

Washington State Democrats

2016 Caucus and Convention Cycle Guide



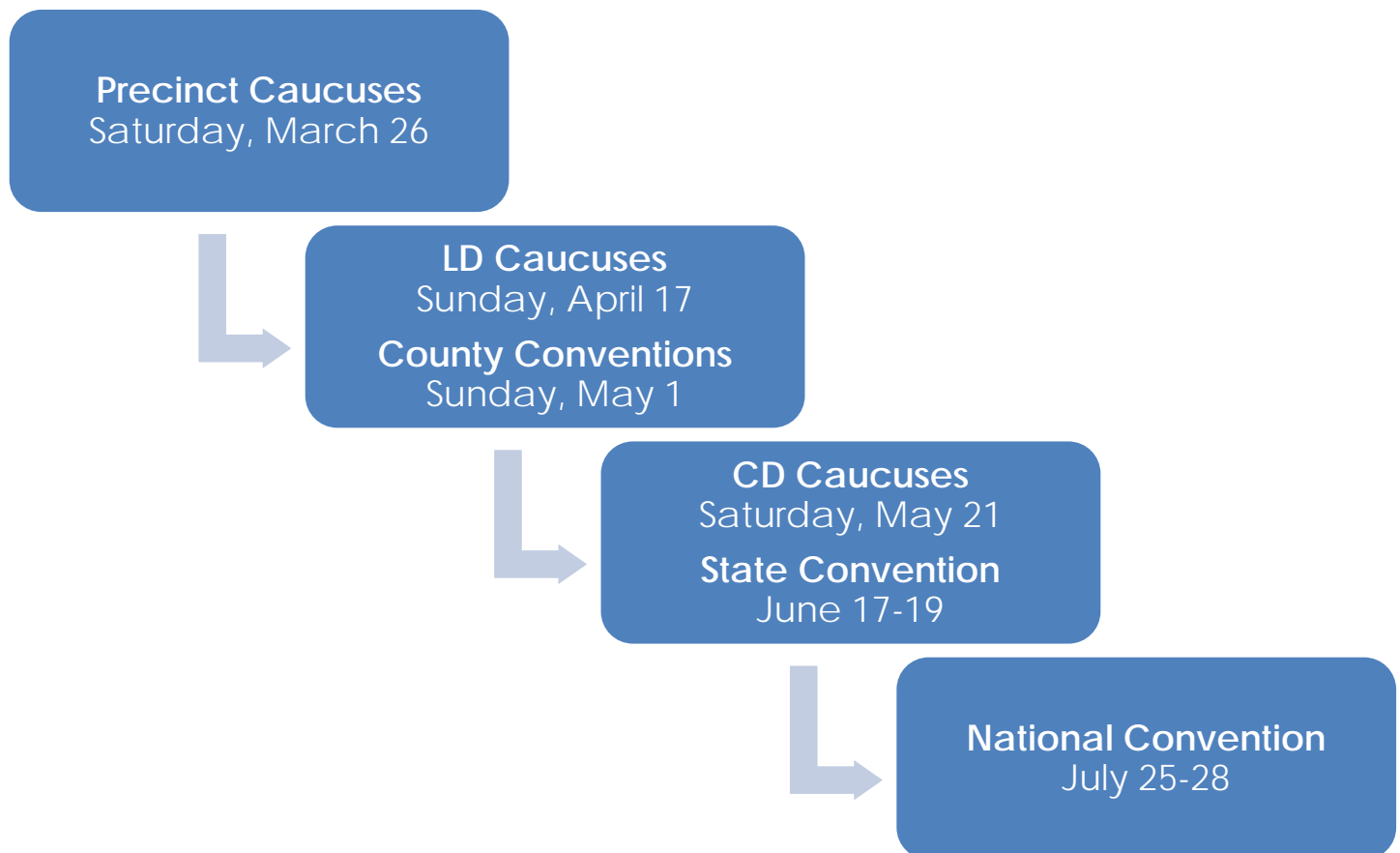
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General Overview

The procedure used by the Washington State Democratic Party for electing delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention is established by the Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan (DSAAP), which was passed by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee on April 18, 2015 and approved by the Democratic National Committee on September 11, 2015. The process of selecting national delegates has four steps:

- 1. Precinct Caucuses** Saturday, March 26, 2016 beginning at 10:00 am
- 2. Legislative District Caucuses
County Conventions** Sunday, April 17, 2016 beginning at 1:00 pm
Sunday, May 1, 2016 beginning at 1:00 pm
- 3. Congressional District Caucuses
State Convention** Saturday, May 21, 2016 time to be determined
Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19, 2016
- 4. National Convention** Monday, July 25 through Thursday, July 28, 2016

You do not need to be elected as a delegate or alternate at a prior level to run as a delegate or alternate at the next level of the process. However, only delegates and alternates seated to replace absent delegates are allowed to cast votes at each level of the delegate selection process.



