

2016 Precinct Caucus Guide

*Support public schools and stand up for your students.
Participate in your precinct caucus March 1!*

At a precinct caucus, you can:

- Become a delegate to endorsing conventions for school board, state legislative offices and begin the process to become a delegate to your party's national convention.
- Elect local party leadership.
- Vote on who you want your party's candidate for president to be.
- Influence party platforms and promote pro-public education legislation.

Minnesota's major political parties—Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican—will hold precinct caucuses at 7 p.m. March 1.

What happens at the caucuses?

- **Presidential preference ballot.** Attendees will cast their votes on who they want their party's presidential candidate to be.
- **Election of delegates to endorsing conventions.** Each precinct elects delegates and alternates to party endorsing conventions. As a delegate, you vote on which candidate gets the party's endorsement.
- **Election of local party leadership.** Cast your vote for local party leaders.
- **Party platform resolutions.** You can submit and vote on resolutions that will become part of the party platform. Inside this flier, you will find resolutions Education Minnesota has drafted that you may present to your caucus for a vote.

Who can attend the caucuses?

Anyone can attend the precinct caucus as an observer. You can participate in a party's caucus if you are likely to support the party's candidates and will be eligible to vote Nov. 8.

Where will my caucus be held?

Caucus locations are available at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us. You may also contact the DFL at 651-293-1200 or www.dfl.org or the Republican Party at 651-222-0022 or www.mngop.com.

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*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.*



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

The AFT and NEA have endorsed Hillary Clinton for president!

Hillary stands with educators and our students



- She's committed to closing opportunity gaps and providing access to arts education, school nurses, librarians and counselors, regardless of ZIP code.
- She supports reducing the role of standardized testing in public education.
- She has a long history of fighting for Title I equity resources and for fully funding the federal portion of special education.
- She supports expanding grants so more students can graduate college without debt, and expanding programs to reduce existing student loan debt.
- She strongly opposes vouchers.

Prepared and paid for by Education Minnesota, 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103, in support of Hillary Clinton.



Show your support!

Precinct caucuses are community meetings—share why you back Hillary!

Use hashtags

Use hashtags.

- #Edmnvotes
- #MNwithHer

Follow and retweet

- @EducationMN
- @DeniseSpecht

Share a picture from your caucus!

Running for national delegate

Education Minnesota, the AFT and the NEA encourage our members to run to be national delegates.

If you are planning on running, please let us know and we can look into ways Education Minnesota and the national unions can provide on-the-ground support. There may be financial resources to help offset the costs of members attending national conventions as well.

Education Minnesota's recommended precinct caucus resolutions

Education Minnesota encourages members to take the following resolutions to the caucuses and move to get them approved. If passed, these resolutions will help shape the platforms of Minnesota's political parties. Also listed are talking points members can use to help get the resolutions passed.

Support for early learners:

I move the party support proposals to increase access to quality early childhood programs taught by licensed professionals by providing more early childhood and family education classes and universal, school-based preschool for all children.

Talking points

- All children deserve equal access to high-quality early childhood education.
- Universal pre-K will save working families thousands of dollars in fees and childcare costs.
- School-based preschool allows for curriculum to be aligned between pre-K and kindergarten.

Support for teacher recruitment and retention:

I move the party support legislation that will help school districts recruit and retain the highest quality educators, including equitably funding the Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE) law, expanding mentoring programs and making health insurance for educators and their families more affordable.

Talking points

- Many districts and licensure areas are already experiencing teacher shortages, and data shows a wave of retirements in the coming years. It is critical that talented young people see teaching as a career to aspire to, and that teachers who are new to the profession, in particular teachers of color, stay in the profession.
- Surveys show that many educators leave the profession because they do not receive the mentoring and support they feel they need to be successful. Funding the 2011 TDE law equitably across the state, and expanding mentoring programs, will help ensure educators have the skills and support they need.

Support for those with student loan debt:

I move the party support legislation that aims to reduce Minnesotans' student loan debt. Student loan debt impacts almost 1 million Minnesotans and their families, and reduces people's opportunities. It hurts our state and local economies by forcing people to delay things like starting a family, starting a business or purchasing a car or home. Minnesota has the fifth-highest average student loan debt in the nation, and as a state we must do more for our students.

Talking points

- Proposed legislation to notify Minnesotans about loan forgiveness programs, expand state refinancing options and provide tax credits for student loan payments would all be good starting points toward easing the burden of student loan debt.
- Reducing the cost of college is critical to stop the creation of future generations of Minnesotans heavily burdened by debt.

Support for an effective testing system:

I move the party support a reduction in the burden of standardized testing through the use of fewer, better tests and contracts with testing vendors that hold them accountable to the public and students.

Talking points

- Tests should accurately reflect what students are learning and give educators timely and meaningful feedback.
- Testing vendors should be transparent and accountable. To the extent there are glitches or problems that impact student learning and class time, districts and the state should be compensated.

Resolutions continued on back page

Resolutions continued

Invest in higher education:

I move the party support sufficient state funding for Minnesota's public college and universities so they can hold the line on tuition and invest in instructors and facilities so they can train our next generation of workers.

Talking points

- To meet the rising costs of higher education and to stop the unsustainable accumulation of student loan debt, the Legislature should provide significant funding to meet the needs of 21st Century college students. Nationally, student loan debt exceeds \$1.4 trillion, and has surpassed total credit card debt.
- Minnesota businesses thrive – in part – because of a well-trained and well-educated workforce. Investments made now to higher education will pay off for decades. We must provide significant base funding increases for public education institutions each year of the biennium.
- Making public higher education affordable for all citizens through financial aid, grants, loans and tax credits is a quality-of-life issue. Investments in public higher education are investments in the future of Minnesota.

Support for strong unions and a strong state:

I move the party support public service workers who make our children smarter, our families healthier and our communities safer through the right to join a union by denouncing the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association Supreme Court case.

Talking points

- The Friedrichs case is about wealthy special interests trying to make it harder for public workers to come together and speak up for better schools, better patient care and safer neighborhoods.
- This case is really about politics. Corporate interests not only want to reduce pay and benefits for working people, they are advancing cases like this and Citizens United, so they can have more power in the political process. Weakening the voice of unions and working families makes it easier to for a handful of billionaires to elect candidates and write laws to their own benefit.

Join us at the Capitol and make your voice heard!

The 2016 legislative session starts just one week after precinct caucuses. It will be a short session — just 10 weeks. That means it is critical we have educators at the Capitol every day sharing their stories and pushing for legislation to support our students. Here is how you can get involved:

- **Participate in a lobby day with your local:** Come meet with your legislators face-to-face at one of our lobby days. You and a group from your local will arrive in the morning for breakfast and training, spend time meeting and discussing the issues with your legislators and attend a committee or floor session. Ask your local president if you have a lobby day scheduled. If you don't, help start one!
- **If not a lobby day, meet with your legislator at home in the district:** For some locals, the travel time to St. Paul or lack of local union days makes it hard to have a lobby day. That shouldn't stop you from meeting your legislators! Education Minnesota can help your local have a "Pizza and Politics" or "Eggs and Issues" session where you and a group connect with your elected officials in your community.
- **Stay in touch by reading the Capitol Connection:** The Capitol Connection is our weekly email update with important information on what's happening at the Capitol. Email webmaster@edmn.org to sign up to receive it every Monday.