What Is A Delegate and Why Should I Become One?
People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by the majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote—a very different thing.
-Walter H Judd

**Purpose**

The purpose of this training is to prepare the LGBT community and its allies to become legislative and precinct officers and, most importantly, delegates to their county and state political parties. By becoming delegates and participating in the political process we illustrate the diversity of our communities and can shape our political parties.

**Why Would I want to be a Delegate?**

Are you frustrated during the legislative session, wondering what you can do to make a difference? Becoming a delegate within the Republican and Democratic Party will give you a voice in putting fair-minded candidates on the ballot.

- Making a difference in your community begins in discussions with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors; once you **become a delegate** you can represent your views and the views of your neighbors and co-workers by becoming a powerful voice in your party.

- To achieve a fair and just Utah for the LGBT community and its allies, your participation in all levels of the political process is crucial. Becoming a delegate is an important first step in electing fair-minded candidates to office. **You can be that delegate.**

- Delegates are also the grassroots organizers of their political party and when delegates are active, **fair-minded candidates win!**

Delegates are individuals who have the power to elect candidates within the political parties. They make the decision about who represents the party in the primaries and the general elections. They may also elect State and County party officials.

Learning how to be an effective delegate and participating in the (electoral) precinct caucus process will allow our community to play a role in placing fair-minded candidates on the front lines of politics.
In order to change the faces on Capitol Hill, we must change the names on the ballots. As a delegate, you have the power to make that change.

**What is a Precinct Caucus Meeting?**

Precinct Caucus meetings are held by the political parties every even numbered year to organize the precincts and *elect county party delegates*. We encourage you to attend so that you can be elected as a delegate to your county party.

A precinct is the smallest political organizing unit in the state. Basically, a precinct is the households in your neighborhood. A precinct will vary in size and population determines the boundaries. Local municipalities draw the precinct boundaries.

- Precinct Caucus Meetings take place in the home of someone who lives in your neighborhood or at a public building.
- You need to know the name/number of your precinct in order to attend your precinct caucus meeting. Contact your County Clerk, party website or the newspaper to determine your precinct name/number and the location of your meeting.
- In 2012, precinct caucus meetings will be held **Tuesday, March 13th, and Thursday March 15th**.
- Bring a photo ID with you to your precinct caucus meeting.
- Make sure that you know your political party’s platform and positions:
  - For the Utah State Democratic Party platform go to [http://utahdemocrats.org/](http://utahdemocrats.org/)
  - For the Utah State Republican Party platform go to [www.utgop.org](http://www.utgop.org)
What is a delegate and how do I get elected as a County Party Delegate?

What is a County Party delegate?

A delegate is an elected representative to the county political party from their precinct. Delegates are elected at the precinct caucus meetings. Any person who will be age 18 by the general election and has lived in Utah at least 30 days immediately before the next election can be a delegate.

- To get elected in the Republican Party, you must be registered as a Republican. The Democratic Party allows any registered voter to be elected as a delegate.
- Anyone who attends a precinct caucus meeting can nominate other attendees or someone else to become a delegate or precinct officer.
- Delegates represent their precinct and attend & vote at all County Party Conventions for candidates.
- Depending on the county you live in, a county party delegate may also be a state party delegate. Contact your county party to determine the process for becoming a state delegate.
- Delegates assist Precinct Officers with political organizing in their legislative district.
- Depending on the rules of the County party, delegates may vote on the content of their party platforms and governing documents.

Other Things to remember:

- Delegates are elected for two-year terms.
- Each precinct is allocated a specific number of delegates.

What are the responsibilities of a delegate?

- Attend and vote at ALL County Party Conventions and give prompt notice to the Precinct and Legislative Chair if unable to attend. (Time commitment is about 10 hours per year.)
- Assist the Precinct Officers with political organizing at the precinct & legislative district levels.
How do I get elected as a County Party Delegate?

Typically to get elected as a county party delegate, you will need to run a “mini-campaign” for yourself. Depending on the city and county that you live in, it can be very competitive to get yourself elected as a delegate and you should be prepared.

