

An Explanation of a County Convention

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What is a County Convention?

Besides being a delegate to the house endorsing convention and the senate endorsing convention, each precinct delegate is a representative to a county convention. Just as caucus and endorsing conventions are governed by statute, so are county conventions.

State statute orders an executive committee to be elected by a county party.

“Each major political party shall also provide for...each county or legislative district an executive committee consisting of a chair and such other officers as may be necessary ([202A.13, paragraph 1](#)).”

State statute orders a county party to hold a convention.

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

A county convention is a meeting of all the precinct delegates of all the precincts in a county. The Chisago County Republicans are organized as a county party which is an arm, a chapter, of the state Republican Party along with all other county parties. A county party, the local organization, is called a Basic Political Organizational Unit or BPOU ([MNGOP Constitution, Article III, Section 2](#)) and governed by Article VIII.

Sometimes a house legislative district or senate legislative district, irrespective of county boundaries, is formed into the local political organization. So the local, smallest organizational unit in the Republican Party, a BPOU, could be a county party, a house district party, or a senate district party.

When a Basic Political Organizational Unit meets in convention, it becomes the self-governing (basic) assembly (unit) of delegates from all the precincts who organize themselves for political action. The convention assembly is legislative, that is, it determines what the body of delegates will do politically. Its elected executive committee is administrative, that is, it executes what the self-governing legislative body of delegates in convention determines to do.

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What Does a Precinct Delegate do at an Even Year County Convention?

All precinct delegates in the county have a third convention to attend—a county convention.

As required by state statute ([§202A.13, paragraph 1](#)), the Republican Party of Minnesota establishes, by its Constitution, provisions regulating a county or BPOU convention ([MNGOP Constitution, Article VIII](#)).

In a general election year (even year), two things occur at a county convention:

1. Consider resolutions

Resolutions are proposals to change the state party platform. Every resolution that is passed by a precinct is considered at a county convention by all the precinct delegates from all the precincts in the county.

All the resolutions that are passed by the precinct delegates at a county convention are forwarded to a congressional district convention.

2. Elect district delegates

A county party is part of a large group of local parties. All local parties are members of one of the eight congressional districts in Minnesota. So a county party elects delegates to represent it at the congressional district convention.

At a BPOU or county convention, the precinct delegates from all the precincts in the county elect delegates and alternates to the congressional district convention ([MNGOP Constitution, Article VIII, Section 3](#)).

Thus at the county convention, the precinct delegates elect some of the precinct delegates to be congressional district delegates.

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What Does a Precinct Delegate do at an Odd Year County Convention?

The odd year county convention is held a whole year after caucus, but precinct delegates attend this convention as well, because they serve for two year terms.

In an odd year, three things occur at a county convention:

1. Elect executive committee members

As required by state statute ([§202A.13, paragraph 1](#)), a county party holds a convention to elect its executive committee. Precinct delegates elected in the even year elect the executive committee members in the odd year.

2. Elect State Central Committee members

Precinct delegates elected in the even year elect the state central committee delegates in the odd year ([MNGOP Constitution, Article IX, Section 1 B4](#)). State central delegates manage the affairs of the state party and elect the executive committee officers of the state party for two year terms.

3. Amend the constitution

At the odd year convention, the precinct delegates amend the local party's constitution if it is needed.

Summary

The precinct delegate does all this. So the precinct delegate has the ability to influence the local party significantly.

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