

# Faith and Freedom

## An explanation of caucus

Prepared and presented by Loren Caneday

# Caucus

What **is** that?



Minnesota House Republican **caucus**  
(all Republicans in the House)

Freedom **caucus** (the several  
Republicans in the US Congress)

Athens Township **caucus** (all  
Republicans in Athens who meet  
together on 2/27/24)

# Minnesota caucus night

Every 2 years.

It starts the next election cycle.

Terms are limited.

All elected officials must face election  
every 2, 4, or 6 years.

If someone is in office, his or her term  
ends and is subject to election.



# Minnesota caucus night

A political meeting established by

state statute

sections 202A.14 to 202A.20

for voters to meet together

**by party** and **by precinct.**

# Minnesota

one Republican Party in MN

121 BPOUs in MN

(county or legislative district organizations)

about 4,100 precincts

(voting groups)

each can caucus on 2/27/24

# Precinct caucus

What happens at caucus?

How does it affect the local party?

How does it affect the state party?

Why is it important?

What rules do I need to know?

# What happens at caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers (2 year terms)

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3. Consider resolutions to change the Republican Party Platform.
- ~~4. — Presidential preference.~~



# Minnesota caucus

2020 presidential caucus vote was changed to a primary vote.

Vote on March 5: the presidential primary.

Many are oriented to national politics and have quit coming to caucus.

Be oriented to our state elections and local elections.

# What happens at caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers (2 year terms)
2. Elect precinct delegates and alternates to represent the precinct at the county convention.
3. Consider resolutions to change the Republican Party Platform.
4. Gubernatorial straw poll (4 years).

# What happens at caucus?

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# Just show up

1. Citizen
2. Qualified voter (18 on election day)
3. Resident of the precinct on 2/27/24
4. No one is stopping you except yourself.
5. No one can stop you unless you are not a Republican or you get belligerent. They don't have to elect you to a position, but you will have a vote.

Statutory rights

Get involved. Bring your kids. Every 2 years.

Pass it on!



What if everyone showed  
up to caucus?

All the Republicans in each  
precinct.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Athens            | 693    |
| Bradford          | 1202   |
| Braham            | 395    |
| Cambridge P-1     | 1070   |
| Cambridge P-2     | 991    |
| Cambridge Twp     | 797    |
| Dalbo             | 273    |
| Isanti P-1        | 820    |
| Isanti P-2        | 744    |
| Isanti Twp        | 803    |
| Maple Ridge Twp   | 278    |
| North Branch Twp  | 659    |
| Oxford Twp        | 394    |
| St. Francis P-3   | 2      |
| Spencer Brook Twp | 650    |
| Springvale Twp    | 613    |
| Stanford Twp      | 867    |
| Stanchfield Twp   | 386    |
| Wyanett Twp       | 634    |
| total GOP votes   | 12,271 |



|                   |        |
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There are more Republicans  
who did not vote in 2022.

We would be hard  
pressed to find venues  
large enough for this  
many people to meet in  
the 19 caucus locations.

# All these Republican voters could not attend a convention

1. No building is large enough.
2. A very cumbersome convention.
3. Can you imagine 12,000 people debating resolutions?!!

# So.....we have convention by representation

The number of precinct delegates to convention are allocated proportionally across all precincts in the BPOU.



|                   |        |     |
|-------------------|--------|-----|
| Athens            | 693    | 8   |
| Bradford          | 1202   | 13  |
| Braham            | 395    | 4   |
| Cambridge P-1     | 1070   | 12  |
| Cambridge P-2     | 991    | 11  |
| Cambridge Twp     | 797    | 9   |
| Dalbo             | 273    | 3   |
| Isanti P-1        | 820    | 9   |
| Isanti P-2        | 744    | 8   |
| Isanti Twp        | 803    | 9   |
| Maple Ridge Twp   | 278    | 3   |
| North Branch Twp  | 659    | 7   |
| Oxford Twp        | 394    | 4   |
| St. Francis P-3   | 2      | 1   |
| Spencer Brook Twp | 650    | 7   |
| Springvale Twp    | 613    | 7   |
| Stanford Twp      | 867    | 10  |
| Stanchfield Twp   | 386    | 4   |
| Wyanett Twp       | 634    | 7   |
| total GOP votes   | 12,271 | 136 |

# of voters / 90 = # of delegates




So each precinct delegate in 2024  
will represent 90 Republican voters.

The maximum # at the county  
convention will be 136 delegates.

But fewer Isanti delegates at the  
HD28A endorsing convention.

|                  |        |     |
|------------------|--------|-----|
| A                |        |     |
| Bradford         | 1202   | 13  |
| Braham           | 395    | 4   |
| Cambridge P-1    | 1070   | 12  |
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| S                |        |     |
| Stanchfield Twp  | 386    | 4   |
| Wyanett Twp      | 634    | 7   |
| total GOP votes  | 12,271 | 107 |





The maximum at the HD28A  
endorsing convention will be 107  
delegates from Isanti County.

But that is not all.



There are 3 precincts in Chisago County that are included in HD28A.

There are 39 delegates from these 3 precincts in Chisago County.



|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Isanti | 107 |
|--------|-----|

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Chisago | 39 |
|---------|----|

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| Total | 146 delegates |
|-------|---------------|

(the maximum # of delegates who  
could attend the endorsing  
convention)



One more item

Isanti delegate represents 90

Chisago delegate represents 60



So a Chisago vote is worth  $\frac{2}{3}$   
of an Isanti vote.

$$60/90 = \frac{2}{3}$$

an Isanti voter represents more  
people (90 versus 60).

Isanti 107

Chisago 26  $[39 \times 2/3 = 26]$

Total 133 delegate votes

(the maximum # of delegate **votes**  
at the endorsing convention)


not 146 **votes**



This is addressed in

RPM Constitution  
Article V, Section 3, G 8





Now let's get back to what happens at caucus.

# Self-governing caucus

1. An appointed convener starts the caucus meeting.
2. Those who show up elect the caucus chair of the meeting.

# Self-governing caucus

1. An appointed secretary starts taking minutes.
2. The caucus elects the secretary of the meeting.

# Self-governing caucus

The Republicans who meet together create their own organization that can take action that is political in nature. This is the organized Republican body in your precinct for the next 2 years.