Process:
1. Contact your neighbors and the political party activists in your precinct and encourage them to attend and vote for you at the precinct caucus meeting.
2. Ensure that all of your supporters show up at the precinct caucus to vote for you.
3. During the precinct caucus meeting, individuals who are running for a delegate position will give a speech or will be asked to talk about why they are interested in becoming a delegate.
4. When the meeting is coming to an end, the group of attendees will vote for their new delegates and elect new precinct officers.
5. Be prepared to stay at the meeting the whole time (about 2 hours), voting takes place at the end.
What is a Legislative district?

- The geographical area that an elected official represents in the Utah House and Senate.
- Every 10 years, the Utah Legislature draws Utah Senate, House and Congressional districts based on the census data. Legislative and Congressional boundaries will be redrawn in 2011 based on the 2010 census data.

- House Legislative districts:
  - The Utah House of Representatives is comprised of 75 men and women elected to two year terms. They are up for election in even numbered years. The ideal population for each of the 75 House districts is 22,971.

- Senate Legislative districts:
  - The Utah State Senate is a body of 29 men and women elected to four-year terms. About half of the Senate seats are up for election every two years on an alternating basis. Each Senator represents a constituency of approximately 60,000 people. A senatorial district may encompass county, a portion of a county or two or more counties.

What is a Legislative Chair?

The Legislative Chair is a key position within the state and county party structure for the following reasons:
1. Organize for elections and party building activities.
2. Ensuring that precinct caucus meetings in their district are organized.
3. Communicate the names of elected delegates and precinct officers to the county parties.
4. Working with candidates and organizing volunteers within the legislative district.
5. Involve precinct officers and precinct caucus attendees in political campaigns.

The precinct chairs are elected by the delegates.
Definitions

Precinct Caucus—a grass-roots meeting that is held for political organizing purposes

Delegate—a person elected at a precinct caucus meeting who votes at their party convention to elect the party’s nominees to run in the primary and general elections and helps organize their precinct for elections

Legislative District—a geographical area that an elected official represents

Legislative Chair—person elected by precinct chairs to organize their legislative district and work with precinct officers, delegates, candidates and potential candidates.

Organizing Convention—a convention that occurs in the odd-numbered years to elect State Party officers, County Party officers and review party platforms.

Nominating Convention—a convention that occurs in even-numbered years so that delegates can elect their party’s nominees to run in the primary and general elections

Precinct—the smallest political organizing unit in the state a geographical area. Your precinct number is usually printed on your voter registration card.

Precinct Caucus—a political party meeting of the voters in a precinct that is held to elect delegates and precinct officers. Both parties hold precinct caucus meetings in even numbered year on the same date (typically in late March).

Precinct Chair—elected by attendees at the precinct caucus meeting. Responsibilities include being a member of the County Party Central Committee, organizes precinct for elections, possibly hosts the precinct caucus meeting in the next even numbered year, works with the Legislative Chair to help organize district

Precinct Secretary—elected by attendees at the precinct caucus meeting, keeps accurate minutes, records, and lists for the precinct

Precinct Treasurer—elected by attendees at the precinct caucus meeting, keeps accurate, detailed financial records for the precinct

Precinct Vice-Chair—elected by attendees at the precinct caucus meeting, member/attendee of the County Party Central Committee, assist Precinct Chair in duties, assume the duties of the Chair in their absence
How a Candidate Becomes Elected

Delegates elected at Precinct Caucus Meeting

Delegates attend County Primary Convention
(Held during even numbered years)
- Delegates nominate the Party’s candidates (including County offices)
- Delegates approve the party platform and vote on platform amendments
- State delegates (check party officials for qualifications and eligibility)

Delegates attend County Organizing Convention
(Held in spring during odd numbered years)
- Delegates elect County Party officials
- Delegates hear and vote on amendments to the County Party Platform

State Delegates attend State Primary Convention
(Held during even numbered years after all County Organizing Conventions have been held)
- State Delegates elect Party candidates in contested races (including statewide offices)
- State Delegates approve the party platform and vote on platform amendments

State Delegates attend State Organizing Convention
(Held during odd numbered years after all County Organizing Conventions have been held)
- State and County parties determine State Delegates
- State Delegates elect State Party officials
- Delegates hear and vote on amendments to the State Party Platform

All Registered Voters vote in Primary Election
June 26, 2012

See Party rules regarding who is allowed to vote in the Primary

All Registered Voters vote in General Election
November 6, 2012
Local Media Contacts

Sometimes writing a letter to the editor can be a great way to get a message out about a particular issue or candidate. Sometimes it can be very helpful for precincts to organize letter-writing campaigns regarding issue facing local communities in Utah.

