

34th Legislative District 2004 Democratic Caucus
Frequently Asked Questions

I'm a delegate and I have to work that day. Should I notify the alternate?

It's a good idea to call the alternate or alternates for your precinct and candidate preference to let them know you're not going to be there. If you don't have the phone numbers, you can check the list on our website: 34dems.org. If you don't have access to the web or if the phone number is not listed, you can call Jackie Dupras at 935-9683 to get the phone number or the address of the alternates.

I'm an alternate and I haven't heard from the delegate that he or she isn't going to be there. Should I still come?

Of course you should come! Alternates cannot vote on the election of delegates, **but they will be able to vote on the platform and the resolutions.** These items are just as important as electing delegates. And while you cannot vote in the election of delegates, you will be able to run for delegate to the next tier.

My filing system is such that keeping one piece of paper for almost three months is a near impossibility and I can't find my Certificate of Election. What do I do now?

It's nice to have the certificate but not an absolute necessity. We have your name on the list.

I've read platforms and I've read resolutions and I don't see much difference. What is a platform and what is a resolution?

The platform is a statement of the party's position on a wide variety of issues. A resolution implies an action to get something done. There often is an overlap. As an example, a platform item might call for a truly progressive tax system at both the federal and state level; a resolution would resolve that we encourage our representatives to pass legislation to do just that.

A Brief Rundown of the Day

Following is a brief rundown of what happens on the day of the caucus:

When you arrive around 8:30, which is a smart thing to do to avoid long lines, you will sign in at the table for your precinct. If you want to be a candidate for delegate to the next tier, you will sign for that as well. Delegates will receive their credentials at the sign-in table and will be seated in the section for delegates.

There will be time for a cup of coffee and a bagel or sweet roll before the caucus starts.

At 9:30, or when there is no longer a line-up at the credentials tables, the meeting will be called to order by Kathy Minsch, our District Chair, and then will be turned over to Dow Constantine who will serve as the Temporary District Caucus Chair. The following will happen:

1. He will appoint a Secretary, Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms. During this time before the first credentials report, candidates will be allowed to make speeches and ask for your vote.
2. When ready, the credentials committee will report the number of delegates present, the number of alternates replacing absent delegates, the establishment of a quorum, and resolving challenges to delegate selection.
3. The Rules will then be approved and adopted and a tally committee appointed
4. The Permanent Chair will be elected. Unless there is more than one nominee, this will be done by voice vote and will most likely be the Temporary District Caucus Chair, or Dow Constantine. (Jackie—this last phrase seems redundant. Is not Dow the temporary chair? To keep this as democratic as possible, I would just suggest taking out everything after “vote.”

Then the Presidential Campaigns will each be allowed five minutes to convince you to vote for their candidate. Afterwards, the following happens:

1. The Credentials Committee will make their final report of how many delegates and alternates will be allocated to the presidential candidates, and which candidates receive the 15% minimum.
2. Delegates will then be allowed to change their votes and the final allocation will be reported.
3. Supporters of each candidate will caucus separately to elect the delegates and alternates they have been allocated.

Finally, after the delegates have been elected, the Platform Committee will present their report. There will be discussion on the platform and then adoption. After the Platform is adopted, the Resolutions will be discussed and adopted. After that, Good of the Order and it's time to go home