

## Maine's Superdelegates Awash in Pitches From Clinton, Obama

February 4, 2008

*Last week, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, an Obama supporter, called Spencer to urge him to back Obama. After Spencer told Napolitano he would not yet commit, an Obama aide in Chicago called him to express her disappointment.*

*Spencer's business partner, Robert Monks, is Obama's finance chairman in Maine, and he is pressing Spencer to back Obama.*

*The Clinton campaign is working Spencer, too. His former White House colleagues were calling him to inquire "how I have been doing for the past seven years," he said.*

*He has vowed to remain neutral.*

*"I want to figure out how to most broadly represent Maine Democrats in the Democratic National Committee," Spencer said.*

*"Superdelegates are sort of outdated. It's not a very democratic way of doing things."*

## Maine Superdelegates on Fence

February 12, 2008

*Most of Maine's superdelegates are left with three choices: endorse Obama because he won the state's caucuses; support the candidate who wins the most delegates during all of the state primaries and caucuses; or support the candidate they consider most likely to win in November, even if he or she does not win the most pledged delegates.*

*"The narrative now is much deeper than it has been in the past," said Anthony Corrado, a political scientist at Colby College in Waterville. "Are the (superdelegates) an independent force in the party to choose the best nominee, or representative of their constituencies?"*

*That's the question that Sam Spencer faces. Spencer, a Portland real estate developer and a member of the Democratic National Committee, is a superdelegate. "An election decided by superdelegates would be a big mistake," he said. "It is a distortion of process and entirely out of the spirit of the Democratic Party. I don't need to participate in that system.*

*"For the time being, the election should be decided by voters," Spencer said, adding that he will remain uncommitted.*

## Some superdelegates 'uncomfortable' with the spotlight

February 11, 2008



*Two of these party insiders told American Morning anchor John Roberts Monday that they are 'uncomfortable' with their votes being the deciding factor.*

*"I think the best people to decide who our nominee should be ... should be actual voters in primaries and caucuses," Spencer said on CNN's "American Morning." "I think superdelegates are somewhat outdated, and it's not the most democratic way of doing things."*

Watch story by clicking the link below:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/02/11/delegates/index.html#cn-STCVideo>

## Terra Magazine (Brazil)

### Superdelegado: contrariar eleitores é desastroso

February 21, 2008

*Sam Spencer representa o estado do Maine (nordeste dos EUA) no Comitê Nacional Democrata. Ele trabalhou na Casa Branca por quatro anos (1996-2000), durante o segundo mandato do presidente Bill Clinton. Em entrevista a **Terra Magazine**, Spencer falou do risco de haver uma ruptura entre os democratas e do receio de uma desmoralização do partido caso a decisão dos superdelegados contradiga o que a maioria dos eleitores escolheu ao longo das prévias.*

**Terra Magazine: O voto dos superdelegados pode contradizer a opinião dos eleitores democratas?**

**Sam Spencer: Estou muito preocupado com isso e espero que não aconteça. Acho que quem realmente deve escolher o candidato são os eleitores que têm votado há alguns meses e ainda votarão até junho. Faz parte do espírito democrata que essa escolha seja democrática.**

**Key Democrats ponder who to back**

February, 23 2008

Sam Spencer, 35  
Maine Superdelegate

*It will prove very divisive if party leaders are seen as choosing a nominee ... the problem is, Barack Obama won my state, but Hillary Clinton got 40% of the vote, and there were thousands and thousands of Hillary supporters who stood in line in a blizzard [to cast their vote]. So at this moment I'm choosing not to inject my opinions into it ... it's not something I'm looking forward to. I used to work in the Clinton White House. As you can imagine, I've heard from every single person I used to work with. [Also] my partner in my company is the chair of the Maine Obama campaign.*

**Our Superdelegates: Ourselves**

March 1, 2008

*My prejudices did not fare that well with Sam Spencer either. Initially, my prejudices thought that they had a shot: Sam went to Harvard as an undergrad and then to Vitamin H's business school. He has worked in the Clinton-Gore administration. He was now a real estate developer in the Portland area, and had been elected in 2004 to represent Maine on the DNC. "Aha!" my prejudice announced. What goes better than real estate development with political corruption? Perhaps only lobbying.*

