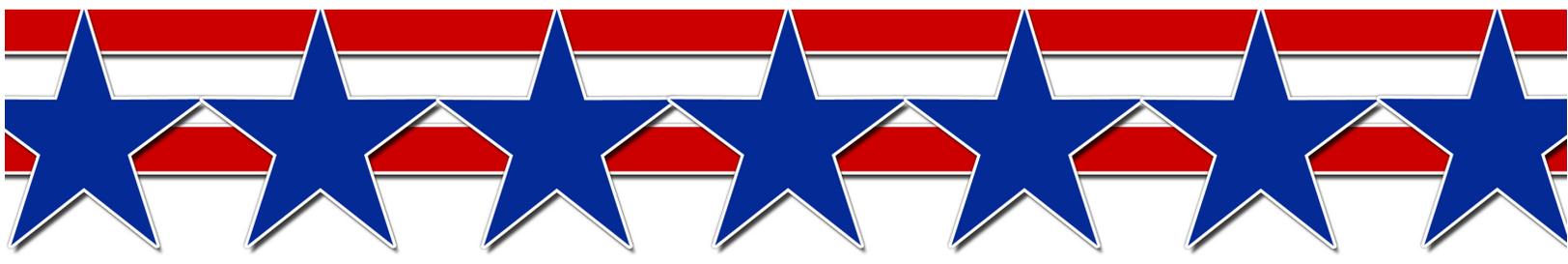


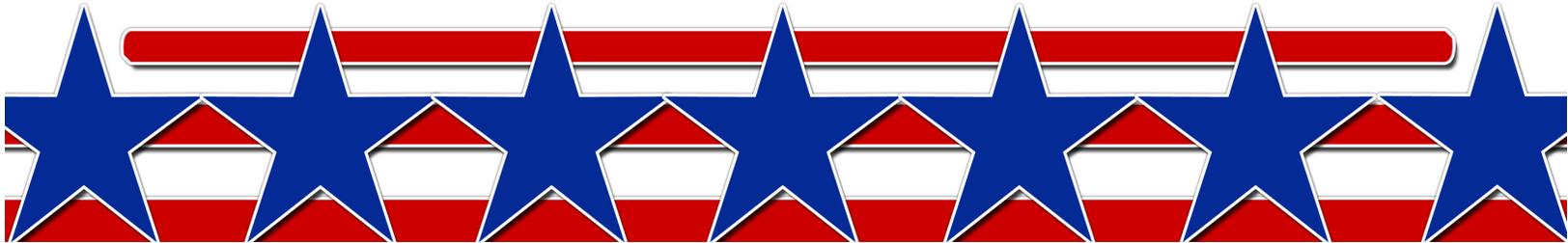
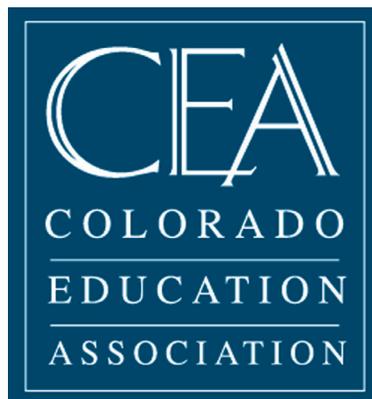
THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU IF YOU'RE NOT THERE.



