



Precinct Delegate Training

Version 1.3

As of 6-10-2012





Agenda

- What is a Precinct Delegate?
- Precinct Delegate Responsibilities
- How to Become a Precinct Delegate
- How Does a Precinct Delegate Impact Party Leadership and Direction?



What is a Precinct Delegate

- An Elected Position...
 - ...to serve as the Precinct's Representative to their Party's County Conventions.
 - ...voted for by residents in their election precinct.
 - ...that has a two-year term.
 - ...that is the primary basis for their Party's Grassroots Organization.
 - They are the eyes and the ears of the party in their neighborhood.
 - They are the face of the party and the channel for delivering the party's message at the most local level.



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities

- by Law

- Responsibility per Michigan Election Law is to Represent Your Precinct in Convention Process
- August Conventions AFTER Primary Election
 - County Convention Selects Delegates for State Convention
 - State Convention Selects Candidates for Certain Statewide Offices
- November Convention AFTER General Election
 - County Convention to Select County Party Executive Committee
 - Will Select County Party Leadership
- January Conventions AFTER General Election
 - County Convention Selects Delegates for State Convention
 - State Convention Selects District Party Leadership, State Committee Representatives and State Party Leadership



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities

– Statewide Office Candidates

- Delegates to the State Convention Vote for Candidates for these Elected Offices:
 - Secretary of State
 - Attorney General
 - Michigan State Supreme Court
 - MSU Board of Trustees
 - U-M Board of Regents
 - Wayne State Board of Governors
 - State Board of Education

NOTE: None of these appear on the Primary Ballot



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities – Conventions in Presidential Year

- May County Convention
 - Selects Delegates for State Convention
- May State Convention
 - Selects Delegates for National Convention
 - Elects National Committee Persons
- August National Convention
 - Cast Ballots for Presidential Candidate



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities

- Obligatory

- Liaison for the party in your community.
- Build relationships with:
 - Elected Officials
 - Candidates for Office
 - Party Leaders
 - Your Neighbors in Your Precinct
- Learn what issues are important in your precinct.
- Take information back to voters in your precinct.



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities

- Preferred

- Assist with Party Support Activities
 - Voter ID programs (phone banks)
 - Voter Registration
 - Get Out The Vote efforts
- Candidate and Issue Support
 - Drop Literature
 - Door Knocking
 - Sign Locations
- Communication
 - Email and Social Media
 - Letters to the Editor

You will be the target of numerous pieces of Campaign Literature, Political Phone Calls and Political Emails.

Your information will be given out to candidates and sponsors of issues.



Precinct Delegate Responsibilities – Other Information

- Candidate for Office
 - A precinct delegate candidate MAY hold or seek any other public office in Michigan
 - Including another office on the Primary Ballot.
- Election Inspector
 - A precinct delegate candidate MAY NOT serve as an election inspector in the precinct in which he or she resides.
 - MAY serve in any other precinct in the county.

Convention Delegate Preference

- Being a Precinct Delegate is the best way to become a Delegate to State and National Conventions
 - You do NOT have to be a Precinct Delegate to be a Delegate at State Conventions
- Delegates and Alternates to State Conventions will be Filled at County Conventions as Follows:
 - **1st Preference** – Precinct Delegates attending the County Convention
 - **2nd Preference** – Non-Precinct Delegates attending the County Convention
 - **3rd Preference** – Precinct Delegates not attending the County Convention
 - **4th Preference** – Non-Precinct Delegates not attending the County Convention

Rules for determining priority for delegates changes from convention to convention.

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How to Become a Precinct Delegate – Standard Method

- 18 Years of Age
- Qualified and Registered Voter in Precinct
- Fill Out Precinct Delegate Affidavit
- Have Affidavit Notarized
- Turn In Affidavit to Clerk's Office by Filing Deadline at **4 p.m. on May 15, 2012**
 - County Clerk
 - Municipal Clerk (will send to County Clerk)
 - Delegate Roundups (will deliver to County Clerk)
 - Generally political organizations will conduct roundups but any individual or group can manage a roundup.
 - Roundups are NOT required to be solely driven from the party apparatus.
- Name on Partisan Section of the Primary Ballot

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How to Become a Precinct Delegate - Winning

- Minimum of One Vote Cast Required to Win
- Identify the Number of Precinct Delegates Allotted for Your Precinct
- Top Vote Getters in Primary Election up to the Allotted Number Will Win – **August 7**
- Example:
 - Macomb-29 has 3 slots allotted and 2 candidates declare. Both candidates will win if receiving at least one vote. One slot will remain vacant.
 - Shelby-23 has 9 slots allotted and 11 candidates declare. Top nine vote getters will be recognized as Precinct Delegates.
- County Clerk Sends Certificate to Winners (Keep This Certificate for County Convention)



How to Become a Precinct Delegate – Other Methods

- Write-In Ballot on Primary Election
 - Fill Out Declaration Of Intent
 - Hand In to Municipal Clerk the Friday before the Primary Election
 - or -
 - Hand in to Board of Election Inspectors on Day of Primary Election
- County Conventions
 - If an opening exists in your precinct after the Primary, attend any county convention.
 - At the end of the convention, declare your intent to be added as a Precinct Delegate.
 - Existing Delegation will vote as a body to add you as a delegate.



How to Become a Precinct Delegate – Campaigning

- You are not required to create a PAC or file campaign finance statements for the role of Precinct Delegate.
- Walk Your Precinct!!
 - Drop Literature
 - Door Knocking
 - Talk With Neighbors
- Campaign For Yourself At Your Voting Precinct During the Primary Election



How Does a Precinct Delegate Impact County Party?

- November County Convention
 - All Precinct Delegates Vote For a Permanent Chairperson of the County Convention
 - Permanent Chairperson of the County Convention Selects “Elected Members” of County Executive Committee (1/2 of the Executive Committee)
 - The other 1/2 are “Statutory” Members, those who were candidates for office in the most recent election cycle for the office (these are not elected by delegates).
 - Full Executive Committee Selects County Leaders including Chairperson
 - All are 2-year terms



How a Precinct Delegate Impacts Other Aspects of the Party?

- August and January Conventions
 - In Macomb County, convention is broken into Congressional District Caucuses (10th District and the new 9th District)
 - Each Caucus selects their own Permanent Convention Chairperson (Chair).
 - Each Chair is responsible for selecting delegates and alternates, the number of which is prescribed by state party.
 - May appoint a nominating committee
 - Chair is responsible to turn in list EXACTLY as read in convention and approved by delegation.



Convention Chairs Control the Direction

- Understand the method the candidate for Chair will use – At Large or Apportionment.
 - At Large is generally used in all cases with a slate created to be voted on.
- Will the Candidate for Chair run a fair convention?
 - Will delegates/committees be chosen on merit?
 - Will delegates/committees be selected with a representative proportion geographically?
- Potential Risks
 - Cronyism
 - Election Engineering
 - Quid Pro Quo



Personal Accountability

- Your Vote is Your Own
 - As a Precinct Delegate YOU Commit to Being Part of the Process
 - Research Candidates for Convention (including those running for Convention Chair)
- Did You Contribute to the Party's Efforts in the Election Cycle?
 - Candidate Assistance, Donations, GOTV efforts
- Who you “signed up” with does not matter.
 - Once in the convention hall, you are a delegate with a single vote.
- Make Your Decision and Vote Your Conscience

Questions?





Thank You for Coming

Please visit

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to see how you can help
this election season.