

Caucus & Delegate Guide

How you can help choose the candidates for local & state elections

1 Attend Your Precinct's Caucus

What is a Caucus?

"Caucus" is a fancy word for a political meeting. Every two years, political parties in Utah host meetings for voters living in the same voting precinct (neighborhood). At the Caucus, they elect a few of their neighbors to be Delegates who will later select the Party's candidates for local political offices. In most neighborhoods, about 5 to 20 people attend their precinct's Caucus. Some areas have "mass meetings" where people from many precincts get together at the same location. The attendance for those meetings is usually larger.

When is my precinct's Caucus?

Date: **Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: Will be determined a few weeks before the Caucus. This is almost always at your neighborhood public school or the home of one of your neighbors. Locations are listed in local newspapers and are on the website of your county's political party.

Who can attend a Caucus?

The only qualifications for attending your precinct's Caucus are...

- You must be 18 years of age by the November Election this year,
- You must reside in the precinct, and
- You may have to be registered as a member of the political party in order to participate (vote or speak) at the meeting, but anyone can attend

What happens at a Caucus?

Each Caucus is hosted by a Precinct Chairperson. This is one of your neighbors who was elected to the position at the previous Caucus.

Opening of the Meeting

The Precinct Chairperson begins the meeting by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and reading some documents from the Party, including the party platform and open letters from the elected officials. The Precinct Chairperson will also pass around an envelope to collect donations for the Party. It's okay if you don't make a donation.

Voting for precinct offices (such as Delegates)

After the opening comments, the voting for precinct offices (such as Delegates) goes as follows:

- The Precinct Chairperson will announce which precinct office will be voted on
- Anyone present at the meeting who wants to be elected to that specific precinct office stands up, gives their name, and states why they're running for that specific precinct office
- Someone will need to second the person's nomination. Almost anyone will do that for someone.
- Ballots are then secretly cast for that specific precinct office
- About 3-5 minutes after casting ballots, the results are announced

Why is it important to attend my Caucus?

By attending your Caucus, you will help influence who becomes the candidate to represent your district in the State Legislature. The 1 ½ hours you spend at your caucus is ***one of the best things you can do*** to make sure that elected officials in local and state offices reflect your values.

To make an even bigger difference, run for County Delegate at your Caucus.

(See reverse for more details)

2 Run as a County Delegate at your Caucus

What is a County Delegate?

As mentioned on the previous page, **County Delegates** select the candidates for local offices (such as State Legislator*) and are elected every two years at their neighborhood caucus or mass meeting. Anywhere from 1 to 6 County Delegates are elected from each precinct. All of the County Delegates from the same legislative district meet at the **County Convention** to select who will be the party's candidates for their legislative district.

The responsibilities of a delegate are:

- Serve for a term of two years;
- Attend a county convention, state convention, or both
- Fulfill any commitments they made to caucus attendees regarding how they would vote;
- Vote on which candidates will represent the party in the general election (even-numbered years);
- Elect county and/or state party officers (odd-numbered years);
- Help decide what is contained in the county and/or state party platform.

When is my Convention?

The dates for all county conventions and state conventions are available on the statewide party websites:

- www.utgop.org (click on **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**)
- www.utdemocrats.org (click on **Caucus and Convention Schedule**)

What Happens at a Convention?

County Conventions are typically held at a convention center or high school and last a few hours on a Saturday morning. Typically, the time frames will look something like this (and sometimes much shorter): one and a half hours for registration, two hours for speeches, one hour for voting, and about one and a half hours to tabulate the votes

How do I become a County Delegate?

To become a County Delegate, you must attend your precinct's Caucus on Tuesday, March 25th (see reverse for more details). Since County Delegates are elected, you should **bring 5 to 10 neighbors to attend the Caucus and vote for you**. Begin making a list right now of neighbors to bring with you to your Caucus. The more people you bring, the better the odds that you get elected.

- When it's time to vote for County Delegate(s) at your caucus, the County Delegate candidates (you) will stand up, give your name, and explain why you are running for County Delegate. Be prepared to answer basic questions from others at the meeting.
- Someone will need to second your nomination. Almost anyone will do that for you.
- Ballots are secretly cast
- About 3-5 minutes after casting ballots, the results are announced.

Being a County Delegate will only take 8 hours of your time, but will make a huge difference in helping elect public officials who share your values and who are committed to charter schools as an equal partner in quality public education.

*Sometimes (especially in rural areas) legislative districts cover more than one county. If this is the case, legislative candidates are selected by **State Delegates**, rather than County Delegates. The process for election is the same, though there are usually fewer state delegates elected from each precinct.