



MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS

★ Precinct DELEGATES

Precinct Delegate Basics

What is a precinct?

A precinct is the smallest political geographic division in a state. The area varies in size and is determined by population. A precinct contains a maximum of 2,999 registered voters, although many precincts are smaller. It is up to local municipalities to draw their own precinct lines.



What is a precinct delegate?

A precinct delegate is an elected representative to a local political party from a precinct. Every precinct has at least one Republican delegate, and some have more. The local Republican Party determines the number of delegates based on the number of Republican votes in that precinct in the previous election.

How do you become a precinct delegate?

There are two distinct paths by which one may become a precinct delegate; election, and elevation.

Precinct delegates may be elected in the August primary election of even-numbered years. Most recently, this occurred on August 7th, 2012. Precinct delegates serve two-year terms; those elected in August 2012 will serve until the August primary election of 2014.

One may also become a precinct delegate if “elevated” at their county convention, if their county party decides to elevate precinct delegates after the county convention’s official business has completed.

What are the duties of a precinct delegate?

The official role of a precinct delegate is to attend, actively participate and vote at each county convention during the two-year term. Precinct delegates should assist local parties and candidates with a variety of activities, and serve as a liaison between their local party and their community.

What if I move from my precinct?

If you were elected or elevated as a precinct delegate but relocate to a location outside that precinct, you are no longer a precinct delegate from that precinct. However, you may be elevated as a precinct delegate if there is a vacancy in your new precinct. That elevation would occur following the official business at the next county convention.

Making a Difference

Why Should I become a precinct delegate?

Politics begins at the local level when you talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about the issues that are important to you. Once you get involved and become a precinct delegate, you have the opportunity to share these issues and concerns and make a difference. In addition, only elected precinct delegates may vote for the leadership of the Party.

How do I make a difference?

Precinct delegates play a key role in electing Republicans not only to every public office, but also to leadership positions within the Republican Party. As a liaison to your community, you have the opportunity to build personal relationships with candidates and party leaders. These individuals come to you when they need to know specifics about your community. In addition, precinct delegates have the privilege of attending state conventions where they help select many of the Republican candidates for statewide offices.



Where to Start

Where is my Precinct?

The first thing to do is determine the precinct in which you live. You can find this information on your voter registration card, or from your county, city, or township clerk. Once you get this information, the next step is to get a precinct map. Precinct maps are available from your local clerk; the map will illustrate the boundaries of your precinct.



How do I get to know my Precinct?

Once you have a map, you should drive around your district. As you are driving, take in the characteristics of your precinct. Note which areas are industrial, commercial, farmland, or residential, and pay attention the kinds of homes in your area. Are they single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, or communities with restricted access? Look for growth, new homes, subdivisions, or businesses. All of this information will be useful to you as a precinct delegate, as well as local candidates, while you plan for election activities.

How do I get to know the people in my precinct?

After you have driven around your precinct and familiarized yourself with the area, it is time to meet the people who live there. The best way to do this is to walk your precinct. This shows you are active in your neighborhood and that you care about the community. It is a great way to find out where Republicans live. Once you have identified Republicans in your precinct, you can ask them to volunteer during the next election, place a yard sign in their yard, and remind them to vote on Election Day. Keeping in contact with the Republicans in your precinct is a great resource for Republican candidates up and down the ticket.

All of the information that you collect about your neighbors is key, and will be utilized in the upcoming election cycle by the Michigan Republican Party (MRP) and local candidates alike, so make sure that you enter the information into the GOP Data Center. If you have questions or need access to the GOP Data Center, please contact your local county chair or MRP at 517-487-5413.

What else do I need to know?

It is important to remember that you have been chosen by the Republicans in your precinct to be the liaison to the Republican Party. As a precinct delegate, you will be asked to help with a variety of activities, and your help will be crucial to local candidates and the Party as a whole. Others in your area will look to you for Republican information and connections; you are the point person for your precinct.

What other activities might precinct delegates perform leading up to an election?

Your county party has several programs they ask precinct delegates to assist in implementing. These programs include voter identification programs, helping with absentee voter programs and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. These programs are an important part of the campaigns of local and statewide candidates. Your leadership and participation in these programs makes the difference between Republican candidates winning and losing.

Voter Identification

You may not realize it, but Michigan does not have voter registration by political party. In fact, there is no official registry of Republican or Democrat voters in Michigan. Therefore, the ability of Republican campaigns to talk to Republican voters is contingent upon hard work at the precinct level.

The Voter Identification Project is the process of identifying the Republican-leaning and Democrat-leaning voters in your precinct.