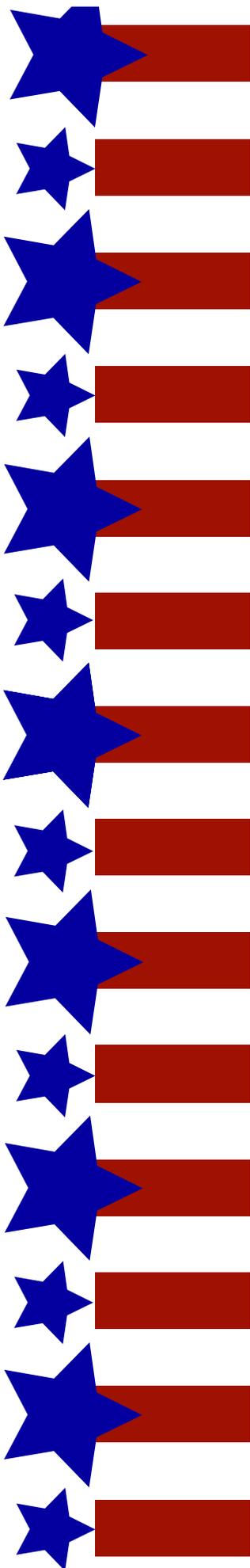
# 2020 COLORADO PRECINCT CAUCUS GUIDE

If you are a registered Republican or Democratic voter, don't stay home on **Saturday, March 7**.

Go to your neighborhood precinct caucus and stand up for children and public education. You will help shape the future of our public schools.



[WWW.COLORADOEA.ORG](http://WWW.COLORADOEA.ORG)



## WHY CAUCUS?

It is critical that public education employees participate in political party caucuses. Education is among the top issues in every public poll, even when jobs and the economy are the most important to the voters. The candidates nominated for elected office by the people who attend caucuses are the same politicians who will affect your life as an education employee.

Elected officials -- from the Governor to the Legislature and the State Board of Education, even Congress and the President -- make decisions that affect every aspect of public education: school funding, content standard and student assessment, discipline and school safety, school governance, curriculum, your employment and retirement, fair dismissal, licensing, and much more.

By attending caucus, you will have a say in who is nominated, which is especially important when there are multiple candidates vying for the same office. Besides, participating in America's political process is one of the best ways you can model good citizenship for your students.

**There's one more good reason to attend your precinct caucus. We want to elect EDUCATORS as delegates to your county and state party assemblies. If you're there, you can vote for yourself or another educator.**

This guide will introduce you to the Colorado precinct caucus system so you can participate more effectively, with a better understanding of our state's political process.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR CAUCUS THIS YEAR?

AT CAUCUS, ATTENDEES WILL NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE, DISCUSS CRITICAL BALLOT ISSUES AND VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS THAT BECOME CORE VALUES FOR EACH POLITICAL PARTY. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT WHERE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR THE SAME OFFICE. STRONG SUPPORT FOR ONE CANDIDATE CAN KEEP OTHER CANDIDATES OFF THE BALLOT OR FORCE THEM TO USE THE PETITION PROCESS TO GET THEIR NAME ADDED.



### U.S. CONGRESS

All seven of Colorado's U.S. House of Representatives seats have an election every two years, including 2020. The Democratic Party will also have a Primary for U.S. Senate this year.



### STATE LEGISLATURE

All the Colorado House and half the Colorado Senate will be up for election in November 2020. Some legislators are term-limited and cannot run again, leaving open seats, and others are running for re-election. Many seats have potential primary races. Supporting candidates at caucus that align with educators' values is important.



### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our Association recommends candidates for the State Board of Education because that body makes dozens of decisions about public education that are implemented in the classrooms of Colorado.



### BALLOT ISSUES

We expect several statewide ballot issues this year, as well as possible local school district mill levy and bond elections.

## WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

A precinct is the basic neighborhood political unit in Colorado politics. It is a geographical area containing up to 1,000 registered voters who share a common voting place. There are about 3,000 precincts in the state.

The word caucus is derived from an Indian word meaning “chief” or “elder.” It was first used by John Adams when he recorded that the Caucus Club met in John Davies’ garret so a few individuals could organize themselves to promote certain candidates of their liking. Today, the caucus is a meeting of the qualified voters of a political party held in a neighborhood. Colorado election law requires that each major political party hold a caucus meeting in each precinct in the state.

The precinct caucus is the grassroots level of Colorado’s political process. It is the first step in choosing candidates for public office. It offers an opportunity for an organized group like public education employees to: elect education employees to be delegates to their parties’ county, Congressional, and state assemblies; influence the selection of pro-education candidates for the State Legislature, State Board of Education, and Congress; guarantee that the political parties hear what education employees have to say about important education issues, such as public education funding.