# What happens at caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers (2 year terms)

Chair, Vice chair, secretary  
of your precinct.

Lead your precinct in election work.

# Precinct work

1. A picnic or other meetings

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2. A meet 'n greet for a candidate



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3. Voter ID work

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# Precinct work

1. A picnic or other meetings
2. A meet 'n greet for a candidate
3. Voter ID work
4. Contact your precinct voters to get out and vote for particular candidates
5. Install yard signs in your precinct
6. Work on local elections

# What happens at caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers (2 year terms)

Chair, Vice chair, secretary  
of your precinct.

Lead your precinct in election work.

**Elect a Precinct Representative  
to the county governing board  
which coordinates all the precincts**

# Caucus attendees

Set up county GOP  
government

Full Committee **vested**  
with administrative authority

Precinct  
Representatives





# What happens at caucus?

1. Elect precinct officers (2 year terms)
2. **Elect precinct delegates and alternates to represent the precinct at the county convention.**

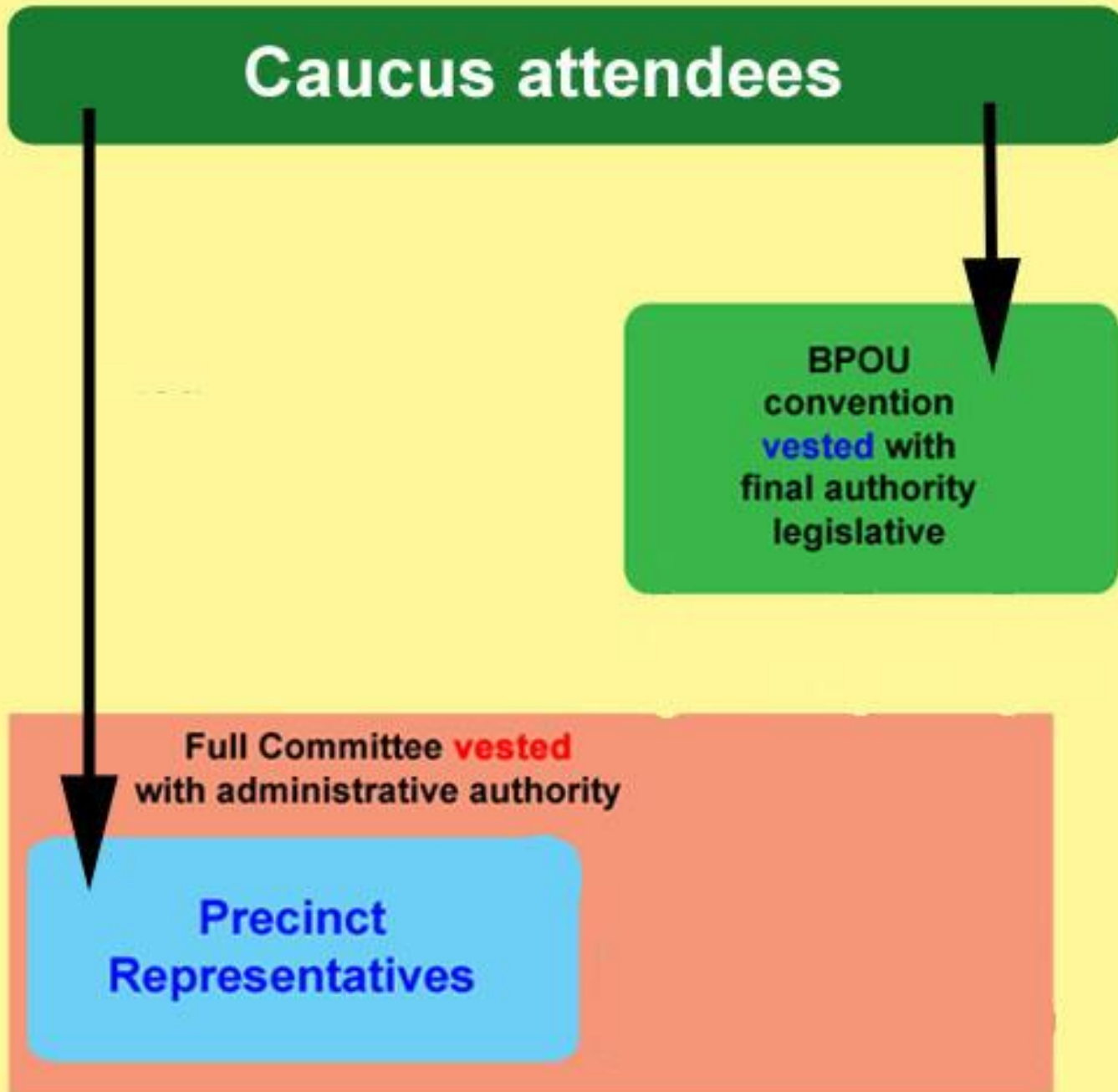
Represent 90 Republican voters in your precinct. A responsibility.

