

# 2012

## CAUCUS & BEYOND

### GUIDE

*AND*

**PRO-EQUALITY  
MINNESOTA PRECINCT  
CAUCUS RESOLUTIONS**



**OutFront Minnesota | 310 East 38th Street, Suite 204, Minneapolis, MN 55409 | [outfront.org](http://outfront.org) | 612.822.0127**

OutFront Minnesota is the state's premier organization advocating for and serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Minnesotans. We are proud to support civic engagement across our state by conducting non-partisan voter education outreach, training, and issue advocacy. This resolution is a part of those efforts. Learn more about us at [outfront.org](http://outfront.org).

## Part 1: Key Dates.

February 7: Precinct Caucuses

March and April: Senate District and County Unit Conventions

April and May: Congressional District Conventions

April 30: Independence Party State Convention

May 4-5: Republican Party State Convention

June 1-3: DFL Party State Convention

***CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL PARTY UNITS ON THE DATES AND TIMES OF CONVENTIONS!***

## Part 2: The Basics – What happens at each point in the process.

At Precinct Caucuses, attendees:

- Elect precinct-level officers to organize the party
- Elect delegates to the Senate District and County Unit conventions
- Begin to shape the party platform

At Senate District and County Unit conventions, delegates:

- Endorse candidates for state Legislature (Senate District only)
- Elect Senate District and County Unit officers to organize the party
- Elect delegates to the Congressional District and State conventions
- Continue to shape the party platform

At Congressional District conventions, delegates:

- Endorse candidates for Congress
- Elect Congressional District officers to organize the party
- Continue to shape the party platform

At State conventions, delegates:

- Endorse a candidate for US Senate
- Continue to shape the party platform



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## Part 3: The Details – The fine points about each step in the process and how to maneuver it successfully.

### Precinct Caucuses (These are neighborhood organizing meetings)

The caucuses all begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, and will be located in your neighborhood. At the caucuses we're asking you to do three things:

**1. Talk to your neighbors about why marriage matters to you.** There will be a lot of people who already oppose the amendment – ask those folks to sign up to volunteer to help defeat the amendment. For the folks who are still making up their minds having a conversation with you will be an important step in building respect for our families.

**2. Run to be a Delegate.** Usually becoming a delegate to the Senate District Caucus is as simple as raising your hand and signing up. It's important that we have as many **Delegates for Equality** as we can and if you can't become a delegate, sign up as an alternate (many alternates are allowed to become delegates). The delegates to Senate District Conventions get to meet the candidates and ultimately decide which candidates will be endorsed by their political party for the Minnesota Legislature. If we want to make sure that 2013 is a better year for us than 2011, we need to select and elect better candidates.

**3. Introduce Resolutions.** Minnesota's political parties have ongoing platforms, the document that lists the beliefs of the party and the issues the party is fighting for. To add something to the platform, attendees introduce resolutions. This is often as simple as handing copies of the resolutions forward when the chair asks for them.

*After the Caucuses make sure to report back to OutFront Minnesota how your conversations went and whether or not you're a delegate to the next level. Contact Organizing Director Chris Stinson at [cstinson@outfront.org](mailto:cstinson@outfront.org) or 612.822.0127 x 7661.*

**NEXT PAGE: SENATE DISTRICT OR COUNTY UNIT CONVENTIONS**



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## Senate District or County Unit Conventions

These are set up differently depending on where you live. The Senate District / County Unit (SD/CU) conventions are set up by the local committee and can take place anytime but most will happen on Saturdays in March and April before Congressional District conventions. At the SD/CU conventions we want you to do:

**1. Ask a question about LGBT Equality.** Candidates spend a lot of their time at these organizing conventions. It's a great opportunity to get people to explain their position on the issues that matter to our families.

**2. Endorse a pro equality candidate.** The only way that we'll get the legislature that we deserve is by electing candidates who support our families. By connecting your support as a voting delegate to their position on our issues we can have a significant impact on a candidate's future behavior.

**3. Continue the resolution process.** You'll be asked to vote on the platform planks (resolutions) that passed at the precinct level and decide which ones will keep moving forward. To make sure that your party reflects your values you'll need to support pro-equality resolutions.

