

Community Leaders Guide

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Congratulations and Thank You!

If you have decided to take a leadership role in your community, you have the opportunity to make a great push for Paul at the caucuses and primaries. Your support to volunteers will be invaluable and help make the canvassing efforts most effective.

You are encouraged to get help and support from other leaders to guide you. Make yourself known by contacting other organizers near you and throughout the state by sending an email with your name and county to

Let us know where you are at and what kind of help you need. This is a group effort – staying in contact and working together will make the most of our actions.



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This help guide was originally written and distributed by Michelle Northrup of Black Hawk, CO, also known as Michelle Fire Eater.

Michelle gives permission to local Ron Paul groups to modify the booklet to suit their state. If you would like a copy of the original document, or have a question or concern, please email me directly.

Michelle @ Poulin.com

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Getting to Know Your County and Voting Districts

Community Leaders should make the County Clerk's office and the County Republican Party your first orders of business. Make yourself known to your GOP Chairman, let them know what you are doing (organizing for greater participation in the Republican caucus and want current/correct information to give to Republican voters) and request their help. Having the Chairman speak to your group about the voting system in your county will be beneficial both in terms of getting accurate information and for motivating your group. This first contact with the GOP is very helpful for those who are just stepping in to the political process – having a friendly and helpful authority from the party will do a lot to ease fears and give a sense of surety that our actions are effective.

- Get Precinct Maps from County Clerk
- Contact GOP Chairman and introduce yourself
- Try to set up a time for the Chairman to speak to your group
- Obtain current precinct information from the GOP, such as committee persons for each voting district and their contact information
- Obtain current delegate information (Some delegates are allotted according to previous caucus participation)
- Identify which precincts currently have supporters and which are lacking
- Educate Yourself – be ready to explain the caucus system to new recruits and help others do so – read the introductory pamphlet and call your chairman with any questions
- Attend any local GOP events such as clubs and breakfasts to meet possible support and connections

Managing Voting Districts and Canvassing Groups

Vital to the canvassing effort is available voter registration. Becoming a voter registrar is easy (can be done over the phone) and those who have obtained a Voter Registration Drive number are able to train others in the group. It is extremely valuable to be able to register voters immediately when canvassing, as many folks will say they will do it later... but won't. Being able to register voters immediately when canvassing is a valuable tool for increased participation. Contact your Secretary of State's office for more information on how to become a voter registrar.

- 📄 Obtain Voter Registration Drive Training
- 📄 Obtain Forms from County Clerk's Office

Next, identify your group members by precinct or voting district to locate which areas need supporters. Hold a meeting to get people started on the individual participation level and elect community leaders. Each leader should have a map of their area and know other supporters in their neighborhood. Each community leader should be given a canvassing packet to copy and distribute to other canvassers – this packet should include an individual flyer for that voting district with the Republican Party and the community leader's contact information.

- 📄 Hold a meeting to identify where supporters and leaders are needed
- 📄 Give each leader a canvassing packet with their area info
- 📄 Review the survey materials with your group – include role playing activities to help with group focus and nerves
- 📄 Help other leaders make a 'game plan' by scheduling canvassing times and volunteers
- 📄 Make sure leaders have enough materials for their group

Some notes about working in the Republican Party:

There has been some confusion about terms. The Republican Party is slow to change, and many folks are using their old titles while the official party has changed them. For clarity:

- ❖ **Chairman** – the chairman is at the county level and the district voting level. So you will see the term “district chairman”, but many people use the term chairman for any organizer in the party.
- ❖ **Committeeman/person** – the precinct committee person is simply a neighborhood Republican who will be running the precinct meetings from a script and delivering the results to their county chair. These folks have been called “**captains**” in the past and many still use that term. This is a somewhat neutral position – however the committee persons often know who the voters are in their bloc and we should try not to motivate them to seek out opposition support in the community.
- ❖ The use of the term “**precinct chair**” is widely used – a precinct chairman is a committeeman.
- ❖ **District Chairman** – responsible for organizing the vote in the house districts. District chairs are a good source of current information on delegate allotments and participation levels. They are far more involved than committee people. Make friends here! They are a good source of information on how to participate effectively in your local party organization.

If at any time you are confused about someone’s role, just ask them. Those that have been at this a while don’t think much about using the same title for different folks, and they know this is confusing for those who are new to the party. Also, asking questions about a person’s role will give you a good idea about how organized your community is and whether the person is truly neutral or not.

We are using the term “**Community Leader**” to identify the **Ron Paul Supporter** who is organizing the canvassing effort in their neighborhood.

