

UCRP Precinct Officer and Delegate Training 2016

Slide 1: Opening

This training is for UCRP precinct officers, state delegates, and county delegates.

Slides 2 – 3: Calendar

There are three county-wide “Precinct Officers and Delegates Training” and “Meet the Candidates” events. You do not need to attend all three training events because they are identical. But there will likely be a different mix of candidates at each of the “Meet the Candidates” events. Precinct chairs and vice chairs are expected to attend the Central Committee meeting on the morning of the county convention. County delegates are expected to attend their Legislative District Caucuses as well as the county party convention on Saturday, April 16, at Timpview High School in Northeast Provo. State delegates are expected to attend the state party convention on Saturday, April 23, at the Salt Palace Convention Center. The Primary Election is on June 28. The General Election is on November 8.

- Precinct Officers and Delegates Training, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meet the Candidates, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Thu, March 24, Lehi Jr. High School, Lehi
- Precinct Officers and Delegates Training, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Meet the Candidates, 10:30 – 12:00 noon
Sat, March 26, Timpview High School, Provo
- Precinct Officers and Delegates Training, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meet the Candidates, 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Tue, March 29, Maple Mountain High School, Spanish Fork
- Central Committee Meeting, Saturday, April 16, 2016 (THS)
- Legislative District Caucuses, Saturday, April 16, 2016 (THS)

- Utah County Republican Party (UCRP) Nominating Convention
Saturday, April 16, Timpview High School (THS), Provo
- Utah Republican Party (URP) Nominating Convention
Saturday, April 23, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City
- Primary Election, Tuesday, June 28.
- General Election, Tuesday, November 8.

Slides 4 – 5: Party Organization

Party organization is set forth in the county party constitution, which says the party is governed by three committees: The Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Central Committee.

The Steering Committee is comprised of four officers elected by county delegates at the organizing convention (in odd-numbered years), plus five other officers that are appointed to assist them during their two-year term of service. The Steering Committee manages the day-to-day operations of the party.

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Steering Committee, the chair of each House District, the chair of the Audit Committee, and the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. This committee meets monthly, advises the Steering Committee, and screens information for the Central Committee.

The Central Committee is comprised of the Steering Committee, district officers, **precinct chairs**, **precinct vice chairs**, partisan elected Republican officers, and past county party chairs. **The Central Committee meets quarterly**. It elects district officers during the third calendar quarter meeting of odd-numbered years. It specifies the number of convention delegates, approves a budget for the party, receives reports from party officers, considers party rule change proposals, etc. Members are expected to know and understand the party constitution and bylaws.

The Central Committee elects members of the Audit Committee, and members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Audit Committee has five members,

and it reviews party finances. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has seven members, and reviews and prepares party rule change proposals.

County party conventions are attended by county delegates, who decide the party's nominees in even-numbered years, and party officers in odd-numbered years. They approve or reject party rule change proposals, and platform change proposals.

The whole of the party is comprised of registered Republicans who live in Utah County, and who support the party platform. They vote in the Primary Election, and General Election. Every two years, at a neighborhood caucus, precinct officers and delegates are elected by ballot (or acclamation) to serve a two-year term.

Slide 6: Precinct Officers

Each precinct officer must be a registered Republican and live in the precinct. Precinct officers may endorse Republican Party candidates who are running against other Republicans, but may not use their party titles when giving endorsements. Publicly, they support only Republican Party candidates for partisan public office. If a precinct officer runs for a partisan public office, he must file for a leave of absence, and then resign the party office if elected to the public office.

Precinct officers may hold regular meetings with their precincts; keep their constituents informed by sending email updates, distributing literature and encouraging caucus attendance; receive input from the precinct; and help get out the vote. (We will discuss this in more detail at the central committee meeting preceding our county convention.)

Slide 7: Precinct Chair

The Precinct Chair is a member of the County Central Committee. He is responsible for the work of the party in his precinct.

