



FEELIN' THE BERN? READY FOR HILLARY?

BUT NOT SURE HOW THE MAINE CAUCUSES WORK?

WE'VE GOT ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

WHAT ARE THE MAINE CAUCUSES?

The caucuses are different from a primary, they don't occur in the voting booth, but don't worry they're easy to get the hang of.

The Maine Caucuses are gatherings of neighbors in the New England tradition of town meetings. The Maine Democratic Party, with the help of your local Democratic county and municipal committees, organizes caucuses to begin the process of declaring Mainers' preference for the Democratic Presidential Nominee and the party building work to elect Democrats up and down the ticket in November.

Maine will be the only state to weigh in on Sunday, March 6. It should still very much be anybody's race when the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination comes through Maine. The more people who turnout for your candidate, the more delegates to the State Convention your candidate will get.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CAUCUSES?

Anyone who is eligible to vote in the State of Maine and will be at least 18 years of age on Election Day, November 8, 2016, may participate in The Maine Caucuses on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED DEMOCRAT.

WAIT, I'M NOT CURRENTLY A REGISTERED DEMOCRAT, DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T CAUCUS?

It's not too late for you, but there is one deadline you should be aware of.

If you are currently registered as a Green Independent or a Republican...

You must re-register to vote and enroll in the Democratic Party by Friday, February 19, 2016.

If you are currently unregistered or unenrolled in a political party (aka an Independent)...

You may register/re-register as a Democratic at your municipal caucus in the hour before the scheduled time of your caucus, or at your municipal clerk's office in the lead up to caucus day.

The Maine Democratic Party recommends, if able, you register/re-register at your municipal clerk's office in advance of March 6th. In high turnout years, as is expected be true of 2016, large volumes of caucus participants needing to register/re-register at their municipal caucus has resulted in long lines and significantly delayed the start of caucus as scheduled.

WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE CAUCUSES HELD?

The Maine Caucuses will take place on Sunday, March 6, 2016, between 1 and 8pm. Each municipality holds its own caucus at a public place (e.g., town hall, a school, community center, or church.)

To find the exact time and location of your municipal caucus, [click here...](#)

HELP! I CAN'T ATTEND MY CAUCUS IN PERSON ON MARCH 6TH.

No worries, you can cast an absentee ballot to show your support for your candidate and participate in The Maine Caucuses. [Click here to request an absentee be sent to you.](#)

Absentee participants will be able to indicate their desire to be elected as a delegate to State Convention. But by not attending the caucus in person, you will be unable to change your presidential preference, or vote for delegates, alternates, or party officers.

All absentee ballots must be received by the Maine Democratic Party on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 in order to be counted.

WHAT HAPPENS AT MY MUNICIPAL CAUCUS?

Once you've signed in, the convener of your municipal/precinct caucus will welcome everyone, explain the caucus rules and process, and conduct required Party business.

THEN...the moment everyone's been waiting for.

Attendees will divide up into groups based upon Presidential preference (i.e., supporters of Secretary Clinton will gather in one corner of the room, supporters of Governor O'Malley in another corner, supporters of Senator Sanders in another, and those who wish to remain uncommitted in the other).

Based on the results of the presidential preferences, the allocated number of delegates for that caucus will be divided proportionally. (If, at that point, your preference did not get enough support to earn a delegate to the State Convention, you will have the opportunity to change your support to another candidate. This is optional, and totally your choice.)

Once the delegates have been allocated to each preference group, each group will then elect the appropriate number of delegates to the State Convention.

IS THAT IT?

The Maine Caucuses are also Maine Democrats' first major organizing opportunity of the 2016 campaigns, and despite our passionate support for our respective candidates, we are all Democrats at the end of the day. At your caucus, you'll also elect municipal Democratic Party committee leadership, who will be responsible for leading party building efforts and working to elect Democrats at the local level.

WHAT ARE THESE "DELEGATES" YOU KEEP MENTIONING? CAN I BECOME ONE?

Delegates to the State Convention (elected at the municipal caucuses) will elect Maine's delegates to the National Convention.

Any caucus participants (absentee, too) may stand for election as a delegate to the State Convention—a balance of female and male delegates must be achieved for each candidate within each municipality.

If you are interested in running for delegate to the National Convention, nominating petitions and complete information on the process will be available on the Maine Democratic Party website on February 5, 2016.

HOW IS THE WINNER OF THE MAINE CAUCUSES DETERMINED?

On Caucus Day, Mainers across the state will elect delegates to the State Convention from their municipalities. Your caucus convener will report the results from your municipal caucus to the Maine Democratic Party and the winner of the day will be the candidate who accrues the most delegates statewide.