

# What's the Difference Between a Caucus & Presidential Primary?

For the first time in many years, the Democratic and Republican parties in Minnesota will use a primary election instead of precinct caucuses to determine how the state's delegates vote at the presidential nominating conventions. Precinct caucuses are still happening this year and are just as important. Here are the differences.

## PRIMARY

Election Day is March 3, but early & absentee voting starts on January 17.

You can vote at your normal polling place, in person absentee, and by mail. Visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) to confirm your polling location or request a ballot.

Any registered voter may cast a presidential primary ballot. Not registered? You can register online or on election day at your polling location. Visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) for registration information.

Once you are checked in, you will choose the ballot of the party of your choice and vote for your preferred candidate. The presidential primary results will determine how the state parties' delegates vote at the national nominating conventions.

## CAUCUS

### When?

Caucus night is February 25 at 7pm.

### Where?

The state's major political parties determine caucus locations. The state's caucus finder tool at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) will point your party's nearest caucus location.

### Who can participate?

The DFL caucus is open to any Minnesota resident age 16 or older who lives in the precinct, but to vote or be elected as a delegate during the caucus, you must be at least 18 years old and eligible to vote in the next election. Other parties require that participants must be eligible to vote in the November 2020 general election and live in the precinct. You must also generally agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

### What happens?

Each political party runs their caucus meetings a little differently. Generally, they will discuss and vote on party platform resolutions and elect party officers and delegates to nominating conventions (State Legislative, Congressional, etc.) See the other side of this flier for in-depth details.



ISSUES MATTER. VOTE UNION.



# Why Union Members Should Attend Precinct Caucuses

Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses are Tuesday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. at locations near your home determined by each political party. It's important for union members to show up and be represented in Minnesota's political parties. Here's why:

## Drive the Party's Agenda

Union members can drive a party's agenda through resolutions. Precinct Caucuses are the first step. Labor unions and federations (like the Minnesota AFL-CIO) and other organizations create sample resolutions that can be introduced throughout the state. In 2018, for example, we successfully added opposition to so-called "Right to Work" legislation to the DFL party platform. The more union members introducing labor's resolutions at caucuses increases Labor's power.

## Lead the Party

Just like your union, leaders are people who show up. It is vital to have as many union members as possible become delegates to support pro-labor candidates and resolutions. For example, more than 20% of DFL caucus participants are from union households. If more union members show up to offer resolutions and run for delegate and party positions, Labor's influence with political parties and candidates increases. Your caucus will elect delegates to your State Senate District's party convention. Senate District convention delegates will have the opportunity to vote on the party's legislative candidate endorsements, elect local officers, and delegates to the State and Congressional District Conventions. Specific process information is available from the individual political parties.

## How to Participate

1. Close to caucus day (February 25, 7:00pm), find your location using the Secretary of State's caucus finder at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). You can also call 651-215-1440 in the Twin Cities or 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) in Greater Minnesota.
2. Make sure you can participate. The DFL Party allows any Minnesota resident age 16 or older. The Republican Party requires you to be eligible to vote in the November 2020 general election.
3. Recruit your union siblings to attend their caucuses.
4. Download and print sample resolutions and forms from [mnaflcio.org](http://mnaflcio.org).
5. Arrive at your caucus early, chat with your neighbors, introduce your resolutions and get elected as a delegate!

Need more information? Give the Minnesota AFL-CIO a call at 651-227-7647