The Precinct Chair fills vacancies by appointment. He may refer to those who ran for the seat in caucus, and consider alternates if alternates were elected, but he is not bound to appoint an alternate. Nevertheless, it is wise to look first at alternates if alternates were elected; then, he should consider those who ran for the office but lost—because running for the office demonstrates interest (and those with interest are usually better replacements than those without a demonstrated interest). To fill

a vacancy, he sends an email to the party secretary, carbon copy to district officers, wherein he names the replacement.

The precinct chair serves as a state and county delegate, and is therefore expected to attend both the county convention and the state convention, both this year and next year.

Slide 8: Precinct Vice Chair

The Precinct Vice Chair is a member of the County Central Committee.

He presides and directs in the absence of the precinct chair. He succeeds the precinct chair if the chair's office is vacated (by death, disability, resignation, or removal, for example).

The precinct vice chair serves as a county delegate, and is therefore expected to attend the county convention, both this year and next.

Slide 9: Precinct Secretary

The Precinct Secretary provides notice of meetings, prepares agenda, credentials attendees, and takes minutes.

One of the most important things the precinct secretary can do is to review the precinct roll. By law, a precinct may contain no more than 1250 registered voters. That is a lot of people. The printed list of a big precinct could be dozens of pages long. However, some of the people on this list no longer live in the precinct, so should be removed from the list. You, the precinct secretary, are responsible to review this list, identify people who no longer live in the precinct, and forward to the county clerk a list of people who may be removed. You should carbon copy your district officers and the party secretary.

This is tedious but necessary work. Assemble a few of your neighbors (the ones who seem to know everybody and what they are doing)—at least one from each neighborhood in your precinct. Then, together, read each name on the list and see whether the person still lives in the precinct. Don't do this right now, because many of you are also delegates and need to devote your time to candidates between

now and the conventions. But put a date on your calendar, after the state convention on April 23, and do it then. It should take you a couple of hours.

The county clerk will follow a process outlined by statute before removing someone from the voter registration roll.

By the way, the names of hundreds of registered voters were not on the caucus rolls this year for some reason. We don't know why, but we are going to find out.

Finally, precinct secretaries can help with credentialing and/or elections at convention. In fact, we need your help there. Please volunteer to help.

Slide 10: Precinct Treasurer

The Precinct Treasurer receives donations, accounts for them, and relays them to the county party treasurer. He can follow up with neighbors who pledged donations to the party on caucus night.

One of the most important things the treasurer can do is to account for donations made to the party at the neighborhood caucus. I helped count the money that was donated to the party last Tuesday night (into Wednesday morning), and found that, for the most part, the numbers on the outside of the donation envelopes matched the amount of money on the inside of the envelope. So good job! We expect you to help account for donations at the 2018 caucus, along with the newly elected treasurer, just as was done this year.

You can help with credentialing and/or elections at convention. We really would appreciate your help, so delegates can be inside the convention doing what they were elected to do, and so you can get become more familiar with party matters.

Slide 11: Effective Precincts

Precinct officers should meet together occasionally. You can identify “block captains” who will help you distribute information to homes in your precinct. That way, you can get a flyer to everyone in your precinct with just a few minutes work on the part of just one or two dozen people in your precinct. This is how you get more people to vote in the Primary and General Elections, and to attend your

caucus next year. These efforts would be complemented by getting an email address and phone number of everyone in your precinct who is politically active.

There is a gentleman in my community of Highland who invites friends and neighbors into his home each month to discuss a civic topic of interest, or to hear from an expert in some field, or to vet a candidate. Such activities build friendships and strengthen the feeling of community and belonging.

Effective precincts are comprised of people who take the time to inform their public servants how they feel on issues of interest. Using phone, email, and other social media, contacting members of Congress, state legislators, county commissioners, and other public servants helps to keep them accountable to the party platform. Be clear, concise, and respectful.

The web site, le.utah.gov, is a great web site for tracking legislative actions. It enables you and me to hold our legislators accountable to the platform. It lists each member of the house, senate, along with their contact information. It lists every bill the legislature has considered (from 1997 to the present, and actually from 1896). It gives the status of each bill. It has a “Tracking Service” by which you can track the bills in which you are interested. You can tag a bill to get notified whenever its status changes. You can search for bills by topic, by representative, and by senator.

