



Using the Primary and Caucus System

Turning our Passion into Real Votes for Ron Paul

This booklet is designed as an introduction to the primary and caucus systems of the Republican Party and what you can do to help Ron Paul become the Republican Presidential nominee.

As each state and even counties may have different rules, this booklet will give only an overview of the process.

Each individual is encouraged to contact their county Republican Party, either themselves or *through an organizer*, to determine the exact process for participation in your local area.

Those who are able and motivated are encouraged to become County Organizers and Community Leaders in your local area, but each individual can make a difference on their own.

Your individual action at the local level is the most important!

In the end, absolutely anything we do to promote Paul is valuable – follow your desire and ability to do whatever it is that you feel is your best contribution.

Once you have read through the booklet, contact your most local organizer, listed below, and give them your information, then join the group in making history by electing Ron Paul as the Republican nominee and our President! If no organizer is listed below, contact your nearest Meetup Group or send a note to the campaign at www.RonPaul2008.com to find out how you can help!

Your Local Organizer:

[insert local contact information]



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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.

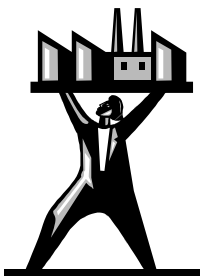
Michelle gives permission to local Ron Paul groups to modify the booklet to suit their state. If you would like a copy of the original document, or have a question or concern, please email me directly.

Michelle @ Poulin.com

Michelle also gives permission for unlimited copying and distribution of this booklet to **Ron Paul** groups only.

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Check out Tips for Precinct Leaders!

Precinct Leaders do a great service by getting up to date information, organizing the canvassing teams and keeping in touch with the local Republican Party Organization. If you have a little extra time and know how, consider helping your community by taking the lead! If you are ready for this role, check out the Community Leaders Guide for information!

The Republican Nomination Process

While making signs and increasing Paul's visibility to the general public is valuable, it does little in the way of generating actual votes for Paul as the Republican nominee, and that is the only way for him to be choice in the general election. In order to secure Paul as a choice, we must secure his nomination by working for two things:

1. Ensure support of Paul and Paul delegates at the local level.
2. Ensure the election of Paul delegates to the Republican National Convention.

We have a great opportunity. Local participation in the Republican Party is poor. Only 19% of registered Republicans participated in the last primary, and participation in the caucuses is even lower!

RPs polling numbers are roughly the same as the number of people who participated in our last caucus!

This means that 'swarming' the caucuses could actually be very easy, depending on where you live. Where some counties experience great participation levels, in others it is all but missing.

