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Teaching and Preaching Minnesota Caucuses



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AGENDA



- Welcome
- What, Who, When, Where, How
- DFL Caucuses
- GOP Caucuses
- Q+A/Discussion

Welcome!



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Caucuses: WHAT, who, when, where, how



- Part of the process; Outside of the process
- By definition:
 - *Meetings run by/for parties, not the government*
 - Precinct Caucuses → State Party Conventions
 - *Endorse Candidates*
 - *Select delegates*
 - *Propose 'planks' for party 'platform' (goals, values)*
 - *General similarities & specific differences*

PRECINCT CAUCUSES

VOTE
2026

Going to a caucus is a great way to support a candidate, raise an issue you care about, influence who the party will endorse for many offices, and meet people in your community.

WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

Precinct caucuses are the first of a series of meetings run by Minnesota's political parties to endorse candidates and set goals and values (called the party platform).

While political parties are only required to hold caucuses during state election years, some local political party units can and do hold caucuses during local election years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Each political party runs caucus meetings differently. Check with your political party if you have specific questions. Generally, there are four main activities at a caucus:

1. Choose volunteers who will organize political activities in the precinct, such as maintaining contact lists.
2. Vote for the candidates you want the party to support. The results determine how many delegates each candidate gets at their party's state convention.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

MAJOR PARTIES

Tuesday, February 3 starting at 7:00 p.m. Find your caucus location at mnvotes.gov. Some party units may be holding contactless or remote caucus meetings.

MINOR PARTIES

Contact your party directly for dates and locations.

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mnvotes.gov • CALL: 1-877-600-VOTE • TEXT: 651-217-3862

PRECINCT CAUCUSES

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...continued from front

3. Discuss issues and ideas for the party to support. You can present an issue or idea for the party to support, called a resolution. Eventually, your resolution could become part of the official party platform.

4. Choose delegates who will endorse candidates at future conventions. Political parties have different ways of choosing delegates at the precinct level caucus—contact your party for more information.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

To participate, you must be eligible to vote in the Fall election, live in the precinct and agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

CAUCUS ACCESSIBILITY

Major political parties must provide you an interpreter by request, if you are deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing. If you are visually impaired, you also have the right to get written caucus materials ahead of time, by request (see Minnesota Statutes Sec. 202A.155).

TIME OFF WORK TO ATTEND CAUCUSES

You have the right to take time off work to be at a precinct caucus or political party convention (if you're a delegate or alternate). You must give your employer ten days' written notice.



Scan this code to visit mnvotes.gov to find your caucus location!



Caucus: WHAT, who, when, where, how



- General Information at

<https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/>

- Series of meetings

- *Precinct Caucus (generally neighborhood-based)*
- *BPOU/OU (Basic Political Organizing Unit/Organizing Unit) Convention*
 - *Senate or house district, or county*
 - *Congressional District Convention*
 - *State Convention*
 - *National Convention*

What gets done at each meeting?

<https://dfl.org/caucuses-conventions/process/>

<https://mngop.com/caucus-2026/>

<https://www.carvergop.org/caucus-to-party.html>



What gets done?

At Precinct Caucus:
MEET/TALK WITH
YOUR NEIGHBORS



Precinct Caucus – elect Unit delegates and local leadership; adopt resolutions that are considered at conventions

Basic Political/Organizing Unit Convention – usually a senate or house district or county; endorse candidates for local elected office; elect unit officers; elect state/congressional delegates



Congressional District Convention – endorse U.S. House candidate; elect district officers; elect national delegates

State Convention – endorse candidates for statewide offices and U.S. Senate; elect party officers; adopt state party platform

National Convention – endorse presidential nominee; elect national party officers; adopt national party platform

Who can participate?

- Eligible to vote in the general (November) election
- Live in the precinct
- 18 by Election Day? You are welcome to participate!
- REMINDER: Minnesota does NOT have party registration
Do I believe in the general principles of the party? (Like the PNP)
- Guest/Observer? ASK YOUR PARTY

Who can participate?

In 2016, the law changed and a Presidential Nomination Primary replaced that vote from the caucuses

In 2018, Minnesota had 5.61 million inhabitants

In 2018, only 34,329 people attended a DFL Precinct Caucus

In 2022, only 18,412 people attended a GOP Precinct Caucus

In 2022, Minnesota had 5.72 million inhabitants

Caucus: WHEN, WHERE, how



- Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 7 p.m. start
 - MN 202A.14 PRECINCT CAUCUS
- Your caucus location is set by the party
 - MN OSS Caucus Finder Tool:
<https://caucusfinder.sos.mn.gov/>
 - Or contact your party
 - CANNOT ATTEND? Non-Attendee Form

Caucus: WHEN, where, how



MN 202A.19 permits Minnesota residents to take time off from work without pay to attend precinct caucuses

- Give employer 10+ day written notice

State universities, community colleges, and public schools

- No classes or events after 6 p.m. on precinct caucus day.

