

# *Take A Step Forward...for Public Education*

## **“Become a Delegate”**

### ***WHAT IS A CAUCUS?***

A caucus is a meeting of citizens from a single precinct, or local voting area, called to pick the precinct’s representatives (called “delegates”) to county or state conventions. Those delegates, in turn, select the party’s candidates for office for the next election. The caucus may also elect local party leaders and officers. Caucuses are run by political parties: each party holds its own caucuses.

### ***WHO CAN ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN A CAUCUS?***

In general, anyone may attend a caucus. However, to participate a person must, at a minimum, be 18 years old and a registered voter residing in the precinct. Each party sets its own rules on who may vote or run for delegate: for example, the state Republican party requires that participants not be a member of a “rival political party” and that officers or delegates elected at the caucus be or become registered as a Republican.

### ***WHAT HAPPENS AT A CAUCUS?***

Although each party or precinct may have its own procedures, typically a chair (usually the party’s precinct leader) will conduct the caucus using informal parliamentary procedure. If you have attended a local mass meeting or board meeting you know enough about procedure to comfortably participate in a caucus.

The chair will open the meeting and may present a communication from the party. He or she will describe the voting procedure and the positions the caucus will vote for. Persons who wish to run for delegate or a local party position will announce that fact. Each person running will make a short statement, and the caucus will vote by secret ballot. The results should be announced before the caucus ends.

If you want to run for delegate or a local party position, your nomination will have to be seconded: it’s a good idea to bring a friend or co-worker to second your nomination.

### ***WHY IS THE CAUCUS IMPORTANT?***

The people at the caucus choose the people who choose the candidates. They can influence the selection of the candidate and decisions on their positions after they are elected. The caucus is the one place where you, as an individual, can have a visible impact on those who become your elected officials.

Candidates for office can't get elected if they can't get nominated. At the nominating convention, candidates need the delegate's help and support, and they will do what they can to get it-even listen to you or take your side.

### ***CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?***

Absolutely! Most caucuses are lightly attended: many have less than ten people present. A motivated school employee accompanied by a few friends and co-workers can usually elect their candidate as delegate.

The caucus process is the most direct way you can influence who becomes a candidate, and thus who becomes an elected officeholder. Participating in your local caucus is one of the best ways to help your community, your Association, and yourself.

The participation process is beginning now, as interested members fill out and return commitment cards. Over the next few months, those members will learn how Utah's caucus system works and why caucus meetings are so important, what they can expect at a caucus, how they can successfully participate, and, if they are interested, how they can run for a delegate position and what they do after being selected as a delegate.

If you are interested in helping to support public education by participating in the caucus process, fill out the attached pledge card and return it to USEA, or contact your local officers.

**Plan now to attend your party Caucus!**

**Democratic Caucus**

**March 13, 2012**

**Republican Caucus**

**March 15, 2012**

**For Additional Information contact USEA at 801-269-9320, or email: [information@useautah.org](mailto:information@useautah.org)**

*Take A Step Forward...for Public Education*  
**“Become a Delegate” Pledge Card**

*I will take a step forward by pledging to:*

- Register to vote at <http://vote.utah.gov/register-to-vote/>*
- Attend my caucus meeting in March*
- Become a delegate*
- Encourage my friends and neighbors to attend their caucus meetings*
- Look up the record of voting of my legislators at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov)*
- Vote for child advocates and pro-public education delegates in my caucus*

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home, City, and Zip Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Email (not school):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home or Personal Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this Pledge Card to:**

**USEA, 864 E. Arrowhead Lane, Murray, UT 84107 or FAX to 801-269-9324**