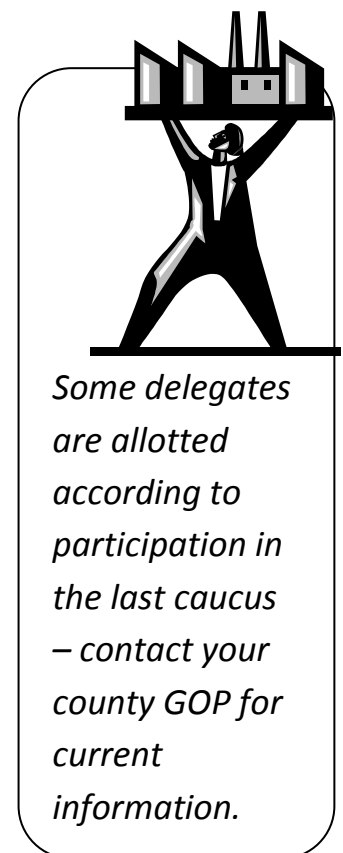
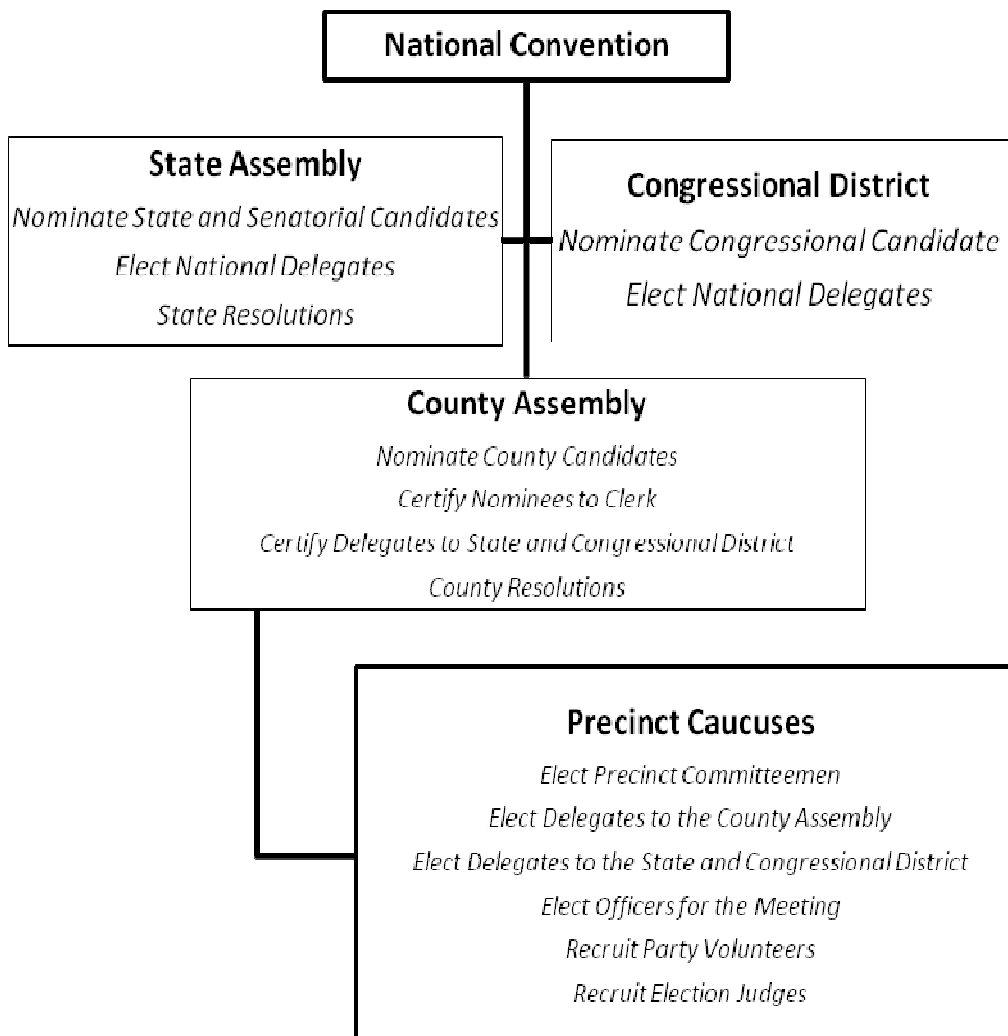
How is Ron Paul Nominated?

The Republican Party holds a national convention where state delegates meet to cast their votes for the candidate. In primary states, registered Republicans vote en masse as a state (or by counties). In states using the caucus or district convention system, Republican voters organize their votes by neighborhoods to elect delegates to send to the state convention. Especially in caucus states, organizing must start **NOW** to ensure that adequate support and delegates are located and delivered to the caucuses.

The Primary System collects votes on a single day from registered Republicans, usually by voting locations throughout the state, similar to the general election. This is fairly straightforward – all Republicans who were registered within the limits set by the state party bylaws (some states require registry up to 90 days before the primary or caucus to be eligible to vote!)

The Caucus and Convention Systems are a bit more complex. Voters meet according to their neighborhoods – called precincts – and those votes are recorded by precinct committee people and sent to the county chairman. In some states, folks meet in county conventions – each state is different! While this may seem complicated, remember that at the individual level all you need to know is your precinct number and where and when to vote, just like in the primary system.

In both cases, representatives are selected to ‘carry’ the votes from their counties and districts to the state convention where again, representatives are selected to carry the state votes to the National Convention. These representatives are called *delegates*.