Daily Newspapers:

Deseret News
30 East 100 South, SLC, UT 84111
Fax: (801) 237-2121 www.deseretnews.com

Herald Journal (Logan)
75 West 300 North, Logan, UT 84321
Fax: (435) 753-6642 www.jhnews.com

Ogden Standard Examiner
332 South Ward Avenue, Ogden, UT 84404
Fax: (801) 625-4299 www.standard.net

Provo Daily Herald
1555 North 200 West, Provo, UT 84604
Fax: (801) 344-2982 www.harktheherald.com

Salt Lake Tribune
90 South 400 West, SLC, UT 84101
Fax: (801) 257-8525 www.sltrib.com

Saint George Spectrum
275 East St. George Blvd., St. George, UT 84770-2954
Fax: (435) 674-6265 www.thespectrum.com

Weekly Newspapers:

Beaver Press
40 East Center, Beaver, UT 84713
Fax: (435) 438-8804 www.utahpress.com/beaverpress

Blue Mountain Panorama
329 West 400 North, Blanding, UT 84511
Fax: (435) 678-3902 panorama@citlink.net

Box Elder News Journal
55 South 100 West, Brigham City, UT 84032
Fax: (435) 723-5247 www.benewsjournal.com
City Weekly  
248 South Main Street  Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  

Davis County Clipper  
1370 South 500 West, Bountiful, UT 84010  
Fax: (801) 295-3044  www.clippertoday.com  

Emery County Progress  
190 East Main, Castledale, UT 84513  
Fax: (435) 381-5431  www.ecprogress.com  

Garfield County News  
120 North Main, Tropic, UT 84776-0127  
Fax: (435) 679-8847  garfnews@colorcountry.net  

Gunnison Valley News (Sister Paper of Salina Sun)  
P.O. Box 189, Gunnison, UT 84634  
Fax: (435) 528-7634  www.gtelco.net/~news/  

The Messenger/Enterprise  
35 South Main, Manti, UT 84642  
Fax: (435) 835-1493  messenger@manti.com  

Millard County Chronicle Progress  
40 North 300 West, Delta, UT 84624  
Fax: (775) 514-2931  chronpro@delwave.com  

Millard County Gazette  
13660 East Oak Creek Canyon Road, Delta, UT 84624  
Fax: None listed  www.xmission.com/~mconews/  

Park Record  
1670 Bonanza Drive, Park City, UT 84060  
Fax: (435) 649-4942  www.parkrecord.com  

Q Salt Lake  
1055 East 2100 South #205 Salt Lake City, Utah 84106  

The Richfield Reaper  
65 West Center, Richfield, UT 84701  
Fax: (435) 896-5476  www.richfieldreaper.com  

Salina Sun  
P.O. Box 85, Salina, UT 84654  
Fax: (435) 528-7634  news@gtelco.net  

The San Juan Record  
49 South Main Street, Monticello, UT 84535  
Fax: (435) 587-2277  sjrnews@aol.com
Southern Utah News
26 North Main, Kanab, UT 84741
Fax: (435) 644-2926   sunews@expressweb.com

Sun Advocate
845 East Main, Price, UT 84501
Fax: (435) 637-2716   www.sunad.com

The Times Independent
35 East Center, Moab, UT 84532
Fax: (435) 259-7741   www.moabtimes.com

The Times News
96 South Main, Nephi, UT 84648
Fax: (435) 623-4735   www.mephitimesnews.com

Tooele Transcript Bulletin
58 North Main, Tooele, UT 84074
Fax: (435) 882-6123   www.tooeletranscript.com

Uintah Basin Standard
268 South 200 East, Roosevelt, UT 84066
Fax: (435) 722-5131   www.ubstandard.com

Vernal Express
54 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078
Fax: (435) 789-8690   www.vernal.com

The Wasatch Wave
675 West 100 South, Heber City, UT 84032
Fax: (435) 654-5085   www.wasatchwave.com