Precinct Caucuses

The first step of the caucus and convention cycle is the Precinct Caucuses.

- When:** Washington State's Democratic Presidential precinct caucuses will occur on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 10:00 am.
- What:** The precinct caucuses are your chance to help select the Democratic Presidential nominee. Voters support their candidate of choice, with each candidate being awarded the proportion of delegates that corresponds with their percentage of support.
- Who:** Anybody can participate, although voting is limited to registered voters who consider themselves Democrats and to persons seventeen years of age who will be eligible to vote on or before November 8, 2016. Those who wish to participate but who are not currently registered to vote may register to vote at the caucus and then participate on the same day. You must also publicly declare your Democratic Party preference and have that preference publicly recorded.
- Where:** The easiest way to find out which precinct you live in and where your local caucus will be held is to check the State Party's website at <http://www.wa-democrats.org>. This information will be posted in the Spring of 2016 as precinct caucus locations are determined.

The principal business of the precinct caucuses will be the election of delegates and alternates to legislative district caucuses. These individuals will also serve as delegates and alternates to county conventions. Below are some guidelines for participation in the precinct caucus:

- Washington State residents who are not qualified to register to vote because of age or citizenship will be allowed to participate in any discussion of resolutions, but not vote on the election of delegates or alternates, nor may they be elected as delegates or alternates.
- Proxy voting is not permitted at Precinct Caucuses. However, those who are unable to attend due to religious observance, military service, disability, illness or work schedule may submit a "surrogate affidavit" form prior to the Precinct Caucus. Official surrogate affidavit forms may be downloaded from the State Party website (www.wa-democrats.org) starting in early 2016, or acquired in person from State Party office located at 615 – 2nd Ave. #580, Seattle, WA 98103. Surrogate affidavit forms must be received by the State Party no later than Friday, March 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Other Steps in the Caucus and Convention Cycle

Precinct caucuses are how most people register their presidential preference. However, for those people who are elected delegates or alternates at their precinct caucus, and especially for those people who want to be elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA, the Caucus and Convention Cycle continues after the March 26th meeting.

Legislative District (LD) Caucuses (only held some regions of the state)

In those regions that choose to hold legislative district caucuses, delegates and alternates elected at the precinct caucuses are expected to attend a legislative district caucus on Sunday, April 17th. The legislative district caucuses will elect delegates and alternates to the congressional district caucuses and to the State Convention. Legislative district caucuses may also adopt platforms

County Conventions

Delegates and alternates elected at the precinct caucuses also serve as delegates and alternates to county conventions on Sunday, May 1st. County conventions will address resolutions and might adopt a platform. **In those regions that did not hold legislative district caucuses, delegates to the congressional district caucuses and the State Convention will be elected at county conventions.**

Congressional District (CD) Caucuses

Delegates and alternates elected at the legislative district caucuses are expected to attend a congressional district caucus on Saturday, May 21st. The congressional district caucuses will elect 67 delegates to the National Convention. Each congressional district caucus will also elect one presidential elector and one alternate.

State Convention

Delegates and alternates elected at the legislative district caucuses also serve as delegates and alternates to State Convention, which will be held from Friday, June 17th through Sunday, June 19th in Tacoma. The State Convention will elect presidential electors, adopt a state party platform, and address resolutions. In addition, those members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee who represent Legislative Districts will meet on Sunday, June 19th to elect 12 Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegates (PLEOs), 22 delegates and 8 alternates to the National Convention.

National Convention

Delegates and alternates elected at the congressional district caucuses and the State Convention will attend the 2016 National Convention, which will be held from July 25th to July 28th in Philadelphia, PA. The National Convention will nominate the Democratic candidates for President and Vice-President, and adopt a platform.

Delegate Selection

The following charts provide a breakdown of Washington's 119 delegates and 8 alternates to the Democratic National Convention.

Type	Delegates	Alternates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirement and Deadlines
Congressional District-Level Delegates	67	0	Saturday, May 21, 2016	Selected at the Congressional District Caucuses
				Statement of candidacy due to the State Democratic Chair by Friday, May 6, 2016 at 5:00 pm.
Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates	17	0	N/A	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule III.B.1. of the 2016 Delegate Selection Rules.
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	12	0	Sunday, June 19, 2016	Selected by State Central Committee Members from LDs
				Statement of candidacy due to the State Democratic Chair by Friday, June 10, 2016 at 5:00 pm.
At-Large Delegates and Alternates	22	8	Sunday, June 19, 2016	Selected by State Central Committee Members from LDs
				Statement of candidacy due to the State Democratic Chair by Friday, June 10, 2016 at 5:00 pm.
Total	118	8		

