

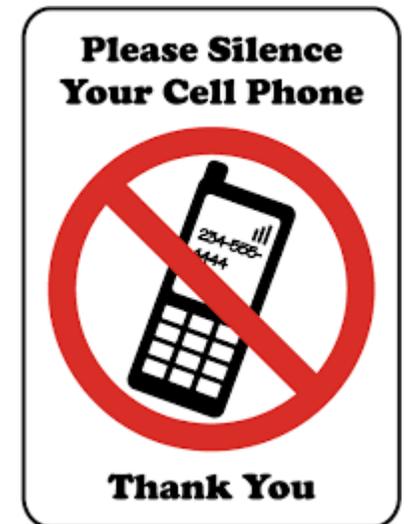


February 4, 2020
Member/Public Meeting

Meeting Agenda



- Welcome/Call to Order
- Nonpartisan Policy Reminder
- Featured Topic: “Picking a President: Part 1 - The Presidential Nominating Primary” with LWV Minnesota Civic Engagement Director, Nick Harper
- Local League Application Project Update
- CMAL Update
- Observer Corps Opportunity
- Announcements
- Adjourn



Nonpartisan Policy Reminder



- Keep your comments non-partisan. Talk about ideas – not partisan labels.
- Promote political actions that are not party-specific such as researching a topic, educating voters or contacting lawmakers in general regarding an issue.
- Refrain from endorsing or opposing specific candidates or elected officials.
- Only state facts, not judgments about the facts, when it is not possible to avoid mentioning a specific candidate, lawmaker, or party.
- Avoid discussing your individual activities supporting or opposing any candidate or party.

Featured Topic

“Picking a President: Part 1 - The Presidential Nominating Primary”



Nick Harper
LWV Minnesota
Civic Engagement Director

Last updated 01-07-2019

Picking the President

Part 1 – The Presidential Nominating Primary

Most voters think of the presidential election as happening in November every four years. But the process that voters use to pick our president actually extends long before election day.

Campaigning by candidates often starts well over a year before election day, and voters begin to actually pick the final candidates for election several months before election day. The first official step in the process in Minnesota is the presidential nominating primary!



Summary

The presidential nominating primary is a process by which voters cast a vote for their preferred presidential candidate on a ballot of their preferred major political party.

The day for the presidential nominating primary is March 3 (also known as “Super Tuesday”).

But early voting begins January 17!

The result of the presidential nominating primary may affect who appears on the ballot in November.

