

Chisago County Republican Party Caucus
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 7:00 pm
Registration begins at 6:30 pm

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What is a Precinct Caucus?

A precinct caucus is a meeting for all those interested in participating in and influencing the endorsement and election of candidates. At precinct caucus, political activity starts for the next two years.

In Minnesota, the two largest political parties which will hold caucuses are:

1. the Republican Party,
2. the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and
3. other parties may hold caucuses.

In Minnesota there are 4,110 precincts. Each precinct can have several major party caucuses in session simultaneously.

- Anyone can attend a caucus.
- It is a voluntary, meeting open to precinct residents who are politically like-minded.

The Minnesota precinct caucus is a legally created political meeting, established by law in state statutes, sections [202A.14 to 202A.20](#). All precinct caucuses, no matter of which party, follow a uniform, legally established format.

The Chisago County Republican Party arranges the meeting locations so Republican voters in each precinct can meet together with other Republican voters in their precinct.

A precinct is the geographical area in which you live and vote. It may be your township, your city or portion of your city or township.

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Who May Attend a Precinct Caucus?

Anyone may attend a Republican precinct caucus to observe the meeting.

- An observer must sign in on the observer registration form.
- Students are encouraged to attend to observe civics in action.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their children to observe.
- Children are the future of our party, our state, and nation.
- A person can attend without participating in discussion or voting.

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Who May Participate in a Precinct Caucus?

Participation criteria and voting requirements are established by Minnesota State Statute [§202A.16](#).

You may participate and vote in a precinct caucus if you:

- are or will be eligible to vote in the next general election,
- reside in the precinct on the day the caucus is held,
- agree with the political party's stated principles, and
- have not or will not participate in another political party's precinct caucus in the same year.

State law establishes your right to take time off from work and attend caucus ([§202A.135](#)).

Exercise your right.

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May a Person's Participation at Caucus be Challenged?

If someone believes a caucus attendee does not meet all the criteria for participating and voting, that attendee may be challenged according to state statute which states:

“In case the right of a person to participate at the caucus is challenged, the question of the right to participate shall be decided by a vote of the whole caucus. A person so challenged may not vote on the question of the person's right to participate” ([§202A.16, Subd. 3](#)).

The statutory criteria for participating in caucus, as noted previously, are:

- voting eligibility,
- residency,
- political agreement, and
- single caucus participation.

The person who is challenged could provide proof of age and residency. An attendee's political allegiance may be challenged if the person participated in another party's caucus that year or is known to hold views of another political party.

As a self-determining body, the caucus attendees, not the challenged attendee, vote to decide to allow participation and voting. That vote is final.

In cases, some caucus attendees once held the views of another political party and then changed. A caucus attendee may be in transition politically. The caucus body needs to weigh this. It could vote:

- to withhold participation and ask the person to leave,
- to withhold participation, but allow the challenged person to be an observer,
- to allow participation and voting, but not elect the challenged person to any position,
- to accept the person as transformed politically.

Be winsome. We want to welcome those who are adopting our political views. It will take wisdom to determine what to do in some cases.

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Is There a Fee to Attend a Caucus?

No, there is not a fee to attend a caucus.

However, there are costs associated with organizing and conducting a caucus. Venue rentals, printing, and mailing expenses are a few of the costs involved. For this reason, caucus attendees will have an opportunity to donate to the Chisago County Republican Party. In this way, costs are shared among neighbors and fellow Republicans who utilize the benefits of caucus.

Donations are voluntary. You will not be pressured to contribute.

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When are Precinct Caucuses Held in Minnesota?

Precinct caucus will be held February 1, 2022. The meeting must remain open for at least one hour ([§202A.15 Subd. 1](#)).

In the event of hazardous weather, caucuses may be postponed ([§202A.14, Subd. 1 \(c\)](#)). Any postponement will be announced on radio and TV by 6:00 pm on the day of caucus.

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Where do the Chisago County Republican Precinct Caucuses Meet this Year?

