

Let's Put the Green Transportation on the Agenda this Year

The Major Party Precinct Caucus System is a key form of grassroots activity by major political parties in Minnesota

Why should I attend my caucus?

Caucuses give you and your neighbors in your local precinct an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to you - a chance to say how you would like to see a problem addressed. You are given a voice in the process at the most basic level.

You can introduce resolutions on issues you support; this is the beginning of building a party's platform. You may take an active role by becoming a delegate to the next level of meetings and perhaps join a committee to plan the next meeting. You may choose to go only to observe the process.

What about minor parties?

Minor political parties do not participate in the caucus system.

When and where are the caucuses held?

What: Pass a caucus resolution at your 2016 Precinct Caucus

When: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00p.m. Be early!

Where: Check the Caucus Finder: <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us>

What is a caucus resolution?

Resolutions relating to state or national issues that might be affected by legislation come next. They must be in written form, and they are discussed after the presidential preference ballot. They are read, seconded, debated and voted on by a voice vote. There is a time limit for discussion both pro and con. The chair sets the rules of debate unless overturned by majority vote. If passed, resolutions are forwarded to the convention at the next level.

What happens at a precinct caucus?

1. Arrive early. Bring copies of your resolutions if you wish to pass out them out to attendees. This helps increase the chance of your resolution(s) gaining support among delegates and candidates. Try to bring people who support your positions to the caucus or identify supporters there. Ask an experienced caucus attendee to advise you on strategy. If all of this seems too complicated, just go to watch the first time.

2. Sign-in: Upon arrival at the caucus site, you will be asked to sign your name and address on a sheet that states that you agree with party principles and intend to support party candidates in the coming election. You may also attend any party caucus as an observer.

3. Order of Business: At 7:00 p.m. all caucuses in the state are convened. The first order of business is the election of the caucus chair and the precinct officers. There are two-year positions involving campaign work, fund raising and organization. You may nominate yourself.

4. Electing Delegates: Next is the election of delegates and alternates to the county or district conventions. We encourage you to run to be a delegate! This is the best way to carry your message forward through the process.

5. Committees and Resolutions: The committees are: Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions. If you are chosen to be a delegate and would like to serve on a committee, inform the chair. Resolutions relating to state or national issues that might be affected by legislation come next. They must be in written form. They are read, seconded, debated and voted on by a voice vote. There is a time limit for discussion both pro and con - the chair sets the rules of debate unless overturned by majority vote. If passed, resolutions are forwarded to the convention at the next level.

6. Please let us know how your caucus went!