# OFF TO THE CAUCUS!

## WHO?

Anyone may attend a caucus, but only qualified voters may participate and vote. To qualify, a person must have resided in the precinct for 22 days, registered to vote no later than 22 days before the caucus and be affiliated with a political party at least 22 days before the caucus (February 14, 2020). There is no proxy or absentee voting at a caucus.



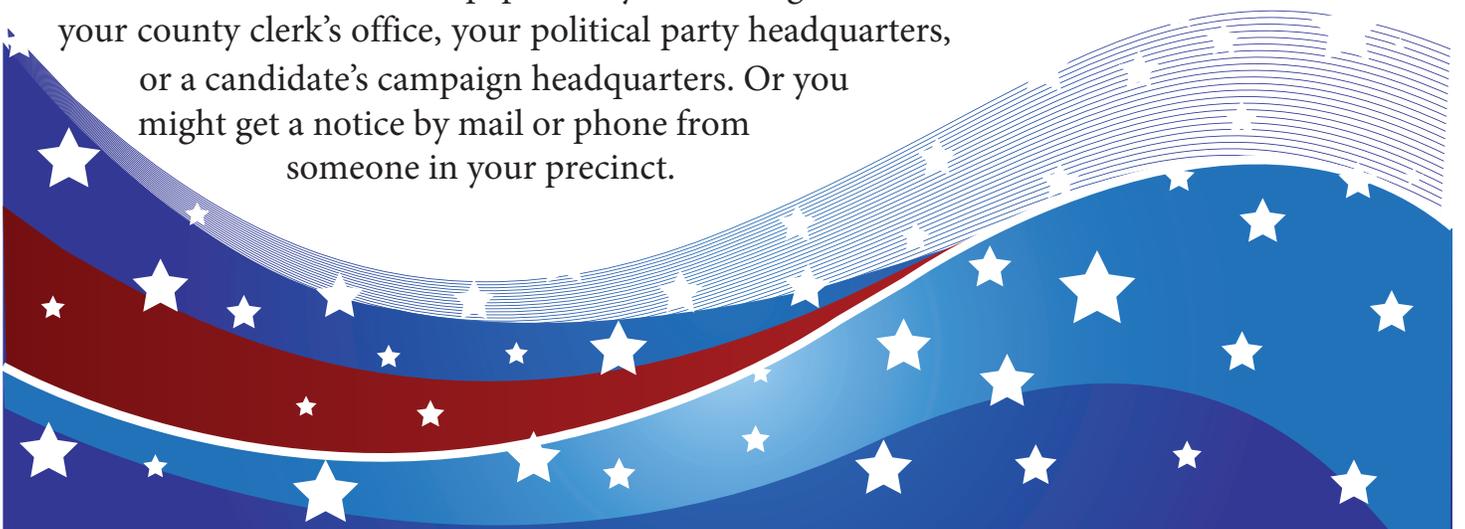
## WHEN?

This year, precinct caucuses will be held on **Saturday, March 7**. Political parties will determine start times for locations and most last about an hour unless there are a lot of people there, and then it could take a couple of hours.

## WHERE?

The precinct caucus is usually held in a well-known facility in the precinct, e.g., at a nearby school, library, or recreation center or in someone's home. Colorado election laws provide that the caucus place must be designated by a sign posted outside the location so that it is visible from the street at least 12 days before the caucus date. Information about the locations of caucus meetings can be found in the local newspaper or by contacting

your county clerk's office, your political party headquarters, or a candidate's campaign headquarters. Or you might get a notice by mail or phone from someone in your precinct.