Same with state agencies, school boards, county boards, township boards, city councils, and all other political subdivisions.

Caucus: HOW



- Everyone has a voice
 - Choose local volunteers who organize the precinct
 - Put your name in to be a delegate (vote at the next level)
 - Resolutions (an issue or idea for the party to support)
 - Propose
 - Support or speak against resolutions
 - Speak for or against a candidate
 - Volunteer to help
 - **SPEAK UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE**

Caucus: WHO is responsible? The parties.



Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
(651) 293-1200

Republican Party of Minnesota
(651) 222-0022

Forward Independence
(651) 998-9156

Libertarian Party of Minnesota
(612) 440-1776

Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party

Minnesota Legal Marijuana Now! Party
(612) 866-8424



MN Republican Party

Patricia Williamson
Chair, Carver County Republicans

WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

- Precinct caucuses are meetings run by **Minnesota's political parties**. They are the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and set goals and values (called party platforms).



What happens
at Caucus?

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN A CAUCUS?

- To participate, **you must be eligible to vote in the next general election and live in the precinct**. You also must generally agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

GENERALLY, THERE ARE THREE MAIN ACTIVITIES AT A CAUCUS:

1. **Choose volunteers who will organize political activities in the precinct (Precinct Officers).** This could include maintaining contact lists, holding political meetings, and helping with campaign efforts.
2. **Discuss issues and ideas for the party to support.** You can present an issue or idea for the party to support, *called a resolution*.
3. **Choose delegates who will endorse candidates at future conventions.** These delegates serve for a 2 year period and are part of the party, they have the ability to elect party leadership during odd year conventions. Delegates are a critical component of an informed electorate.



What does a Delegate do?

- There are lots of things a Precinct Delegate can do.

YOU MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

- Continue as a voting delegate to Conventions at the local, Congressional District, State, and National level (**Representation**).
- Become a precinct officer and serve on the local Party Committee, (**Decision making and governance**).
- Be an informed person in the community to help motivate and guide voters (**Outreach**).
- Gain information by attending Party Meetings (**Education**).
- Attend events and support Party efforts (**Engagement**).
- Connect with other conservatives (**Network**)

Citizen involved governance

*There's so much
you can do!*

- Delegates
- Alternates
- All Citizens



- **Be part of TEAM GOP**
 - **Attend Caucus**
 - **Go to Conventions**
 - **Ask questions at Town Halls**
 - **Be in parades**
 - **Serve on a sub-committee**
 - **Volunteer at the County Fair**
 - **Attend Events**
 - **Be an Election Judge**
 - **Support a Candidate**
 - **Be a Local Candidate**
 - **Attend Fundraising events**
 - **Networking**
 - **Support outreach- door knocking efforts**
 - **Host a Candidate Meet and Greet**
 - **Participate in local government**
 - **Be an active and engaged citizen!**





