

"We Democrats are the oldest political party in America and the youngest in spirit. We will remain so, because we enjoy the challenge of government. Time and again, for almost two centuries, the Democratic Party has made government work— to build and defend a nation, to encourage commerce, to educate our children, to promote equal opportunity, to advance science and industry, to support the arts and humanities, to restore the land, to develop and conserve our human and natural resources, to preserve and enhance our built environment, to relieve poverty, to explore space. We have reached difficult and vital goals."

- Democratic Party Credo from the DNC Charter and Bylaws

Calendar of Events

Precinct Caucus:

- February 2, 2010

County Unit/Senate District:

- February—April, 2010

Congressional District Conventions:

- April—June, 2010

State Convention:

- June 4—6, 2010

Primary Election Day:

- September 7, 2010

General Election Day:

- Tuesday November 2, 2010



Basic Terms to Know

Some ABCs of the DFL



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Acronyms

DFL: Democratic–Farmer–Labor

The official name of the DFL is The Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party of Minnesota.

DNC: Democratic National Committee

Governing body of the Democratic Parties across the country.

SCC: State Central Committee

The governing body of the MN DFL Party. Volunteers are elected to the SCC from the SD/CU level.

SEC: State Executive Committee

A committee elected from the State Central Committee to handle more direct party matters (i.e. personnel, budget, etc.).

UDF: United Democratic Fund

Legal name for the Coordinated Campaign.

VAN: Voter Activation Network

The Minnesota DFL Party Voter File, which houses valuable data for voters, such as; voting records, donor and volunteer lists, historical data, and various other sources so that campaigns can target messages and resources.

CD: Congressional District

The legislative boundary from which federal representatives are elected. Minnesota has 8 CDs.

CU: County Unit

Either a traditional county that acts as an organized party unit, or the portion of a Senate District that is not included in an organized county.

HD or LD: House District or Legislative District

The MN district from which state representatives are elected.

SD: Senate District.

The legislative District from which state senators are elected. Made up of two House Districts, A and B.

SD/CU: Senate District/County Unit A Senate District that acts as both a Legislative District and a Party Unit.



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Terms to Know

Coordinated Campaign:

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, Democratic candidates and organizations pool their resources into a united operation.

Constituency Caucus:

A community within the DFL Party that focuses on concerns regarding a specific demographic or under-represented group (i.e. The Feminist Caucus, or Asian/Pacific Americans Caucus). The Minnesota DFL Party currently has 13 active caucuses.

Convention:

An event in which delegates meet to decide party business, and endorse candidates.

House/Senate Caucuses:

The organizations that exist to aid DFL-endorsed House and Senate candidates in their campaign efforts.

Party Officers: *Chair, Associate Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Affirmative Action Officer.*

Each CU, SD, and CD elects volunteers to these positions for two-year terms.

Political Contribution Refund (PCR):

The program that allows you to donate money to an eligible party unit, and receive the money back from the MN Dept. of Revenue.