The First Steps for Each Individual

The candidate you have chosen is running for the Republican nomination. Participation in this process is closed, meaning that you need to be registered in the party to have any say. Since some states require registry as much as 90 days before the caucus so you cannot wait. **Register Republican NOW!**

You can register either by a voter registration drive or by going directly to your county clerk's office or your Secretary of State's website. Once you have registered, you will be given your *precinct number*. A precinct is simply your voting district or neighborhood. In the Republican Party, precincts have a committee person (or two) who runs the meetings and organizes the vote for your neighborhood or voting district. Once you have registered, contact your county Republican Party to get information on who your committee person is and how to participate. You can find them on the internet or in your phone book. Smaller counties may have difficulty finding the right people – in that case, contact your state Republican Party organization for your county chairman's contact information. If you are having trouble or just want some support in this process, reach out to your fellow Ron Paul supporters and *ask for help*.



“Hello, I am a new Republican interested in participating in the caucus. I'd like to know where and when our precinct will be meeting.”

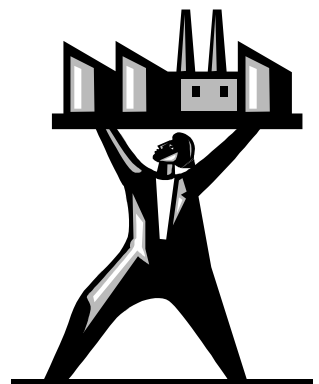
Once you have registered and know your voting date and location you are well on the way to helping Paul receive the Republican nomination!

Checklist for the Individual Voter

- 📄 Register Republican with your County Clerk
- 📄 Get your Precinct Number
- 📄 Contact your County Republican Party for your Precinct Committee Person's Contact Information
- 📄 Contact your Precinct Committee Person and let them know you want to participate in the caucus!

It is possible that when you contact your County Republican Party, you will be told that there is no committee person for your precinct and asked if you would like to be one – **say yes!** If you don't know how just let them know and a party volunteer, such as another committee person or the chairman himself, will help you. It's a very easy role, mostly consisting of running the meeting, which has a script. This puts you in a great position to know your precinct (for example, how many Fred supporters are showing up) and your local Republican Party, and **to promote Ron Paul in your neighborhood!** If you do not wish to take on that role, let your Community Leader know immediately in order to track down a supporter in that neighborhood to fill the job.

Being a Leader in Your Community will facilitate the process for others. All being a Leader means is that you have the information needed and help others take the necessary steps.



Having our people become County Organizers and Community Leaders will simplify this process for your group, particularly if it is a large one. Those who have previous government or party experience can do a great service to their group by taking on this role.

Participating in Precincts and Caucuses

The outcome of the primaries and caucuses is determined solely by who shows up to vote – and that is very good news for the Ron Paul campaign. Where participation is low, a single individual can make the difference.

If the only thing you do is register Republican and show up at the caucus, you have done the single most important individual action available for leveraging your values in government – in this case, voting for Ron Paul.

If you are new to the political process and looking for support, reach out for the help you need and it will be there! Get the help of other Ron Paul supporters in your area. Know that your local Republican Party chairman is neutral, their role only to facilitate participation in the process, so don't be afraid to contact them and let them know you need help. Calling your precinct committee person and meeting with them ahead of time will also ease the process. Be confident in your actions – we are merely leveraging the GOP nomination process in an honest, organized and focused manner to ensure our values are represented. This needs to be done anyway if we hope to preserve our liberty, so it can be viewed as a learning process for defending those values in the future.



It is at this level where your county Republican organization will be most helpful in utilizing the caucus system and determining your most effective action. It cannot be stressed enough how important the role of a local organizer or community leader will be at this stage. Having a person who can make calls and initiate contacts with your county GOP organization and get accurate and current information will help your group's efforts tremendously. If you would like to help your community in the way, check out the Community Leaders Guide for more information.

You now have the initial tools to begin defending your liberty in this election cycle and for every cycle to come.

I commend you for taking these first steps toward self-education and empowerment in the political process.

Should you need help getting started, reach out first to your local community, such as your nearest Meetup group. If none is available, contact the national campaign organization for assistance at

www.RonPaul2008.com

Thank you for defending my liberty,

Michelle Fire Eater