Effective precincts have people who understand the legislative process, or how a bill becomes law (meaning the path it follows): House committee, House floor, Senate committee, Senate floor, etc. They also have people who understand the referendum process, by which the citizens of a city, county, or district effectively nullify or overturn a law or ordinance with which they disagree.

Slide 12: Delegates

Delegates are chosen by their neighbors to serve a two-year term. State delegates attend the state convention, both this year and next. County delegates attend the county convention, both this year and next.

Delegates have three important responsibilities:

1. Understand the Republican Party Platform
2. Vet the candidates

3. Study rule and platform change proposals and resolutions

Slide 13: Delegates Understand the Platform

The party platform proclaims our values. It attracts people to the party. It is the ideological glue that holds us together. We read the platform at caucus every two years to remind ourselves why we are affiliated with the party.

You should understand the party platform because you are responsible to identify and support candidates who adhere to the platform. If you are not familiar with the platform, then you cannot competently judge whether a candidate will adhere to it.

Party rules require candidates to sign a statement that declares their support for the platform, and a willingness to "accept it as the standard by which [their] performance as a candidate and as an officeholder should be evaluated."

If delegates use different standards of measurement, then our candidates will vary in the way they vote. If we truly want them to implement the ideals of our party platform, then we must measure them by that standard, and hold them accountable.

A copy of the county party platform is at ucrp.org. Chairman Craig Frank posted a video presentation of our county platform on the county party website recently as well. A copy of the state party platform is at utah.gop.

Slide 14: Delegates Vet the Candidates

Delegates should not have a bias for any candidate at the time of the neighborhood elections. Your mind must be open. You must not blindly support candidates that are popular with your neighborhood. You must give all candidates a fair hearing.

Delegates allocate a significant portion of their time to research, interview, and vet the candidates. On average, you should devote at least two hours per candidate in each race. Some of this time may be one-on-one (in person or on the phone), some may be in a small-group setting (in a home or school or civic center), and some may be at a debate, at a "Meet the Candidates" event, or at the convention. Ideally, you will see and hear the candidates on multiple occasions and in various settings.

You should ask candidates some of your own questions--in an objective manner so the candidates will respond candidly, or without knowing your mind on the issue.

Make notes while you listen to candidates speak. *Casting an ignorant vote is worse than not voting.*

Study the public record of each candidate. Learn how the candidate voted on issues. Votes are recorded and published for anyone who has served in the Utah Legislature (le.utah.gov) or in the US Congress (govtrack.us). Examine third-party indices created by groups that rate legislative performance; e.g., Utah Grassroots (utahgrassroots.org), Freedom Index (thenewamerican.com/freedomindex) for the US Congress, etc. *Past performance is the best indicator of future performance.*

You can also see who is donating to a candidate's campaign. The Lt. Governor's web site tracks the money each candidate, party, PAC, and PIC receives (and from whom) and spends.

Slide 15: Delegate Measurement Tool: Key Issues

The next four slides describe a fun, objective tool you can use to help you decide which candidates are the “best” candidates.

The first step is to make a list of key issues in each race.

For example, in a congressional race, key issues might be foreign policy, monetary policy, entitlement reform, and the protection of civil liberties. In a gubernatorial or legislative race, key issues might be public land, education, firearms, and business regulation. In a county race, key issues might be roads, property rights, eminent domain, and taxation or a bond issue.

What other issues might be of interest to you in a national, state, or county race?

Slide 16: Delegate Measurement Tool: Weight

If some of these issues are more important to you than others, add a column to your scorecard called “Weight” or “Importance.”

For example, public lands might be more important to you than business regulation, or vice versa.

Or, if the issues are of equal importance, then you don't need this column.

Slide 17: Delegate Measurement Tool: Score

Have a column for each candidate in the race, so you can score the candidate on each issue that is important to you. There are four candidates in our example race here: Alan, Bob, Carol, and Doris.

