

# The Delegates and Alternates

The elected delegates from all precincts within the county/district meet for the County/District Party Conventions to represent their precincts for a **two-year term**. Alternates substitute for delegates who are unable to attend a convention.

When meeting in the even year,

- They elect delegates and alternates to represent the County/District Party at District Conventions and the State Convention.
- They consider resolutions from the precinct caucuses to amend the State Party's platform.
- They endorse a State House candidate and a State Senate candidate.



Occasionally, special legislative elections are called by the Governor when a legislative seat has been vacated. If the **special election** is in your district, an endorsing convention will be held. Delegates will receive a notice, and will be eligible to vote to endorse your party's candidate for that special election. The Governor sets the dates for a primary and general election in accordance with state law.

## Glossary

**PRECINCT:** The smallest, state-recognized political unit, comprised of a township, or geographical boundaries within a municipality; redrawn every ten years based on the national census

**BPOU:** A Basic Political Organizing Unit consisting of all precincts within the boundaries of a county, House or Senate district; led by an Executive Committee elected by their precinct delegates

**PRECINCT CAUCUS:** Meeting of one's local political party; a pure democracy, in which one votes ahead their delegates and alternates, who serve as their representatives

**BPOU CONVENTION:** A Party convention that consists of delegates and alternates from all precincts within the boundaries of that BPOU, each of whom represents their precinct

**ENDORSEMENT:** Delegates to a Party Convention choose a candidate to represent the Party in that election; these candidates can receive Party resources in the primary and general elections

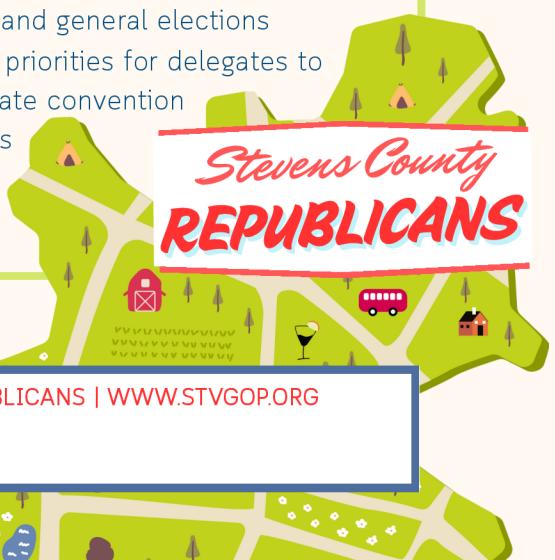
**RESOLUTION:** A written statement of an idea, issue, or action of Party priorities for delegates to consider at precinct caucuses, county/district conventions, and the state convention for possible inclusion in the Party's official platform or official priorities

**PLATFORM:** A written statement of principles and issue positions that have been adopted through the convention process to guide candidates, legislators, and members of the political Party



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# The Caucus

## The Foundation of the Party



### What Is a Precinct Caucus?

A precinct caucus is a meeting for those interested in participating in and influencing the election of candidates. Political activity for **the next two years** begins with the precinct caucuses. In Minnesota, the two largest political parties that hold caucuses are (1) the Republican Party and (2) the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party. Minnesota has approximately 4,100 precincts with each precinct scheduled to conduct a caucus on **February 3, 2026**.

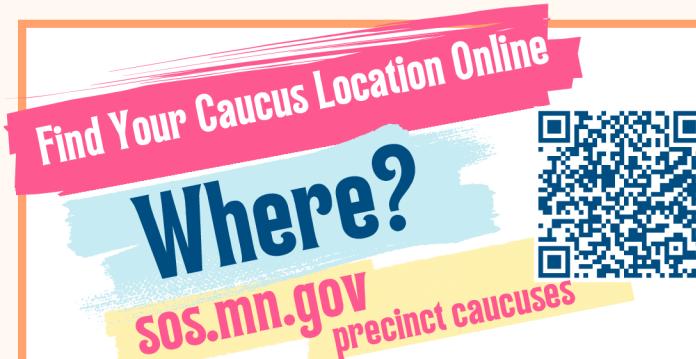
The Minnesota Legislature provides the rules for the precinct caucus in Section 202A.14 - 202A.20. Thus, All precinct caucuses follow a uniform established format. A precinct is the geographical area in which you live and vote that may be your township, your city or a portion of your city. Caucuses are voluntary, open meetings. The "Participants" requirements are found below in green.

## Participants

Participation criteria and voting requirements are established by Minnesota State Statute (202A.16). You may participate and vote in a precinct caucus if you

- are or will be eligible to vote in the next general election;
- reside in the precinct on the day the caucus is held;
- agree with the political party's stated principles;
- and have not or will not participate in another political party's precinct caucus in the same year.