Something to remember: Not an election, but election-ish

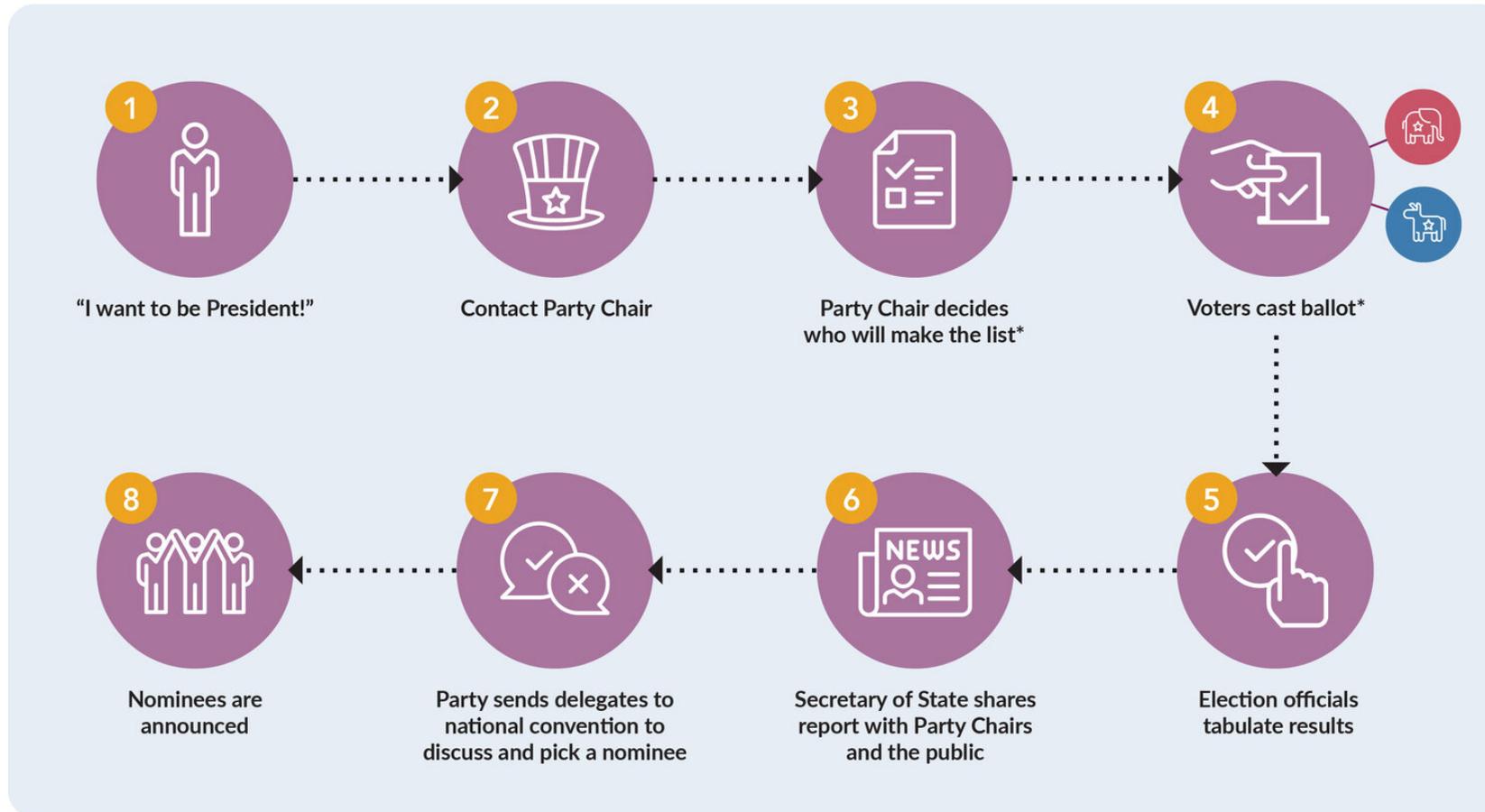
The presidential nominating primary is **not** a traditional election.

It is a **party process** that looks and feels just like an election because local election officials administer it in the same way as an election.

But it is **not** an election for a candidate. Instead, it informs each political party which candidate to support at the party's national convention.

For most voters this distinction means very little in practice. But voters should not to confuse the presidential nominating primary, which is a political party process, for an official election.

The Presidential Nomination Process



Step 1

Someone decides they want to run for president.

They become a candidate for president, start raising money for their campaign, and begin campaigning.



