
Caucus 2018

League of Women Voters Minnesota

2018 Precinct Caucus - What to know



League of Women Voters Minnesota

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. It does not support or oppose political parties or candidates.



What is a precinct caucus?

Precinct caucuses are meetings run by Minnesota's major and minor political parties.

The caucus is the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and set goals and values (called party platforms).

Each political party runs their caucus meetings a little differently. Check directly with a political party to answer specific questions about how they are run.



When and where are precinct caucuses?

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

State law provides that major political party precinct caucuses are to be held on the first Tuesday in February of each election year.

Precinct caucus locations can be found at www.sos.state.mn.us using the Precinct Finder tool or by contacting individual political parties.



What are the major political parties?

Minnesota currently has two major political parties

See [Minnesota Statutes 200.02, subd. 7](#) for a definition of "Major Party."

Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party

Republican Party of Minnesota



What are the minor political parties?

Minnesota currently has five minor political parties.
See [Minnesota Statutes 200.02 subd. 23](#), for a definition of “Minor Party”.

Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party

Green Party of Minnesota

Independence Party of Minnesota

Legal Marijuana Now Party

Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Minor parties are not obligated under Minnesota law to follow the statutory caucus process to endorse candidates.



Who can attend a precinct caucus?

Anyone may attend to observe.

To **participate** in the caucus you must be eligible to vote in the November 2018 general election and live in the precinct.



Do I need to be a member of a major political party to caucus?

No.

The major political parties require that participants pledge to support the party in the upcoming election.

Ask yourself: Do you believe in the basic principles of the party?

If yes, then attend that precinct caucus and participate!



What happens at a precinct caucus?

Participants **choose volunteer leaders** who will organize political activities in the precinct. This could include maintaining contact lists, holding political meetings, and helping with campaign efforts.

Participants **cast a nonbinding ballot** for the person they want the party to support for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. This is called the preference ballot. The results help gauge support for candidates.



What else happens at a precinct caucus?

Participants **discuss issues and ideas**. Individuals can present an issue or idea for the party to support, called a resolution. If they convince other attendees to support their resolution, it will be taken to the next political convention. Eventually, that resolution could become part of the official party platform.

Participants **choose delegates** who will endorse candidates at future conventions. At future conventions, party delegates will endorse state and federal candidates, including for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Political parties have different ways of choosing delegates at the precinct level caucus -- contact the party for more information.



What is a resolution?

- Party platforms are made up of party positions on a wide range of issues.
- Resolutions are position statements that can be adopted at the precinct level and advanced to become party positions at the state and national level.
- Resolutions need to be presented in writing.

How do I present a resolution?

- State the problem or opportunity, including relevant facts and context.
- Provide rationale for a position.
- State the position as a policy statement.
- Important! Each party may have different format requirements for proposing resolutions, including specific forms that must be filled out. Contact the political party for details.

An example of a Resolution

- Whereas, purple people eater feeders represent 15% of the local economy in 13 MN counties; and
- Whereas, employers have been unable to recruit and train purple people eater feeders over the last 5 years; and
- Whereas, the state of Minnesota currently does not fund any programs for purple people eater feeder skill training;
- Therefore, be it resolved, that the Woolly Party of Minnesota supports adequate state funding to technical schools and employers for the training and hiring of purple people eater feeders.



What if I work or have school on caucus night?

- 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.
- Public universities, community colleges, and public schools cannot hold classes or events after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of precinct caucuses.

What are the next steps after the precinct caucuses?

Precinct Caucus - Preference Poll, elect delegates & local party officers

Senate District/County Unit Convention – Endorse state house candidates, elect state/congressional delegates & party officers

Congressional District Convention – Endorse congressional district candidate, elect national delegates & party officers

State Convention – Endorse candidates for Governor, other state offices and US Senate, elect national delegates & party officers, approve state party platform

National Convention – Endorse Presidential candidate (in Presidential election years only)



More information about the Caucus Process

Remember that unlike elections, which are run by local and state government election officials, precinct caucuses are run by political parties.

Everything from site location to conducting preference ballot voting is the responsibility of the party.

If you have questions, concerns or a complaint about your precinct caucus, please contact the party holding the caucus meeting.



Contact information for Major and Minor Parties in Minnesota

Democratic - Farmer – Labor Party

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

Republican Party

2200 E Franklin Ave, Suite 201
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(651) 222-0022
www.mngop.com

Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party

6304 Falcon Court
Edina, MN 55436
Phone: 651-280-7922

Green Party of Minnesota

4200 Cedar Ave S, Suite 8
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(651) 288-2820

Independence Party

P.O. Box 40495
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 998-9156

Legal Marijuana Now Party

1835 Englewood Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 266-3827

Libertarian Party

3270 W Lake St, Suite 9
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(612) 440-1776



Contact information for the League of Women Voters Minnesota

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