

Caucus Basics

What is a “Caucus?”

The Republican Party places all value in the rights of each individual and the importance of individual participation in the election process and government, in general. Our entire Party organization and effectiveness begins with the individual citizen voter.

A “precinct” is the smallest political geographical area – usually your neighborhood. A “caucus” is a historic name for a meeting of the Republicans in a single precinct. Caucuses are held every 2 years, throughout the state of Washington. During caucus, Republicans discuss candidates and issues, and to elect people (“Delegates”) to represent their precinct at the Thurston County Convention. Citizens at caucus discuss proposals for the party Platform and any other matters that they wish to bring before the delegates during county convention.

The Delegates who attend the Thurston County Convention approve a “platform” similar to a mission statement. They also elect Delegates to represent Thurston County at the Washington State Convention.

Thurston County mostly holds combined caucuses (“pooled” caucuses) so multiple neighborhoods come together in one location. This makes administration and record keeping easier. Some caucuses will take place in the local precinct committee officer’s home.

The first step.

In order to participate in the Republican Caucus you must be a registered voter residing in Thurston County. You will participate in the precinct caucus of the precinct in which you are registered to vote. Please bring your Voter Registration Card which was sent to you by the County Auditor. If you do not have a card or cannot locate your card, contact the Auditors Office at 360-786-5408. It is a good idea to locate your card today.

Where are the caucus locations? Thurston County Republican Caucus locations are available online at <http://thurstonrepublicans.com/>. Look for your precinct number (or name) and attend that location. (Your precinct number is on your voter registration card or you can lookup your precinct online at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/cm/auditor-precinct/precinct-info.asp>)

Caucus locations will be determined by Legislative Districts. (20th LD & 35th LD; 22nd LD; 2nd LD)

There will be three pooled caucus locations in 2016.

22nd LD: Knights of Columbus Hall, Olympia/Lacey.

2nd LD, The Prairie Hotel in Yelm.

20th/35th Black Hills High School, Tumwater.

What happens at a Caucus?

Caucuses are fun and educational. The first part of the caucus is the pooled portion where you get an overview of the caucus process.

During the second part of the Caucus, you break into precincts and meet only with those from your neighborhood. At this time, you elect a Chair if there is no Precinct Committee Officer for your precinct. The Chair will appoint a Secretary for your precinct meeting.

Next you will review the draft County Platform which you will be allowed to make recommendations on. Additionally, you can suggest a Resolution for consideration.

Finally, you elect Delegates and Alternates to represent your precinct at the County Convention. Your precinct will be allocated a specific number of Delegates/Alternates based on the Republican vote totals in the 2012 elections.

Who Can Attend?

Any registered voter who considers him/herself to be a Republican is welcome to attend and participate in the Republican Caucus. You must be 18 or older on the day of the caucuses to actively participate in them. You cannot participate in any other party's nominating procedures or you will be disqualified.

What do I do at the Caucus?

The most important thing is to attend. Don't worry about the details. (We'll do that!) We have experienced leaders who will walk you through the process. Come and meet more of your neighbors, share ideas, have fun with your neighbors and fellow conservatives, and be the "grassroots" of the Republican Party.

Can I be a Convention Delegate?

YES! If you want to be a Convention Delegate, all you need to do is nominate yourself during the precinct caucus meetings. If more people are nominated than positions available, then the

members of the precinct will elect the Delegates/Alternates they want to represent their neighborhood.

What happens after the caucus?

If you are elected as a delegate or alternate to the county convention, there is a registration fee payable by cash or check on arrival at the county convention. *Guests are welcome at the convention and must pay a nominal entry fee.* The **County Convention** takes place on **Saturday, March 19, 2016** from 9:00 AM until 5PM at **Black Hills High School, Tumwater, WA.**

If you are elected as a delegate or alternate to the state convention you must be prepared to pay the state registration fee within 10 days of the county convention. The Washington State **Republican Party Convention** will be held in **Pasco, WA on May 19-21, 2016.**