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PRECINCT
CAUCUSES
IN
MINNESOTA:

Tuesday*
February 23, 1982



VOTER
82

INFORMATION

from
Minnesota
Statutes (1980) and
Minnesota Laws (1981)

**ELECTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**



**All dates in this pamphlet are based on Minnesota Statutes (1980) and subject to change by legislative action.*

GO TO YOUR PRECINCT CAUCUS AND TAKE A FRIEND WITH YOU

What is a precinct caucus?

It is a meeting of neighbors who share a common concern for the operation and policies of local, state, and federal government. State law requires each political party to hold a caucus for every election precinct each general election year to elect officers and conduct business. (Minnesota Statutes 202A.14)

What is a political party?

A political party is a group of people with similar concerns about government. To be recognized as a political party in Minnesota, a political group must have received votes in every county and at least 5% of the total vote cast in the last general election. (Minnesota Statutes 200.02, Subd. 7) In 1982 two parties are qualified: Independent-Republican and Democratic-Farmer-Labor.

What is a precinct?

A precinct is an election district with a polling place. In a city, a precinct may include several blocks; in a rural area, a precinct may be as large as a township. There are over 4,000 precincts in Minnesota.

When and where are caucuses held?

All precinct caucuses will be convened at 8:00 P.M. on February 23, 1982. Notices concerning the *location* of the precinct caucuses will be available after February 3, 1982, at your county auditor's office and will be published by February 17, 1982.

What happens at a precinct caucus?

Neighbors attending caucuses will participate in the election of caucus and precinct officers, delegate selection for county or legislative district conventions, recruiting of election judges, and discussion of issues which may be included in the party platform. Nominations for precinct officers must remain open for at least the first half-hour of the caucus. All elections during the caucus are by secret ballot. Caucuses must last at least one hour.

Who may participate?

Anyone who is now a qualified voter or will be qualified to vote on November 2, 1982, who is a resident of the precinct in which the caucus is held may participate. No previous party affiliation is required. You should be prepared to state that you intend to support that party in the next general election or have supported that party in the last general election. Caucuses are open political party meetings. Anyone, including persons who will not be qualified to vote by November 2, 1982, may attend a caucus as an observer.

What is the purpose of a precinct caucus?

Precinct caucuses offer voters their first opportunity to express a preference concerning candidates who will be elected in November. By participating in their caucuses, voters may influence the issues of campaigns and party platforms. Parties may be recruiting eligible persons in every precinct to recommend for appointment as election judges.

Who determines a party's platform?

Anyone participating in a precinct caucus may offer a resolution for consideration. Resolutions need not be written in formal language. Resolutions which are approved will be presented to the county/legislative district convention for consideration. If approved, the resolution will be sent on to the congressional district convention for discussion and approval. Resolutions approved at district conventions are sent on to the state convention where the party platform is developed.

How do I become a delegate?

Each precinct is allotted delegates according to the number of votes cast in that precinct for the party's candidates in the last general election. Each precinct nominates and elects delegates to the next level (county/legislative district) convention. Tell your neighbors about your interest and your qualifications for election as a delegate. Ask for their support. Delegates from precinct caucuses will compete in county/legislative district conventions for congressional district and state delegate seats.

How are candidates endorsed?

Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Attorney General, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, and State Representative may seek endorsement by delegates at state, congressional district, and county/legislative district party conventions. Candidates file for these offices from July 6 to 20, 1982.

Will reapportionment change my district?

Congressional and legislative district boundaries may change when the legislature reapportions to reflect population changes shown by the 1980 census. The Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, section 3) provides for the redrawing of district boundaries at the first legislative session following each federal census.

ELECTION JUDGE SELECTION IN MINNESOTA: 1982

Sixty-five days prior to the primary election, political parties submit to county auditors names of persons in every precinct in each county who are eligible to serve as election judges. County auditors supply these names to each city council and town board in the county. City councils and town boards appoint election judges from these lists.

You may be an election judge if you are:

- an eligible voter in your municipality.
- a member of a political party.
- able to read, write, and speak English.
- appointed by your city council or town board.

You may not be an election judge if you are:

- a candidate for election on that election day.
- receiving compensation as an employee or officer of federal, state, or municipal government.*
- husband, wife, parent, child, brother, or sister of a candidate, another election judge in the same precinct, or a member of the governing board of your city or town.

**except in cities or town with only one precinct; in such municipalities, members of the governing board, the clerk, and the town treasurer may serve.*

PARTY BALANCE

No more than half the judges in each precinct may belong to the same party, except where the election board has an odd number of judges in a precinct, the number of judges belonging to one party may be one more than the number belonging to another party. Judges may be assigned to serve in precincts other than their own (within the municipality in which they live) to achieve party balance in precincts.

COMPENSATION AND TRAINING

The governing board in each municipality sets the pay for election judges at an hourly rate no less than the prevailing Minnesota minimum wage.

Election judges must attend a training session conducted by the county auditor before each election at which they serve.

You can help your party!

Volunteer to be an election judge in your city or town. If parties recommend fewer than the number of judges needed, your city council or town board may appoint any eligible persons to serve as election judges. Your precinct caucus is a place to declare your willingness to have your name added to the list of judges your party is preparing.

MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 1982, 8:00 PM

To acknowledge the importance of precinct caucuses, the legislature has restricted certain activities on the evening of precinct caucuses. The following law eliminates conflict with certain local events and enables a larger number of people to attend:

Minnesota Statutes 202A.19, Subdivision 1. (1980) No school board, county board of commissioners, township board, or city council may conduct a meeting after 7:00 p.m. on the day of a political party precinct caucus.

Subd. 2. Every employee who is entitled to attend a political party precinct caucus is entitled, after giving the employer at least ten days written notice, to absent himself from his work for the purpose of attending the caucus during the time for which the caucus is scheduled without penalty or deduction from his salary or wages on account of his absence other than a deduction in salary for the time he absented himself from his employment.

Subd. 3. No state university may schedule an event which will take place after 7:00 p.m. on the day of a political party precinct caucus unless permission to do so has been received from the state university board. No community college may schedule an event which will take place after 7:00 p.m. on the day of a political party precinct caucus unless permission to do so has been received from the state board for community colleges.

Subd. 4. No school official may deny the use of a public school building for the holding of a political party precinct caucus if the school office has received a written request for the use of the school building 30 days or more prior to the date of the caucus.

Subd. 5 No public elementary or secondary school may hold a school sponsored event after 7:00 p.m. on the day of a political party precinct caucus.

Additional information about political parties?

Call or write:

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
730 E. 38th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407 (612) 827-5421
Independent-Republicans of Minnesota
555 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, MN 55102 (612) 291-1286

Need more copies of this pamphlet? Additional information about elections?

Call or write:

Office of the Secretary of State
Election Division
180 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299 (612) 296-2805

compiled by
JOAN ANDERSON GROWE
Secretary of State



**PRECINCT CAUCUSES WILL BE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 1982***

Call your county auditor for the following information:

Your precinct: _____

**Locations of caucuses in your precinct,
February 23, 1982:**

Independent-Republicans of Minnesota

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party



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