

Branch County Republican Party



*2020-2022 Precinct
Delegate Guidebook*



Precinct Delegate Basics

What is a precinct?

A precinct is the smallest political geographic division in a state. The area varies in size and is determined by population. A precinct contains a maximum of 2,999 registered voters, although many precincts are smaller. It is up to local municipalities to draw their own precinct lines.

What is a precinct delegate?



A precinct delegate is an elected representative to a local political party from a precinct. Every precinct has at least one Republican delegate, and some have more. The local Republican Party determines the number of delegates based on the number of Republican votes in that precinct in the previous election.

How do you become a precinct delegate?

There are two distinct paths by which one may become a precinct delegate; election, and elevation.

Precinct delegates may be elected in the August primary election of even-numbered years. A person running for Precinct Delegate must be a registered voter residing in the precinct in which they are running. The candidate needs to fill out an “Affidavit of Identity”. Affidavits are available at the county, city and township clerk offices, as well as on-line from the Secretary of State website. These affidavits must be notarized by a Notary Public. Once the affidavit is completed, it is turned into the county, city or township clerk where you live. The affidavit must be submitted no later than 4PM on the first Tuesday of May in even years. The exact date in 2022 will be announced later.

Once you (the candidate) files, your name is placed on the ballot in the August primary. Your name is under the heading “Candidate for County Convention Delegate”. The primary ballots are separated by political party, so only Republican voters vote for the Republican candidate(s).

Individuals who would like to be elected as precinct delegates but miss the May filing deadline can be elected as a write in candidate. In order to do this, the individual must file a Declaration of Intent form with their city or township clerk by 4pm on the Friday prior to the primary election. (As an alternative, candidates for precinct delegate may file the Declaration of Intent form with the appropriate precinct election officials on election day before the close of the polls.)

Precinct delegates serve two-year terms; those who were elected in August 2020 will serve until the August primary election of 2022. On the day after the election, you can call the County Clerk’s office to find out if you have been elected. The Clerk will also notify successful Precinct Delegates by mail. This notification also serves as the credential for the delegate to attend county conventions.



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

One may also become a precinct delegate if “elevated” (elected) at county conventions, if the county party decides to elevate precinct delegates after the county convention’s official business has completed.

What are the duties of a precinct delegate?

The official role of a precinct delegate is to represent Republicans in your precinct at county conventions. Precinct delegates are to attend, actively participate and vote at each county convention during their two-year term. Precinct delegates should assist local parties and candidates with a variety of activities, and serve as a liaison between their local party and their community.

As a precinct delegate, you are encouraged to take an active part in the county party. This means attending meetings, joining a planning committee, and volunteering for events such as parades, fair booths, and working at the campaign center.

Precinct Delegate Allocation by Precinct for 2020-2022

Algoma Township – 6	Ovid Township – 9
Batavia Township – 4	Quincy Township
Bethel Township – 4	Precinct 1 – 4
Bronson Township – 4	Precinct 2 – 7
Butler Township – 4	Sherwood Township – 6
California Township – 2	Union Township – 8
Coldwater Township – 12	Bronson City – 4
Gilead Township – 3	Coldwater City
Girard Township – 6	Ward 1 – 4
Kinderhook Township – 6	Ward 2 – 5
Matteson Township – 4	Ward 3 – 8
Noble Township – 2	Ward 4 – 4

Making a Difference

Why Should I become a precinct delegate?

Politics begins at the local level when you talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about the issues that are important to you. Once you get involved and become a precinct delegate, you have the opportunity to share these issues and concerns and make a difference. In addition, only elected precinct delegates may vote for the leadership of the Party. Also, precinct delegates are given preference to be elected as delegates to state conventions.

Precinct delegates are the grassroots of the county Republican party. **If we are going to be successful, Precinct delegates must help implement the full variety of local Republican programs, including voter identification programs, absentee voter programs, and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. These programs are an important part of local and statewide campaigns.** Your leadership and participation



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

in these programs is the difference between the success and failure of Republican candidates up and down the ballot.

How do I make a difference?

Precinct delegates play a key role in electing Republicans, not only to every public office, but also to leadership positions within the Republican Party. As a liaison to your community, you have the opportunity to build personal relationships with candidates and party leaders. These individuals come to you when they need to know specifics about your community. In addition, precinct delegates have the privilege of attending state conventions where they help select many of the Republican candidates for statewide offices.

Where to Start

Where is my Precinct?



The first thing to do is determine the precinct in which you live. You can find this information on your voter registration card, or from your county, city, or township clerk. Once you get this information, the next step is to get a precinct map. Precinct maps are available from your local clerk; the map will illustrate the boundaries of your precinct.

How do I get to know my Precinct?

Once you have a map, you should drive around your district. As you are driving, take in the characteristics of your precinct. Note which areas are industrial, commercial, farmland, or residential, and pay attention the kinds of homes in your area. Are they single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, or communities with restricted access? Look for growth, new homes, subdivisions, or businesses. All of this information will be useful to you as a precinct delegate, as well as local candidates, while you plan for election activities.

