

The Silent Majority...





Take A Step Forward...
for Children and Public Education
“ Become a Delegate ”

 Utahns for Public Schools

www.utahnsforpublicschools.org



What is the Process?

- Neighbors gather in March of an election year in **caucus meetings (sometimes also called mass meetings or precinct meetings)** to choose representatives from their area who will select candidates for office.
- **These representatives are called “delegates.”**
- Delegates are needed to select both county and state candidates in County Conventions and the State Conventions.



Tell Me More About Neighborhood Meetings . . .

- Neighborhood meetings, or caucus meetings are held by a political party, in a local school or other building close to your home.
- You must declare membership in the Republican Party to vote or become a delegate in that party's caucus meeting. There are no requirements of declaration for party membership in the Democratic caucuses.
- You may not be denied entry into the caucus meeting just because you may differ on the party's platform, current initiatives, or views of office holders.
- Donations are sought, platforms are read, elections are held, and meetings are run by parliamentary procedure.

What is the Difference Between County and State Conventions?

- Delegates selected to attend the State Convention may select:
 - Candidates for U.S. Congress from Utah
 - Candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor
 - Candidates for other state offices
 - Some candidates for the Utah Legislature
- Delegates selected to attend the County Convention may select:
 - Most candidates for the Utah Legislature
 - Candidates for county seats and offices



Why Should Those Who Support Children's Issues Become Involved?

- Delegates can select the candidate most likely to understand and support Utah's children's issues and public schools
- Example: As a percentage of personal income, legislative funding for public education has dramatically decreased in the last two decades (Utah Foundation Report, June 2011)
- With those who support children and public education across the state voting in caucus meetings, you can ensure good representation, even if you, yourself, choose not to become a delegate.



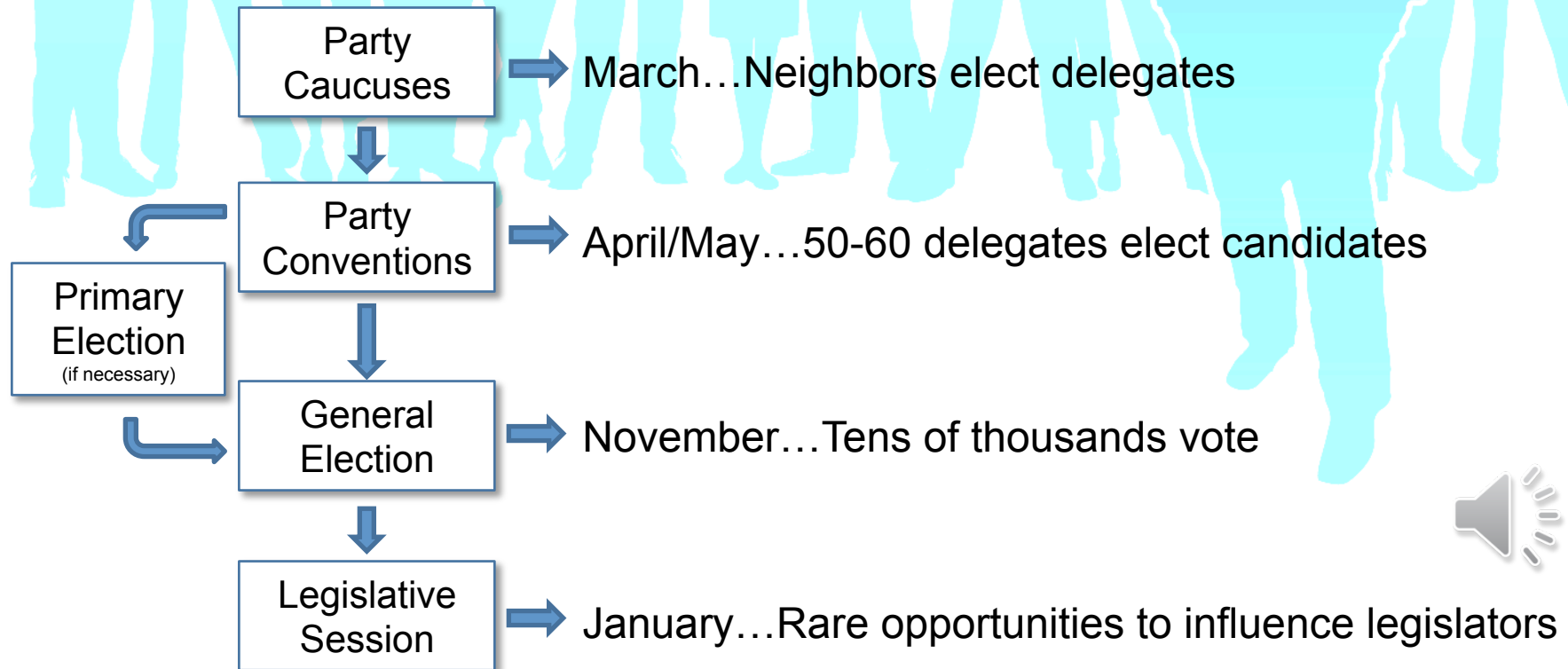
When Should You Begin Your Involvement?