**4. Elect pro-equality delegates to the Congressional District and State conventions.**

People who are elected become delegates to **BOTH**. There are two possibilities for this process:

- The first way is to elect delegates "at-large." This means that the entire group will vote on who gets to become a delegate. The way this usually works is that everyone who wants to be a delegate gives a 30- to 60-second speech about themselves and people vote on their favorites. 10-15 percent of SD/CUs will use this method at their convention.
- The second way is a method of proportional representation in which people split into groups based on their choice of candidates and issues and delegates are awarded based on the strength of each group. The method we use is called a walking subcaucus. Here are some helpful hints for subcaucusing:

- o Bring friends! Friends can come and join you and vote for you to become a delegate.

- o If you don't want to be a delegate or can't, vote for another OutFront Minnesota supporter.



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- o Remember that the DFL requires gender balancing of the delegates. If you see a subcaucus that is predominantly male or female, think about joining or avoiding it accordingly.
- o Take a leadership role if you can. Call a subcaucus, work to persuade others to join, help your team hold itself together.
- o Introduce yourself to people in your subcaucus individually during the first and second walks.
- o When you give your speech about wanting to be a delegate talk about your passion for the candidate and issue your subcaucus is named after.

***If you become a delegate to the next level be sure to report back to OutFront Minnesota.*** Contact Organizing Director Chris Stinson at [cstinson@outfront.org](mailto:cstinson@outfront.org) or 612.822.0127 x 7661.

## **Congressional District Conventions**

Delegates who are elected to the State Convention also get to be delegates to the CD Convention. There are two things that we want you to do:

- 1. Ask Candidates Questions about LGBT Equality.** Similar to the Senate District (or County) conventions this is an excellent opportunity to hear where candidates stand on our issues and let them know what matters to us.
- 2. Endorse Pro-Equality Candidates.** Some Congressional District conventions will be a formality and others will be hotly contested. Regardless this is an opportunity to let candidates know that your support is contingent on their support for us.

## **State Conventions**

State conventions are the culmination of all these steps. At the convention delegates continue organizing the party and working on the platform. We'll also endorse candidates for United States Senate. The DFL convention will take place June 1st through 3rd in Rochester.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Local Government Domestic Partnership Benefits

RESOLVED: that \_\_\_\_\_ calls upon the Minnesota Legislature to amend Minnesota Statute 471.61 to permit local units of government to determine for themselves the scope of their employment benefits packages, particularly to offer domestic partner benefits when they see fit.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Opposition to the Constitutional Amendment to Ban Marriage for Same-sex Couples

RESOLVED: because the Minnesota Constitution exists, in part, to guarantee the equal protection of the law to all citizens, \_\_\_\_\_ opposes amendment of the Minnesota Constitution to forbid the legal recognition of same-sex couples.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Marriage Equality

RESOLVED: given that Minnesota law discriminates against same-sex couples and their families, denying them more than 500 legal responsibilities and protections provided through civil marriage, \_\_\_\_\_ supports legislation to strengthen our families and communities by extending the freedom to marry to Minnesota's same-sex couples



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Safe Schools for All

RESOLVED: because equal access to educational opportunities is critical to individuals and communities, \_\_\_\_\_ supports efforts to ensure the safety of all Minnesota students and to promote healthy, respectful learning environments in Minnesota schools that are free of harassment and violence, including but not limited to, actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, and physical characteristics, and association with a person or group who one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Minnesota State Medical Assistance Payment for Gender Reassignment Surgery

RESOLVED: because providing gender reassignment surgery is a cost-effective means for delivering substantial improvement in quality of life for a segment of Minnesotans, \_\_\_\_\_ calls upon the Minnesota Legislature and the Governor to reinstate coverage for these medically-necessary treatments under Minnesota's publicly-funded health care programs.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Opposing Amending the Minnesota Constitution to Restrict the Right of Eligible Voters to Cast a Ballot

RESOLVED: The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy,  
embedded in both the United States and Minnesota Constitutions.

\_\_\_\_\_ opposes amending the Minnesota Constitution  
to require an otherwise eligible voter to present government-issued photo  
identification as a precondition to casting a vote in a Minnesota election.



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# 2012 PRO-EQUALITY MINNESOTA PRECINCT CAUCUS RESOLUTION

## Comprehensive Sex Education

RESOLVED: Minnesota students need access to responsible, medically accurate, age-appropriate information to help them live healthy lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ supports comprehensive sexual health education that equips Minnesota students with the knowledge necessary to make the best choices about their sexual health and reduces rates of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.



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