



Minnesota DFL Caucus Basics

A caucus is a meeting of Democrats who all live in the same voting precinct. Caucuses are hosted by the local DFL Organizing Units to engage at the grassroots level with like-minded people, to talk about politics, to help run the local DFL organizations and join forces to help elect Democrats at all levels of government from city to state to the President. More than 4,000 Precinct Caucuses happen at the same time across Minnesota. Welcome to the Party!

Here are some of the things that happen on Precinct Caucus Night:

Elections - Participants will elect individuals to help organize their precinct and to represent them at future conventions.

- **Precinct Chairs & Vice Chairs** - Work to organize Democrats in their precinct. They can do this by talking to neighbors about important issues, distributing campaign literature, registering voters and encouraging voters to the polls. This is different from your precinct caucus chair, which is a one-night role but can be held by the same person.
- **Convention Delegates** - Are elected at the caucus to attend and participate at their Organizing Unit Convention. At this convention the body will:
 - Consider endorsing local candidates for the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate. Official endorsement helps strong DFL candidates get elected.
 - Elect leaders of the Organizing Unit who help run the Organizing Unit between conventions.
 - Elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the DFL Congressional and State Conventions.
- **Convention Alternates** - Are elected at the caucus to attend their Organizing Unit Convention. If a delegate does not come to the convention, alternates step in to represent your precinct at the convention.

Volunteer to help run your Organizing Unit Convention - You may volunteer to help run the Organizing Unit Convention on one of several committees. This is a great way to support your unit without making a long-term commitment.

Write and Vote on Resolutions - Any participant at a precinct caucus may present a resolution (an addition or modification to the State Party Platform). Resolutions will be presented, debated and voted on. There is a required Resolution form which is available the night of the caucus or at <http://www.dfl.org/partydocuments>.



DFL Precinct Caucus Agenda*

1. Open registration at 6:30 PM
2. Convene (Call to Order) at 7:00 PM
3. Introductions and Greetings
4. Read Participant Eligibility Requirements
5. Read the Affirmative Action, Outreach and Inclusion Statement
6. Read the Platform Statement
7. Elect Caucus Chair and at least 2 Tellers, and appoint Caucus Secretary
 - a. These positions are only held for this evening. These individuals are elected to lead this meeting.
8. Adopt rules for precinct caucus business, if desired
9. Elect Precinct Chair and two Vice Chairs
 - a. These officers serve for the next two years. Their job is to organize the DFL Party in the precinct. They also represent the precinct on the Organizing Unit Central Committee.
 - b. At least one Vice Chair must *not* be of the same gender identity as the Chair.
10. Elect Organizing Unit/Senate District Convention Delegates and Alternates
 - a. Must start at 7:30 p.m. unless attendees are still being registered.
11. Consider Resolutions
 - a. At the discretion of the Caucus Chair, this may be done during breaks in other business
12. Entertain Visitor Speeches
 - a. At the discretion of the Caucus Chair, this may be done during breaks in other business
13. Other Business
14. Adjourn no earlier than 8:00 p.m.

**Caucus can add items, but cannot delete items.*

Proposed Precinct Caucus Rules*

Nominations

1. Any caucus participant may nominate oneself for any position being elected by the caucus. No nominating or seconding speeches may be given.
2. If a contest exists, each candidate for an elective position may take up to one minute to explain why they should be elected by the caucus to that position.

Motions/Resolutions

3. All resolutions proposed for consideration by the caucus (and any amendments of 5 or more words) must be submitted to the Caucus Chair in writing immediately after being proposed.
4. No more than three speakers in favor and three speakers opposed to a motion or resolution will be allowed. Debate ends, and the caucus will come to a vote immediately, after there have been three speakers on each side of the issue.
5. Speeches shall not exceed one minute.
6. No speaker may speak twice to a motion or resolution until all others wishing to speak to the issue have had a turn.
7. No person may propose a second resolution until all others wishing to propose one have had a turn.

Visiting Speakers

8. Candidates, elected officials and party officers may address the caucus for up to two minutes.

**The rules listed above are recommendations that the Caucus can add, delete or change as it sees fit. However, the DFL Constitution and Bylaws, 2026-2027 Official Call supersede these rules and in cases where no rules apply, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12th Ed. will govern.*