*But when I spoke with Sam, my prejudice's hopes were dashed. Turns out he has what strikes me as the most ethical stance that a superdelegate could take, one that I'm not sure I would have thought up on my own. Oh, and the real estate development angle: turns out it's converting old brick mills into mixed commercial and residential spaces for community development. We have a lot of that around us in western Massachusetts. It's great. Sam's take on what he should do as a superdelegate is to do his best to take himself out of the equation. Refuse to endorse. Hope that the primaries and caucuses lead candidates to drop out of the race, leaving only candidate going into the convention. Bet on normal voters being determinative before the convention.*

*But what if that doesn't pan out? Well, Sam says that he'll have to choose between a number of possible methodologies for making his superdelegate vote reflect the will of those normal voters. He could vote to try and make the Maine superdelegate split mirror that of the results of the Maine caucus. He could vote for the candidate going into the convention with the greatest number of normal delegates. He could vote for the candidate with the greatest number of popular votes. Each method has its logic, its charm, and its warts, but each is aimed at, in effect, eliminating the role of superdelegates. A superdelegate who explicitly thinks having superdelegates is a bad idea? A superdelegate who is trying to eliminate the power of superdelegates? Sounds like something I hope I'd do if put in the same position.*



## Know your superdelegates

Democratic insiders in Maine and throughout the country will decide the party's nominee

March 12, 2008

### **Sam Spencer**

**President, Spencer Monks Development; Democratic National Committee member**

**HOW HE'LL VOTE** *Uncommitted*

**TIES** *On the White House staff for four years during Clinton presidency; current business partner is Bobby Monks, chairman of Obama's campaign in Maine*

*Spencer says he is likely to remain uncommitted until the primaries and caucuses are over: "If we can avoid it, it would be best if superdelegates did not prove to be decisive in this." Still, he says he is being actively courted by people in both camps, many of whom he knows personally. Spencer worked in the White House during the Clinton years and his business partner, Bobby Monks, chairs Obama's campaign in Maine.*

[http://thephoenix.com/article\\_ektid57872.aspx](http://thephoenix.com/article_ektid57872.aspx)



## Obama Race Speech Keeps a Maine Superdelegate on the Fence

March 20, 2008

*If the feelings of Sam Spencer are any measure, Barack Obama's speech about race on March 18 may just have done the trick in terms of reassuring the all-important uncommitted superdelegates about his general-election viability.*

*"On Sunday we had a Democratic State Committee meeting and several members came up to me," Spencer, an uncommitted superdelegate from Maine, told me. "They were very concerned about what was happening with Jeremiah Wright and Senator Obama. I watched clips of the speech yesterday, and I thought it was a very moving, powerful speech. And I was glad that it wasn't trite, as it was maybe easier to treat the subject. It was subtle and it was real and it was honest. My own sense is that this went a very long way towards eliminating the Jeremiah Wright situation as an issue that is going to dog him in the campaign."*

*Spencer maintained his neutrality in the race—a function, he said, of his belief that the superdelegate role in the nominating process was less than fully democratic, and of an oath he made to stay uncommitted until all states had voted and the candidates had exhausted all possibilities of settling the race themselves.*

*He has maintained this principled neutrality in the face of enormous pressure from the Obama and Clinton campaigns.*

<http://www.observer.com/2008/obama-race-speech-keeps-maine-superdelegate-fence>

## **Maine's superdelegates: Where they stand**

April 11, 2008

*Some speculate the superdelegates could decide the Democratic contest.*

*National committeeman Sam Spencer doesn't want to be the deciding factor.*

*"I originally thought it would be best if voters sorted it out among themselves, I thought a nominee would emerge," Spencer said. "In all likelihood, neither Obama nor Clinton will reach a majority without the help of superdelegates."*