# Caucus attendees

BPOU  
convention  
**vested** with  
final authority  
legislative

Full Committee **vested**  
with administrative authority

**Precinct  
Representatives**



# Precinct delegates in convention

1. Elect party officers to the governing committee.

# Caucus attendees

Set up county government

BPOU convention  
**vested** with  
final authority  
legislative

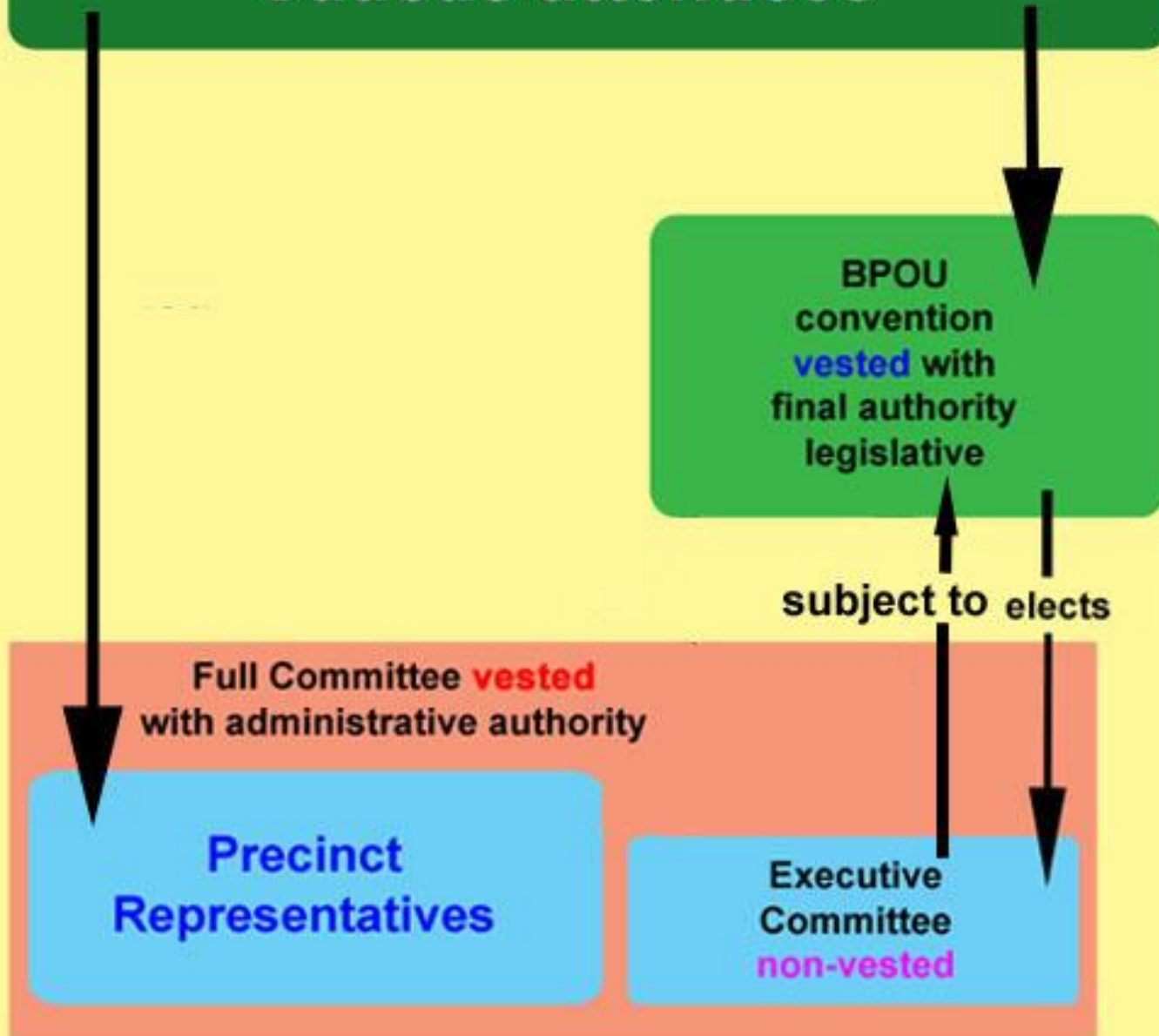
elects

Full Committee **vested**  
with administrative authority

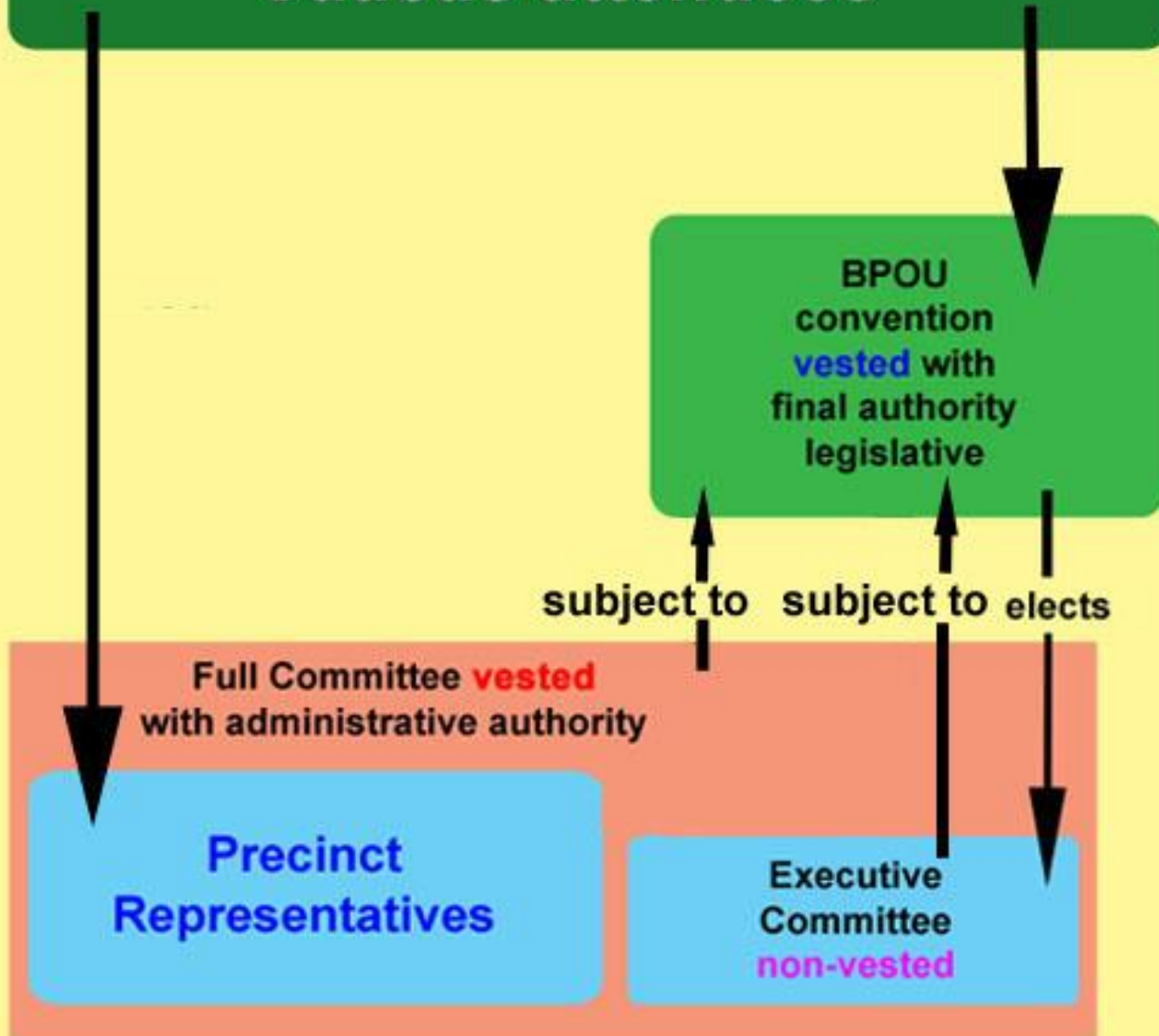
Precinct  
Representatives

Executive  
Committee  
**non-vested**

# Caucus attendees

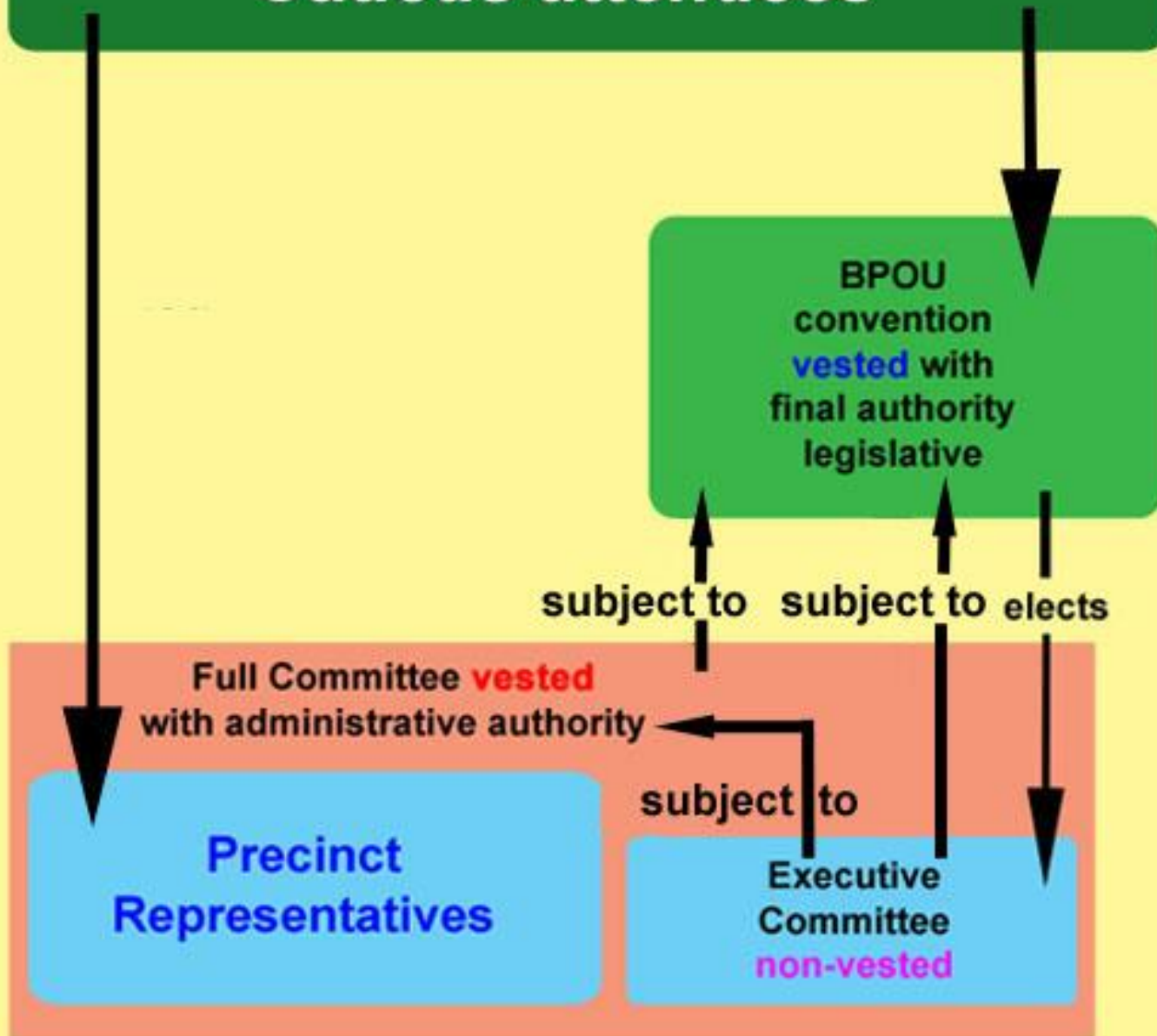



# Caucus attendees





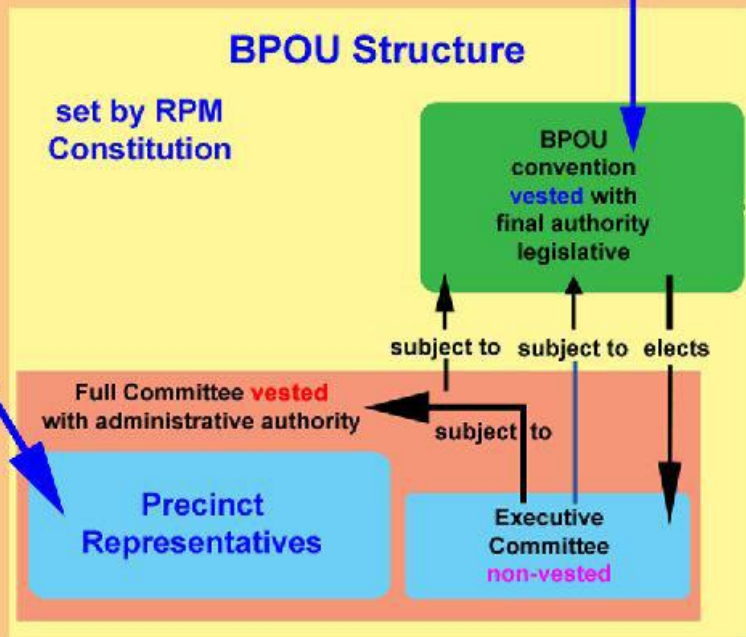
# Caucus attendees





**You are precinct delegates  
who are organized  