State statutes require a political party to give the precinct caucus locations to the "...county auditor at least 20 days before the precinct caucus. The county auditor shall make this information available at least ten days before the date of the caucuses to persons who request it" ([§202A.14, Subd. 3](#)).

The locations are usually printed in the local newspapers.

In Chisago County there are 23 precincts which will meet in 15 locations.

Find the location of your Chisago County precinct caucus by:

- calling the county auditor,
- checking the local newspaper, or
- clicking [here](#).

I'm new to the area. In what precinct do I live?

To identify your precinct, find it [here](#) on the Secretary of State's website.

While at that website:

- Type in your address information.
- Your **precinct** will be identified.
- Then look at the chart [here](#) to find the **location** of your Chisago County Republican precinct caucus meeting. **The precinct caucus meeting location may be different from the place where you vote.**

Determine your caucus meeting location before the day of caucus so you do not end up at the wrong precinct caucus. You need to caucus in the precinct where you live.

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What Should I Expect at a Precinct Caucus?

Plan to arrive before 7:00 pm.
Registration starts at 6:30 pm.

The caucus meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

When you arrive at caucus, you:

- will be greeted by fellow Republicans,
- will be asked to register,
- can browse the literature and any letters from candidates,
- can ask questions, and
- can get acquainted with your neighbors.

By state law, a fellow Republican will convene the meeting ([§202A.18, Subd. 1](#)). This person has been appointed by the Chisago County Republican Party to call the meeting to order. The convener holds a temporary position just to start the meeting.

Because each precinct is a self-determining body, each precinct has the right to choose its own chair for the caucus meeting. The temporary convener will open the floor for nominations to elect a permanent chair for the caucus meeting.

The caucus may elect the temporary convener as the permanent chair for the meeting. Or it may elect someone else to be the permanent chair of the meeting.

The Chisago County Republican Party has also appointed a temporary secretary to begin taking minutes at the start of the meeting. The caucus members may elect the temporary secretary as the permanent secretary for the meeting. Or it may elect someone else.

After electing the chair and secretary, the precinct caucus will conduct its business.

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Is There a Presidential Preference Poll at Precinct Caucus?

There will not be a presidential preference poll at caucus. In 2020, Minnesota became a primary state. The next presidential primary election will be held at your polling place in your precinct in early March in the presidential election year.

However, there is a gubernatorial preference poll at caucus in 2022 ([§202A.18, Subd. 2a](#)). You will be able to cast your vote for your favorite gubernatorial candidate. The results are reported to the Secretary of State and distributed by the media.

All voting in the preference poll is done by secret ballot.

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What Business is Conducted at a Precinct Caucus?

Minnesota Republicans will caucus together by precinct to:

- elect officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary) for their precinct for the next two years ([§202A.18, Subd. 2](#)),
- elect a precinct Representative to serve on the Chisago County Republican Party Board of Directors,
- consider and vote on political resolutions that are then considered at the Chisago County Republican convention, and
- elect delegates and alternates to represent their precinct caucus attendees:
 - at the house district endorsing convention,
 - at the senate district endorsing convention, and
 - at the county convention which is a meeting of all delegates elected in each of the precincts in Chisago County ([§202A.18, Subd. 2](#)).

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How Can I Become a Precinct Officer?

The precinct officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary) who are elected at precinct caucus direct the political activities of the precinct. They:

- conduct any meetings of the precinct members,
- assist the Caucus Coordinator with finding the precinct's next caucus location,
- recruit the precinct leadership team for the next caucus in two years,
- support endorsed GOP candidates,
- encourage precinct members to assist the Party and/or candidates, and
- encourage precinct delegates and alternates to attend conventions so the precinct has a full voting strength and representation at conventions.

Precinct officers serve for two years until election at the next precinct caucus.

You can be nominated or volunteer to have your name placed on the ballot to be elected as a precinct officer.

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How Can I Become a Precinct Representative?

Each precinct will elect a person to represent the precinct on the Chisago County Republican Party Board of Directors. A Representative serves a two year term. This is a good way to be active in the ongoing work of the party. Through its Representative, each precinct has a vote on the decisions made by the Board of Directors regarding the political affairs of the county party.