*He could vote how Maine voted. He could vote so Maine's superdelegates are proportioned the same way as the state voted. He could vote for whoever won the popular vote in the country, or for whoever won the most delegates.*

*Or he could just vote "present" the first time around, perhaps forcing some kind of compromise. If one candidate does not emerge with a majority in the first round of voting, there will be a second round where all delegates will become uncommitted.*

*Between now and the convention Spencer plans to visit all 16 counties to talk to voters.*

*"I'm listening to people and considering different judgments," Spencer said. However, "I want to let the votes of Maine Democrats speak for themselves."*

<http://www.politickerme.com/jessicalaimo/1298/maine-s-superdelegates-where-they-stand>



## **Delegate Waits to Back a Candidate**

### **Won't commit to either until end of primaries**

April 14, 2008

*"I said in February that it would be a tragedy if the superdelegates decided this election. They're outdated, and it's not a democratic way of doing things," he said. "The problem now is that neither candidate can reach a majority without them." He remains uncommitted because he doesn't like any of his options. Those who say he should vote for Obama because Obama won Maine don't take into account the 40 percent of people who "stood in line in the snow" at caucuses to support Clinton, he said.*

*Others say there should be a 60-40 split of superdelegates along caucus voting lines, but that could mean someone would have to back a candidate not of his or her choosing.*

*He could go with the pledged delegate majority nationally or he could go with the popular vote. These choices mean he must wait until all of the remaining states vote, and that's just fine with him. "If (superdelegates) rush in now, we're denying the remaining states the right to count," he said*

*Between now and then, he said, he is traversing the state, talking with Democrats at gatherings like that of the Seacoast Democrats on Saturday. He said he feels strongly that he represents all Maine party members, and he wants their advice. It is, he knows, only going to get more intense for him in the months to come, and he wants to hear from the rank and file.*

*He said he also believes in the wisdom of people who understand how close the party is to taking the White House.*

*"At the end of the day, our purpose is the same — a unified Democratic Party," he said. "At the end of the day, we'll do what is best."*

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/articleAID=/20080414/NEWS/804140316/-1/NEWS09&sfad=1>

## **The New York Times**

### **Dream Ticket Sounds Good to Many Democrats (Except the Candidates)**

April 22, 2008

*And some uncommitted superdelegates — the party leaders and elected officials whose votes may determine the nominee — see such a unity ticket as a way to short-circuit a fight for the nomination all the way to the Democratic convention in August, and to blend the voter bases of the two candidates.*

*"It would be great to see them on the same ticket — they had attracted so many new voters and so much excitement, it seems so obvious," said Sam Spencer, an uncommitted superdelegate from Maine. "Hillary would be the L.B.J. of 1960 — both served longer and had more experience, and L.B.J. was willing to take the vice presidency..."*

## **Portland Press Herald Maine Sunday Telegram**

### **Four Maine superdelegates remain uncommitted in Democratic race**

April 24, 2008

*Spencer, a former aide to Vice President Al Gore, has been the most public about how he will make his decision, listing the criteria in a letter asking delegates to the Maine state convention to elect him to the Democratic National Committee.*

*He said he would support the candidate who has won the most pledged delegates, the candidate who has won the popular vote, or the candidate who won Maine's Democratic Party caucuses.*

*Spencer said he is traveling to all 16 counties in the state seeking input from Democratic Party activists on whom to support. He has even set up a blog at [www.samspencer.org](http://www.samspencer.org), where visitors can give him advice.*

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=183507&ac=PHnws>



(London)

**Undecided Democratic elite remind Barack Obama that victory is not in the bag**

May 1, 2008

*But most super-delegates are not big shot politicians who might be expected to enjoy all this attention. Maine's state Democratic Party chairman, Sam Spencer, is among the as yet uncommitted who view the prospect of exercising influence on the outcome of the race with distaste.*

*Bombarded daily with calls from the Obama campaign and friends from his days in the Clinton White House "who are suddenly anxious to catch up after seven years", Mr Spencer said that voters in Maine have concerns about both candidates. He suggested that his vote may be ultimately be conditional on the loser being offered the vice-presidential ticket.*