with other precincts  
into a BPOU government.**

# Caucus: each precinct elects precinct delegates



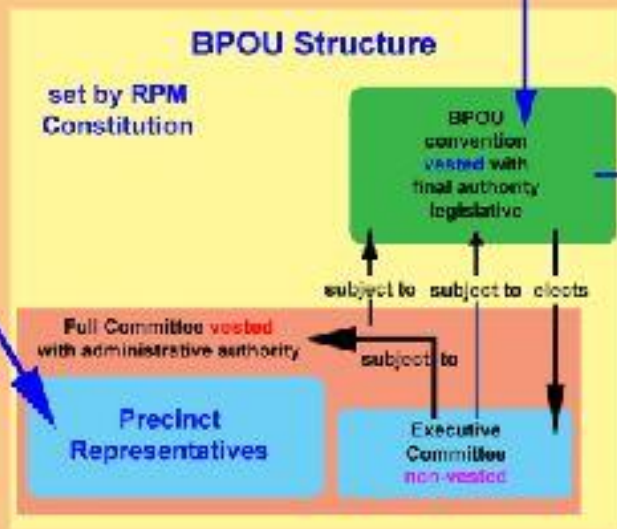
**BPOU is  
federation of precincts**

**4,100 precincts  
121 BPOUs**

# Precinct delegates in convention

1. Elect party officers to the governing committee.
2. **Elect delegates to the district convention.**

# Caucus: each precinct elects precinct delegates

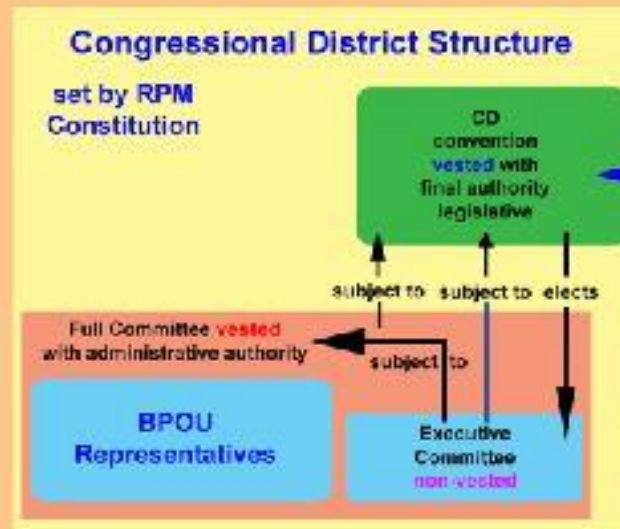


**BPOU is  
federation of precincts**

**4,100 precincts**

**121 BPOUs**

**8 CDs**



**CD is  
federation  
of BPOUs**

**300+  
delegates**

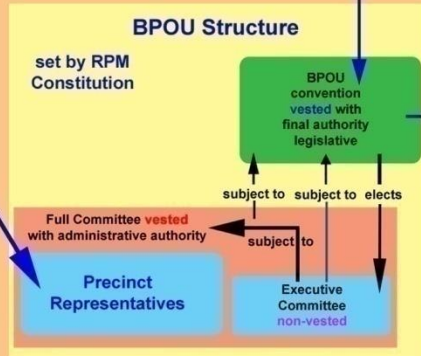


# Precinct delegates in convention

1. Elect party officers to the governing committee.
