

Caucus FAQ

*** Not intended for wide distribution ***

What is a Caucus?

A caucus is a gathering of local political party members. At these meetings, the members discuss local and national political issues. During our caucuses, we will be deciding who the Democratic Party should nominate for President of the United States.

When will it be held?

Saturday, February 9th, 2008.

Why are we having a caucus?

The caucus gives Nebraska Democrats a voice in choosing who will get the Democratic Party's nomination for President of the United States. Nebraska could turn out to be a critical battleground between the candidates still competing after February 5 (Super Duper Tuesday). Perhaps most importantly, Nebraska Democrats – especially our candidates – will benefit from grassroots organizing in their neighborhood.

How does it work?

The participants will discuss amongst themselves the merits of each candidate, and then they will decide who to support. Each candidate will get a certain spot in the room, and their supporters will gather together there. Time can be allotted for representatives to speak on behalf of each candidate at the beginning of the caucus. After all representatives speak, each candidate's supporters will be counted, and any candidate that receives more than 15% of the vote will be considered viable. The supporters of any non-viable candidates will have to realign by supporting a different (and viable) candidate. Participants can also choose to be uncommitted.

Who can participate?

Any registered Democrat that lives in Nebraska can participate. If a person is not a registered Democrat, they can re-register as a Democrat at the caucus location. Independents and Republicans can watch at the Caucus Leader's discretion. As always, anyone that will be 18 by the General Election may participate after registering as a Democrat.

Where will the Caucus take place?

It will up to the individual county or legislative districts (LD) to decide the caucus locations. The caucus will be divided up by precinct (or LD). Some counties may choose to have multiple precincts and LDs in one location. Counties will try to hold caucuses in large buildings, such as gyms, community centers, and church basements. But, if none are available, homes, offices, and other locations may be used.

What if I can't make it to the caucus on Feb. 9th?

The main purpose of the caucus is to get people together to discuss candidates, but if you are unable to participate your county will provide an absentee ballot. To qualify for the ballot, he or she must meet one of the following requirements:

- homebound with disabilities or infirmed
- out of state due to active military service or as full-time student

Absentee voters must provide a written request to the County Chair before January 15, 2008 for an absentee ballot, and they also must be a resident in the precinct in which they wish to caucus. By voting absentee, they will give up the ability to realign during the caucus.

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