You can be nominated or may volunteer to have your name placed on the ballot for this position.

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How Do I Submit a Resolution?

A resolution is intended to change a specific portion of the [Minnesota Republican Party Platform](#). Any person at the grassroots level can influence the whole party in this way.

Any person participating in caucus may submit a resolution to be considered by the caucus. If the resolution is approved by vote of the precinct caucus, it is then forwarded to the Chisago County Republican convention for consideration and approval. Approved resolutions are then forwarded to the Congressional District convention. From there, approved resolutions are forwarded to the State Party convention. If adopted, the resolution is entered into the Party Platform.

A resolution form can be [downloaded here](#).

- download the resolution form,
- fill it out,
- print it, and
- bring it to caucus to present it to your fellow caucus attendees for adoption.

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What are the Duties of Precinct Delegates and Alternates?

The elected delegates from all the precincts in the county meet together to represent their individual precincts at the Chisago County Republican Party conventions. Alternates substitute for delegates who cannot attend a convention. Delegates and alternates are elected to serve two year terms. When meeting in the even year and odd year convention, precinct delegates:

1. **Even year:** Endorse a state house candidate and a state senate candidate.
2. **Even year:** Consider resolutions from the precinct caucuses to amend the State Republican Party's platform.
3. **Even year:** Elect delegates and alternates to represent the Chisago County Republican Party at congressional district conventions and state conventions.
4. **Odd year:** Elect the executive committee of the Chisago County Republican Party.
5. **Odd year:** Amend the Chisago County Republican Party's constitution, if needed.
6. **Odd year:** Elect delegates and alternates to represent the Chisago County Republican Party at the State Central Committee which elects the officers of the State Republican Party.

These duties will be explained later.

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How many Delegates are Elected in Each Precinct?

The population of each precinct varies in size. And thus the number of Republican votes also varies among the precincts. The number of delegates elected by a precinct depends on that precinct's number of Republican votes for president or governor in the previous election.

To have proportional representation throughout the county, a typical representation ratio of 1 to 90 is used. If a precinct had 360 votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the previous election, then the precinct can elect 4 delegates ($360/90 = 4$). If another precinct had 3,600 votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the previous election, then it can elect 40 delegates ($3,600/90 = 40$).

Thus each delegate elected at caucus represents 90 Republican voters in that precinct when the delegate attends the county convention.

Each precinct can also elect an equal number of alternates. An alternate serves at the conventions if a delegate cannot attend.

On the next page is a chart of delegates allocated for each precinct in 2022 and an equal number of alternates.

Delegate and Alternate Allocation by Precinct

	2020 votes for GOP presidential candidate	1 per 90 rounded
Chisago County precincts		
Amador	398	4
Center City	196	2
Chisago City	2,111	23
Chisago Lake N	960	11
Chisago Lake S	1,108	12
Fish Lake	985	11
Franconia	694	8
Harris	478	5
Lent	1,417	16
Lindstrom	1,786	20
Nessel	933	10
North Branch A	1,154	13
North Branch B	1,083	12
North Branch C	1,623	18
Rush City	710	8
Rushseba	383	4
Shafer City	387	4
Shafer Township A	474	5
Shafer Township B	16	1
Stacy	583	6
Sunrise	935	10
Taylor's Falls	360	4
Wyoming	3,142	35
total GOP votes	21,916	
Total delegates allotted		242
# of precincts =	23	

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How Do I Become a Precinct Delegate?

In order to become a precinct delegate, you must meet the following criteria established in state statute ([§202A.16](#)). You:

- are or will be eligible to vote in the next general election,
- reside in the precinct on the day the precinct caucus is held,
- agree with the Republican Party's stated principles, and
- have not or will not participate in another political party's precinct caucus in the same year.

At caucus, you can place your name on the ballot for your fellow precinct members to elect you as a delegate to represent your precinct at the Chisago County Republican conventions.

If you are not elected as a delegate, you may be elected as an alternate.

