

Chisago County Republican Party Caucus Information
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:00 pm
Registration begins at 6:30 pm

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What is a Precinct Caucus?

The caucus is a meeting for all those interested in participating in and influencing Minnesota politics. In Minnesota, the precinct caucus is where political activity starts for the next two years.

The three largest political parties which will hold caucuses are:

1. the Republican Party.
2. the Democrat-Farmer-Labor Party.
3. the Independence Party (This political party may not meet physically to caucus, but electronically via the Internet).

In Minnesota there are approximately 4,200 precincts. Each precinct is scheduled to caucus on February 7, 2012.

- Anyone can attend this caucus.
- It is a voluntary, open meeting.

The Minnesota precinct caucus is a legally created political meeting, established by law in State Statutes, sections [202A.14 to 202A.19](#). All precinct caucuses follow a uniform, legally established format.

The Chisago County Republican Party arranges the meeting places so that voters from each precinct can meet together with other voters from that precinct.

A precinct is the geographical area in which you live and vote.

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Who Can Participate in a Precinct Caucus?

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

You can 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 attend caucus. **Exercise your right.**

1. Employment:

Your employer must grant you unpaid time off from work so you can attend caucus if you give your employer written notice at least ten days in advance ([202A.19, Subd. 2](#)).

2. Public schools:

State universities, state colleges and public schools cannot hold classes or events after 6:00 pm on the day of precinct caucuses ([202A.19, Subd. 3 and 5](#)).

3. Governmental bodies:

State agencies, commissions, school boards, county boards, township boards and city councils cannot conduct meetings after 6:00 pm on the day of caucus ([202A.19, Subd. 6](#)).

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Who Can Attend a Precinct Caucus?

Anyone can attend the Republican precinct caucus on February 7, 2012, 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.
- A person may attend without participating in discussion or voting.

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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. Space rental, printing and mailing costs are but a few of the costs involved. For this reason, caucus attendees will have an opportunity to donate funds to the Chisago County Republican Party. In this way, costs are shared among neighbors and fellow Republicans.

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

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When are Precinct Caucuses Held in Minnesota?

Caucuses must be held each even-numbered year on the first Tuesday of February at 7:00 pm. A precinct caucus must remain open for at least one hour ([202A.15](#)). Caucus will be held February 7, 2012.

In the event of hazardous weather, caucuses may be postponed by the Secretary of State ([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 in 2012?

In Chisago County there are 24 precincts which will meet in 15 locations.

Precinct	Caucus Locations	Address	City
Amador Twp.	Amador Township Hall	37475 Park Trl	Almelund
Franconia Twp.	Chisago Lakes High School	29400 Olinda Trl	Lindstrom
Lindstrom	Chisago Lakes High School	29400 Olinda Trl	Lindstrom
Chisago City A	Chisago Lakes Lakeside School	10345 Wyoming Ave	Chisago City
Chisago City B	Chisago Lakes Lakeside School	10345 Wyoming Ave	Chisago City
Center City	Chisago Lakes Middle School	13750 Lake Blvd	Lindstrom
Chisago Lake No	Chisago Lakes Middle School	13750 Lake Blvd	Lindstrom
Chisago Lake So	Chisago Lakes Middle School	13750 Lake Blvd	Lindstrom
Fish Lake Twp.	Fish Lake Township Hall	2170 Brunswick Rd	Harris
Harris A	Harris American Legion Hall	43563 Ginger Ave	Harris
Harris B	Harris American Legion Hall	43563 Ginger Ave	Harris
Lent Twp.	Lent Township Hall	33155 Hemingway Ave	Stacy
Stacy	Lent Township Hall	33155 Hemingway Ave	Stacy
Nessel Twp.	Nessel Township Hall	49205 Acacia Trl	Stanchfield
North Branch So	North Branch High School	38705 Grand Ave	North Branch
North Branch No	North Branch Middle School	38431 Lincoln Trl	North Branch
Sunrise Twp.	North Branch Middle School	38431 Lincoln Trl	North Branch
Rush City	Rush City High School	51001 Fairfield Ave	Rush City
Rushseba Twp.	Rush City High School	51001 Fairfield Ave	Rush City
Shafer City	Shafer City Hall	17656 303rd St	Shafer
Shafer Twp.	Shafer Township Hall	18259 St Croix Trl	Taylor Falls
Taylor Falls	Taylor Falls Elementary School	548 West St	Taylor Falls
Wyoming A	Wyoming Elementary School	25701 Forest Blvd	Wyoming
Wyoming B	Wyoming Elementary School	25701 Forest Blvd	Wyoming

To identify your precinct, find it [here](#).