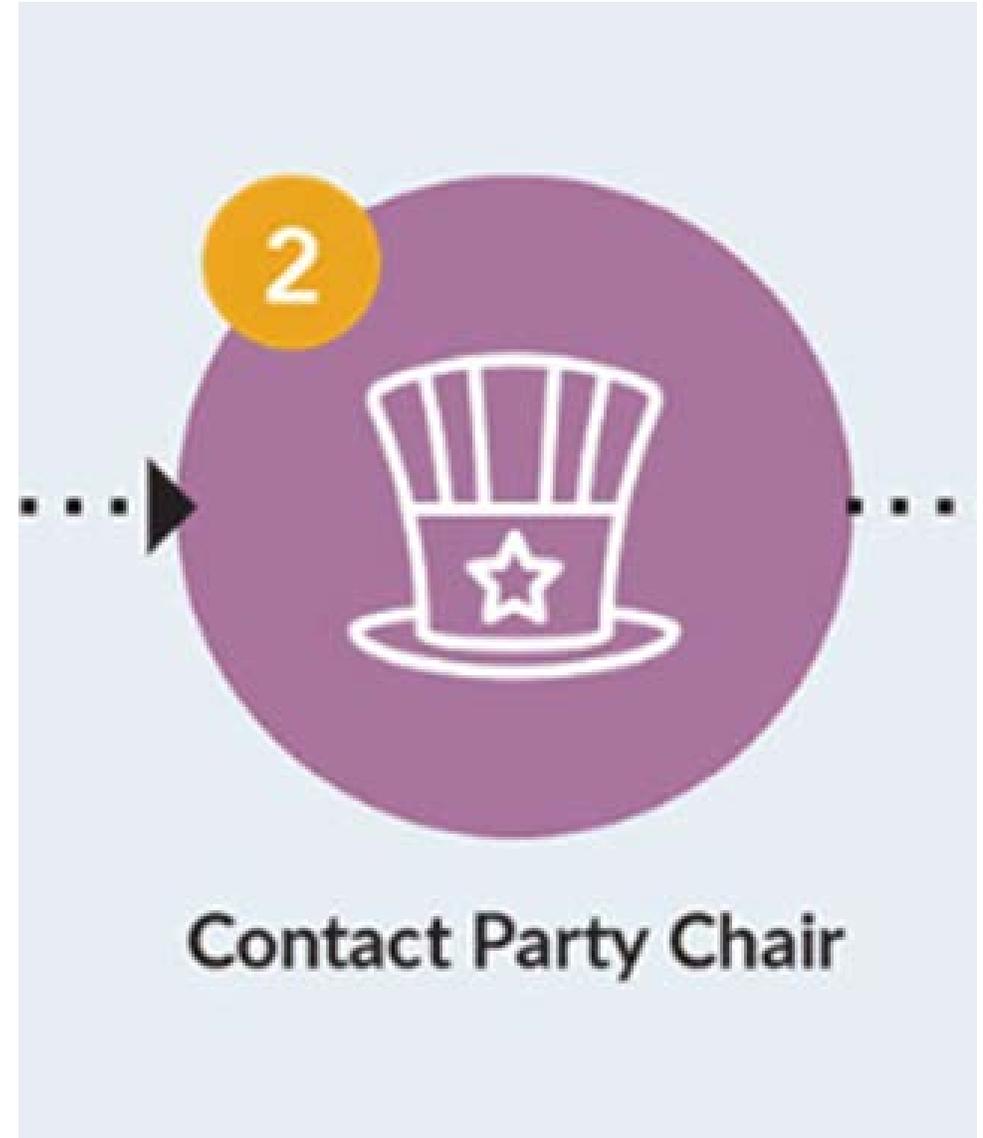
Step 2

The candidate picks a political party to affiliate with.

The candidate has to seek the party's nomination to be on the November ballot.

But first, they need to be part of the presidential nominating primary ballot in March.

They contact the party chair and ask to be listed on the presidential nominating primary ballot.



Step 3

The party chair decides which candidates will appear on the party's ballot for the presidential nominating primary.

The chair also decides if there will be a place to have write-in candidates and if voters can cast an "undecided" or "uncommitted" vote.

The party chair submits the list of candidates to the Secretary of State. Election officials print the ballots.