Use a scale of integers. For example, you could use the five integers from -2 to +2; where -2 is terrible, -1 is bad, 0 is neutral, 1 is good, and +2 is excellent!

Review what the party platform says about each of these issues. A candidate's score depends on how closely his or her view is aligned with the party platform.

Visit with (and listen to) each of the candidates, and study his/her voting record if s/he has one, and then give each of them a score on each issue.

Slide 18: Delegate Measurement Tool: Results

By multiplying a candidate's score on an issue with the weight of the issue, and then summing these numbers, you obtain a quantitative result for each candidate. Because you have used the same grading system on each candidate in the race, you should have a fairly objective perspective of each candidate.

It is okay to have a fudge factor on your scorecard, one that considers character, likeability, and leadership, for example. On my scorecard here, I have called it "Likeability." Just give it a weight, and score it like all the rest.

You will be surprised at how easy it is to determine which candidates you like best, which you like the least, and which are in between.

Slide 19: Delegates Study the Issues

Finally, delegates may be voting at convention on rule change proposals, platform change proposals, and/or resolutions. These items are usually posted on the party web site. Sometimes they are also mailed to you.

Familiarize yourself with each proposal, discuss it with other delegates and with constituents in your precinct, and make a tentative decision on how you will vote on it.

You may have to read and study the party constitution, the party bylaws, and the party platform. You must come to understand the issues: what change is being proposed, what the proposal accomplishes, and what (if any) adverse side effects the change may cause.

Slide 20: Delegates Share Information

Please sit down with other delegates in your precinct and exchange information about the various candidates and issues. Your fellow delegates will often have perspectives that will help you decide whether you will vote for a candidate or not.

Delegates, if you cannot fulfill these responsibilities, then please resign so you can be replaced. Your neighbors would appreciate not losing their representation. To resign, send an email to your Precinct Chair and to the Party Secretary (and carbon copy your District Chair).

Slide 21: Conventions

The party has two kinds of conventions: nominating conventions and organizing conventions. At the Nominating convention, delegates select party nominees to run for public office. At the Organizing Convention, convention delegates select party officers and members of the state party's central committee.

On the morning of the convention, you should plan to arrive early to sign in. Bring your photo ID, and some water and food (and maybe even some aspirin :--). A registrar will give you a packet of information (containing a layout of the school, showing who is where, doing what; a convention program; etc.). You will also receive your *credentials* (a wristband and/or card with your name, precinct, legislative districts, etc.). Then you will be free to visit with candidates and other delegates until your legislative district caucuses begin.

You may have a house caucus and/or a senate caucus before the convention begins, where you will hear from legislative candidates before you vote for the candidate of your choice. The general meeting at the county convention will feature county commission candidates this year; the general meeting at the state convention will feature candidates whose election will be decided by all of the state delegates.

If you don't know your house and senate district, visit vote.utah.gov, enter your street address, click the "Submit" button, and then the "Elected Officials" button. The web page that appears will show you your senate and house districts.

Elections are usually decided with multiple-round balloting, which means that a winner must receive a majority of the votes cast.

The party's parliamentary authority is Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition.

Slide 22: Races Decided by County Delegates

At the county nominating convention this year, county delegates will hear from (and vote for) candidates whose legislative districts lie entirely within the county; specifically, SD 7, SD 14; HD 2, HD 6, HD 27, HD 48, HD 56, HD 57, HD 59, HD 60, HD 61, HD 63, HD 64, HD 65, HD 66, and HD 67. You will also hear from (and vote for) candidates for County Commission Seat C. (The source for this information is www.co.utah.ut.us, which you can reach by typing "Utah County Online" into a browser search engine.)

County delegates will choose the four elected county party officers at the organizing convention in 2017 (usually held in April), and about 22 additional members of the state party's central committee.

County delegates also have the responsibility to fill any mid-term vacancies in their legislative districts.

Slide 23: Races Decided by State Delegates

At the state nominating convention this year, in a legislative district caucus, state delegates will hear from (and vote for) candidates whose legislative districts span counties; specifically, SD 13, SD 16, SD 24, SD 27, and HD 68. You will also hear from (and vote for) state-wide candidates; specifically, governor, attorney general, auditor, and treasurer.