- **Now** Study the issues relating to children
- **January** Watch the legislative proceedings and make contacts with legislators to influence their thinking/action
- **March** Prepare to become a delegate and attend your local caucus meeting
- **March 13, 2012** Democratic Caucus
- **March 15, 2012** Republican Caucus



Where Your Vote Counts Most

Your vote carries more weight at a caucus or convention than on election night!



Take A Step Forward

Delegates Have Power

- Delegates narrow the ballot in every race in Utah; they have extraordinary power to influence the outcome of elections.
- For the last several years, many races in Utah have been one-party races so that those who are elected by delegates are almost assured a win in the general election.
- Candidates for office in Utah can focus on getting the delegate vote and then may give less attention to the general public during or after the campaign.
- All citizens can be advocates for public school children by influencing and empowering delegates.



How Can I Become A Delegate?

- Plan to attend the caucus meeting and plan, ahead of the meeting, to be nominated by a friend or neighbor.
- Bring many friends and supporters with you to the meeting so they can vote for you and for reasonable platform language.
- Prepare brief remarks to introduce yourself and provide information about why you wish to become a delegate.



Why Should I Become a Delegate?

*Candidates get to know **you**. They get to meet with **you** personally and ask **you** questions.*

-- Dave Hansen, former state GOP chair ([Deseret News](#))

You have the candidate's attention, because **you** ultimately could make or break their candidacy. They will seek **you** out and **you** can influence their views on issues related to children including telling them of **your expectation** of support for public schools.



Take A Step Forward

Begin Early to Become a Delegate

1. To ensure your eligibility to be a delegate be sure you have registered in the party of your choice .
2. Find out which **voting precinct** you live in and where your caucus meeting will be held:
<http://vote.utah.gov/county-clerk/>
3. Arrive at your caucus meeting at least 10 minutes early. Greet others as they enter the room.
4. Bring 10-20 neighborhood friends to the caucus who will vote for you.
5. Ask someone to nominate you.
6. Be prepared with remarks and expect some questions/ opposition about your views. Speak strongly for public education and be tactful in discussing contentious matters.



Be Committed to Serving Your Community

- Altering state and county leadership to be more supportive of children's issues and public education will take several election cycles.
- Once you are a delegate, please plan to continue your service long enough to influence the elections so that children-friendly leaders are chosen.
- If not a delegate, never miss a caucus meeting so you can vote for pro-public education people!

How Do I Register To Vote?

<http://gva1.utah.gov/elections/polling.aspx>

Enter Your First Name: *

* Your first name is required

Enter Your Last Name: *

* Your last name is required

Enter Your Birth Date: (12/30/1977)

* Birth date is required

Tell Us What County You Live In:

What is your house number?

(Enter "123" for 123 N Main)

* House Number Required



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Sample Voting Information Form

EXAMPLE:

John Q. Smith

You are registered as (Party Affiliation)

Your precinct is 3210. Your polling place for the Primary Election on 6/22/2012 is located at:

Taylorville Elementary School

5555 S 700 W

Taylorville, UT84119

Note: Subject to change for future elections.

Ballot information for this election has not been released yet.

Please try back later or you can call the County Clerk for further information.



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Questions?



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UTPS Mission

In order to advance the quality of public education through improved state and local policymaking, UTPS will prepare and disseminate accurate, timely information; support well-informed public engagement; and advocate for ethical and transparent governance.

Please Take A Step Forward!

