

*"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:  
Tuesday-September 7, 2010
- General Election Day:  
Tuesday-November 2, 2010



# **Beyond the Conventions**

*An brief overview on participation within the MN DFL Party*



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**What happens to delegates and alternates after the conventions are over?**

Delegates serve on a short term basis. Once the convention had adjourned, the delegates and alternates duties are completed.

**How can I be involved with the party if I am not a delegate or an alternate to a convention?**

There are a variety of committees and commissions that will need members for participation. You could become a Party Officer within your district or you may be a delegate or an alternate to the State Central Committee. Plus campaigns are always looking for volunteers to help out!

**What Party Officer positions are available?**

Each precinct needs a chair and associate chair. And each Senate District/County Unit (SD/CU) and Congressional District (CD) need a Chair, Associate Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Affirmative Action Officer as well as a number of directors. These positions are filled at caucuses and Party Unit conventions. The Central Committees of each Party Unit are comprised of these positions and usually meet on a monthly basis to discuss Party business. For more information on each position, contact your district chair.

The Executive Committee of each Party Unit, comprised of the elected officers and directors, may also meet on a regular basis and are the governing body between Central Committee meetings.

**What commissions need members?**

The State Party has three ongoing commissions that meet regularly: Constitution and Bylaws, Affirmative Action and Platform and Issue. Each commission is comprised of two delegates and two alternates that are elected from each Congressional District convention. They serve two-year terms.

**Overview of each commission's responsibilities:**

The Constitution and Bylaws Commission oversees, edits and manages the Constitution, as well as the Bylaws to the Constitution for the State Party, the Caucus and Convention Call, and constitutions of subordinate DFL organizations (such as the constituency caucuses and county units).

The Affirmative Action Commission helps prepare the affirmative action plan for the State Party, as well as the affirmative action plan for the National Delegate Selection Plan. They also assist the State Affirmative Action officer in trainings and workshops for district Affirmative Action Officers and arrange accommodations for persons with disabilities.

The Platform and Issues Commission monitors and evaluates the resolutions and platform planks that make up the MN DFL Platform and Agenda.

*If you would like to be elected to one of the commissions, please contact your Congressional District Chair for more information.*

**What committees need members?**

Each SD/CU and CD will need volunteers to serve in a variety of ways. Please contact the chairs in your district for more information.

Throughout the convention process, several committees are formed to help facilitate the conventions at the SD/CU, CD and state levels. The rules, nominations, credentials and arrangements committees are comprised of delegates to each convention.

These committees meet to plan the logistics of each convention. They will meet as often as necessary to complete their tasks during the convention process.

**What is the DFL State Central Committee?**

The State Central Committee is the governing body of the DFL Party between State Conventions. The Committee meets 3-4 times a year over a two year term.

The business of the State Central Committee is to fill vacancies among state officers, statewide delegates and alternates to the National Conventions, endorse candidates for statewide office, and select statewide nominees for presidential electors. It can reconvene an adjourned State Convention and may adopt or amend the Bylaws to the DFL Constitution.

*Delegates and alternates to the State Central Committee are elected at the Senate District/ County Unit convention.*