## THE CAUCUS ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

Electing a chairperson and secretary to help run the caucus (anyone can volunteer)

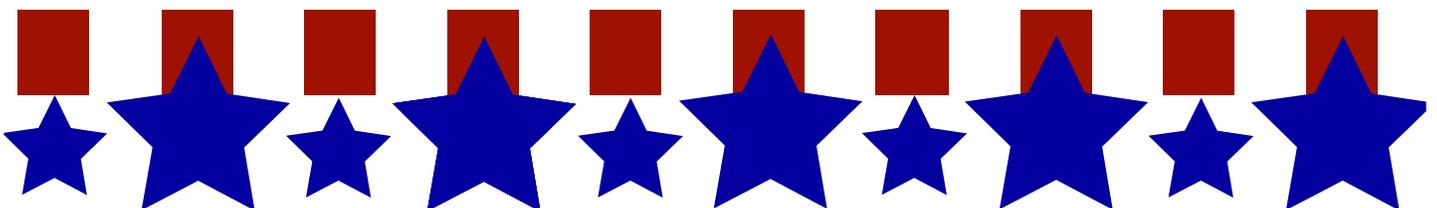
Electing precinct committee people: The committee people are the leaders of the political neighborhood. They serve on the county central committee of their party as representatives of their precinct and they coordinate the precinct by getting their neighbors to come to the caucus, donate money to the party and to candidates, and go to vote on Primary and General Election Days.

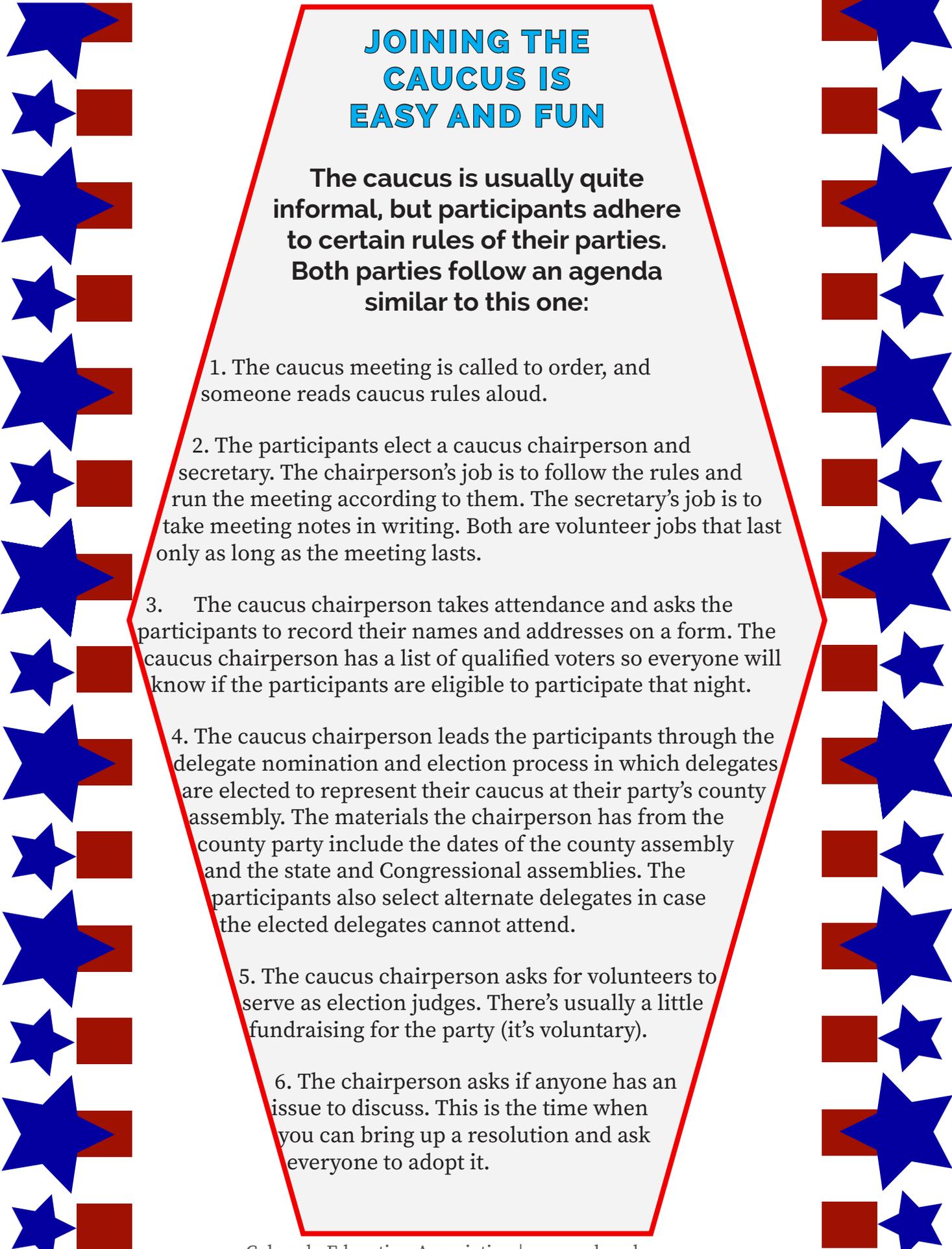
Electing delegates to the county assembly: The number of delegates elected in each precinct is determined by the county party's central committee. Each party has rules that may require delegates to commit to their favorite candidate. Voters who attend their precinct caucus have the opportunity to be elected to their county assembly, held this year by early April. Delegates to the county assembly have the opportunity to be elected to their Congressional District and State Assembly in April. Ultimately, it is through these delegate elections that the party's nominees are selected to run for seats in Congress, the Legislature, statewide offices, the State Board of Education, and other government bodies such as county commissions.

