aug. 10, 1996; ⁹The Democratic Convention Takes a Final Bow in Chicago, in Ameritech's Vision, vol. 4, no. 17, Sept. 2, 1996, pp. 3-4; ¹⁰Bringing Technology to the Democratic National Convention, in SBC's sbc.com, Aug./Sept. 2000, p. 4 (Special Data Issue); ¹¹AT&T press release <http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=4800&cdvn=news&newsarticleid=26064&mapcode=community>; ¹²AT&T press release <http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=4800&cdvn=news&newsarticleid=26061&mapcode=community>

