

**An Explanation of an Endorsing Convention
Also Known as Legislative District Convention**

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What Happens After I am Elected as a Precinct Delegate?

When you are elected to be a precinct delegate of a political party, you are a representative of your precinct to three conventions, each of which has different responsibilities. Your work has just begun. A precinct delegate has been elected to be a delegate to three conventions:

1. a state house legislative district endorsing convention,
2. a state senate legislative district endorsing convention, and
3. a county convention.

You are legally entitled to attend these conventions and vote as a representative of your precinct. If a delegate cannot attend one or more of the conventions, an alternate can.

Just as caucus is governed by state statute, so is the next step, which is attending the conventions. Each major political party in the state must establish by its party constitution that each legislative district within the state will hold a convention in the general election year.

“The rules of each major political party shall provide that for each...legislative district a convention shall be held at least once every state general election year” ([§202A.13, paragraph 1](#)).

There are house legislative districts and senate legislative districts. Each legislative district can send a representative to the legislature in the House and the Senate. In each legislative district, a party can endorse its chosen candidate for the legislature to run against an endorsed candidate of another party in the general election. So it is known as a legislative district convention and an endorsing convention. Thus precinct delegates can endorse a house and senate legislative candidate.

As required by state statute, the Republican Party of Minnesota establishes, by its Constitution, provisions regulating a legislative district convention ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V](#)), which is also known as an endorsing convention.

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How am I Notified About a Legislative District Convention?

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1. House district: the delegates from all the precincts in a state house district meet together in an endorsing convention. One or more candidates request endorsement to be their candidate for their state house district. Together as a group, all the precinct delegates in a house district decide who they believe is the best candidate to represent their house district in the Minnesota House and endorse that candidate. Then they support that candidate financially and with party assistance and volunteer support.
2. Senate district: the same precinct delegates also are members of a senate district which is twice the size of a house district. One or more candidates request endorsement to be their candidate for their state senate district. Together as a group, all the precinct delegates in a senate district decide who they believe is the best candidate to represent their senate district in the Minnesota Senate and endorse that candidate. Then they support that candidate financially and with party assistance and volunteer support.
3. County convention: all precinct delegates from all precincts in the county meet in convention. This will be explained more fully later.

Each state political party must have a constitution and file it with the secretary of state ([§202A.12 subd 4](#)).

Most often the legislative district also has a constitution to govern its affairs. The constitution of the local Republican legislative district must not be inconsistent with the state party's constitution ([Article XVI, Section 1](#)).

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How am I Notified About a Legislative District Convention?

After you have been elected as a precinct delegate or alternate, if all goes properly, you will receive three calls to three conventions: a state house district convention, a state senate district convention, and the county convention. The conventions may be on the same or different days. The calls may 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 call includes the date, time, place, purpose, and registration fee for the convention ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V, Section 1 and 2](#)).

The Chisago County Republican Party has a practice to make sure each delegate receives the convention calls. 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 convention by the method in the first paragraph above.

If elected delegates are not in attendance at a Chisago County precinct caucus on February 1st, the calls will be mailed or email to them.

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What is the Purpose of a Legislative District Convention?

The sole purpose of a legislative district convention is to endorse a candidate to run for office.

House legislative district convention

A convention is called for all the precinct delegates from all the precincts in a house district to meet and endorse a candidate for their house district with the hope that their endorsed candidate will be elected to represent them in the State House.

Precinct delegates of one house district cannot endorse a candidate for another house district.

Senate legislative district convention

Another convention is called for all the precinct delegates from all the precincts in a senate district to meet and endorse a candidate for their senate district with the hope that their endorsed candidate will be elected to represent them in the State Senate.

For a senate district convention, the precinct delegates from two house districts (the A and B portions of a senate district) meet to endorse their senate candidate.

Every precinct delegate is represented in the legislature by a representative and senator and therefore is a member of a house district and a senate district. And thus a precinct delegate can endorse a house candidate and a senate candidate in those respective endorsing conventions.

Endorsement of a candidate is the only thing that takes place at an endorsing convention.

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How does Endorsement Work?

One or more residents of the legislative district requests endorsement to run as a candidate for State House or State Senate.

The endorsing convention of precinct delegates first of all votes to decide if they want to endorse someone ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V, Section 3 A1](#)). If they choose to grant endorsement, the convention continues. If they vote not to endorse any candidate, the convention is adjourned.

If there is only one candidate, as there often is, the delegates vote whether or not to endorse that person.

If there are multiple candidates, they campaign among the delegates both before and during convention to vie for their vote. Speeches are made during convention. Questions are answered. It may take several ballots to decide which candidate will be endorsed. A candidate must receive at least 60% of the precinct delegates' votes to be endorsed ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V, Section 3 A3](#)).

The candidate who is endorsed is the one whom the party will support in the campaign for public office.

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What are the Benefits of Endorsement?

A candidate who is endorsed is entitled to assistance from the party. This includes financial assistance, training, access to voter lists, volunteer support, and other campaign assistance.

A precinct delegate's endorsement work is done at this point, but a delegate can now volunteer to assist the candidate in the campaign to win election. The long, hard work of a campaign begins.

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What Happens at a Primary Election?

An endorsed candidate for a state house or state senate legislative district must file with the Secretary of State to be on the ballot in the general election. The filing deadline is usually in early June. If an endorsed candidate fails to file for office, that person will not be on the ballot.

Endorsement also does not mean the endorsed candidate will be the only person on the ballot. Any resident of the district can file to be on the ballot for a house or senate district. Some candidates may not wish to be endorsed by a political party. When this occurs, there is a primary election in early August to determine which one of the several candidates will be on the ballot in the general election in November.

If a primary election is triggered by more than one candidate filing for office, the endorsing delegates will assist the endorsed candidate in the campaign to win the primary election and be on the ballot in the general election.

If the party-endorsed-candidate loses the primary election, the party is then without a candidate to support. If the primary winner is aligned with the party principles and is willing to be endorsed, the party can call the precinct delegates of a legislative district to a convention to decide if they want to grant a post-primary endorsement ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V, Section 1](#)).

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