

## Plain Talk (Jargon Translated)

- call** The official notice of a party convention or meeting.
- delegate** A person elected at a precinct caucus to attend later party conventions, usually based upon the candidates or positions that they support.
- party endorsement** When the delegates vote as a party to support a candidate. The candidate may then receive party resources to support his or her election efforts. Endorsed candidates must win the party's nomination at the primary election to move on to the general election.
- election judge** A person appointed by a city or township to work at a polling place on Election Day.
- major party** In Minnesota there are three major political parties. They are the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence, and Republican parties.
- nomination** Candidates must be nominated before their names will be listed on the November election ballot. Major party candidates are nominated at the state primary in September. Minor party candidates are nominated by submitting a petition when they file.
- party platform** The list of principles and issue positions that guide candidates, workers, and members of a political party.
- political party** An organized group of people with similar views who are seeking to elect candidates to public office to influence the course of public policy.
- precinct** A voting district.
- precinct caucus** Public meeting held by each major political party to elect delegates to conventions, to discuss issues, and to conduct other party business.
- resolution** A statement (usually written) of an idea, issue, concern, or action for people to consider at a caucus for possible addition to the party platform.

The following is a current list of the three major political parties in Minnesota. If you have questions about precinct caucuses contact the party of your choice.

### **Democratic-Farmer-Labor**

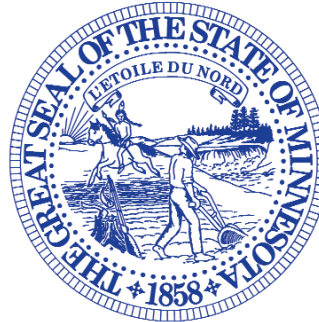
(651) 293-1200  
1-800-999-7457  
255 E Plato Blvd  
St Paul, MN 55107  
www.dfl.org

### **Independence**

(651) 487-9700  
P.O. Box 40495  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
www.mnip.org

### **Republican**

(651) 222-0022  
1-877-467-6466  
525 Park St Suite 250  
St Paul, MN 55103  
www.mngop.com



## **Minnesota Secretary of State**

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**Phone: (651) 215-1440  
Toll Free: 1-877-600-8683  
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**Email: [elections.dept@state.mn.us](mailto:elections.dept@state.mn.us)  
Website: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)**

This document is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities.

# **Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 7 p.m.**

**Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party**

**Independence Party**

**Republican Party**



**✓ Be Involved**

**✓ Be Informed**



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## PRECINCT CAUCUSES

Precinct caucuses are the first step used by Minnesota's major political parties to select the candidates and issues they will support in the 2008 elections. Minnesota's three major political parties are the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence, and Republican parties.

The 2008 precinct caucuses are open to the public. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence, and Republican parties will hold their precinct caucuses on February 5 at 7 p.m. The Independence Party will also be holding virtual precinct caucuses starting February 5 at [www.mnnp.org](http://www.mnnp.org).

### What's happening at the caucuses?

#### 1. Election of delegates and alternates

Delegates are the individuals who will go to the party conventions later in the spring and summer to determine which candidates will receive the party endorsement. At the precinct caucus you will have an opportunity to elect delegates and alternate delegates. Become a delegate if you want to influence which candidates your party will support.

#### 2. Discussion of issues

Caucuses also provide a forum for you to voice your views on a wide range of important political issues. You can submit and vote on resolutions that the party conventions may make a part of their platform.

#### 3. Election of local party leadership

The political parties use the precinct caucuses to elect their precinct officers.

#### 4. Straw Ballot

Political parties may use the precinct caucuses to conduct preference polls for presidential candidates. The caucuses are also a great place for other candidates for elected office to build support.

## Where will my caucus be held?

The parties are required to notify county auditors' offices in advance of where their precinct caucuses will be held. You can call your county auditor or one of the major political parties for precinct caucus location information.

The major political parties traditionally publish their caucus location information in the newspapers during the week before their caucus date.

### Who can attend the caucuses?

Precinct caucuses are open to the public. To actively participate at a caucus you must be eligible to vote in the November 4, 2008 state general election and support or be likely to support the candidates of the political party whose caucus you attend.

### What if I have a disability?

Most caucuses are held in accessible buildings. Individuals who plan to attend party caucuses may request an interpreter if needed. Requests must be made by letter or electronic mail to the state office of the major political party whose caucus they plan to attend before the precinct caucus date.

Individuals who require audio, braille, or large print materials may request all official caucus materials to be sent as soon as they are available. Contact your party's state office for more details.

### What is the next step after the precinct caucuses?

Each caucus will elect a certain number of delegates, which they usually set based on the voting results in that precinct for the party's candidates in previous state elections. The delegates elected on precinct caucus night will take part in the party's county or district convention, and many of these delegates will continue on to the congressional district and state conventions.

## Be An Election Judge!

Election judges serve in over 4,000 polling places across Minnesota on election day. State law permits employees to take time off from work without loss of pay to serve as election judges. Parties also often ask people to express their interest in being an election judge (poll worker) at the precinct caucuses.

You can express interest in serving as an election judge by contacting your county auditor, municipal clerk, or township clerk at any time.

### How to become an election judge:

1. Contact your county auditor, city clerk, or township clerk and apply to be an election judge.
2. Wait to be contacted by your county auditor, city clerk, or township clerk. If appointed, they will let you know when you will be attending election judge training.
3. Serve as an election judge on the day of the primary, general election, and possibly at any special elections. In 2008 the primary will be held on September 9, 2008 and the general election will be held on November 4, 2008.

Contact us at 1-877-600-8683 if you need contact information for your county auditor or city clerk.