

2024 Precinct Caucus

Frequently Asked Questions, FAQ's

1. What is a caucus and why is it important?

A caucus is the “grass-roots” of political involvement, where people within a community get together to set the direction of a political party for the next several years.

2. Who may participate in the precinct caucus?

Any Clallam County registered voter who is willing to state by signing a Registration Form and List of Participants at Precinct Caucus that he or she considers him or herself to be a Republican and has not participated and will not participate in the 2024 caucus or convention system of any other party shall be eligible to participate in the Republican caucus. Individuals must reside in the precinct of the caucus in which they participate and are elected. If a person is unwilling to sign the form they cannot participate.

3. What is the purpose of the precinct caucus?

The purpose of the caucus is to:

- a. Elect delegates and alternate delegates to represent their precinct at the Clallam County Republican Party Convention, which will be an all-day event on February 24, 2024 at the Vern Burton Memorial Community Center, 308 E. 4th St., Port Angeles, WA, 98362.
- b. Discuss issues pertinent to the Republican platforms for the county, state and national parties.
- c. Complete a questionnaire about the direction of the Republican Party.
- d. Submit written resolutions or amendments to the county platform.
- e. Advocate for your preferred Republican Presidential candidates.

4. What are delegates expected to do?

Delegates will attend the Clallam County Republican Convention at the Vern Burton Community Center in Port Angeles on February 24, 2024. While in attendance at the all-day event, they will have an opportunity to speak and vote on resolutions and amendments to the Clallam County Republican Platform, and to elect delegates and alternates from amongst themselves to the Washington State Republican Party state convention. Washington State policy requires that delegates and alternates elected to attend the state convention shall pay a fee to cover all state convention expenses. That fee, along with a registration form will be due immediately following the county convention. The amount of the fee for 2024 is undetermined.

5. How does Washington State determine which presidential candidates it will vote for at the Republican National Convention?

This year Washington State delegates elected to the Republican National Convention will be required to cast their first vote for presidential candidates based on the results of the Washington State Presidential Preference

Primary on March 12, 2024. Votes will be allocated among the respective Presidential candidates proportionally, based on rules established by the Washington State Republican Party. This is different from past years when votes were determined by straw polls at caucuses, by primaries or a combination of the two. To win the nomination at the national convention a candidate needs at least 1237 of 2472 votes. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, the convention becomes “brokered” which means WA delegates are no longer obligated to vote per the results of our primary, and are thereafter allowed to vote their conscience. The possibility that the convention may be brokered is why you should consider the positions of those you elect to the county convention because they could end up at the national convention and vote for a candidate you’d prefer they not.

Washington will send 43 delegates to the Republican National Convention. 3 delegates from each of 10 Congressional Districts, 10 At-Large delegates and 3 automatic delegates.

6. When and where is the Washington State Republican Party Convention?

The Washington State Republican Convention will be in the Spokane, WA, April 19-20, 2024. The state convention will have up to 2500 delegates and 2500 alternates in addition to automatic delegates. Clallam County is allotted 35 elected delegates, 35 elected alternates and 3 automatic delegates.

7. What is an alternate delegate?

Alternate delegates are back-ups for delegates elected at their precinct caucus and will act as elected delegates should an absence of delegates occur prior to or during the county convention. Absences include no-shows and whenever a delegate has to leave the convention floor. Alternates will sit in a separate area, behind the convention floor where delegates are seated, will be able to watch & hear the proceedings. Alternates will not participate in the convention unless they are filling-in for an absent delegate. If a delegate returns to the convention floor the alternate filling in for that delegate will return to the alternate seating area.

8. How many delegates and alternates does each precinct elect?

The number of elected delegates allotted to each precinct varies by precinct, but in Clallam County will be between 1 and 3. Ideally, you should elect one alternate for each delegate. Use the list provided at each precinct caucus table to determine how many delegates your precinct is allocated.

9. How is the number of elected delegates determined?

The number is based on a formula using the sum of the number of votes within a precinct for 2020 Republican candidates for President, Governor and Secretary of State. The formula ensures that the more votes a precinct delivers for Republican candidates, the more delegates that precinct is allotted. The more delegates a precinct is allotted; the more influence the precinct can have at the county convention.

**IF A CLALLAM COUNTY PRECINCTS’ TOTAL 2020
REPUBLICAN VOTES FOR PRES., GOV. & SECRETARY OF
STATE WERE:**

- At Least Zero, but less than 652
- At least 652, but less than 1086
- At least 1086, but less than 1520

**THEN THE PRECINCT IS
ALLOCATED THIS MANY
DELEGATES:**

- 1
- 2
- 3 or 4

10. What if no voters from a precinct attend their precinct caucus?

That precinct will not be represented by any elected delegates or alternates at the county convention.

11. What if fewer people attend the precinct caucus than the precinct has allotted delegates?

The number of elected delegates allotted to each precinct is a maximum that can be sent to the county convention from that precinct. Precinct caucus attendees should elect as many delegates as possible up to and including the maximum.

12. What if more people attend the precinct caucus than the precinct has allotted delegates?

This is a good thing. The precinct caucus will hold elections until all allotted delegate and alternate positions are filled.

13. What if I attend the precinct caucus, but don't want to be a delegate or an alternate?

The political process benefits the most and gets the best results when many people participate. Having said that, there is no requirement that attendees must become delegates if nominated and/or elected. If nominated, you can refuse to accept.

14. Can a person not in attendance at the precinct caucus be nominated for election as a delegate or alternate?

Yes, but, each delegate to the county convention, other than automatic delegates, must be elected from a precinct caucus but need not be in attendance at the caucus for election. Non-attending nominees must adhere to the same qualifications as all caucus participants, see "Who may participate in the precinct caucus?" on page one. It is essential that non-attending nominees have confirmed their willingness to be a delegate or alternate before being nominated. After the precinct caucus and before the county convention all elected delegates will be verified to be eligible by a credentials committee. If subsequent to the precinct caucus an elected delegate is determined to not meet both criteria he or she will not be able to participate as an elected delegate at the county convention.

15. What is an automatic delegate?

Precinct Committee Officers, PCO's, were elected or appointed prior to December 1, 2023. By rule, PCO's who participate at a caucus are deemed automatic delegates. They need not and cannot be elected at a caucus. They are in addition to delegates elected at the precinct caucuses. Also, all Clallam County residents elected to partisan positions in the county, legislative, statewide or federal offices may be designated by the county central committee as automatic delegates to the county convention.

16. What procedures are followed in a precinct caucus?

Please refer to the excellent instructional Precinct Caucus Guidelines provided at each precinct table.