State law establishes your right to attend a precinct caucus. **Exercise your right.**



## Observers

Anyone may attend the precinct caucus. A person may attend to observe without participating in discussion or voting. An observer must sign an observer registration form. Students are encouraged to attend to observe civics in action. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to observe, as children are the future of political participation.

## No Cost

There is no fee to attend a precinct caucus. Because there are costs associated with organizing and conducting a caucus such as venue rental, printing, and mailing expenses, caucus attendees may be given an opportunity to donate. Donations are voluntary. You will not be pressured to contribute.

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# The Purpose of the Caucus

## Why Should You Attend Your Precinct Caucus?

The delegates elected at their precinct caucuses begin the process of choosing which candidates and which issues the respective political parties will support, endorse, and put on the ballot.

**Delegates elected at the precinct caucuses hold the most power** at conventions because they vote to endorse candidates, vote on the issues their party supports, and vote for the delegates who will go on to the Congressional and State Conventions, where candidates in those areas are endorsed.

**Precinct caucuses begin the representative process.** The first representatives of the people are chosen at the caucus as delegates who will represent them to their political party. The process of a representative Republic continues to the county/district level, then to the congressional and state level, and finally to the national convention level where the candidate for president of the United States is chosen for each political party.

## Starts at 7 pm

Aim to arrive before 7:00 pm, as the precinct caucus meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. When you arrive, you will be asked to register. You may browse the literature and any letters from candidates. You may ask questions. You may get acquainted with your neighbors.

## Meeting Convener

This person has been appointed by the political party to call the meeting to order. The convener holds a temporary position just to start the meeting. Since each precinct is a self-determining body, each precinct has the right to choose its own chair for the caucus meeting. The **temporary convener** will open the floor for nominations to elect a permanent chair for the caucus meeting. The caucus may elect the temporary convener as the **permanent chair** for the meeting, or it may elect someone else. A temporary secretary may also be appointed to take minutes at the start of the meeting. The caucus may elect the temporary secretary as the **permanent secretary** for the meeting, or it may elect someone else. **The precinct caucus will then conduct its business.**

## Weather

The next caucuses will be conducted on **February 3, 2026**. The meeting must remain open for at least one hour (202A.15 Subd. 1). In the event of hazardous weather, precinct caucuses may be postponed by the Secretary of State, (202A.14, Subd. 1 (c)).

Any postponement will be announced on radio and TV by 6:00 pm on the day of the caucuses.



To identify your precinct, go to <https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/>

## Business Matters

According to law, Minnesota political parties will caucus together by precinct **to elect officers** for their precinct for the next two years (202A.18, Subd. 2); **elect delegates** to represent their precinct at the county/district convention which is a meeting of all delegates elected in each county or legislative district (202A.18, Subd. 2); consider and vote on **political resolutions** to promote at the county or district convention; and elect precinct officers.

In a year where the governor appears on the ballot, caucus participants will be given straw poll ballots to indicate their governor preference.

## Next Two Years

Although the person elected as the chair of the caucus meeting is chair for that meeting only, the caucus will elect those who will be the precinct officers for the next two years. Precinct caucuses and political conventions follow Roberts Rules of Order, except when other specific rules are adopted by the seated convention delegates (202A.18 Subd. 5).

## Precinct Officers

### What Are the Duties of Precinct Officers?

The precinct officers who are elected at the caucus direct the political activities of the precinct. They conduct meetings of the precinct, assist the Caucus Coordinator in finding the precinct's next caucus location, recruit the precinct leadership team for the next caucus, support endorsed candidates, encourage precinct members to assist the Party or candidates, and encourage and coordinate elected precinct delegates and alternates to attend conventions so that the precinct has a full voting strength and representation at conventions. **Precinct officers serve for two years until the next precinct caucuses.**

## Delegate Elections

Each precinct will elect delegates and an equal number of alternates (or double the amount of delegates) who will represent the precinct at the county or district conventions during the next two years. Check the dates of your projected conventions to see if you are able to represent your fellow Minnesotans.

## New Resolutions

Any person participating in a precinct caucus may submit a resolution to the caucus for consideration. If the resolution is approved by a majority vote of the caucus, it is then forwarded to the County/District Convention for consideration. **A resolution is intended to change a specific portion of that party's state platform and subsequent legislative priorities.** Submit the resolution in writing to the chair. If submitting more than one resolution, **submit each one separately**, as each resolution will be dealt with separately.

**Check for Resolution Template**



## Find Your Leaders!

**Ask for Your BPOU Constitution!**

**Connect to the BPOU!**

**FOR EXAMPLE:**  
[www.mnecd7republicans.com](http://www.mnecd7republicans.com)