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Why Do I Want to be a Precinct Delegate?

The Republican Party, as with all parties, exists to get their candidates elected to public office. The party endorses one candidate for each office out of all the candidates vying for that office. When the party endorses a candidate, that candidate then has the support of the party in the election campaign.

The endorsement process starts at caucus. A person attends caucus with the desire to become a precinct delegate who then has a vote to endorse one candidate for office from among a group of candidates. To get the right to cast that vote, a caucus attendee aims to convince fellow caucus attendees to vote for him/her to be a delegate who will vote to endorse a particular candidate.

Every person elected at precinct caucus to be a precinct delegate has the right to attend two district endorsing conventions:

State House district endorsing convention

State Senate district endorsing convention

You can campaign at precinct caucus to convince fellow attendees to elect you as a delegate. You can:

- identify the candidates you support for endorsement for State Senator and State Representative,
- state why you support the candidates,
- state what work you have already done for the party and/or candidate(s), and
- state what work you plan to do for the party and/or candidate(s).

This is important because the chief work of the party is to endorse candidates for various elected positions and then work to get them elected to office. Those who agree with your stated positions regarding candidates may then want to vote for you to be a delegate from the precinct to the endorsing conventions.

If you are elected as a delegate or alternate, the senate and house candidate(s) will likely contact you and ask for your vote at the endorsing convention.

The precinct delegates and alternates elected at this caucus are the members of the party with voting rights for the next two years.

There are other reasons to become a delegate as explained in the question **What are the Duties of Precinct Delegates and Alternates?** These other duties will be explained later.

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When are Delegates Elected at Caucus?

State statutes give a few requirements regarding the timing at caucus of the election of delegates and alternates ([§202A.18, Subd. 2](#)). Legislators have provided these procedures to safeguard the rights of individuals.

- Nominations for the election of permanent officers and delegates shall remain open for at least the first quarter hour of the caucus.
- Election of delegates and alternates must begin within one hour of convening a caucus.
- Election of delegates and alternates may begin one-half hour after convening caucus.
- Prior to the opening of nominations for the election of permanent offices and delegates, a ballot must be distributed to permit caucus participants to indicate their preference for the office of governor (Subd 2a).
- The caucus meeting must remain open for at least one hour ([§202A.15 Subd. 1](#)).

Point 1 hampers a devious group from creating a list of nominees for delegates and officers and adopting the list before others arrive at caucus. A person can legitimately be late for any number of reasons.

Point 3 gives a tardy person more time. While nominations must be open until at least 7:15 pm, the election of the delegates cannot start until 7:30 pm. This allows a person to nominate someone who has not yet arrived.

Point 4 delays taking nominations for the position of delegate a few minutes by requiring the gubernatorial straw poll to take place first.

Point 5 warns the potential caucus attendee that he must be at caucus before the potential 8:00 pm closing.

Point 2 warns the potential caucus attendee that he must be at caucus to vote before 8:00 pm by which time the election of delegates must take place.

Of course law does not stop devious behavior. Some (not in Chisago County) have been known to add names to the delegate list or remove elected names in order to bring about that person's desires. It is wise for caucus attendees to duly note their election and have witnesses in precincts where people hardly know each other. You could ask to see the secretary's minutes to make sure you are listed as an elected delegate or alternate. Take a picture of the record.

Know your rights that are identified in statute. Make a list of your rights and bring them to caucus. Defend your statutory rights and the rights of fellow caucus attendees.

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What is the Next Step After Being Elected as a Delegate?

After you have been elected as a delegate or alternate, if all goes properly, you will receive three calls to three conventions: a state house district endorsing convention, a state senate district endorsing convention, and the county convention. The conventions may be on the same or different days. The calls will come by email or mail. If the call is lost or not sent, you will likely miss the conventions. Pay attention to the date(s) of the scheduled conventions. The call must be sent to you at least ten days prior to the convention. If you do not receive the call, start asking about it immediately.