Recruiting election judges to work at the polls on Election Day: These volunteers serve as election judges on Election Day. They tabulate the vote in their precinct and deliver it to the county clerk's office that night after the polls close. They check voter registration records and make sure the voting proceeds according to the law.

Adopting resolutions to present to the county party central committee for inclusion in the party's body of belief statements about various issues: The caucus is the first step in adopting resolutions. If the caucus participants are interested in having their ideas submitted to their party, there will be a short discussion of issues. Anyone can propose a resolution, and it's a good idea to have written copies for others at your caucus. The participants will vote on the resolutions and the caucus chairperson will give the adopted ones to the county party.

CEA members are encouraged to introduce resolutions on public education funding and other issues that are important to education employees. See several sample resolutions at the end of this guide.





## JOINING THE CAUCUS IS EASY AND FUN

**The caucus is usually quite informal, but participants adhere to certain rules of their parties. Both parties follow an agenda similar to this one:**

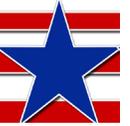
1. The caucus meeting is called to order, and someone reads caucus rules aloud.
2. The participants elect a caucus chairperson and secretary. The chairperson's job is to follow the rules and run the meeting according to them. The secretary's job is to take meeting notes in writing. Both are volunteer jobs that last only as long as the meeting lasts.
3. The caucus chairperson takes attendance and asks the participants to record their names and addresses on a form. The caucus chairperson has a list of qualified voters so everyone will know if the participants are eligible to participate that night.
4. The caucus chairperson leads the participants through the delegate nomination and election process in which delegates are elected to represent their caucus at their party's county assembly. The materials the chairperson has from the county party include the dates of the county assembly and the state and Congressional assemblies. The participants also select alternate delegates in case the elected delegates cannot attend.
5. The caucus chairperson asks for volunteers to serve as election judges. There's usually a little fundraising for the party (it's voluntary).
6. The chairperson asks if anyone has an issue to discuss. This is the time when you can bring up a resolution and ask everyone to adopt it.

# WANT TO REPRESENT OUR STATE AS A PARTY DELEGATE?

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO TRY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ELECTED AS A DELEGATE TO YOUR PARTY'S COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND BEYOND TO THE STATE ASSEMBLY.



Find out where your caucus is being held. Contact your political party for information on precinct caucus locations and start times: [www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Candidates/PoliticalPartyDirectory.html](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Candidates/PoliticalPartyDirectory.html)



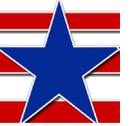
Get a list from your county party office of the registered voters who live in your precinct. Call them and ask them to come to the caucus and vote for you.



