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The 2020 Elections

US Senate
7 Congressional Districts

State Board of Education | Dist. 1, 3, & 7
CU Regent | Dist. 2, 6, & 7
State Senate | Dist. 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, & 35
State House | Dist. 1 - 65
District Attorney | Dist. 1 - 22
Political Party Organization

- The principal function of a Political Party is to nominate partisan candidates to the ballot, and to help get those candidates elected to office.

- Statewide
- Congressional District
- State Senate and State House
- Judicial District
- County
Elections and Political Parties are Governed by State and Federal Law:

- **Federal Election and Campaign Finance Laws:**
  Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended
  Regulations issued by the Federal Election Commission (FEC)

- **Colorado Election Laws:**
  Title 1 – State and County Elections
  Title 31 – Municipal Elections
  Rules issued by Colorado Secretary of State

- **State Campaign Finance Laws:**
  Colorado Constitution Article XXVIII, adopted 2002
  Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act, CRS 1-45-101
  Rules issued by Colorado Secretary of State

- **Home Rule Jurisdictions:**
  County and Municipal Charter Provisions / Ordinances
Counties in Colorado
Congressional Districts in Colorado
State House Districts in Denver
Precincts Within a Legislative District:
County Republican Party Organization:

County Party Central Committee is comprised of precinct committeepersons, district captains, county party officers, Republican elected officials, and other voting and non-voting members as specified in county party bylaws and the rules of the Republican Party.
Precinct Committeeperson

“The most influential political office in the world.”

A good Precinct Committeeperson will:

- Regularly attend GOP District Meetings
- Regularly attend Community Meetings
- Conduct Neighborhood Canvass
- Organize Voter Registration Efforts
- Distribute Candidate Literature
- Coordinate Get Out the Vote Efforts
- Help Build and Grow the Party
Review: Purpose of Political Parties

- The principal function of a Political Party is to nominate partisan candidates to the ballot, and to help get those candidates elected to office.

- Statewide
- Congressional District
- State Senate and State House
- Judicial District
- County
Candidate Ballot Access:

Under Colorado law, there are two ways for a partisan candidate to gain access to the primary election ballot for state, county and district offices:

- Designation to the Primary Ballot by Assembly
- Designation to the Primary Ballot by Petition

Non-partisan and local offices gain access to the ballot by petition only, in accordance with municipal election code, local charter or home rule ordinance.
Candidate Ballot Access Terminology:

Candidates are **DESIGNATED** to the Primary Election Ballot by Assembly or by Petition.

Candidates are **NOMINATED** by Primary Election (i.e. they become the Republican Party’s **NOMINEE** by winning the Primary Election)

Until a Republican nominee is chosen by the Republican voters, the Republican Party as an organization and its officers maintain neutrality in contested primary elections.
Primary Ballot Access by Petition:

**First day to circulate major party petitions for primary ballot designation:** Tuesday, January 21st, 2020

[CRS 1-4-801(5)].

**Last day to file major party petitions for primary ballot designation:** by Tuesday, March 17th, 2020

[No later than Third Tuesday in March, CRS 1-4-801(5)].
Precinct Caucuses begin the process of ballot designation by party assembly:

Saturday, March 7, 2018
10:00 a.m.
caucus.cologop.org
Principal Business of the Caucus:

- Elect Precinct Committeepersons

- Elect Delegates/Alternates:
  - To County Assembly (and Single-County Assemblies)
  - Depending on County Party Rules, delegates may be apportioned to individual precincts for multi-county Judicial/House/Senate Assemblies, Congressional Assembly, and State Assembly – *however, any delegates selected at precinct caucus must be ratified at the County Assembly.*
Example Precinct Caucus Agenda:

- **Welcome and Call to Order**
- **Invocation / Pledge**
- **Candidate Support Speeches**
- **Select temporary precinct caucus chair and secretary**
- **Elect Precinct Committeepersons** by secret ballot or raise of hands, tally and announce results
- **Elect Delegates/Alternates to County Assembly** (and, if applicable, to other multi-county higher assemblies – *BUT ONLY IF* delegates have been apportioned to the precinct by County Party rules)
- **Recruit Election Judges**
- **Discuss Issues and Consider Resolutions to pass to County Party Assembly**
- **Adjourn and Complete Paperwork for County Party**
Precinct Caucus Q and A:

- Q - Who is eligible to participate in precinct caucuses?

- A – All registered Republican voters:
  - Who have lived in the precinct for at least 22 days (Friday, February 14th 2020);
  - Who have been registered to vote no later than 22 days before the caucus (Friday, February 14th 2020);
  - Who have been affiliated with the Republican Party for at least 22 days (Friday, February 14th 2020).
  - Anyone who turns 18 or becomes a naturalized citizen less than 22 days before the caucus may participate
  - A preregistrant who is 17yrs of age at the caucus but will be 18yrs on the date of the next general election

- NO VOTING BY PROXY OR ABSENTEE PERMITTED AT CAUCUS
Precinct Caucus Q and A:

- Q – How are Precinct Caucus locations determined?
- A – Each County Party Executive Committee OR Central Committee MUST authorize or approve locations for the Precinct Caucuses to be held within the county.
- Joint caucus locations are acceptable and encouraged, and all caucus locations MUST be ADA accessible.
- Once CAUCUS locations are identified, all locations must be entered into the CRCAS system (Caucus management system) for online sign ups.
Precinct Caucus Q and A:

- **Q** – What are the Notice and Publication requirements?