2. Elect delegates to the district convention.
3. **Elect delegates to the state convention.**

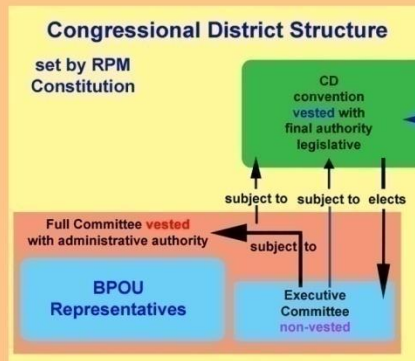


# Caucus: each precinct elects precinct delegates



**BPOU is  
federation of precincts**

**4,100 precincts  
121 BPOUs  
8 CDs**

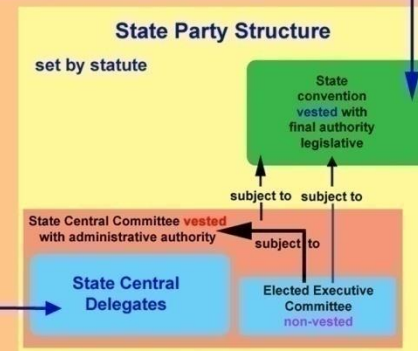


**CD is  
federation  
of BPOUs**

**300+  
delegates**

**state convention  
federation of BPOUs  
2,200 delegates**

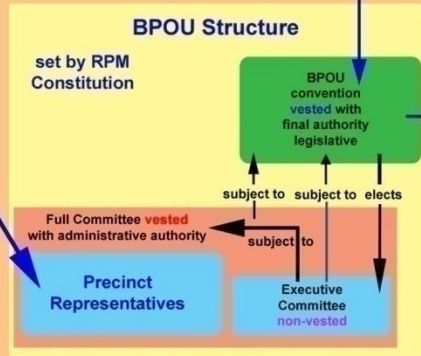
**state central  
federation of CDs  
340 delegates**



# Precinct delegates in convention

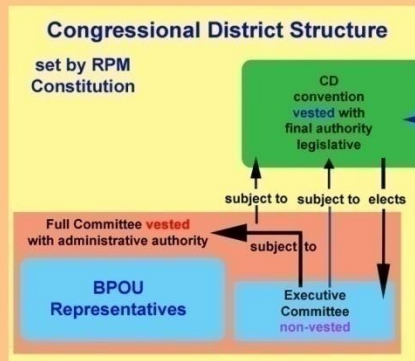
1. Elect party officers to the governing committee.
2. Elect delegates to the district convention.
3. Elect delegates to the state convention.
4. **Elect state central committee members.**