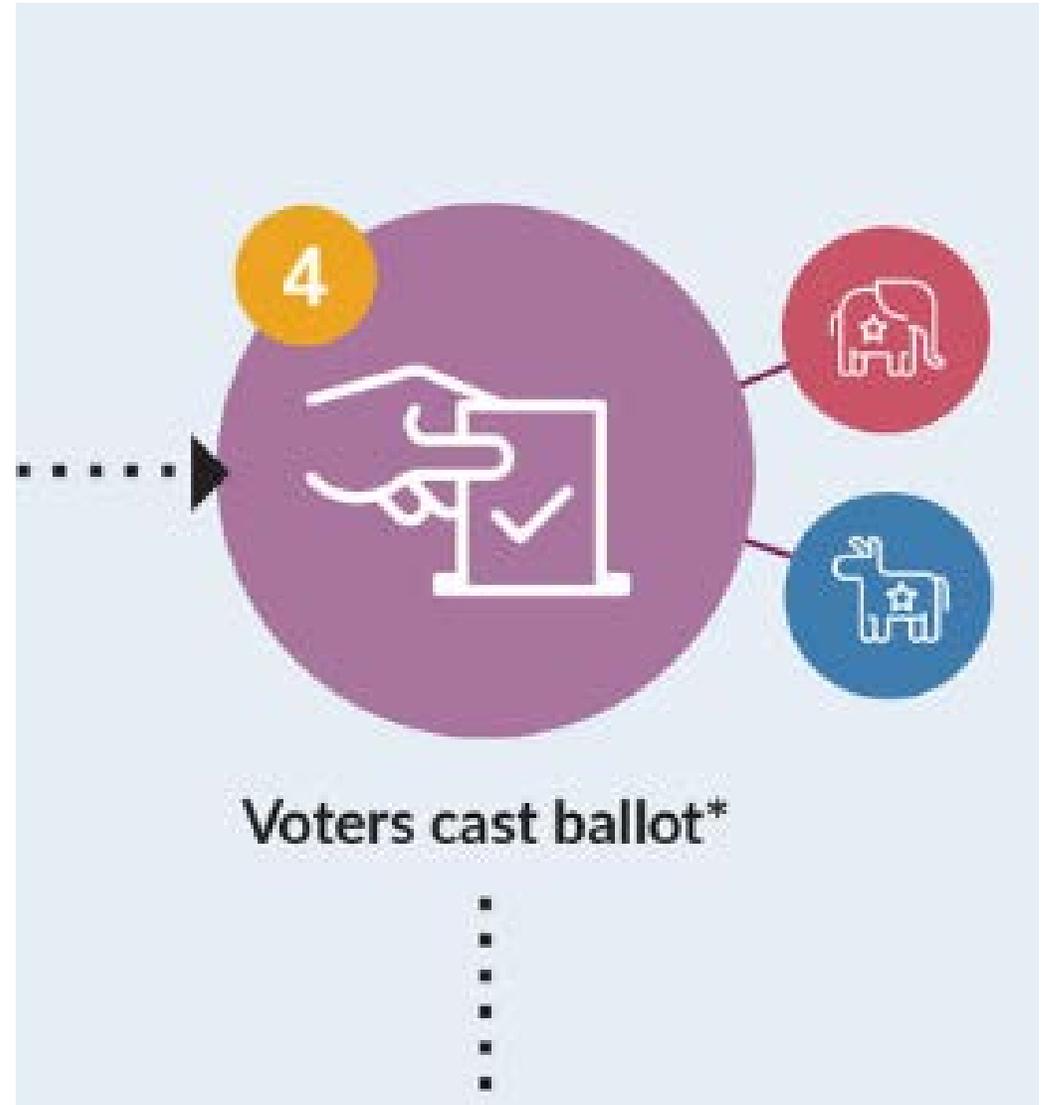


Step 4

Voters cast a ballot for their preferred candidate.

Voters can only vote in ONE party's ballot.