A Word about Neutrality

Many people think that working within the party to support Ron Paul means to be sneaky, and this is simply not true. While we don't want to announce our organizational efforts to opposition voters, there is no need to hide your personal preference for Paul as the Republican nominee. Most of the people at the local level who hold party positions are mainly interested in the success of the party, regardless of candidate, and will be welcoming and helpful to this new, passionate support coming into the party. It can actually be very important for the Republican Party organization at the local level to know exactly where this new support is coming from. Many party folks are all ears if they think a particular candidate can revive the Republican Party with new blood. In many places the party is in trouble – they will listen to a candidate that can motivate people to participate in the Party, to call themselves Republicans proudly in the current climate.

The County Chairman for the Republican Party is an especially neutral role. Their role is to facilitate organization and participation in the party, regardless of candidate support. Ron Paul is a legitimate Republican candidate, and the Chair's role is to help any legitimate, local or national candidate's supporters have current and correct information about party participation at the local level. In communities where Republican participation is low, they will just about jump out of their shoes to help you if they think you are swelling the rolls for the party. Be open and friendly and above all excited to call yourself a Republican. Talk about how much you love the caucus system and how happy you are to be motivated enough to participate locally and often in your county government and party. Many folks have been absent from participation in either government or politics – the party will be interested in the candidate who is able to encourage self-education in civics and that those people end up Republicans because of it. They are feeling wounded these days – be hopeful and full of possibility and you will make great and valuable friendships in the party leadership.

A Quick Q&A for Your County Chair

- ☐ May I have the current directory for precinct committee people in our county? (Purpose: to make sure you are giving correct participation information to your community, and identify which precincts have no committee people.)
- ☐ May I have a schedule of GOP events, such as breakfasts and meetings and booths, so that we can encourage party participation and help? (Purpose: for Ron Paul supporters to have an active role/voice in the party)
- ☐ What are the participation statistics from the last caucus, and how are the rolls looking now? (Purpose: so that we will know if we need to turn over Republicans to support Paul, in the case of solid participation, or if it will be sufficient to swarm the caucus with new Republicans in the case of low participation.)
- ☐ Where are the delegates coming from? (Where some delegates are allotted according to participation in the last caucus. Purpose: to determine which areas are going to have the most influence in sending delegates to the convention.)
- ☐ Would you be available to speak to our group about the party's caucus system and how to participate? (Purpose: to welcome the party leadership openly to our activities and show an utter lack of sneakiness, to get current information to the group from an authority, and to soften the process of getting involved in the party.)
- ☐ Whatever other questions you have!!! There are no stupid questions!!!! Politics itself is far stupider than any question you might still have!!!!

Again, if you are stuck and still need some help, please email Michelle Fire Eater at [**michelle@poulin.com**](mailto:michelle@poulin.com)

Sample Precinct Info Flyer – these would be given to new supporters when they register. Each canvassing volunteer should also have one!

Precinct Number:

Voting District:

Voting Location:

Committee Person:

Phone Number:

Email:

Precinct Leader:

Phone Number:

Email:

Voter Registration Deadlines: *(see calendar for info)*

Affiliation:

Registration:











Precinct Meeting and Caucus Schedule

Note: In caucus states using the precinct voting system, it's important for the precinct committeeperson/captain to hear from everyone who will be participating in the caucus. They need to know if the meetings can be held in living rooms or if they need to use the school gym!

Community Leader Checklist

- Get Precinct Maps from County Clerk
- Contact GOP Chairman and introduce yourself
- Try to set up a time for the Chairman to speak to your group
- Obtain current precinct information from the GOP, such as committee persons for each voting district and their contact information
- Obtain current delegate information (Some delegates are allotted according to previous caucus participation)
- Identify which precincts currently have supporters and which are lacking
- Educate Yourself – be ready to explain the caucus system to new recruits and help others do so – read the introductory pamphlet and call your chairman with any questions
- Attend any local GOP events such as clubs and breakfasts to meet possible support and connections
- Hold a meeting to identify where supporters and leaders are needed
- Give each leader a canvassing packet with their area info
- Review the survey materials with your group – include role playing activities to help with group focus and nerves
- Help other leaders make a 'game plan' by scheduling canvassing times and volunteers
- Make sure leaders have enough materials for their group
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Community Leaders Resource List Suggestions

-  Your State GOP office
-  Your County Republican Chairman contact information
-  Your Precinct or Voting District
-  Your Voting Location
-  Precinct Committeeman/Captain contact information
-  Secretary of State Elections Division contact information
-  County Clerk and Recorder contact information
-  Other Leaders and Volunteer contact information
-  Important Local Republicans contact information
-  Regional Ron Paul Director contact information