While at that website:

- Type in the requested information.
- Your precinct will be identified.
- Then look at the above chart to find the location of your Chisago County Republican precinct caucus. The precinct caucus location may be different from your polling place.

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What Should I Expect at the Precinct Caucus?

Plan to arrive before 7:00 pm.

When you arrive at caucus:

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

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

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.

Since 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 and the election of 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.

The Chisago County Republican Party has also appointed a temporary secretary to take minutes at the start of the meeting. The caucus will nominate and elect the permanent secretary for the meeting.

The caucus may elect the temporary secretary as the permanent secretary for the meeting. Or it may elect someone else.

The caucus will then conduct its business.

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What Business is Conducted at the Precinct Caucus?

Minnesota Republicans will caucus together by precinct to:

- [elect officers](#) for their precinct for the next two years ([202A.18, Subd. 2](#)),
- [elect delegates](#) to represent them at the Chisago County Republican convention which is a meeting of all delegates elected in each precinct in Chisago County ([202A.18, Subd. 2](#)),
- [consider and vote on political resolutions](#) to promote at the Chisago County Republican convention on March 24, 2012, and
- [vote](#) for a presidential candidate in a straw poll ([202A.18, Subd. 2a](#)).

Elect Precinct Officers

The person elected as the chair of the caucus meeting is chair for that meeting only. The caucus will elect those who will be the precinct officers for the next two years. The Chisago County Republican Party [Constitution, Article 4, Section 2A](#) specifies which positions shall be filled:

1. Chair,
2. Vice-chair,
3. Secretary and
4. One member to the Chisago County Republican Party Board of Directors.

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Elect Delegates

Each precinct will elect delegates and an equal number of alternates who will represent that precinct at the Chisago County Republican conventions during the next two years.

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Adopt Resolutions

Any person participating in caucus may submit a resolution to the caucus for consideration. If the resolution is approved by vote of the caucus, it is then forwarded to the Chisago County Republican Convention for consideration.

A Resolution Form can be [downloaded here](#). A resolution is intended to change a specific portion of the [Minnesota Republican Party Platform](#).

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Straw Poll

Each precinct will conduct a straw poll to identify its choice of a Republican presidential candidate. The results are sent to the Secretary of State that evening. The results of the straw poll will be reported by the media.

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What are the Duties of Precinct Officers?

The precinct officers direct the political activities of the precinct. They:

- Organize the precinct or cause it to be organized for the purpose of electing endorsed Republican candidates and like-minded candidates for local offices.
- Conduct training sessions.
- Recruit volunteers.
- Conduct voter ID.
- Get out the Republican vote.

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

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What are the Duties of Precinct Delegates and Alternates?

The elected delegates from all 24 precincts meet together for the Chisago County Republican Party conventions. Alternates substitute for absent delegates. When meeting in convention, precinct delegates:

1. Elect Chisago County Republican Party Executive Committee members at each odd-numbered year convention.
2. Consider and adopt changes to the Chisago County Republican Party's Constitution at odd-numbered year conventions.
3. Consider and vote upon resolutions that were passed at the various precincts. This occurs at even-numbered year conventions. Resolutions that are adopted at the County convention are then submitted to the Congressional District Convention for consideration.
4. Elect delegates and alternates to the Congressional District and State Conventions. This occurs at even-numbered year Chisago County Republican Party conventions.
5. Endorse Republican candidates for Minnesota House and Senate to represent our legislative district.
6. Campaign to elect endorsed Republican candidates.
7. Serve for two years until the next precinct caucus election.

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How Do I Become a Precinct Delegate?

In order to become a precinct delegate, you must meet the following requirements. 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.

Your precinct can then nominate and elect you as a delegate to represent your precinct at the Chisago County Republican conventions.

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Do I Need to Attend Caucus to be Involved?

You need to attend caucus to be elected as a delegate to the Chisago County Republican Party conventions and to endorse Republican candidates for Minnesota House and Senate.

However, you do not have to attend caucus or be elected as a delegate 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.

You can volunteer by filling out this [form](#).

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