

GENERAL FAQ'S

May I bring a Guest/Spouse? Yes, you may bring a guest or a spouse. Please remember that as a member of the Delegation, a significant portion of your time and attention will be paid to official business.

Can my guest/spouse attend events? If your guest/spouse registers to be a member of the Maryland Celebration and pay the \$500 registration fee, they will be issued an Official Maryland Credential that grants access to all 14 Maryland Celebration events and Maryland transportation. This fee is non-refundable after 12:00pm on Friday, August 16, 2024.

May I bring my child/children? Yes, you may bring children. However, most events are not geared toward children, and no childcare will be provided. Please remember that as a member of the Delegation, a significant portion of your time and attention will be paid to official business.

Will my guest/spouse be able to get credentials for the evening convention session?

At past Conventions, a limited number of extra credentials have been allotted to the Maryland Delegation. We were able to hold a credential lottery each day for registered members of the Maryland Celebration where 2-3 credentials winners were drawn at random. Once somebody won, they were not permitted to re-enter. We hope to be able to do the same in 2024. The Maryland Celebration will host 4 Convention Watch Parties in the Fountainview Room of the Sheraton (lobby level, 3rd floor), Monday through Thursday from 6-10pm. Any registered and paid member of the Celebration who is not attending that evening's floor session at the United Center is welcome to attend. Televisions will be tuned to a live feed of the Convention and light fare will be served.

How will I get around in Chicago? Is there public transportation? Should I get a rental car?

The DNCC will provide transportation to and from the United Center and McCormick Place for delegates. The Maryland Democratic Party will also provide transportation for all registered members of the Maryland Celebration to Maryland events. There is a wide array of public transportation options in Chicago, as well as Uber and Lyft. A rental car should not be necessary.

I'm a Delegate—where will I go to pick up my credentials?

You will have to pick up your credentials every day after the conclusion of the daily delegation meeting, at approximately 9:15am at the Maryland Office in the Sheraton in Columbus A and B. Credentials must be picked up in person no later than 11am each day.

Where is the Maryland Celebration Office? When is it open?

The Maryland Office is located on the lobby floor (Third Floor) of the Sheraton in Columbus A and B.

Maryland Office Hours:

Sunday, August 18, 10:00am-8:00pm

Monday, August 19, 9:00am-5:00pm*

Tuesday, August 20, 9:00am-5:00pm*

Wednesday, August 21, 9:00am-5:00pm*

Thursday, August 22, 9:00am-2:00pm*

*Office open for the exclusive purpose of distributing credentials from 9:00am-11:00am

Official Democratic National Convention Credentials:

Each morning at the conclusion of the daily breakfast meeting at the Sheraton, at approximately 9:15 AM, Official Democratic National Convention Credentials for that evening's Convention Floor Session will be distributed to Delegates at the Maryland Office. The doors of the Maryland Office will remain locked until the breakfast program has concluded.

Please follow these important guidelines regarding your Official Credential:

- Credentials will be distributed between the conclusion of breakfast and 11am each day at the Maryland Office.
- Each Maryland Delegate to the Convention must go in person to the Maryland Office to obtain their credential.
- To receive a credential, Delegates must bring their ID and sign for their credential.
- Every Delegate, including members of the Congressional Delegation and other elected officials, must follow the same procedure to obtain their credentials.
- If you don't pick up your credential by 11am, your credential becomes property of the MDP and it will be used for party business.
- If you lose your credential, you will not be able to obtain a replacement. Immediately notify the MDP staff who can inform the DNCC.

Currently, we only have information about the availability of credentials within the Delegation allotment, which is one credential for each Maryland Delegate. Historically, the MDP has been able to obtain a limited number of additional credentials and hold a daily lottery for non-Delegate members of the Maryland Celebration. We hope to do this again in 2024.

GENERAL FAQ'S

Am I required to attend all of the Maryland Celebration events?

No, although we strongly recommend that everyone attend every event—they are included as part of your experience in Chicago. If your schedule is tight, please make sure to at least attend the daily delegation breakfast meetings, where important information is disseminated.

Do I need a ticket or invitation to get into the Maryland Celebration events?

Registered and paid members of the Maryland Celebration will be issued an Official Maryland Credential that grants access to all 14 Maryland Celebration events and Maryland transportation.

What meals will be provided for me? Where else can I grab a bite to eat?

Breakfast will be provided each day of the Convention (Monday-Thursday). The Architectural Boat Tour on Wednesday includes a reception. Food will be available at all nighttime events for the Maryland Delegation. In between, the Sheraton offers 5 food and dining options: Shula's Steakhouse, Riverside Cafe, Link Cafe, CHI Bar, A La Carte Room Service, and Chicago Burger Company.

What about special dietary requirements and other accommodations?

When completing their online registration forms, Delegates will be asked to share their dietary requirements and needs for other accommodations.