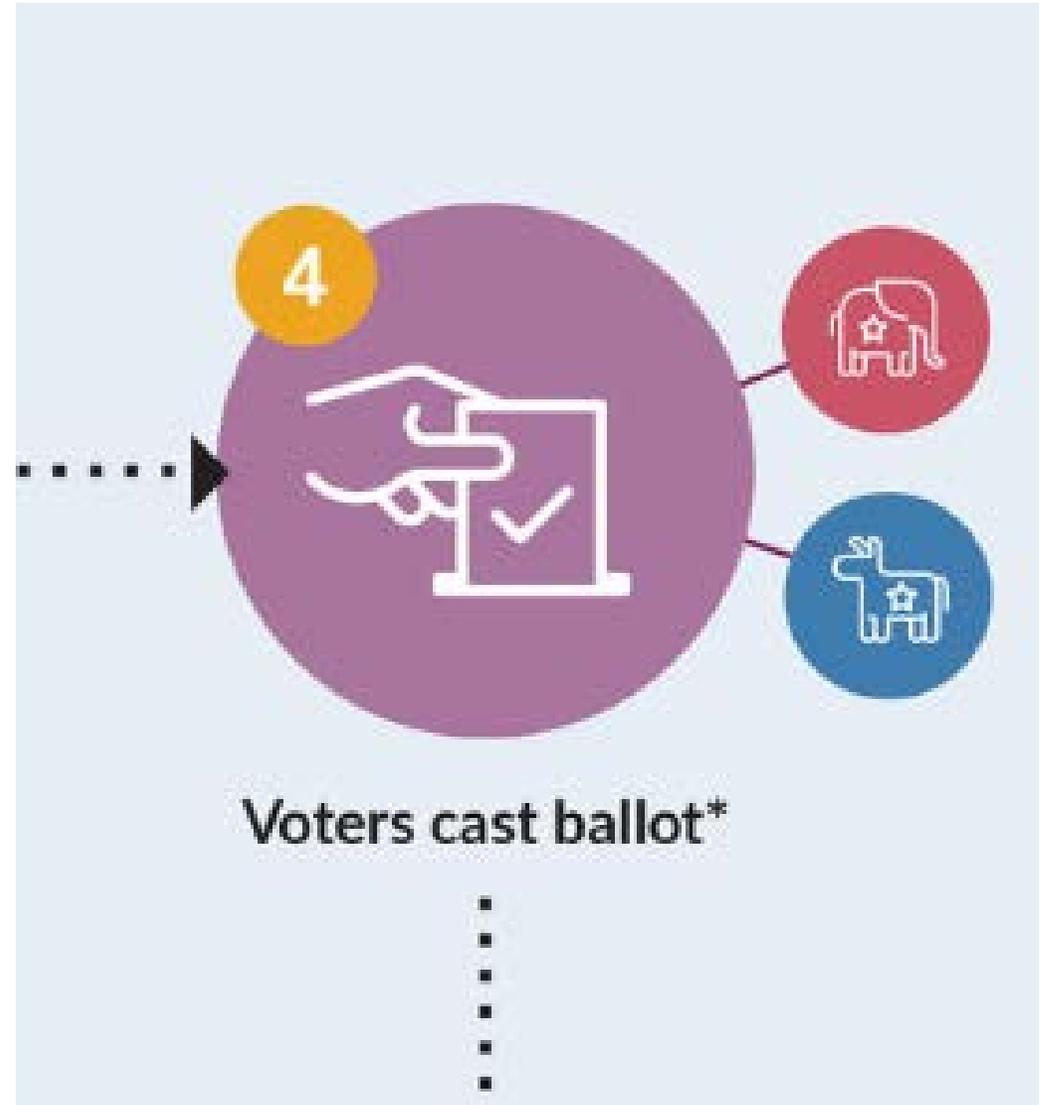
Party chairs were required to notify the Secretary of State on each party's intent to participate in the presidential nominating primary by December 31, 2019. **Only the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party will participate.**



Step 4 (more)

Voting in the presidential nominating primary is very similar to voting in a traditional election.

The only significant difference in the presidential nominating primary, from a typical election, is that you must tell an election official which party's ballot you want to vote on. You must also sign a statement saying you are in general agreement with the party's principles.



Step 5

Election officials tabulate the results.

Votes are counted separately for each party.



Step 6

The Secretary of State reports the results to the public and party chairs.



Step 7

Parties then send delegates to the parties' national convention.

Delegates support nominations for candidates based on the results of each party's primary.



Step 8

Each party announced a nominee based on how delegates voted at the party's national convention.



Frequently Asked Questions

What happened to caucusing for presidential candidates?

The legislature changed the process to nomination by ballot. The presidential nominating primary only replaces one piece of party caucuses. Parties can still hold precinct caucuses and local and state conventions for other party business, such as nominating candidates for other electoral races, selecting party officers, adopting resolutions, or changing the party platform.

Do I have to be 18 to vote in the presidential nominating primary?

Yes.

Only individuals eligible to vote, i.e., age 18 or older on the day of the presidential nominating primary day (March 3), may vote in the presidential nominating primary.

What Information About You Is Shared With Others If You Vote In the Presidential Nominating Primary

Election officials do **not** make your party preference public.