As a precinct delegate, your goal is to identify Republican voters who may become prospects for volunteer recruitment, yard-sign placement, and at a minimum to turn out the vote.

The Michigan Republican Party can provide you with a list of voters who are already identified as Republican, as well as those unidentified voters in your precinct. These lists will assist you as you confirm and recruit volunteers and identify new Republican voters in your precinct.

Because people's attitudes and views change, and because people are often moving, it is necessary to conduct a thorough VIP program each election cycle.

Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) Program

Like you, your neighbors are busy. Election Day comes and goes, and some people forget to vote or lack the motivation to go to the polls. Campaigns win close elections when each precinct has an effective GOTV program.

GOTV programs start with the most intensity ten days before Election Day. The two primary GOTV mechanisms are last minute door-to-door canvassing and phone calls. Nothing beats a personal conversation with the voter, especially when a neighbor is contacting them. That is why it is vital to have volunteers on the phones and on the streets leading up to GOTV weekend.

As the leader in your precinct and your community, it is important for you to get involved early and lay the groundwork by recruiting volunteers, identifying voters and participating in GOTV activities in order to have a successful 2013-2014 election cycle.

Election Day

What Happens on Election Day?

After months of hard work and campaigning, the only thing that matters are results on Election Day. For this reason, there are several programs that run on Election Day. These programs ensure that our voters get to the polls and that they vote for the entire Republican ticket. On Election Day, you should be involved with three main programs: working the polls; poll challenging; and GOTV efforts.



Do I continue GOTV Phone Call & Door-to-Door?

Yes, Get-Out-The-Vote phone calls and door-to-door must continue on Election Day. If you have already called your list, call them again. Do not be afraid to call too many times. Make sure that everyone on your list is reminded to vote on Election Day, and that each voter is aware of their polling location. GOTV phone calls and door-to-door should be the number one priority for precinct delegates on Election Day.

What is poll challenging?

Poll challenging is a way to check if the Republicans in your precinct have voted. Take the precinct list to the poll, and check off the names of all the Republicans that vote and remind them that polls are only open until 8:00 p.m. Make sure they are aware of their polling location. This is a great way to ensure that every Republican votes. Poll challenging is important, so if you can only find one volunteer to work at a specific time, have your volunteer poll watch.

In 2012, the Michigan Republican Party developed its own smart phone application to track, which voters have gone to the polls, making volunteers who are making calls and knocking on doors more efficient. It also allows direct contact with the legal war room in the event that, while poll challenging, a ballot needs to be challenged.

How do you work the polls?

Working the polls is the last chance you get to inform the voters about the Republican candidates. When a volunteer works a poll, they stand outside of the precinct polling place and pass out information about specific candidates or slate cards for the entire ticket. They give this information to voters as they enter the building to vote. Please remember that Michigan law requires that poll workers keep at least 100 feet from the entrance to the polls.

County Conventions

What is a county convention?

A county convention is a meeting of the precinct delegates and elected officials of a given county. At these meetings, the participants elect individuals to be delegates and alternates to the state convention, or they elect people to serve on the county party executive committee.



When do county conventions take place?

The 2013 county convention will be held on February 7th to elect delegates to the February 22 & 23 state convention. The February state convention is held for the purpose of electing the leadership of the Michigan Republican Party.

What specifically occurs at the February Convention?

At the February county convention, precinct delegates elect delegates and alternates to the state convention. The state convention is in February and is held to elect the Michigan Republican Party leadership. The leadership positions elected at this convention include:

	State Chairman and Co-Chairman	
Six Vice-Chair Positions		District Executive Committee Members
State Committee Members		District Officers

How do I know when and where the conventions take place?

About thirty days before a county convention, precinct delegates should receive an official call to convention. The official call will be sent out by the Republican county chair, and will include all of the details of the county convention. If you are elected as a delegate or an alternate delegate to a state convention, you will receive information from the Michigan Republican Party.

As a precinct delegate, it is recommended that you take an active part in your county party. This means attending meetings, joining a planning committee, and volunteering for events such as parades and fair booths.

Important Dates to Remember in 2013

February 7, 2013	County Conventions
February 22 & 23, 2013	State Convention

I AM A REPUBLICAN BECAUSE . . .

I BELIEVE the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity; freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

I BELIEVE in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

I BELIEVE free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

I BELIEVE government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

I BELIEVE the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations, and that the best government is that which governs least.

I BELIEVE the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people.

I BELIEVE Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.

I BELIEVE Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

FINALLY, I believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.