

Major Political Party Caucuses and Conventions

The candidates for most of the offices in the General Election are nominated in the state Primary. The office of president is an important exception to this rule. The candidates for president are nominated by the political parties at their national conventions by groups of delegates from each state. The presidential nominations are based on the results of each state's Presidential Primary, or the results of the party caucuses or both.

The delegates to the national conventions are initially selected through precinct caucuses, then either county conventions or legislative district conventions and then finally a state convention. According to party rules, national convention delegates may be bound or pledged to a particular candidate based on the number of votes that candidate received in either the state's Presidential Primary or party caucuses.

The parties invite voters to participate in the precinct caucuses and require participants to sign an oath declaring their party affiliation. The caucus is a neighborhood-level meeting open to all members of a particular political party. The Washington Republican caucus will be held Saturday, February 20, 2016. The Washington Democratic caucus will be held Saturday, March 26, 2016. Voters can participate in the party caucuses and the Presidential Primary as long as they participate on behalf of the same party. In addition to selecting the delegates at the caucuses, participants will have the opportunity to determine the party's political stance and the party's resolutions and meet the candidates for a variety of local, state and national offices.

Rules

Each political party has the authority under both the United States Constitution and state law to adopt rules to select delegates as well as to adopt rules for other party activities that occur in conjunction with the caucuses and conventions. These party rules specify the number of delegates from each precinct that will attend either the county or legislative district convention, the number of delegates from each county or legislative district convention that will attend the state convention and the procedural rules for conducting the caucuses and conventions. The state committee of each party should provide a copy of its rules to the public before the caucuses are held.

Additional Information

Each of the parties generally release the dates and locations of all party caucuses and conventions in advance and the press covers them as well. Specific questions about procedures to nominate presidential candidates should be directed to the parties. The contact information for the two major political parties is:

Democratic Party

Skamania County Democratic Party

PO Box 122

Stevenson, WA 98648

Website: skamania.wa-democrats.net

Washington State Democratic Party
615 Second Avenue, Suite 580
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 583-0664
Email: info@wa-democrats.org
Website: wa-democrats.org

Republican Party

Skamania County Republican Party
PO Box 227
Stevenson, WA 98648
Website: skamaniarepublicans.org

Washington State Republican Party
11811 NE First Street, Suite A306
Bellevue, WA 98005
(425) 460-0570
Email: Kirby@wsrp.org
Website: wsrp.org

If you are interested in participating in the caucus process, contact your precinct committee officer or your party's state headquarters. You can begin by looking up your precinct number.

To determine your precinct number, follow this link and enter your name as it appears on your voter registration as well as your birth date:

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote/>

If you are unable to determine your precinct number, or if you have other questions about voting, please call the Elections Office at (509) 427-3732.