# Caucus: each precinct elects precinct delegates



**BPOU is  
federation of precincts**

**4,100 precincts  
121 BPOUs  
8 CDs**

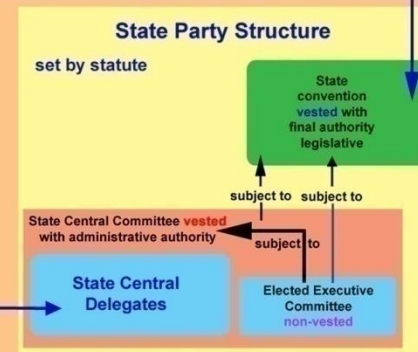


**CD is  
federation  
of BPOUs**

**300+  
delegates**

**state convention  
federation of BPOUs  
2,200 delegates**

**state central  
federation of CDs  
340 delegates**



# Precinct delegates in convention

1. Elect party officers to the governing committee.
2. Elect delegates to the district convention.
3. Elect delegates to the state convention.
4. Elect state central committee members.
5. Amend the county party's constitution that governs the whole organization.

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- 6. Consider resolutions to change the  
Republican Party Platform.**



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6. Consider resolutions to change the Republican Party Platform.
7. **Endorse house and senate candidates. Very important!**



# Caucus attendees

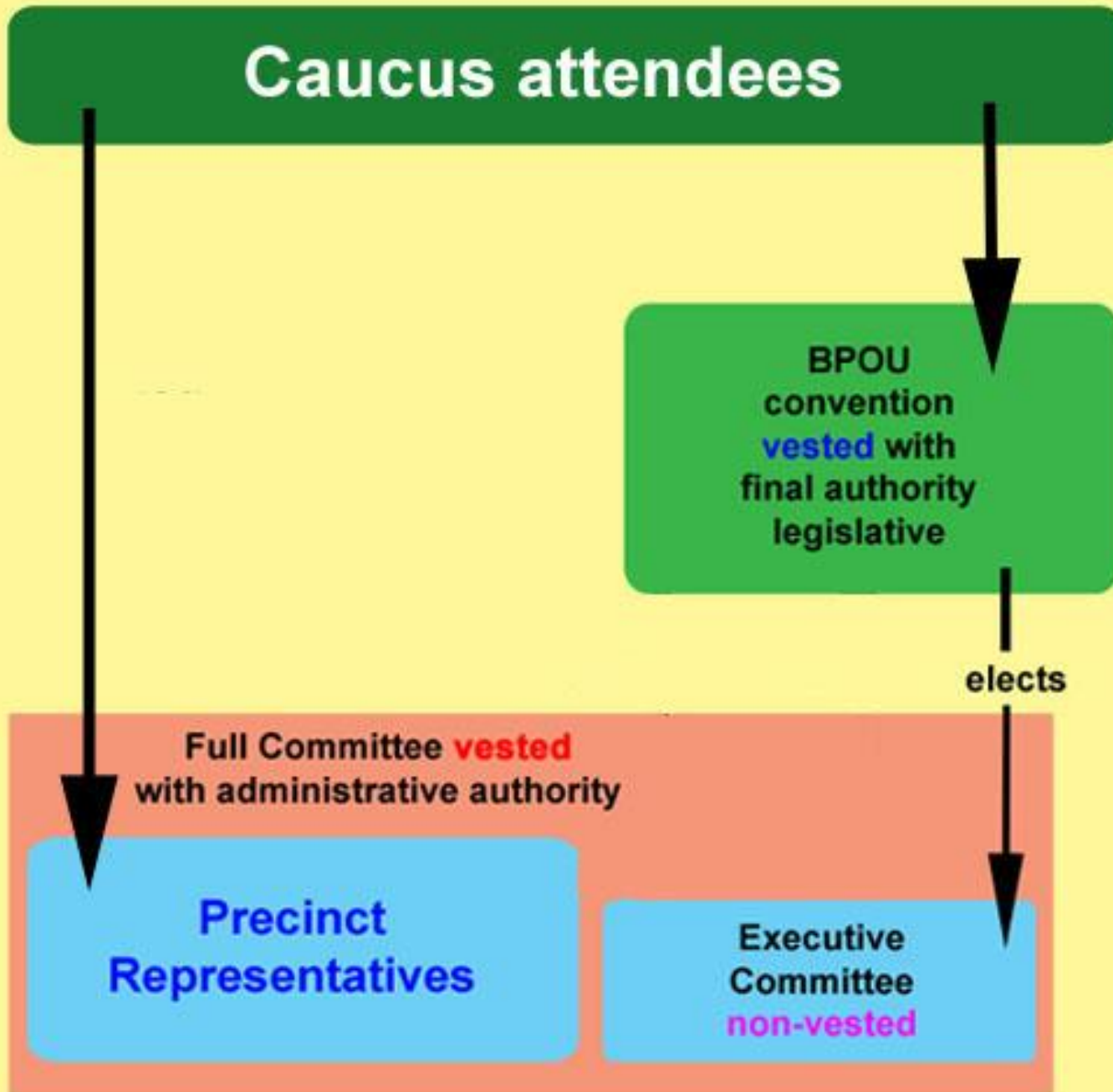
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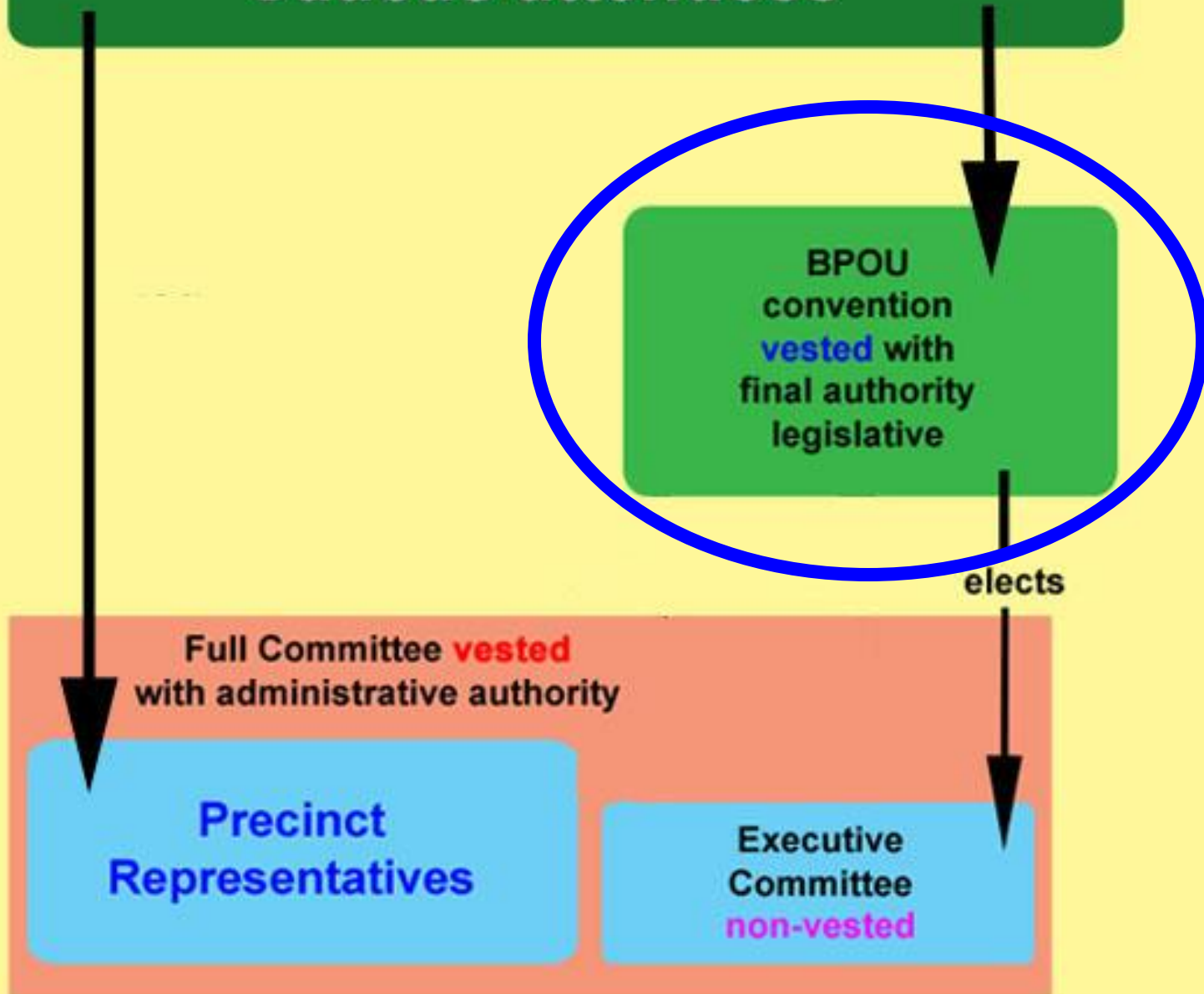
Full Committee **vested**  
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**Precinct  
Representatives**

