

# 2024 Precinct Caucus Guide

Support public schools and stand up for your students.

Participate in your precinct caucus Feb. 27!

## At a precinct caucus, you can:

- Become a delegate to endorsing conventions for school board, state legislative offices and the state convention, where each party's candidate for governor will be chosen.
- Elect local party leadership.
- Influence party platforms and promote pro-public education and pro-union legislation.

Minnesota's major political parties—Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican—will hold precinct caucuses at 7 p.m. Feb. 27.

## What happens at the caucuses?

- 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. Education Minnesota has drafted resolutions on education and union issues that you may present to your caucus for a vote. See more on the following pages.

## 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. 5.

## Where will my caucus be held?

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

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[www.educationminnesota.org](https://www.educationminnesota.org)

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.  4448



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

## 2024 precinct caucus resolutions

### Improving teacher pensions

Whereas, the vast majority of current teachers have less retirement flexibility than teachers in the past and teachers in surrounding states; and

Whereas, public pensions are the quintessential tool to recruit and retain workers in otherwise challenging and rewarding public careers; and

Whereas, nine out of 10 schools in Minnesota are significantly affected by the teacher shortage, which harms students of color, students with disabilities and students from rural areas the most; and

Whereas, workers should be rewarded with a pension that they can draw when they need to without losing a significant amount to early retirement penalties; and

Whereas, Minnesota teachers already contribute more out of their paycheck than past teachers and teachers in many states; and

Be it resolved that the state of Minnesota should invest in teacher pensions to improve the workers' benefit, lowering penalties and increasing flexibility for retirement, while also fully funding all public pensions so workers can count on a sustainable retirement benefit for generations.

### Improving educator pay

Whereas, Minnesota teachers in E-12 schools make 28% less on average compared to other workers in Minnesota with the same education level; and

Whereas, hourly school workers only make minimum wage in many areas and often don't make enough to cover their health insurance costs; and

Whereas, nine out of 10 schools in Minnesota are significantly affected by the educator shortage, which harms students of color, students with disabilities and students from rural areas the most; and

Whereas, having fully staffed public schools with high-quality, consistent, loving adults is vital to student success; and

Be it resolved that the state of Minnesota should make direct investments in the compensation of its educators including a starting wage of \$60,000 for teachers, a minimum wage for hourly workers of \$25 an hour and higher compensation for faculty in the state's colleges and universities including higher wages and dependent tuition waivers.

### Affordable health care for educators

Whereas, health insurance costs for educators have soared in the past decade, much like all Minnesotans; and

Whereas, in many areas of the state, insurance costs are rising faster than negotiated salary and wage increases; and

Whereas, many educators who leave the classroom cite health care costs as a reason to change industries, which inflames the already vast educator shortage in Minnesota;

Whereas, public insurance programs for educators are limited; and

Be is resolved that Minnesota must provide affordable, reliable health insurance to educators by strengthening the Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) and supporting policies that make health insurance more affordable for all Minnesotans.

## **Fully fund public education**

Whereas, public schools in Minnesota have been underfunded since at least 2003; and

Whereas, Minnesota has one of the largest racial opportunity gaps in the nation; and

Whereas, all Minnesota students are in desperate need of more school social workers, nurses, counselors, psychologists and other support staff; and

Whereas, too many students are trying to learn in overcrowded classrooms; and

Whereas, Minnesota has an educator shortage because of low pay and poor working conditions; and

Whereas, the incredible investment in education from the 2023 Legislature only cut increased costs in education by a third; and

Be it resolved that political leaders in Minnesota find the courage and the political will to raise taxes on the wealthiest 1 percent and largest corporations and fully fund Minnesota's public schools.

## **Higher education**

Whereas, it is estimated that 65% of all jobs require some post-secondary education; and

Whereas, the state of Minnesota is facing a workforce shortfall in the coming decades; and

Whereas, for the past two decades, the state of Minnesota has failed to live up to its statutory responsibility of funding higher education; and

Whereas, in the past two decades, the state has disinvested in higher education as a percentage of the total state budget by more than 66%; and

Whereas, an over reliance on tuition revenue serves to destabilize institutions of higher education; and

Whereas, the growing price of college continues to be a significant barrier to entry for many;

Be it resolved the state of Minnesota renew its commitment of investing in the state's future by fully funding public higher education in Minnesota.

## **Strong unions**

Whereas, working people across Minnesota come together in unions to advance values that are good for all workers, families and communities; the collective voice of union members ensures families win the pay, benefits and respect they deserve to be able to live secure, healthy and happy lives; and

Whereas, anti-union forces figure that abolishing collective bargaining rights will drain unions of the resources workers need to have a voice at the bargaining table and the ballot box; and

Whereas, strong unions are the best defense against endless attempts to rig the economic and political systems against working people; and

Whereas, with a shrinking middle class and a growing gap between the rich and the rest of us, the last thing America needs is an assault on the freedom of working people to form strong unions and speak up for our families and our communities; and

Whereas, here in Minnesota, members of strong unions are scoring victories such as higher minimum wages for all workers, safer staffing levels for patients and smaller class sizes for students; and

Be it resolved that Minnesota unites in a belief that our state can remain a place where everyone is able to live a secure, healthy and happy life; where all workers have the freedom to join together in strong unions to build a brighter future for our families and our communities.