

To: Caucus Attendees, Caucus Conveners, and County Unit Chairs

From: David Weinlick, Party Affairs Director  
dweinlick@dfi.org

Date: January 2010

With a very crowded field of candidates running for Governor, it is essential that our entire caucus and convention process be fair and transparent. Voter participation is key to building the DFL Party and winning in November, so the rules that govern caucuses contemplate **an open and welcoming process**. To help ensure that DFLers can fully participate in precinct caucuses, the foundation of our grassroots democratic process, here are a few suggested guidelines for caucus participation and the preference ballot.

### **Caucus Participation**

To participate in the caucus, a voter need not show any identification, and need not have registered to vote. We don't want a more restrictive process for caucus registration than for voter registration, which doesn't require showing identification.

Any registrant can participate in the caucus unless challenged. To participate, there are only four requirements, and **failure to meet these requirements is the *only* basis for a challenge**:

- a. The person must reside in the precinct.
- b. To run or vote for delegate or alternate to the next-level convention, or to vote in the preference ballot, the person must be at least 18 years old and otherwise qualified to vote by November 2, 2010. To participate in all other caucus business, the person must be at least 16 years old by November 2.
- c. The person must agree with the DFL Party's principles as stated in the State DFL Constitution and Bylaws.
- d. The person must not be an active member of any other political party.

The caucus — except for the person being challenged — decides any challenge by simple majority.

## **DFL Precinct Caucus Preference Ballot**

### **Ballots**

A caucus chair can use pre-printed ballots, blank pieces of paper, or both (especially if you run out of pre-printed ballots). You can download a ballot form at <http://www.dflers.org/caucus>.

If you pre-print the ballots, please print more copies than you will need, so that you don't run out.

### **Voting**

Please display clearly the correct spelling of each candidate's name (even if you are using a pre-printed ballot).

Please distribute and collect each ballot at registration in order to avoid any "loose" or "floating" ballots.

Each voter must use the ballot furnished by the caucus chair. The voter should indicate their preference on the ballot as simply as possible. Some campaigns may give out stickers with the candidate's name, which the voter can use. But while voters may use a sticker, they can't use their own ballot.

### **Counting the Votes**

Counting cannot begin until at least 8:00 p.m.

A ballot counts as long as the voter's intent is clear, even if the voter misspells the candidate's name.

Please announce the result to the caucus before reporting them to the Secretary of State's office according to your instructions. If you have difficulties, call the Secretary of State's reporting line at 651.201.1383.

---

We look forward to a problem-free caucus night. But if you do have any questions as we approach caucus night, please call DFL Headquarters at 800.999.7457.

**Thank you!** And best wishes for a successful caucus.