How do I get to know the people in my precinct?

After you have driven around your precinct and familiarized yourself with the area, it is time to meet the people who live there. The best way to do this is to walk your precinct. This shows you are active in your neighborhood and that you care about the community. It is a great way to find out where Republicans live. Once you have identified Republicans in your precinct, you can ask them to volunteer during the next election, place a yard sign in their yard, and remind them to vote on Election Day.



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Keeping in contact with the Republicans in your precinct is a great resource for Republican candidates up and down the ticket.

What else do I need to know?

It is important to remember that you have been chosen by the Republicans in your precinct to be the liaison to the Republican Party. As a precinct delegate, you will be asked to help with a variety of activities, and your help will be crucial to local candidates and the Party as a whole. Others in your area will look to you for Republican information and connections; you are the point person for your precinct.

What other activities might precinct delegates perform leading up to an election?

Your county party has several programs they ask precinct delegates to assist in implementing. These programs include voter identification programs, helping with absentee voter programs and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. These programs are an important part of the campaigns of local and statewide candidates. Your leadership and participation in these programs makes the difference between Republican candidates winning and losing.

County Conventions

What is a county convention?

A county convention is a meeting of the precinct delegates and elected officials of a given county. At these meetings, the participants elect individuals to be delegates and alternates to the state convention, or they elect people to serve on the county party executive committee.



When do county conventions take place?

The first county convention of this two year cycle was held on August 13 to elect delegates and alternates to the August 29 state convention. The August state convention was held for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following statewide offices:

Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court
Michigan State University Board of Trustees
University of Michigan Board of Regents
Wayne State University Board of Governors
State Board of Education

The second county convention will be held within 30 days of the November general election. This convention is scheduled for November 19. At this convention, precinct delegates will elect the members of the county executive committee. The members of the new executive committee serve a two-year



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

term, commencing with the adjournment of the convention. The newly elected members of the executive committee will elect officers for a two year term commencing on January 1, 2021.

The third county convention will be held on January 21, 2021. Precinct delegates will elect delegates and alternates to the state convention, scheduled for February 5-6, 2021. The purpose of this convention is to elect the 7th Congressional District executive committee and the state party leadership.

How do I know when and where the conventions take place?

Prior to a county convention, precinct delegates will receive an official call to convention from the county chair, and will include all of the details of the county convention. This call to convention is mailed approximately 30 days prior to the convention. If you are elected as a delegate or an alternate delegate to a state convention, you will receive information from the Michigan Republican Party.

Important Dates for 2020-2022

- November 19, 2020 County Convention - Precinct delegates meet to elect members to the Executive Committee. Also, vacant precinct delegate positions can be filled by majority vote of precinct delegates present at the convention. Newly elected members of the Executive Committee begin their two-year term immediately following adjournment of the convention.
- January 21, 2021 County Convention - Precinct delegates meet to elect delegates and alternates to attend the winter state convention. Also, vacant precinct delegate positions can be filled by majority vote of precinct delegates present at the convention.
- February 5-6. 2021 State Convention. Delegates and alternates elected at the county convention meet to conduct official convention business and to elect the congressional district and state party leadership to include:
- One (1) State Chair
 - One (1) Co-Chair (who, pursuant to Article III A of the Bylaws of the Michigan Republican State Committee, shall be the running mate of the Chair)
 - One (1) Coalitions Vice Chair
 - One (1) Outreach Vice Chair
 - One (1) Grassroots Vice Chair
 - One (1) Ethnic Vice Chair
 - One (1) Administrative Vice Chair
 - One (1) Youth Vice Chair (who, pursuant to Article IV A of the Bylaws of the Michigan Republican State Committee, shall, when elected, not have obtained the age of 25)
- May 2022 Exact date to be announced later. Last date to file affidavit of identity for a person seeking a precinct delegate position, in order to appear on the August primary ballot. Must file with the township, city or county clerk by 4pm.



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- August 2022 Exact date to be announced later. Last date to file a Declaration of Intent for a person seeking a precinct delegate position as a write-in candidate. Must file with the township or city clerk by 4pm. (As an alternative, candidates for precinct delegate may file the Declaration of Intent form with appropriate precinct board on election day before the close of the polls.)
- August 2022 Exact date to be announced later. Primary Election – end of term of office for precinct delegates elected at the August 2020 primary or elevated at any 2021-2021 county conventions.



BRANCH COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I AM A REPUBLICAN BECAUSE . . .

I BELIEVE the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity; freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

I BELIEVE in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

I BELIEVE free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

I BELIEVE government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

I BELIEVE the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations, and that the best government is that which governs least.

I BELIEVE the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people.

I BELIEVE Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.

I BELIEVE Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

FINALLY, I believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

