

Caucus Meetings and Political Conventions

Making Your Opinion Matter

To qualify to be an active participant in political party politics, you must first be a registered voter. You can register online if you are a legal resident of Washington State at least 18 years old and a citizen of the United States by visiting the Washington Secretary of State web site at <https://wei.secstate.wa.gov/olvrsite>

You will need your registration card to check-in during the caucus meetings. If you are registered to vote and have misplaced your card, ask for a copy from your county elections office.

Before you attend a caucus, you must choose which party to support. The best way to do that is to study the platforms from each of the two major political parties. Which one fits your values, principles, and interests the best? Democrats tend to be more liberal and Republicans are more conservative. Check out the history of the platforms from the American Presidency Project <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/platforms.php>

Caucus meetings are first held at the precinct level, a division within a city, town, or county for voting purposes. Your precinct number is located on your registration card. You can also get help learning your precinct number by contacting your party's county web site. You will not be required to register ahead of the caucus meeting. But you do need to be prepared.

- ★ Gather ideas to discuss during the meeting about your concerns and political issues.
- ★ Be prepared with your card to verify you are registered voter in the precinct.
- ★ Be ready to declare which candidate you support in a "Presidential Straw Poll".
- ★ Bring a copy of *Bring Nutrition to the Table in Washington State* to recommend for the state platform. Ask that it be given to who is elected to the state platform committee.
- ★ Learn where and when your caucus meeting is held by contacting your local party leaders or visiting the county Democrat or Republican party web site and arrive on time.
- ★ Be aware that you may be asked to contribute a small fee for room rental.
- ★ You will be given an opportunity to join the local party.
- ★ You have a chance to be voted in as a delegate to the county party's convention.

2012 Presidential Caucuses

The Presidential Caucuses are conducted by each major party. For specific information on how to participate, please contact the party directly:

Republican caucuses

Saturday, March 3, 2012 - 9:00 to 1:00 pm

Washington Republican Party

<http://www.wsrp.org/>

(425) 460-0570

Democratic caucuses

Sunday, April 15, 2012 - 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Contact: greg@wa-democrats.org

Washington Democratic Party

<http://www.wa-democrats.org/>

(206) 583-0664

2012 State Party Conventions

If you are elected a delegate, you can vote on a platform, hear campaign speeches, and meet candidates for public office. You will need to register and pay a fee to attend. There are first county conventions and followed by a state convention in the late spring. Delegates for the county convention are elected during the precinct caucuses. The delegates from the county convention elect the state delegates. National delegates are elected during the state convention and pay their way to the national convention.

WA State Democratic Convention

Washington State Convention Center

800 Convention PL, Seattle, WA 98101

1 June to 3 June 2012

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Contact: shawna@wa-democrats.org

WA State Republican Convention

Tacoma Convention and Trade Center

1500 Broadway Tacoma, WA 98402

30 May to 2 June 2012

www.wsrp.org/