- **A** – Each County Party MUST post a prominently displayed notice sign at the location of each precinct caucus at least twelve (12) days (February 24, 2020) before the caucus. [CRS 1-4-602 (4)]

  The sign shall be substantially in the following form:

  "Precinct caucus place for precinct no. ......"

  The lettering on the sign and the precinct number shall be black on a white background with all letters and numerals at least four inches in height. Any precinct caucus subsequently removed and held in a place other than the place stated on the sign is null and void."
Precinct Caucus Q and A

- Q – How will the State Party provide help to the County Parties to run the precinct caucuses and report the results?

- A – The State Party, will work with all 64 counties to understand and utilize the CRCAS caucus management online system. This system will be required by all county parties to help manage the process from precinct caucus to county assembly to higher assemblies.

- The CRCAS system will auto generate your precinct caucus sign in sheets, your scripts, your reporting forms, and full voter lists of eligible participants.
Preparation for the Caucus:

- Adopt County Delegate Apportionment formula/plan (based on 2018 TO or registered R’s)

- Determine number of delegates to be selected from each precinct and determine if delegates to higher assemblies will be apportioned to precinct caucuses.

- Determine and formally approve ALL precinct caucus locations and corresponding precincts, and arrange for sign postings

- Prepare/ print copies of Precinct Caucus Packets, Reporting Forms from the CRCAS system

- Prepare and distribute materials from CRCAS system for Precinct Caucus to precinct committeepersons and/or district captains

- Implement Precinct Caucus promotion plan
Then What?

- Delegates selected at the Precinct Caucus will then attend County and District Assemblies:
  - County Assembly, *all Single-County Assemblies*
    - *No earlier than March 7th (after precinct caucus takes place and no later than April 1st)*
  - *Judicial District Assemblies*
  - *Senate and House District Assemblies*
  - *Congressional District Assembly (between April 4th and April 17th, 2020)*
  - *State Assembly (Saturday – April 18th, 2020)*
Candidate Eligibility:

Candidates are responsible for ensuring they satisfy all necessary eligibility requirements pertaining to office, including registration, residency and party affiliation status.

*Last day to affiliate with a major party in order to run as a party candidate in the primary (either by petition or assembly) January 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020*

*Political Party Central Committee officers should independently verify relevant candidate eligibility found in the records of the County Clerk or Secretary of State prior to the assembly.*
County Assembly (and single-county assemblies)

**No later than April 1, 2020** *(not later than 25 days after the precinct caucuses; CRS 1-4-602(1)(a)(I))*

*HOWEVER: CRC is strongly requesting ALL county assemblies conclude by March 29, 2020*

- Designation of County Candidates to the Republican Primary Election Ballot – County candidates designation & acceptances must be filed no later than 4 days after the adjournment of county assembly
- Candidate speeches
- Election or Ratification of Selection of Delegates/Alternates to Higher Legislative District Assemblies
- Election of Congressional Assembly Delegates/Alternates
- Election of State Assembly Delegates/Alternates
- Adoption of County Party Platform Resolutions
Single-County District Assemblies

MUST be held **THE SAME DAY** as the county assembly; same as delegates/alternates to county assembly

- Designation of District Candidates to the Republican Primary Election Ballot – *House/Senate, County Commissioners ONLY if elected by district*

- Designation of Vacancy Committees:
  - Vacancy in Central Committee membership
  - Vacancy in Designation or Nomination
  - Vacancy in Elective Office (if applicable)
Multi-County District Assemblies

MUST be held **AFTER** all applicable county assemblies but before State Assembly, no later than April 17, 2020.

- Designation of District Candidates to the Republican Primary Election Ballot – House/Senate
- Designation of Vacancy Committees:
  - Vacancy in Central Committee membership
  - Vacancy in Designation or Nomination
  - Vacancy in Elective Office (if applicable)
Congressional District Assemblies

April 4\textsuperscript{th} – April 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2020

(no earlier than 14 days before State Assembly).

- Designation of District Candidates to the Republican Primary Election Ballot:
  - Congressional Candidate, State Board of Education, CU Regents

- National Delegates to RNC National Convention

- Designation of Vacancy Committees:
  - Vacancy in Central Committee membership
  - Vacancy in Designation or Nomination
  - Vacancy in Elective Office NOT APPLICABLE
State Republican Assembly

Saturday, April 18th, 2020 – 1st Bank Center | Broomfield

- Designation of Statewide Candidates to the Republican Primary Election Ballot:
  - US Senate
  - National Committeeman
  - National Committeewoman
  - National Delegates to RNC Convention
- Adoption of Party Platform Resolutions
Primary Election Day:
Tuesday, June 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020

General Election Day:
Tuesday, November 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2020
Questions and Discussion
Colorado GOP
Website:
www.cologop.org

Caucus Locations & Pre-registration:
caucus.cologop.org