

Long slog to the Republican nomination

Following a bruising primary season, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney has clinched the 1,144 delegates needed to become the Republican presidential nominee to challenge Barack Obama in November



Jan 3, Iowa caucus: **Rick Santorum** beats Mitt Romney by 34 votes

JAN

End of previous Republican primary races for nomination

Mar 4, 2008: **John McCain** clinches nomination, knocking **Rudy Giuliani** and **Mitt Romney** out of race

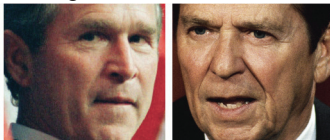
Mar 8, 1996: **Bob Dole** crowns himself presumptive nominee

Mar 8, 1988: First **Super Tuesday**

– when 16 states all hold primaries – results in **George H. W. Bush** sealing nomination



Mar 14, 2000: **George W. Bush** (below left) wins enough delegates for nomination



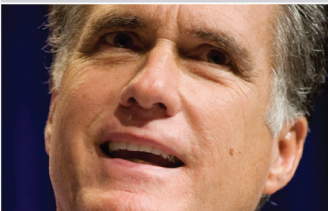
May 20, 1980: Front-runner **Ronald Reagan** does not clinch nomination until George Bush senior withdraws

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Apr 3: Romney wins 83 delegates, expanding his count to **655**, or 57% of those needed for nomination

Apr 10: Santorum quits after winning 259 delegates



May 2: **Newt Gingrich** ends his campaign after having secured **141 delegates**

May 29: Romney wins Texas, taking him well over 1,144 nomination threshold

Ron Paul, Texas congressman who won 108 delegates, is to retire in November

Source: RealClearPolitics

Pictures: Associated Press

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