The Chisago County Republican Party has a practice to avoid this potential. Immediately after the election of delegates and alternates at caucus, each elected person is given the three printed convention calls and each delegate and alternate signs that they have received them. This protects the rights of the delegates and alternates. It is now the responsibility of the delegate to act.

This practice may not take place in 2022 because this is a redistricting year. The new legislative district in which each precinct will be located may not be known until later in February after caucus. So elected precinct delegates may not know their house and senate districts until after caucus. In this case, elected delegates will be called to the proper conventions by the method in the first paragraph above.

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Do I Need to Attend Caucus to be a Delegate?

If you will not be able to attend caucus, you can submit a letter stating that you would like to place your name on the ballot to be elected as a delegate or alternate to represent your precinct at the county conventions or be elected as a precinct officer. You can indicate why you want to be elected and which candidates you would vote to endorse.

- Give your letter to a friend who will be attending caucus.
- Contact the Chisago County Republican Party through its website at www.ChisagoGOP.org. Your letter will be given to your precinct so your name will be placed on the ballot for delegate, alternate, precinct officer, or precinct representative.

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What if I am not Elected as a Precinct Delegate?

If you are in a precinct with a larger number of delegate positions, you may not have any difficulty being elected. When there are fewer delegate positions in smaller precincts, the competition is tougher.

Remember former delegates and alternates will vie for the position. Take your turn. Be willing to be an alternate to start. Even if you are not elected as an alternate, attend the convention, learn the ropes, and get acquainted with fellow Republicans who attend the convention. It is to your advantage for fellow Republicans to know you.

And even if you are not elected, you can do almost everything for the party or a candidate. You just don't have a vote. If not elected, try at the next caucus. Some delegates move or retire. Sometimes it just takes time for your turn. Don't give up!

To improve your chances of being elected, recruit ten others from your precinct to attend caucus and agree to vote for you as delegate or alternate. That also might get them involved next time.

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Do I Need to Attend Caucus to be Involved with the Party?

Attending caucus is a great way to become active in the Chisago County Republican Party.

However, you do not need to attend caucus or be elected as a delegate or alternate in order to be involved politically. Anyone can:

- volunteer to help elect Republican endorsed candidates,
- contribute to a Republican candidate,
- contribute to the Chisago County Republican Party,
- volunteer to help with Republican Party political activities,
- walk in parades with a candidate,
- display a yard sign for a candidate,
- install yard signs for a candidate,
- knock on doors,
- do database work,
- create flyers,
- utilize social media,
- organize a fundraiser.

You can volunteer by filling out the contact form on this website and someone will contact you.

Attend a caucus so you become familiar with the political process. You may want to become involved.

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How Can I Become an Election Judge?

Those who would like to serve as an election judge are encouraged to sign up at caucus for this service. Sign up forms will be available at caucus. All these names are collected by the Chisago County Republican Party and then submitted to the State Republican Party which submits them to the Secretary of State which submits them to the county auditors who submit them to the municipal and township clerks ([§204B.21, Subd. 1](#)).

If you are willing to travel, you can indicate which precincts you would be willing to serve. A trained election judge can serve in any precinct in the state.

You do not need to attend caucus to sign up to be an election judge. You can fill out a form on many websites or with many organizations. However, you want to have your name on the official Republican Party list. You can sign up on the Chisago County website [here](#). Even if you have served as an election judge previously, you need to sign up each election cycle so your name is on the current, official party list.

Here is the reason. When a municipal clerk selects election judges, the clerk must select judges from the current official party list first. When that list is exhausted, then judges can be selected who are not on the party list ([§204B.21, Subd. 2](#)). So if you have signed up directly with a municipal clerk and are not on the official Republican list, you may not be selected. By law, a clerk must not skip a name on a party list and select someone else.

Very soon after May 15th, the official Republican list will be distributed by the county auditor to the municipal clerks ([§204B.21, Subd. 1](#)). About that time you could visit with your clerk to see if your name is on the list. Also get acquainted and talk about your willingness to serve as an election judge. Personal acquaintance with the clerk should be beneficial toward your goal. Some precincts may have an abundance of election judge volunteers while others may be short of them.

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