

MSCF Minute



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Be It Resolved...Go and Caucus

by Mark Grant, MSCF Legislative Liaison

The 2018 election cycle begins in earnest on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. with the precinct caucuses. Participating in caucuses is a great way to show support for local and statewide candidates, raise an issue that's important to you and influence who the party will endorse for many offices. MSCF strongly urges our members to participate and be the much needed voice for state higher education.

The precinct caucuses are meetings run by Minnesota's political parties and are the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and establish platforms. In order to participate, you have to be eligible to vote in the November 2018 general election and live in the precinct. You also have to generally identify with the principles of the party hosting the caucus. There is no sugar coating it, caucuses are kind of odd, and as such, each political party runs their caucus meetings a little differently. In general though, your caucus will attempt to accomplish four things:

1. *Choose volunteers who will organize political activities in the precinct.*

If you are looking to get more involved in your local political scene, the caucus is a great place to start.

2. *Vote for the person you want the party to support for Governor.* This serves as an early indicator of support for candidates. Education Minnesota is still in their endorsement process and has not announced its support for any candidate for Governor yet. EM has, however, endorsed candidates in the two special elections – the Senate seat in district 54 and the House seat in district 23B – in addition to the offices of State Auditor and Secretary of State.

3. *Discuss issues and ideas for the party to support.* Anyone present can introduce an issue or an idea for the party to support. This takes the form of a resolution. An example of a resolution we would encourage faculty to introduce would be:

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

Whereas the majority of those jobs will require some post-secondary education; and

Whereas the state of Minnesota has disinvested in the state Higher Education System; and

Whereas growing college loan debt poses a challenge to graduates and the economy

Be it resolved the state of Minnesota renew its commitment of investing in quality public higher education by return to the investment formula of one-third paid for by the student, two-thirds by the state of Minnesota for attendees at all public higher education institutions.”

If you convince other attendees to support your resolution, it will be taken to the next political convention. The more caucuses this resolution is heard at, the greater its chance to become part of the party platform

4. *Choose delegates who will endorse candidates at future conventions.* At future conventions, party

delegates will endorse state and federal candidates, including Governor. I've been a delegate at the statewide convention and it is heaps of nerd fun.

So, plan on attending your precinct caucuses and speak up for higher education and MSCF. To find your caucus location, head over to the [Secretary of State's Caucus Finder website](#).

CALL FOR DELEGATES

The call for 2018 delegates to the [MSCF Delegate Assembly](#) has gone out to local leaders. Please make sure to contact them if you are interested in representing your chapter! You should have also received a notice from your chapter president regarding submitting resolutions and/or C&B amendments for consideration at the DA.

MSCF ELECTION DAY

Be sure to vote on Monday, Feb. 5! Elections will be taking place on your campus for [MSCF Vice President of Liberal Arts](#). Contact your chapter president for polling places and times. If you are unable to vote that day, absentee ballots are available now through Jan. 29. To request an absentee ballot, email Janel Engesser at janel.engesser@edmn.org.