Executive  
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# Caucus attendees



# Caucus attendees

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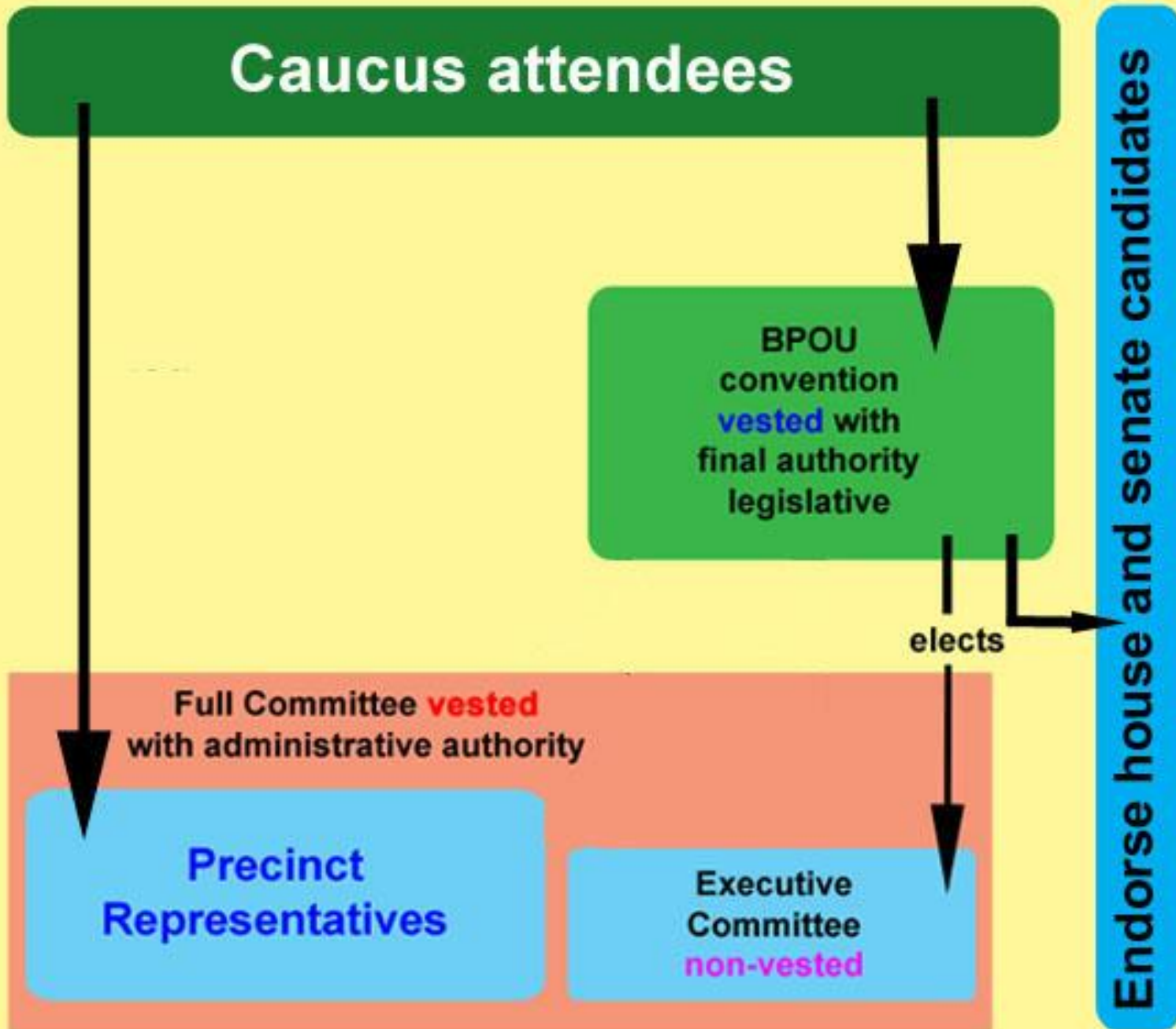
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Endorse house and senate candidates