Potentially Prohibited Items at the United Center and McCormick Place (2024 Prohibited Items List is Forthcoming):

- | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> Aerosols | <input type="radio"/> Firearms |
| <input type="radio"/> Ammunition | <input type="radio"/> Glass, thermal, or metal containers |
| <input type="radio"/> Animals other than service / guide animals | <input type="radio"/> Laser pointers |
| <input type="radio"/> Backpacks | <input type="radio"/> Mace / Pepper spray |
| <input type="radio"/> Bags exceeding size restriction 18" x 13" x 7" | <input type="radio"/> Noisemakers, such as air horns and bull horns (United Center only) |
| <input type="radio"/> Banners, Signs, or Placards of any type or size | <input type="radio"/> Packages |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycles | <input type="radio"/> Pocket knives |
| <input type="radio"/> Balloons | <input type="radio"/> Selfie Sticks |
| <input type="radio"/> Coolers | <input type="radio"/> Structures |
| <input type="radio"/> Drones and other unmanned aircraft systems | <input type="radio"/> Supports for signs and placards |
| <input type="radio"/> E-Cigarettes | <input type="radio"/> Toy guns |
| <input type="radio"/> Explosives | <input type="radio"/> Weapons of any kind |
| | <input type="radio"/> Any other items determined to be potential safety hazards |

Convention Watch Parties

The Maryland Celebration will host 4 Convention Watch Parties in the Fountainview Room of the Sheraton (lobby level, 3rd floor), Monday through Thursday from 6:00pm-10:00pm. Any registered and paid member of the Celebration who is not attending that evening's floor session at the United Center is welcome to attend. Televisions will be tuned to a live feed of the Convention and light fare will be served.

Maryland Opening Reception, Post-Gavel Events, and the Chicago Odyssey River Cruise

The Maryland Celebration Welcome Reception will be on Sunday evening, August 18, 2024, from 8:00pm-10:00pm. Post-gavel events are scheduled Monday-Thursday from 10:30pm-1:30am. The Chicago Odyssey River Cruise is scheduled for 2 sessions on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 from 11:00am-12:30pm and again from 2:00pm-3:30pm. All members of the Maryland Celebration are encouraged to attend these casual gatherings in unique Chicago venues. Food and beverages will be served, and Maryland transportation will also be available between the Sheraton and the venues.

Perhaps the most unique event of the Maryland Celebration week is the Chicago Odyssey Architectural Boat Cruise Reception on the Chicago River. Members of the Maryland Celebration can choose to board at 10:30am for the 11:00am cruise, or 1:30pm for the 2:00 pm cruise, for a 1 ½ hour tour on the Chicago Odyssey, a modern vessel that accommodates up to 200 people. Guests will be treated to captivating panoramas of Chicago's iconic architecture and a reception of light fare and beer, wine, and soft drinks. Breathtaking views of landmarks such as the Willis Tower, Navy Pier, and the Old Chicago Post Office can be enjoyed from the comfortable interior or the open-air spaces on the Odyssey. This upscale experience on the Chicago River is complete with light architectural narration and top-notch service. Set sail for an awe-inspiring experience! The tour will board and disembark on the Riverwalk near the Sheraton.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the United Center and McCormick Place, site of plenary and caucus sessions: Delegates with DNC credentials are provided transportation between the Sheraton and the Convention (United Center) Sessions and caucus meeting/plenary sessions (McCormick Place) sites. Schedules will be established and clearly advertised in the Sheraton. Historically, a DNC credential has not been required to utilize transportation to the site of the caucus meeting/plenary sessions. We will be updating this information as it is confirmed.

Transportation to and from Maryland Events: The MDP will provide transportation for registered and paid members of the Maryland Celebration to and from post-gavel events. Transportation will run on a continuous loop between the Sheraton and the event from designated transportation hubs. While several of our events are within walking distance of the official Maryland Delegation hotel, transportation will be available for those who wish to utilize it and for those needing accommodation.

Transportation to and from Marriott Magnificent Mile: At this time, we will provide round-trip transportation to and from the Marriott Magnificent Mile for post-gavel events only. Guests are responsible for walking or arranging their own transportation to the Sheraton for the 7:30am morning breakfast meeting and the 6-10pm Convention Watch Parties. Guests may board transportation from the Sheraton to post-gavel events.

DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIME TO MARYLAND CELEBRATION EVENTS

