



## Precinct Caucus Guide



The precinct caucus is the neighborhood-level meeting that each political party holds early in an election year to begin the process of endorsing candidates for office and creating their policy platform.

Most caucuses last no longer than two and a half hours. The meetings will be run by a voter from your precinct who will follow a set agenda. The two main tasks of the caucus are to elect delegates to the next levels in the process and to vote on policy resolutions.



## What to Expect at Your Precinct Caucus

**Caucus night in Minneapolis will be Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm.** Your caucus will be held in your neighborhood, usually at a local school, community center, church, park or other public meeting space. To find your party's caucus location for your precinct and also pre-register for caucus night, visit the [Minneapolis DFL Party Website](#). It's important to note that your caucus location is probably different from the place where you vote. Don't know your ward? [Click here to find out!](#) If you cannot attend your precinct caucus but would like to be nominated and possibly elected a delegate to the ward and/or city convention, [you can fill out this form](#) and follow the instructions on how to turn it in.

When you arrive at your caucus, you will sign in. To get the most out of the evening, introduce yourself to your neighbors. One of the best parts of caucus night is getting to know your neighbors and building relationships based on issues you care about. At 7:00 pm the caucus convener will call the meeting to order. The group will elect a caucus chair, and then move through the agenda, which will include a preference ballot for you to choose the candidates you prefer for party endorsement, election of delegates to the next stage of the process (we'll get to that in a moment) and discussion and voting on policy resolutions.

**Caucuses in St. Paul will be held the same day as their Ward Conventions; this means caucuses in the morning, ward convention in the afternoon.** The protocols will be the same as in Minneapolis – you will sign in, run as either a Ward or City convention delegate, and continue on the party process in electing the party endorsed candidate. You can find out the convention locations by going to the [St. Paul DFL Party Website](#). Don't know your ward? [Click here to find out!](#) If you cannot attend your caucus and ward convention but would like to be nominated and possibly elected as a delegate to the city convention, [you can fill out this form](#) and follow the instructions on how to turn it in.

## Running for Delegate



If you are interested in going beyond the caucus and running for a delegate position, you will raise your hand to be considered. The precinct caucus is followed by a local ward convention, where delegates will endorse candidates and continue the process of choosing policy resolutions to be part of the platform. Finally, there will be a city convention to endorse candidates for municipal races. Your convener will ask for delegates for all of the upcoming conventions – you don't have to volunteer for all of them. For example, if you are most interested in your city's Mayor's race, you should run for a city convention delegate slot. It's up to you how much or how little you want to be involved. You may want to just go to the caucus and call it a day. Or you may want to sign up for everything and run all the way to the city convention. It's up to you.

## Resolutions

Each party has a platform stating their positions on issues. The caucus is the beginning of the process to create that platform. Any caucus-goer can bring a resolution to their caucus for consideration. You will be asked to read your resolution, and then your caucus will discuss it and vote on it. If your caucus votes to pass the resolution, it will be sent on for consideration in the party platform. MNA is encouraging nurses to bring resolutions to their caucus related to safe staffing and healthcare for all. **We have sample resolutions on these issues on our website.** Introducing a resolution is a great way to educate your neighbors, build support for nursing issues, and help focus the conversation on solutions to the problems we as nurses see every day.



## Candidate Visits

Candidates and elected officials will most likely visit your caucus meeting, and will be given a moment to speak. This is a great chance to get to know the people running to represent you. If you have one, wear an MNA t-shirt or button so those candidates know that nurses are involved and active in the political process. Your caucus meeting is a great way to get involved in the political process, make your voice heard, and get to know your neighbors. One of our most important roles as nurses is to advocate for our patients. Getting involved in politics and policy is one way to advocate for our patients and our communities, and help create policy solutions based on nursing values.



We hope this has been helpful! If you have questions or need more information, you can visit your party's website, [the MNA website](#), or you can contact the Political Organizer for your city:

St. Paul: Eileen Gavin, Political Organizer  
Eileen.Gavin@mnnurses.org or at (651) 414-2871

Minneapolis: Katie Gjertson, Political Coordinator  
Katie.Gjertson@mnnurses.org or at (651) 414-2832

### Why attend your caucus?

- Meet the candidates running for elected office who are seeking the party endorsement
- Become a delegate to endorse candidates at various conventions
- Get to know your neighbors
- Talk about the issues that matter to you – introduce and vote on resolutions
- Get involved

### To participate in your DFL Precinct Caucus you must:

- ✓ Live in the precinct in which you are caucusing
- ✓ Be at least 16 years old to introduce and vote on resolutions
- ✓ If you want to vote for candidates or become a delegate to conventions, you need to be eligible to vote by the time the next general election is held in November
- ✓ Believe in the principles of the Party
- ✓ Not be an active member of another political party; you cannot attend the precinct caucuses of more than one political party during the same election cycle

Guide to where endorsements happen for which races:

Candidates Running for	Are Endorsed at	Example
State-Wide Office	State Conventions	U.S. Senate, Governor, Secretary of State, State Attorney General, State Auditor
Congressional District Office	Congressional District Conventions	U.S. Congress
MN Senate and MN House	Senate District Conventions	State Senator, State Representative
County-Wide Office	County Conventions	County Commissioner, County Attorney, County Auditor
City-Wide Office	City Convention	Mayor, School Board, Board of Estimates and Taxation, Park Board
	Ward Conventions	City Council