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1988
PRECINCT
CAUCUSES
IN
MINNESOTA:

Tuesday
February 23, 1988



VOTER INFORMATION

from
Minnesota
Statutes (1986) and
Minnesota Laws (1987)

ELECTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE



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 major 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 major political party?

A political party is a group of people with similar concerns about government. To be recognized as a major 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 1988 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 more than 4,000 precincts in Minnesota.

When and where are caucuses held?

All precinct caucuses will be convened at 7:30 P.M. on February 23, 1988. Notices concerning the location of the precinct caucuses will be available after February 2, 1988 at your county auditor's office and will be published by February 17, 1988.

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 quarter-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 8, 1988, 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 8, 1988, 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 the 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 may seek endorsement by delegates at state, congressional district, and county/legislative district party conventions. Candidates file for most offices from July 5 to 19, 1988.

ELECTION JUDGE SELECTION IN MINNESOTA: 1988

On July 1, 1988, major 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. After giving their employer ten days written notice, election judges may take unpaid leave from work to serve.

You may be an election judge if you are:

- an eligible voter in your municipality.
- a member of a major 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.
- husband, wife, parent, child, brother, or sister of a candidate, or of another election judge in the same precinct.

PARTY BALANCE

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

To acknowledge the importance of precinct caucuses, the legislature has restricted certain activities on the evening of precinct caucuses. The following law (M.S. 202A.19) eliminates conflict with certain local events and enables a larger number of people to attend:

Under the provisions of M.S. 202A.19, no school board, county board of commissioners, township board or city council can conduct a meeting after 6:00 PM on precinct caucus day. State universities and community colleges may not schedule an event after 6:00 PM on precinct caucus day, nor may a public elementary or secondary school hold a school sponsored event at 6:00 PM on the day of a precinct caucus.

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 be absent from work for the purpose of attending the caucus during the time for which the caucus is scheduled without penalty or deduction from salary or wages on account of the absence other than a deduction in salary for the time absent from employment.

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.

Additional information about political parties?

Call or write:

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
121 E. 7th Place
Suite 250, Metro Square Building
St. Paul, MN 55101 (612)293-1200

Independent-Republicans of Minnesota
8030 Cedar Ave. So.
Bloomington, MN 55420 (612)854-1446

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

PRECINCT CAUCUSES WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 1988

Call your county auditor for the following information:

Your precinct: _____

**Locations of caucuses in your precinct,
February 23, 1988:**

Independent-Republicans of Minnesota

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party



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

To:

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