Distribution of Congressional District-Level Delegates by CD and Gender								
CD	Women	Men	Total		CD	Women	Men	Total
1 st	4	3	7		6 th	3	4	7
2 nd	3	4	7		7 th	6	6	12
3 rd	3	3	6		8 th	3	3	6
4 th	2	2	4		9 th	4	3	7
5 th	3	2	5		10 th	3	3	6

Calendar of Events

Date	Activity
Monday, March 14, 2016	District Level Delegate, Pledged PLEO and At-Large Delegate and Alternate Statement of Candidacy forms available from the State Party office.
Friday, March 18, 2016 5:00 pm	Deadline to submit "Surrogate Affidavit" forms to the State Party
Saturday, March 26, 2016 10:00 am	Precinct Caucuses
Sunday, April 17, 2016 1:00 pm	Legislative District Caucuses
Sunday, May 1, 2016 1:00 pm	County Conventions
Friday, May 6, 2016 5:00 pm	Congressional District-Level Delegate and Alternate Statement of Candidacy forms due at the State Party office.
Saturday, May 21, 2016 Time to be set	Congressional District Caucuses
Friday, June 10, 2016 5:00 pm	Pledged PLEO and At-Large Delegate or Alternate candidate deadline for filing the Statement of Candidacy and Pledge of Support forms with State Party.
June 17-19, 2016 9:00 am	State Convention Tacoma, Washington
July 25-28, 2016	Democratic National Convention Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do the Washington State Democrats use a caucus system rather than a primary system to allot delegates?

The Washington State Democrats have a long history of allocating delegates using precinct caucuses. The Washington State Democrats believe that caucuses – meetings where voters sit down with their neighbors and discuss the various candidates prior to casting their votes – encourage greater participation and involvement than simply casting a ballot from one’s home. In addition, by holding caucuses on March 26th, Washington was able to join into a “regional cluster” with Hawaii and Alaska, which grants a 15% bonus to our total number of delegates.

2. Who can attend and vote in the precinct caucuses?

Anybody can attend the precinct caucuses to participate in platform and resolution discussions. To be able to vote for candidates and delegates, one must attend the caucus, be a registered voter in the precinct, and sign a form declaring him or herself to be a Democrat. Persons seventeen years of age at the time of the precinct caucus but who will be eighteen years of age on or before November 8, 2016, are eligible to vote in the caucuses. Those who wish to participate but who are not currently registered to vote may register to vote at the caucus and then participate on the same day.

3. What if I am unable to attend the precinct caucuses?

The Washington State Democrats’ Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan allows anyone who cannot attend the caucuses for one of a number of defined reasons will be allowed to submit a “surrogate affidavit”, allowing them to cast their vote remotely. Those reasons are:

- Religious observance
- Military service
- Work schedule
- Disability or illness

Surrogate Affidavit from the State Party. Forms may be downloaded from the State Party website (www.wa-democrats.org) starting in early 2016, or requested in person from State Party Headquarters at 615 - 2nd Ave., #580, Seattle, WA 98104. Forms must be received by the State Party on or before March 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. The State Party will forward completed surrogate affidavit forms to the proper local party organization prior to the Sunday, March 26, 2016 precinct caucuses.

4. How do I become a delegate to the Democratic National Convention?

There are two possibilities for you to become a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Pennsylvania, PA. First, you can be elected a delegate at your congressional district caucus on Saturday, May 20, 2016. 67 delegates will be elected at these caucuses. To be considered, you must submit a statement of candidacy to the State Democratic Party before Friday, May 14, 2016 at 5:00pm.

Your second opportunity to become a delegate to the Democratic National Convention is to be elected the day after the State Convention in Tacoma on Sunday, June 19, 2016 by the members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee representing legislative districts. 22 delegates and 8 alternates will be selected on this date. To be considered, you must submit a statement of candidacy to the State Democratic Party before Friday, June 10, 2016 at 5:00pm.

5. What is a Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Official (PLEO)?

PLEOs include big city mayors, state-wide elected officials, state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. If you hold one of these positions then you are eligible to run as a PLEO on June 19, 2016.

6. How are PLEOs and at-Large delegates and alternates selected?

The 12 PLEOs, 19 at-large delegates and 7 at-large alternates will be elected on Sunday, June 19, 2016, the day after the State Convention. They will be elected by members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee who represent legislative districts.

7. How many delegates does Washington send to the Democratic National Convention?

Washington State will send a total of 119 delegates to the Convention. 101 of the delegates are chosen through the caucus and convention process and 18 are unpledged party leaders and elected officials.

8. Are members of the press allowed to bring television cameras to the caucuses?

Absolutely. Be sure to contact the Chair of the local party organization hosting the caucus or convention first. Their contact information is listed on the state party web site at www.wa-democrats.org. Make sure that you arrive early to talk with the caucus chair before the caucuses begin.