

# Precinct Caucuses

Precinct caucuses are meetings organized by Minnesota's political parties, typically on the first Tuesday in February of a statewide election year. It is the first step for the party to select candidates and choose the party's goals and values (called the party platform).



\*Finder will be active mid-January

## When and where is my caucus?

Most caucuses in 2014 are held on **Tuesday, February 4.**

The Caucus Finder service will be available in mid-January to provide locations of major political party caucuses.

## Who can attend a caucus?

Precinct caucuses are open to the public. But in order to vote, offer resolutions, or become a delegate, you must:

- Be eligible to vote in the fall election.
- Live in the precinct.
- Be in general agreement with the principles of the political party (Minnesota does not have an official party registration process).

## What happens at the caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers who work to organize political activities in the precinct. This could include maintaining contact lists, convening political meetings and helping with campaign efforts.
2. Discuss issues and ideas for the party to support. People may bring ideas, called resolutions, to be voted on. People usually bring a typed or handwritten copy of their resolution.
3. Vote for the person you want the party to support for governor or president. This is called the straw poll, which is an informal poll to learn how much support each candidate has. Candidates are officially chosen at future meetings, called conventions.
4. Elect delegates to represent your precinct at upcoming political conventions that are held during an election year. The first are the political party's county or district conventions. At these conventions, delegates endorse candidates to represent the county or district, and then choose a smaller number of delegates for the party's congressional and state conventions. These delegates will endorse candidates to represent the congressional district or statewide offices such as governor or U.S. Senator.

## Do all political parties hold caucuses?

Minnesota's major political parties hold caucuses at least every statewide election year. Other political parties may also choose to hold caucuses.

## Minnesota's Major and Minor Political Parties

Below are Minnesota's major and minor political parties. Political parties marked with a \* are minor parties and may choose to hold caucuses, but are not required to do so under state statute.

Other political parties with statewide caucus date are welcome to contact [secretary.state@state.mn.us](mailto:secretary.state@state.mn.us) to request that its contact and caucus date be listed below.

**Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party** **Libertarian Party \***

255 E. Plato Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
Phone: 651-293-1200  
Toll Free: 1-800-999-7457  
E-mail: caucus@dfll.org  
Website: www.dfl.org  
Caucuses: February 4 at 7 p.m.

624 Central Ave  
Osseo, MN 55369  
Phone: 763-528-5163  
E-mail: andy@lpmn.org  
Website: www.lpmn.org

**Grassroots Party\***

6304 Falcon Court,  
Edina, MN 55436  
Phone: 651-280-7922  
E-mail: tc\_wright38@yahoo.com

**Republican Party**

525 Park St., Suite #250  
St. Paul, MN 55103  
Phone: 651-222-0022  
Toll Free: 1-877-467-6466  
E-mail: caucus@mngop.com  
Website: www.mngop.com  
Caucuses: February 4 at 7 p.m.

**Independence Party**

P.O. Box 40495  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Phone: 651-998-9156  
E-mail: Info@MNIP.org  
Website: www.mnip.org  
Caucuses: February 4 at 7 p.m.

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