However, the law requires the state to share your party preference with the chairs of the major political parties. This is because the political parties need to know who voted in their presidential nominating primaries. (Remember, the presidential nominating primary is a political party process, not a traditional election.)

Typically, the parties use this information to build voter contact lists for campaign purposes.

How you voted, such as the candidate you voted for or if you submitted a write-in candidate, will **not** be public information and will **not** be shared with party chairs.

Who Gets That Information?

- As discussed, election officials *do not* share a voter's party preference with the public.
- However, a voter's party preference is shared with the major party chairs under [Minnesota Statute 201.091, subdivision 4a](#).
- The Secretary of State interprets the relevant law to mean that all major party chairs receive the party preferences of all voters.
- In contrast, the DFL Chair interprets the relevant law to mean that major party chairs will only receive the names of voters who prefer that party (e.g., Republican Chair will only receive names of voters who voted on Republican ballots, DFL Chair will only receive names of voters who voted on DFL ballots, etc.). In multiple news reports, the DFL Chair has discussed the option of litigating the issue in court.
- Until a court order mandates otherwise, the Secretary of State plans to share information under his understanding of the law. LWVMN will keep everyone informed of any updates as they occur.

- Proposed bylaws have been drafted. Key aspects include:
 - An LWVDC Board consisting of 3 officer roles and up to 9 additional directors. Officers include a president, treasurer, and secretary. The president role can be shared by two co-presidents.
 - Board members are elected by majority vote to two-year terms.
 - To initiate a local study, at least 25% of all voting members must approve.
 - To adopt a policy position proposed as the result of a local study, at least 2/3 of all voting members must approve.
 - Bylaws may be amended at annual meeting by majority vote.

- A proposed nonpartisan policy has been drafted. Key aspects include:
 - Encouraging members to be actively involved in politics and civic life.
 - Seeking to support policy positions with board support that rise above partisan politics.
 - Committing to conducting issue and candidate forums without advocating in favor of LWV positions.
 - Encouraging diversity of political thought in conducting local studies.
 - Restricting partisan political activity of highly visible Board members and other key LWVDC leaders.

- We need members to volunteer to serve on the Board.
- We especially need one or two people to volunteer to serve as the president or as co-presidents.
- We have volunteers for the treasurer and secretary roles.
- Some current leadership team members have volunteered to continue serving on the new Board.
- We anticipated finalizing our local league application this month, but that needs to be delayed at least until we have a volunteer for the president role.

- January 11 CMAL Meeting: Our Region * Our Quality of Life *
Our Future
 - Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster with the Metropolitan Council, discussed projections of population and demographic trends and how that will impact land use policy and housing needs in the metro area.
 - CMAL delegates decided to initiate a study of county governance.
 - CMAL delegates also expressed interest in studying land use and environmental quality.

- The Dakota County Board of Commissioners will host a Pre-Session Legislative Forum:

Friday, February 7
Dakota County Community Development Agency
1228 Town Centre Drive, Eagan
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

The event will include discussion of the County's 2020 legislative priorities and strategy for the upcoming legislative session.



- LWV Minnesota's Day of Action will be held at the State Capitol on Friday, February 14. The focus of the day will be on people-powered redistricting. For more info and to register, see lwvmn.org/league-calendar.
- Book Club – our new book is One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy, by Carol Anderson. Discussion will be held Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD.

The text "TAKE ACTION!" is written in a large, bold, red, handwritten-style font. It is centered within a white rectangular area that is framed by a thick, dark grey L-shaped border on the top-left and bottom-right sides.

- Read your LWV Minnesota All Member News
- Follow us on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube!
- Join LWV and tell a friend! Everyone is on the membership committee!
- Volunteer and get involved!
- Sign up for LWVMN's Capitol Letter
- Sign up for LWVUS and LWVMN Action Alerts

- Next LWVDC meeting will be **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**, at Burnhaven Library (Burnsville), social time beginning at 5:30 pm and regular meeting beginning at 6:00 pm. The topic will be “Shining a Light on Government: Sunshine Laws.”
- ****Members** please drop your name badge at the check-in table
- Adjourn

See you next time!