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BPOU  
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Full Committee **vested**  
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**Precinct  
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**non-vested**

**Endorse house and senate candidates**



A candidate wants to have his  
supporters attend caucus

and be elected as precinct  
delegates and alternates

to go to convention  
and vote to endorse him or her.

# Caucus

If you have attended caucus before,

a candidate will likely contact you to ask for your support.



# Caucus

You can bring others to caucus to vote for delegates who will support your favorite candidate.

Or they can be elected as delegates.

# Caucus

At caucus, the attendees can discuss who they would like to support for endorsement.

A precinct could decide to elect all their delegates who will support a candidate for endorsement at the convention.

# Caucus

Candidates can recruit people to attend caucus and be elected delegates to vote for them at the convention endorsement.

# Caucus

This is a contest.

Don't make it personal.

Competition is good for everyone.

A choice between 2 good candidates is good.

# Tips

For attending caucus.

# Tips

You have statutory rights when you attend caucus.

Know your rights.

Defend your rights.

**No Republican would deny me my rights!**

**Think again!!!**



# Tips

<https://chisagogop.org/>

Look for “explanations”

# Tips

Attend the right precinct caucus.

<http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Know it before you attend.

If you are elected as a delegate in the wrong caucus, you are not a delegate to the county conventions.

# Tips

Take a picture of the list of elected delegates and alternates and officers.

- Honest mistakes can be made.
- Cheating occurs.
- Names have been added to delegate lists.
- Names have been removed from lists.
- Precincts are the final say, not the BPOU.
- 3 lost volunteers

# Tips

If you cannot attend caucus, but desire to be a delegate,  
submit a letter stating that.

Have a friend submit your letter at caucus.

Or give the request to caucus leadership.

# Tips

Know the rules.

Know the ropes.

People who know the rules can use the rules against your ignorance.

If you don't know the rules, you don't know if you have been abused.

# Tips

“Trust, but verify”

Ronald Reagan

Learn the ropes



# Tips

Be prepared.

# Tips

Know what you are doing.

# Tips

Eyes wide open.

# Tips

Protect your rights.

# Tips

Defend the rights  
of others.

# Tips

Act immediately,  
otherwise it will not be  
corrected.



# Tips

Take caucus seriously.

# Tips

Bring your kids  
and grandkids  
to caucus.

Teach the next generation.

# Tips

Bring a friend to caucus.

Expand the base.

# Tips

Attend caucus to keep  
caucus going.

If there is disinterest, the  
legislature could take it  
away.

# Tips

Far more Democrats  
attend caucus than  
Republicans.

# Tips

Spend time talking with candidates. Learn what they are about.



# Tips

Analyze the candidates'  
positions.

# Tips

Talk with others about  
the candidates.

# Tips

Don't vote for someone  
just because you are  
friends.

# Tips

What or who is good for  
the BPOU?

# Tips

Put yourself in the candidates's shoes to understand them and their positions.

# Tips

BPOU leaders should be impartial toward all candidates prior to endorsement.



# Tips

Candidates love to have  
leaders endorse them.

It's tempting. It feels good.

Be careful.

# Tips

Your community  
depends on you in caucus

90.

# Tips

Government goes to  
those who show up,  
starting with caucus.

# Tips

If you don't show up, you  
will always get the  
government others  
impose on you.

# Tips

Caucus is teamwork  
in your precinct to do  
the right thing.

# Tips

Conventions are  
teamwork in your  
BPOU to do the right  
thing.



# Tips

Be a leader.

Do not be a

one-person show.

Tyrants are bad for all.

# Tips

Be a leader in a  
team,  
each of whom has a  
role.

# Tips

**When the contest is  
over,  
end the contest.**

# Tips

Precinct delegates have  
the responsibility to  
help elect the  
endorsee.

# Tips

Every skill you have can  
be used to help elect a  
candidate.

# Tips

Participate in caucus  
with purpose.



# Tips

We desire good  
government.

# Tips

We desire to create  
good government **by**  
**electing Republicans**  
**to office.**

# CD8: Article I Section 2

“The objectives of the organization shall be the maintenance of government...to facilitate the election of a Republican Congressman or Congresswoman to represent the people of the Eighth District.”

## RPM: Article 1 Section 2

“The object of the Party shall be the maintenance of government....To obtain this object it is essential the party shall **organize at all levels** to elect Republicans to public office.”

# BPOU objective

All that we do in our BPOU is intended to make our governmental bodies good:

1. Local
2. State
3. Federal

This concept is rooted in the  
Declaration of Independence.



# Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

# Declaration of Independence

continues

“...to secure these rights,  
Governments are  
instituted among Men...”

# Declaration of Independence

Not just any type of government, but that which derives its “...just powers from the consent of the governed...”

# Declaration of Independence

Caucus is not an idol or  
frivolous effort.

Caucus is noble and  
repeated every 2 years to  
secure these rights.

# Declaration of Independence

We do our part.

We depend on other  
BPOUs doing their part.

We depend on other  
states.

# Declaration of Independence

1. God gave us rights.
2. These rights are secured by government.
3. **Thus we should appeal to God to give us good government.**
4. And go to caucus



You have your  
marching orders!

Pray

And

Act

# Tips

Enjoy caucus!!!