Find out from your county party what the rules are for electing delegates to the county assembly.



Learn the rules so you will know how to get elected.



Show up early at your precinct caucus. Some precincts have no leader; the first one there often volunteers to be elected as caucus chairperson. If you know what the rules are and are good at getting other people to participate, you could get elected chairperson AND delegate.



**FOR DEMOCRATS:**  
If you cannot attend caucus, but still want to serve as a delegate, complete a "Statement of Candidacy" form and turn it in by 5:00pm on March 23, 2020. This form is available on the Colorado Democratic Party website under "Be a Delegate"

# 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TIMELINE

<b>MARCH 7</b>	Democratic Party and Republican Party Precinct Caucuses
<b>APRIL 1</b>	Last day for both the County Republican and Democratic Assemblies
<b>APRIL 18</b>	Last day for both Republican and Democratic State Assemblies
<b>JUNE 1</b>	Last day for voters to withdraw/change party affiliation for the Primary
<b>JUNE 8</b>	First day County Clerks may mail Primary ballots to voters
<b>JUNE 22</b>	Last day to apply for a Primary mail-in ballot and have it mailed to you
<b>JUNE 22-30</b>	Period for ballot drop-off locations for Primary Election
<b>JUNE 30</b>	Primary Election Day. Ballots due by 7 p.m.
<b>OCT 9</b>	First day County Clerks may mail General Election ballots to voters
<b>OCT 19 – NOV 3</b>	Period for ballot drop-off locations for General Election
<b>OCT 26</b>	Last day to apply for a General Election mail-in ballot and have it mailed to you
<b>NOV 3</b>	General Election Day. Ballots due by 7 p.m.

## PRECINCT CAUCUS CONTACT INFORMATION

**TO FIND OUT WHERE YOUR PRECINCT CAUCUS WILL BE HELD, CALL ONE OF THESE NUMBERS AND BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE YOUR STREET ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE:**



### Colorado Secretary of State

1700 Broadway

Denver, Colorado 80290

303-894-2200

Website: [sos.state.co.us//pubs/elections/Candidates/PoliticalPartyDirectory.html](https://sos.state.co.us//pubs/elections/Candidates/PoliticalPartyDirectory.html)



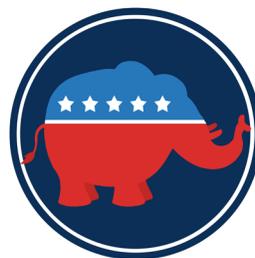
### Colorado Democratic Party

789 Sherman Street, Suite 110

Denver, Colorado 80203

303-623-4762

Website: [coloradodems.org](http://coloradodems.org)



### Colorado Republican Party

5950 South Willow Drive, Suite 210

Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

303-758-3333

Website: [cologop.org](http://cologop.org)

## SUGGESTED CAUCUS RESOLUTIONS

<p><b>Living Professional Wage</b></p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of _____ County supports living wages for all educators, including at least \$40,000 for salaried educators and at least \$15 per hour for education support professionals.</p>
<p><b>Fair Tax Structure for Better K-12 Funding</b></p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of _____ County supports improving state funding of public education through equitable changes to our tax system.</p>
<p><b>Student-Centered Curriculum</b></p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of _____ County supports a curriculum that is engaging, culturally relevant, and challenging. Schools offer a robust selection of classes and after-school programs in the arts, languages, and ethnic studies, as well as Advanced Placement (AP), honors courses, services for English Language Learners and special education students, GED preparation programs, and job training programs. Having culturally relevant and challenging programs are critical to engaging students.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation System</b></p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of _____ County supports changing the evaluation system of educators who have been identified as "effective" or "highly effective" to once every 3 years.</p>



**Colorado Education Association**

1500 Grant Street Denver, Colorado 80203

303-837-1500 800-332-5939 coloradoea.org