

Why the Caucus-Convention System?

- Involves ordinary citizens in the political process
- Allows for thorough vetting of candidates by elected neighborhood caucus delegates
- Provides a way for those with less money and prestige to get into office based on principles and values
- Delegates more easily hold representatives accountable to the people
- Those who know how to make a motion, discuss alternatives, form coalitions and identify solutions are more fully prepared to understand and engage in the political process
- Nominating, electing and serving as delegates gives the grassroots practice at nominating, electing and serving in other situations (public office)
- From Robert's Rules to good old-fashioned persuasion, caucus night teaches ordinary people how to govern
- The face-to-face interaction of the caucus system also builds the demand for civil discourse and the ability to empathize with others, two elements that are increasingly absent from the public square. Meeting on caucus night requires friends and neighbors to talk to each other about our principles and values and creates time and space for this important face-to-face communication
- We learn not only how to express our voices in the political process, but also how to *listen* to each other
- Brings communities together