

MICHIGAN FIRST PRECINCT DELEGATES

- Overview -

WHAT IS A PRECINCT?

A precinct is **the smallest geopolitical unit** in the country.

Each township and city is divided into precincts. In all municipalities with multiple precincts, the local clerk has a precinct map.

Michigan has over 4,800 precincts, **each containing no more than 3,000 active registered voters.**

The U.S. Census takes place every decade, and shifts in population may require political redistricting: sometimes precinct lines have to be redrawn.

Every precinct has at least one precinct delegate seat, and many have more. The number of delegates allotted to each precinct is determined every two years by the chair of each county political party, based on vote totals per precinct in the last general November election for President or Secretary of State, to ensure equal apportionment.

WHAT IS A PRECINCT DELEGATE?

Precinct delegates are liaisons between their community and the county party they represent.

All registered voters qualify to be precinct delegates.

Precinct delegates are **elected in the August primary election**, in even years. They serve a **2-year term**, and there are no term limits. The county clerk is required to keep a record of all elected precinct delegates.

County political parties may vote at county conventions to elevate precinct delegates to fill vacant seats.

When precinct delegates move, they no longer represent the precinct they leave, but may be elected or elevated in their new precinct.

RESPONSIBILITIES

CONVENTIONS

The official role of a precinct delegate is to attend, participate in and vote at four county conventions during the 2-year term. Precinct delegates may be elected to serve on a party committee or attend up to three state conventions and one national convention.

County Conventions

- Elect county party leadership
- Elect state delegates to attend state conventions

State Conventions

- Elect state party leadership
- Nominate party candidates for:
 - Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State (statewide election years)
 - Presidential Electors (presidential election years)
 - Michigan Supreme Court - 2, Board of Education - 2, University Boards of WSU, UOM and MSU - 2 each (both statewide and presidential election years)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1. Bring awareness to political issues and actions taken by party leadership and elected officials
2. Promote party candidates
3. Encourage political action (voting, lobbying, attending events, etc.)

PARTY OUTREACH

1. Inform party leadership of important voter issues and concerns
2. Represent the precinct at party meetings and other political events

BECOME A PRECINCT DELEGATE: 1-2-3

STEP 1: Find your precinct.

Check your voter registration card to identify which municipality (city or township), ward (# - only in some large cities), and precinct (#) you reside in.

This information can also be found on the Secretary of State website: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>. Search by name or driver's license and date of birth.

STEP 2: Complete the Affidavit.

The Affidavit of Identity can be found on the Secretary of State website: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Aff-ID_Precnt_139901_7.pdf

Complete all fields on the affidavit, but hold signature.

Sign the affidavit in the presence of a notary. A notary can be found at most local banks.

Make a copy of the affidavit.

File the original copy with the county clerk: submit via mail or in-person. The filing deadline is listed at the top of the affidavit - per election law, the deadline is 4pm on the thirteenth Tuesday preceding the primary election.

IMPORTANT! Reduce the chances of having a contestant in your precinct, by submitting the affidavit just prior to the filing deadline. Also, don't forget to ask the clerk if any other affidavits have been filed by someone in your precinct!

Your name will be listed on the primary election ballot.

STEP 3: Campaign.

When there are more precinct delegate contestants than allotted seats in your precinct, put together a simple letter asking your neighbors for their vote in the upcoming primary election.

IMPORTANT! It is **ILLEGAL** for anyone other than the postal service to place letters in mailboxes! Hand deliver letters to your neighbors or tuck them into front doors. Distribute campaign literature approximately one week prior to the election, so your name is fresh in the voters' minds. Take this opportunity to promote other candidates on the ballot as well!

MY PRECINCT HAS A VACANT SEAT! MAY I FILL IT?

County political parties may hold a vote at county conventions to elevate precinct delegates to fill vacant seats.

If your precinct is vacant, notify your county party that you are interested in being elevated at the next county convention. A majority vote is required to approve elevation.

NOTE: *If there are no remaining conventions in the current 2-year term, it is better to wait until the next August primary election. In the meanwhile, nothing stops you from engaging in community outreach and getting to know the local county party!*



TIMELINE

Important dates and events in the 2-year term are listed below.

Activities that precinct delegates can work on year-round are no less important! Attend party committee meetings and other political events, build community awareness and engagement, lobby elected officials, vet and recruit candidates and stay informed!

NOTE: *The occurrence of certain conventions depends on whether the 2-year term overlaps a Presidential Election or a Statewide Election (specified in timeline). Special Elections that sometimes occur in odd years are not included.*

ELECTION YEAR (EVEN)

April

Deadline for each county party chair to submit precinct delegate apportionment for next 2-year term to County Clerk (on or before April 1): *Find out how many seats are available in your precinct.*

April Endorsement Conventions (Statewide Election Year)

County Endorsement Convention: *Elect State Delegates to attend State Endorsement Convention.*

State Endorsement Convention: *Endorse major state office candidates for Secretary of State, Attorney General, Supreme Court Justices (2), Board of Education (2), University Boards of WSU, UOM and MSU (2 each).*

Early May

Filing Deadline for Precinct Delegate Affidavit of Identity (4pm on the thirteenth Tuesday preceding the primary election): *Complete the Affidavit of Identity, have it notarized, and file it with the County Clerk just prior to the filing deadline.*

Spring Conventions (Presidential Election Year)

Spring County Convention (at least 90 days prior to party national convention): *Elect State Delegates to attend Spring State Convention.*

Spring State Convention (at least 60 days prior to party national convention): *Elect National Committeeman and Committeewoman (4-year term). Elect 3 delegates from each congressional district to attend the Republican National Convention.*

May thru July

Primary Election Campaign Season: *Campaign for your position, if necessary. Support and promote other party candidates on the ballot.*

August

Primary Election (Tuesday after the first Monday): *VOTE!*

Fall Nomination Conventions

Fall County Convention (8 - 25 days after primary election): *Elect State Delegates to attend Fall State Convention.*

Fall State Convention:

Statewide Election Year - Nominate major state office candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Supreme Court Justices (2), Board of Education (2), University Boards of WSU, UOM and MSU (2 each).

Presidential Election Year - Nominate Presidential Electors, Supreme Court Justices (2), Board of Education (2), University Boards of WSU, UOM and MSU (2 each).



Fall National Convention (Presidential Election Years)

Nominate President and Vice President of the United States.

September thru October

General Election Campaign Season: *Support and promote party candidates. Don't forget about non-partisan offices and ballot proposals!*

November

General Election (Tuesday after the first Monday): *VOTE!*

Post-Election County Convention (within 20 days following general election): *Elect members to serve on the County Executive Committee for the next 2-year term. Within 30 days following this convention, the Executive Committee will meet to elect the county party officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.*

ODD YEARS

Spring Conventions & Caucuses

Spring County Convention (not less than 7 days before following State Convention): *Elect State Delegates to attend District Caucus and Spring State Convention.*

District Caucus (just prior to State Convention): *Elect members to serve on the Congressional District Committee for the next 2 year term: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 6 State Committee Members and 15 Additional Members.*

Spring State Convention (not less than 37 days before the first Monday of April): *Elect party officers to the State Central Committee for a 2-year term: Chair / Co-Chair and 6 Vice Chairs*

