



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MESA COUNTY
P.O. Box 4252, Grand Junction, CO 81502

2008 Colorado Election Calendar and Fact Sheet

COLORADO PRECINCT CAUCUSES Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 7 p.m.

WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

A precinct caucus is a meeting of members of a political party to nominate candidates, write platforms and elect delegates to county-wide party conventions. Caucuses are held in homes, schools, churches or other gathering places convenient to a voter's home or residence. Today, however, most are held in larger facilities to ensure the meeting place to accessible to all.

While some states conduct presidential primary elections, other states, like Colorado, conduct precinct caucuses to voice their choice for a presidential candidate. The precinct caucuses are held by the Colorado Democrat and Republican political parties.

PRECINCT CAUCUSES WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008 AT 7 P.M.

WHO CAN ATTEND A CAUCUS?

Anyone who is a registered voter in the Democrat or Republican Party can attend and participate. Colorado does not allow unaffiliated (Independent) voters to participate in the caucus system. To participate, you must have registered to vote as a party member by December 5, 2007. There are two exceptions: if you turn 18 or become a US citizen during the two-months prior to the caucuses.

If you are not registered to vote, or if you registered as an independent, you will not be eligible to participate in a party caucus.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I AM REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Mesa County residents go to the Mesa County web site, www.mesacounty.us On the top tool bar go to County Departments >Clerk & Recorder >Elections >Am I Registered to Vote. Or phone 970-244-1714.

WHAT IS MY PRECINCT NUMBER? WHY DO I NEED ONE?

You need your precinct number to find the location of your precinct caucus. Basically, a precinct is a district or area designated by a city or county in which a voter lives and votes. There are over 3,500 precincts in Colorado. When you register to vote, you are sent a voter registration card. That card has a 10 digit number that lists your elected officials, your polling place and your precinct number. The precinct number is the last three numbers. County Clerk's website will also have your precinct information.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN A CAUCUS?

Just show up and check in. The first order of business is to elect a caucus chair and secretary. Agendas vary, but the main activities will be voting on a presidential candidate, electing delegates to the county-wide party meetings and considering resolutions. Other business usually includes the recruitment of volunteers for various party committees.

This year, most caucuses will conduct their presidential preference poll immediately after electing the chair and secretary. This will be done to meet press and media deadlines. Often, people are invited to speak on behalf of their favorite candidate before the vote is recorded. The final vote will be used to calculate how many delegates supporting a given candidate go on to the next level of meetings - the county-wide party convention. For the Democrats, in order to have delegates go to the county meeting, a candidate must have a viable group of supporters, which is defined as 15% of those voting. That is, a candidate must get 15% of the vote in order to be represented by delegates.

CAUCUS LOCATIONS

Mesa County Democrats: www.mesacountydems.com. Phone: 970-248-9224

Mesa County Republicans: www.mesacountyrepublicans.com. Phone: 970-243-8500

2008 ELECTION CALENDAR FOR MESA COUNTY

February 5 - Democratic and Republican Party Precinct Caucuses to elect delegates to party's county assembly and indicate presidential preference.

Feb. 23: Republican County Assembly

March 1: Democratic County Assembly

County assemblies nominate candidates for county offices, indicate preference for state offices, elect delegates to state convention, and indicate presidential preference.

May 17: Democratic State Convention

May 31: Republican State Convention

State conventions nominate candidates for state offices, US Senator, US Representatives, and select US convention delegates who are pledged to one or more candidates.

August 12: Primary Elections for county, state and US congressional candidates.

August 24: Democratic National Convention in Denver

September 1: Republican National Convention in Minneapolis

November 4: General Election

For more information:

Mesa County Democratic Party, Mary Beth Pyle, Chairman at Betzhomes@aol.com

Mesa County Republican Party, Gary Roahrig, Chairman at groahrig@bresnan.net

Sheila Reiner, Mesa County Elections Director, Sheila.Reiner@mesacounty.us

LWV of Mesa County, www.LWVMesa.org