

Montana, S. Dakota close out primaries

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The American Indian voting bloc, and state geographic and demographic breakdowns characterize the last primaries in Montana and South Dakota. Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign is hoping for good showings to press her argument that she is the better candidate to face presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain in November. Sen. Barack Obama's campaign, inching closer to the 2,118 delegates needed to cinch the Democratic presidential nomination, is looking for an end to the long primary run. South Dakota's demographics -- white, older and working class -- favor Clinton. However, Obama has endorsements from top Democratic leaders, including former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Sen. Tim Johnson, Politico.com reported Tuesday. Different polls show different winners, the Washington publication said. In Montana, Obama lead Clinton 52 percent to 35 percent in a Mason-Dixon poll, but his support base was nearly all in the western part of the state. "We had Clinton ahead in eastern Montana," poll director Brad Coker said. Political analysts said they're not sure which candidate is more favored among American Indians, which make up about 8 percent of the population in both states. Both candidates courted the Indian vote, which is difficult to poll because of the shortage of phone service on reservations.

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