VENUE	DATE & TIME	ADDRESS	DISTANCE FROM SHERATON	WALK FROM SHERATON	DRIVE FROM SHERATON	DISTANCE FROM MARRIOTT MAG MILE	WALK FROM MARRIOTT MAG MILE	DRIVE FROM MARRIOTT MAG MILE
Lizzie McNeill's	Sun., August 18th 8-10PM	400 N McClurg Ct, Chicago, IL 60611	0.3 Miles	2 min.	2 min.	1.2 Miles	13 min.	7 min.
The Game Room	Mon., August 19th 10:30 PM-1:30 AM	12 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603	0.8 Miles	19 min.	4 min.	0.7 Miles	17 min.	5 min.
Harry Caray's at Navy Pier	Tues., August 20th 10:30 PM-1:30 AM	700 E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611	0.6 Miles	14 min.	4 min.	0.7 Miles	17 min.	7 min.
City Cruises of Chicago River Walk	Wed., August 21st 11 AM-12:30 PM 2-4 PM	455 N Cityfront Plaza Dr, Chicago, IL 60611	0.1 Miles	3 min.	2 min.	0.3 Miles	6 min.	3 min.
D4 Irish Pub & Cafe	Wed., August 21st 10:30 PM-1:30 AM	345 East Ohio St, E Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60611	0.4 Miles	6 min.	3 min.	0.3 Miles	8 min.	6 min.
Robert's Pizza & Dough Co.	Thurs., August 22nd 10:30 PM-1:30 AM	465 N McClurg Ct, Chicago, IL 60611	0.3 Miles	5 min.	2 min.	0.5 Miles	11 min.	5 min.

HOUSING FAQ'S

What is the name and address of the Official Maryland Delegation Hotel?

301 East North Water Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Distance to United Center: 4.6 miles

Distance to McCormick Center: 2.9 miles

Cost per Room Night: \$409.73/night, which includes a 17.4% room tax

Does the Sheraton have an airport shuttle?

- No, but the DNCC (Democratic National Campaign Committee) is working on a transportation plan for Delegates to their hotels. We will share this information with you when it becomes available.

Should I contact the Sheraton directly to make my reservation?

- No, do not contact the hotel directly. Reservations will be made through Rice Consulting, MDP's Convention Planning Team.
- To make your reservation, please complete the [Maryland Delegation 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form](#)
- Reservations will be accepted starting July 1, and all reservations are due by July 15, 2024.

Is there a room night minimum, and what are the dates?

- A four-night minimum stay is required during convention week (August 19-22, 2024)

Can I rent a room for additional nights, and if so, how do I do that?

- All rooms for the four nights of the convention must be booked through Rice Consulting, MDP's Convention Planning Team.
- Please contact Rice Consulting at 410-838-6355 or DNC2024@riceconsultingllc.com if you need rooms the dates of 8/16-8/18 and we will work with the Convention's HASP (Housing Agency Service Provider) to fulfill your request.

I am a Marriott Bonvoy member, how can I get credit/points for my stay?

- Please communicate your Hotel Rewards Number when completing the [Maryland Delegation 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form](#)

What size are the beds in the standard two-bed rooms at the Sheraton?

- These beds are double beds.

Can I get an accessible room?

- Please communicate the need for accommodations while completing your [Maryland Delegation 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form](#). If you have additional questions, contact Rice Consulting, MDP's Convention Planning Team: 410-838-6355 or DNC2024@riceconsultingllc.com.

Can I rent additional rooms?

- During the Delegate Hotel Booking Period, July 1-July 15, you may book only one room per Delegate.
- You may request the opportunity to book additional rooms for guests after the Delegate Hotel Booking Period if they become available. Please contact Rice Consulting, MDP's Convention Planning Team: 410-838-6355 or DNC2024@riceconsultingllc.com.

What if I won't be staying at the Sheraton? Can I give my room to a friend?

The MDP has one room for each member of our Delegation at the Maryland Delegation Hotel.

Delegates who do not occupy their room in the Delegation Hotel are not permitted to transfer or sub-lease their room to anyone else.

In the event that you have made arrangements to stay elsewhere, such as the home of a friend or relative, please contact the Convention Planning Team immediately so we can return the room to the MDP block for re-allocation.

When will my credit card be charged?

- Your credit card will be charged August 7, 2024.

HOUSING FAQ'S

Will I need to present a credit card upon check-in?

- Yes, you will need to present a credit card to cover incidentals, etc.

Can I hold the room with one card and pay with another?

- If you place a reservation before the July 15 deadline using one card and must pay with another, you must update your registration with Rice Consulting, MDP's Convention Planning Team, by July 15.

I'm sharing a room with another Delegate, can we split the cost of our room between two credit cards?

- If Delegates are sharing a room and would like to split the payment between two credit cards, please indicate so on the 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form under "Other Pay Notes."

Will the MDP pay for the cost of my room?

- The Maryland Democratic Party will not pay for your room or transportation to and from Chicago.
- Delegates are responsible for the cost of their accommodations.
- The cost of a standard room at the Sheraton Grand is \$409.73/night, which includes a 17.4% room tax.

Can I pay for my room with a check?

- You may not pay for your room with a check. The system used to place hotel reservations only supports credit card transactions.

Can I pre-pay the total cost of my room by check?

- You may not pre-pay for your room with a check. Your credit card will be charged on August 7.

Can I get a roll-away bed/cot?

- Please communicate requests for additional beds when completing the [Maryland Delegation 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form](#).

Do the rooms have coffee makers and refrigerators?

- The hotel rooms DO have coffee makers but DO NOT have refrigerators.

Can I request a room on a specific floor?

- Please communicate this request when completing the [Maryland Delegation 2024 DNC Hotel Room Registration Form](#).