DFL Party of Minnesota

Sonja Johnson
Training and Party Affairs Director

MINNESOTA



January 2026

Teaching and Preaching Caucuses

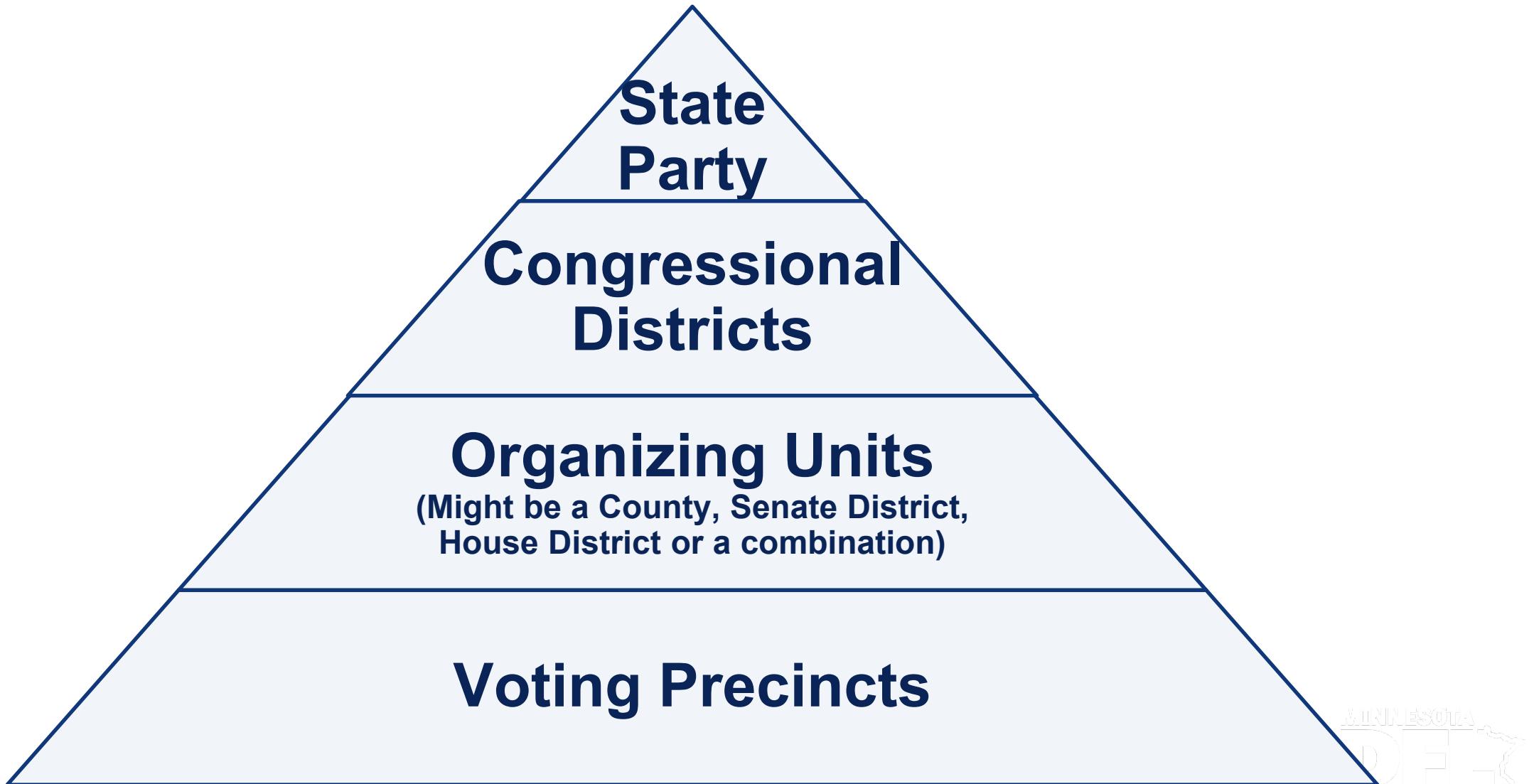
The Purpose of the DFL

MN DFL Constitution, Article I, Section 4.

Purpose. The purpose of the DFL Party is to elect candidates to public office who represent the party's shared values. Those shared values are embodied by the DFL Party Platform, consisting of the Ongoing Platform and Action Agenda, and by the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States.

**On Caucus night
we start the
process of fulfilling
our Purpose as an
Organization!**

Minnesota DFL Party Structure



Caucus Night Activities:

Caucus Night Activities

Elect people to positions in the party!

**We elect Delegates and
Party Officers!**

**AKA - Volunteers are elected to
represent their communities in
the Party**



Caucus Night Activities

We start the Process of Making Our Platform

We pass resolutions to be considered for addition in the DFL Platform



Caucus Night Activities

We listen to our Communities

**Ultimately - Caucuses
are community
meetings of people who
have a shared set of
values**



Who can participate in a DFL Precinct Caucus?

When you register you will agree to:

PRECINCT CAUCUS REGISTRATION AFFIRMATION

By registering, I affirm the following are correct statements:

- I currently reside in the precinct.
- I will be at least 16 years old by November 3, 2026 and understand I must be at least 18 years old by November 3, 2026 to be eligible to vote or run for any position elected at the caucus.
NOTE: Youth participant exception must be marked on registration form if under 18 years old by November 3, 2026.
- I consider myself a member of the DFL Party.
- I am not an active member of any other political party.
- I agree with the principles of the DFL Party, as stated in the State DFL Constitution and Bylaws.

Some of the DFL Young Dems in 2024

Meet the **youngest** delegates in the country



Questions

DFL.org/Caucus

Partyaffairs@dfl.org



QUESTIONS?

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Save the Date



Lunch & Learn Webinar

April 17, noon- 1 p.m.

*Everything You (and Young People) Need to Know
About Being a Student Election Judge*



Michael Wall

Michael.Wall@state.mn.us

651-201-6892



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