

*"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



# **Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Precinct Caucus**

*An informational guide to your neighborhood DFL precinct caucus.*



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### What is a DFL precinct caucus?

Your precinct caucus is a neighborhood meeting. It is the first step in the endorsement process for electing candidates to local, state, and national offices. Precinct caucuses are also where we begin to elect officers for the DFL and delegates to our conventions.

### Why should I attend my caucus?

Caucuses are a public forum where citizens can make their voices heard *before* they get to the voting booth. It allows you and your neighbors to come together and discuss the issues that matter to your community. The state party builds its platform based on resolutions you submit at this meeting. Anybody participating in the caucus is eligible to be elected a delegate or party officer should they desire to be active past caucuses.

### What happens at a caucus?

Precinct caucuses usually begin with elections for a variety of positions, such as caucus convener and precinct chair. Discussion and voting on resolutions also occur.

### Who can attend a caucus?

**Anybody** may attend a caucus. However, you must be 16 years of age or older to participate in business, and 18 years or older to vote for any action items or run for a delegate position. You must also reside in the precinct in which you caucus and not be an active member of another political party.

### When is my caucus?

Precinct caucuses all across Minnesota will begin at 7:00pm on February 2, 2010. Caucuses must remain open for at least an hour.

### Tell me more about resolutions!

Resolutions are values or actions that you can submit to the DFL to adopt as part of the Party Platform and Agenda.

If you feel strongly that the DFL should adopt or change their position on an issue, submit a resolution at your caucus. The caucus attendees will vote on it and if passed, it will be considered the Senate District/County Unit (SD/CU) convention. Many resolutions passed at the precinct level become part of the official DFL State Platform and Agenda.

**You do not need to write a resolution to attend your caucus.** You may simply show up and take part in the discussion!

To view the resolution form, visit the DFL website ([www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org)).

### Tell me more about becoming a delegate!

Delegates and alternates to the SD/CU convention are selected at precinct level on caucus night.

Delegates and alternates are again selected at each convention level (congressional, state, and national).

Once the convention ends, your term is up!

### Why should I become a delegate?

The delegates at each convention vote on which candidate they feel should receive the party's endorsement. If you feel strongly about a candidate, the *easiest* way to give support is to become a delegate for them. Delegates also decide who should become officers to represent the district, and vote on which resolutions should be passed on to the State Party.

*To participate in the DFL convention process, you **must** attend your caucus!*

Prepared and paid for by the Minnesota DFL Party.

[www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org).

### I really want to be a delegate to my SD/CU convention but I can't attend caucuses. Is there anything I can do?

If you are unable to attend the precinct caucus for any reason, you may write a letter asking to be nominated and explaining why you would like to be elected. Ask a neighbor to bring it on your behalf. If you have any questions, contact your Senate District/County Unit chair.



### Helpful hints!

**Bring a like-minded neighbor!** It can be easier to talk about politics when you have an ally in the room. The greater the participation, the more fun you can have at your caucus!

**Prepare your resolution(s) before hand.** Paper and pens will be available for you to write a resolution while you are there, but it may be easier to prepare them in advance. Make sure you bring copies so that you may hand them out! Download a copy of the resolutions form from [www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org).

**Show up a little early.** Candidates will be around to answer questions and meet people before the caucuses get started. This is also a great way to meet friendly Democrats that live close to you!