

PRECINCT DELEGATES

PRECINCT DELEGATES BASICS

What is a Precinct?

A precinct is the smallest political geographic division in a state. The area varies in size and is determined by population. A precinct contains a maximum of 2,999 registered voters, although many precincts are smaller. It is up to the local municipalities to draw their own precinct lines.

What is a Precinct Delegate?

A Precinct Delegate is an elected representative to the local political party from the precinct. Every precinct has at least one Republican Delegate, and some have more. The local party determines the number of delegates based on the number of Republican votes in that precinct in the previous election.

How do you become a Precinct Delegate?

A person running for Precinct Delegate must be a registered voter residing in the precinct in which they are running. The Candidate needs to fill out an "Affidavit of Identity." Affidavits are available at the County Clerk's Office as well as City and Township offices. These affidavits need to be notarized by a Notary public. Notary Publics can be found at the County Clerk's office or at a local bank. Once the affidavit is completed, it is turned into the County Clerk, City or Township Clerk where you live. The affidavit must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date. Once the candidate files, their name is placed on the ballot in the August primary. Their name is under the heading "Candidate for County Convention Delegate." The primary ballots are separated by political party, so only Republic voters vote for the Republican candidate, and Democrat voters vote for the Democratic candidate. In the case that the race is contested, the person with the most votes wins.

When are Precinct Delegates elected and how long is the term?

Precinct Delegates are elected in the August primary election of even numbered years. The term is a two-year term.

What are the duties of a Precinct Delegate?

The official role of a Precinct Delegate is to attend all County Conventions during the two-year term. The number of County Conventions varies from three to four, depending on if it is a Presidential or Gubernatorial cycle. In addition, Precinct Delegates are involved in helping local parties and candidates in a variety of activities.

What if I need to withdraw?

Sometimes circumstances occur in which a candidate needs to withdraw their candidacy. A Precinct Delegate can withdraw until three days after the filing deadline by 4:00 pm.

How do I know if I am elected?

On the day after the election, you can call your County Clerk's office to find out if you were elected. The Clerk will also notify successful Precinct Delegates by mail.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Why should I become a Precinct Delegate?

Politics begins at the local level when you talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about the issues that are important to you. Once you get involved and become a Precinct Delegate, you have the opportunity to share these issues and concerns and make a difference.

How do I make a difference?

Precinct Delegates play a key role in electing Republicans and Democrats to every office. As a liaison to your community, you have the opportunity to build personal relationships with Candidates and Party Leaders. These individuals come to you when they need to know specifics about your community. In addition, Precinct Delegates have the opportunity to attend State Conventions where they help select many of the Candidates for statewide offices.

As a Precinct Delegate you have the opportunity to attend Democratic or Republican gatherings where you can meet and make friends with people who share a similar philosophy. You also have the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge on current issues, legislation, and party policy through your contacts. This knowledge will help you be in a position to effectively express your views and share your opinions.

Remember, as a Precinct Delegate you are taking an active role in retaining and strengthening the freedoms that make America great and you are making a difference.

WHERE TO START

Where is my Precinct?

The first thing to do is find out which Precinct you live in. You can get this information from your voter registration card or from the County, City, or Township Clerk where you live. Once you get this information, the next step is to get a map. Maps are available from the local clerks. Your Democratic or Republican organization may also be able to provide you with a map. The map will show you the boundaries of your Precinct.

How do I get to know my Precinct?

Once you have your map, the best thing to do is to drive around your district. As you are driving take notice of the characteristics of your Precinct. Notice which areas are industrial, commercial farmland, or residential. Make note of the kinds of homes in your area. Are they single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, or communities with restricted access? Look for growth, new homes, subdivisions, or businesses. All of this information will be useful to you, the Precinct Delegate, as well as local candidates as you plan for election activities.

How do I get to know the people in my Precinct?

After you have driven around your Precinct and become familiar with the area, it is time to meet the people who live there. The best way to do this is by walking your precinct. It is a good idea to walk your precinct at least once a year. This shows you are active in your neighborhood and that you care about the community. It is a great way to find out where people live. Once you have identified people in your precinct, you can ask them to volunteer during the next election, place a yard sign in their yard, and remind them to vote on Election Day. Keeping in contact with the people in your Precinct is a great resource for all Candidates.

What else do I need to know?

