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BROKERED CONVENTION RUMOR QUESTIONED

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Amid presidential primaries and caucuses, rumors of a brokered convention are circulating through the media. A brokered convention only occurs when the Republican nominee is not decided in the first or second ballots of the GOP Convention, which takes place in Tampa, Fla., Aug. 27. This has not occurred since 1926. Voting has not even gone into a second ballot since 1956.

According to CNN Reporter Bryan Monroe, many thought one candidate would have secured a spot as the lead nominee by now. Instead, the GOP front-runner status has changed more than half a dozen times.

"One of the [top] three candidates would need to garner roughly 50 percent of all remaining votes," said Elliot Suthers of Forbes.com. "No GOP candidate has polled higher than 35 percent yet. All signs seem to be headed to a brokered convention."

A brokered convention is a long process. The primaries will end in early June. By

this time, candidates should know who has received the 1,144 delegate votes necessary to become the Republican nominee.

"If no one has the delegates they need, then they have from the time in June until the convention meets in August to try to convince the undecided delegates to come their way," said political science professor Dr. Phil Loy. "Then the convention begins to vote for a presidential candidate on Wednesday of the convention week. If no candidate has mustered the required number of delegates, then it will go into a second ballot."

If a nominee cannot be decided after a second ballot, a brokered convention becomes a possibility.

"A brokered convention is not going to occur until the thing is deadlocked, until nobody will move," Loy said. "Nobody has the delegates they need and nobody will move or give up."

Loy explained that during a brokered convention, party leaders meet in a "smoke-filled

room" and privately try to work out a deal. Sometimes, they come up with a totally new candidate to nominate.

Mitt Romney, who is currently ahead in the number of pledged delegates, is also skeptical of a brokered convention occurring.

"I don't think there is any prospect of a brokered convention," Romney said in an interview with Fox Business Network's Neil Cavuto. "I can't imagine the four candidates saying after a long process of fundraising and campaigning for one to two years, that we are all going to step aside and give the nomination to someone else."

A brokered convention would be destructive for the entire party. It gives the new nominee barely any time to campaign, as well as shows that the party is not unified.

"A political party cannot afford to have a brokered convention because it makes itself look stupid to the American people," Loy said. "It's just handing the election to the opposing party."

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