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## **Republican and Democratic Conventions Still Have Room**

**By Matthew Bandyk**

The innovative startups that I run into often do completely different things, but what they have in common is that they take very common problems and find solutions to those problems that are obvious in retrospect. Here's a perfect example: Whenever a city hosts a large event—like, say, the Republican or Democratic nominating conventions—hotel rooms become one of the scarcest resources in that particular city.

A website launched earlier this month has a solution to free up much more lodging space: provide a platform for locals to host out-of-towners. The service also taps into its hosts' political passions by letting them donate their fees to the candidate of their choice.

According to the company, AirBed&Breakfast, hundreds of locals in St. Paul and Denver have signed up to offer their homes for the service—the company says that 50 new listings a day are popping up in Denver alone. Hmm...Does that mean that Democrats are more hospitable than Republicans?



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