It is important to remember that you have been chose by your party in your Precinct to be the liaison to that party. As a Precinct Delegate, you will be asked to help with a variety of activities. Your help is needed by local candidates and the party as a whole because of the knowledge you have of your precinct. Others in your area will look to you for party information and connections. You are the point person for your Precinct.

What other activities might Precinct Delegates perform leading up to an election?

The Democratic and Republican State Parties have several programs they ask Precinct Delegates to assist in implementing. These programs include distributing yard signs, performing literature drops, helping with absentee voter programs, and get-out-the-vote phone calling. These programs are an important part of the campaigns of local and statewide candidates. Participation in these programs makes the difference between your party candidates winning and losing.

ELECTION DAY

What happens on Election Day?

After months of hard work and campaigning, the only thing that matters is the results on Election Day. For this reason there are several programs that run on Election Day. These programs are important to ensure that our voters get to the polls and that they vote for the entire party ticket. On Election Day, you should be involved with three main programs. These programs are working the polls, poll watching, and GOTV phone calls.

How do you work the polls?

Working the polls is the last chance you get to inform the voters about your parties Candidates. When volunteers work the poll, they stand outside of the polling place for the Precinct and pass out information about specific candidates or slate cards for the entire ticket. They give this information to voters as they enter the building to vote. One thing to remember is that Michigan State Law requires that poll workers must stay at least 100 feet from the entrance to the polls.

What is poll watching?

Poll watching is a way to check if the people in your district have voted. Take the Precinct list to the poll and check off the names of your party that vote. Around 5:00 p.m. take the list to a phone bank, or your home and make phone calls to the people in your party who have not voted yet. Remind them that time is running out to vote and that the polls are only open until 8:00 p.m. This is a great way to ensure

that every person in your party votes. Poll watching is more important than working the polls, so if you can only find one volunteer to work at a specific time, have them poll watch.

Do I continue GOTV Phone calls?

Yes, Get-Out-The Vote phone calls must continue on Election Day. If you have already called your list, call them again. Do not be afraid to call too many times. Offer voters rides to polls if they need them, and have volunteers available to pick them up. Make sure that everyone on your list has been reminded to vote on Election Day. GOTV phone calls should be the number one priority for Precinct Delegates.

COUNTY CONVENTIONS

What is a County Convention?

A County Convention is a meeting of the Precinct Delegates and Elected Officials in a County. At these meeting the participants elect individuals to be delegates and alternates to the State Convention or they elect people to serve on the County Party Executive Committee.

When do County Conventions take place?

They take place in in August and November in even numbered years.

What specifically occurs at each of these Conventions?

At the August County Convention, the newly elected Precinct Delegates meet together to elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention. At the State Convention, the Delegates will elect candidates for the following statewide offices:

- Michigan Supreme Court (2)
- Michigan State University Board of Trustees (2)
- University of Michigan Board of Regents (2)
- Wayne State University Board of Governors (2)
- State Board of Education (2)

At this State Convention in gubernatorial election years, all of these statewide offices are elected in addition to Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. These positions are four-year terms and only elected in the gubernatorial election year.

At the November County Convention, Precinct Delegates elect the members of the County Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee serve a two-year term.

At the January County Convention, Precinct Delegates elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention. The State Convention is in late January or early February and is held to elect the State Party leadership. The leadership positions to be elected at this convention are the following:

- State Chairman and Co-Chairman
- Six Vice Chairmen
- State Committee Members

- District Executive Committee Members
- District Officers

In Presidential elections years there is an additional County Convention in April. During this County Convention, the Precinct Delegates again elect people to be delegates and alternates to the State Convention in May. At the May State Convention the delegates elect people to be delegates to the National Convention and elect National Committeeman and Committeewoman from Michigan.

How do I know when and where the Conventions take place?

About thirty days before the County Convention, Precinct Delegates should receive an official Call to Convention. The official call will be sent out by the County Chair and will give all of the details of the County Convention. If you are elected a Delegate or an Alternate to a State Convention, you will receive information from your Michigan Party.

I WANT TO BE A PRECINCT DELEGATE BECAUSE.....

I believe in a strong America that protects our freedoms, and champions democratic ideals thought out the world.

I believe in an America with a conservative, limited government.

I believe that everyone is created equal, and that we are blessed with rights that cannot be taken from us.

I believe in the free market and fiscal responsibility.

I believe in an America where our children receive the best education in the world, and understand values like decency, responsibility, and honor.

I believe in an America where we feel safe in homes and secure in our communities.

I believe in an American with the compassion to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

And, finally I believe my Party is the best conduit for my convictions.