You will help choose a National Committeeman and a National Committeewoman. You will choose delegates and alternates to go to the national convention in Cleveland, Ohio. And you will help choose six presidential electors.

At the organizing convention in 2017, you will choose the four elected state party officers.

State delegates also have the responsibility to fill any mid-term vacancies in their legislative districts.

Slide 24: Delegate Seat Allocation

The state party establishes the number of convention delegate seats. Currently, that number is 4,000. Those delegates are allocated among the 29 counties according to the “relative republican strength” of each county. “Republican Strength” is the number of votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election for the Republican candidate for governor, attorney general, auditor, and treasurer, in a contested race. When the strength of each county is compared with the strength of every other county, you have what is called “relative republican strength” (RRS).

The state party allocated 849 seats to Utah County following the General Election of 2012. Within Utah County, each of our 269 precincts gets at least one state delegate seat, which (as you know) is bundled with the precinct chair’s seat. Then, the rest of the 580 seats are allocated among our 269 precincts according to the RRS of each precinct. Precincts that “get out the vote” earn more delegate seats than precincts that do not vote for the party’s candidate in those four offices.

The county party allocates two delegate seats to each precinct—one is bundled with the precinct chair’s seat, and one is bundled with the vice chair’s seat. Then, each precinct gets 1 additional seat for every 500 votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election for the Republican candidates for governor, attorney general, auditor, and treasurer, in a contested race.

Following the General Election this year, the state party will do a fresh allocation of state delegate seats among the counties, and the county party will do a fresh allocation of those seats among the precincts. And those are the numbers we will use in the 2018 and 2020 caucuses.

The number of county delegates has grown over the years because more and more of these votes are being cast from Utah County, relative to the number of votes cast in other counties. Two decades ago, there were fewer than 1000 county convention delegates. Now, there are over 1500, and there are not many venues here in the

county that will accommodate that many people. Therefore, we may have to adjust the allocation formula for county delegates in the near future.

Slide 25: Split Precincts

A “split” precinct is a small section of a city that bears the name of the city it is in, but which lies in a different house and/or senate district, or in an unincorporated area of the county. A split precinct is usually combined with its “parent” precinct, provided that it lies in the same house and senate district.

When the Utah legislature establishes legislative boundaries following a census (every ten years), house and senate districts are drawn so the population in each district is roughly the same. This means that a legislative district may be drawn into a neighboring community to get enough people to attain the right number.

When this happens, the Utah County Clerk will label the “spill over” according to the city in which it lies—not according to the legislative districts in which it lies. This makes things easy for city elections, but more difficult for legislative district elections (which is what we do).

LE01S is an example of this phenomenon. It is part of Lehi City, and it lies in House District 56. To give Republicans in LE01S a voice in the election of their state representative, it must be combined with a precinct that lies in HD 56. It cannot be combined with its “parent” precinct, LE01, or with LE02 or LE06, however, because these three Lehi precincts lie in HD 6.

AF02 lies in HD 56, and is the only adjacent precinct with which LE01S can be combined.

And although the senate districts are not marked on this small section of the map (that I cropped for this presentation), you might also be interested to know that LE01S lies in Senate District 14, while its neighboring Lehi precincts lie in SD 13. But AF02 lies in SD 14, and so it is again the only suitable choice.

Slide 26: List of Combined Precincts

This year, several members of the Executive Committee discovered eight “split” precincts in Utah County that needed to be combined with an adjacent precinct in a

different city. Accordingly, just days before Caucus Night (March 22), they were in fact combined. Here is the list.

Slide 27: Homework Assignment

I created a YouTube video in 2012 entitled “Convention Delegate Final Prep.” It describes the responsibilities of a delegate, and features the candidate measurement tool. Please watch it (6:51): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLuSVpZWF5k>. And Kristen Chevrier created an hour-length video in 2014 entitled “2014 Precinct Officer & Delegate Training: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sK4MJg7ZE>.”