



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Statute Excerpts on Selecting Precinct Committee Members

Note: This is not a 50-state review

Precinct committee members are selected by the political parties and typically perform duties in support of the party, such as distributing voter information and assisting in voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. Precinct committee members are selected through the party primary or caucus.

State	How are Precinct Committee Members Elected?	Statutory Language
Arizona	On the primary ballot	“At the primary election the members of a political party entitled to representation pursuant to § 16-804 residing in each precinct shall choose one of their number as a county precinct committeeman, and the members shall choose one additional precinct committeeman for each one hundred twenty-five voters or major fraction thereof registered in the party in the precinct as reported pursuant to § 16-168, subsection G on March 1 of the year in which the general election is held” (Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-821).
Colorado	At caucuses	“Precinct committee persons and delegates to county assemblies shall be elected at precinct caucuses...” (Colo. Rev. Stat. §1-3-102(1)(a)(I))
Florida	On the presidential primary ballot (at the discretion of the parties)	“A political party may provide for the selection of its national committee and its state and county executive committees in such manner as it deems proper. Unless otherwise provided by party rule, the county executive committee of each political party shall consist of at least two members, a man and a woman, from each precinct, who shall be called the precinct committeeman and committeewoman” and “Any political party other than a minor political party may by rule provide for the membership of its state or county executive committee to be elected for 4-year terms at the primary election in each year a presidential election is held” (Fla. Stat. §103.091).
Idaho	On the primary ballot	“The county clerk shall deliver in writing to the chairman of the county central committee of each political party on or before January 20 of each year in which a general election is to be held, a list of the election precincts in the county and the names and addresses of the precinct committeemen who

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Last updated October 8, 2014

For questions or updates, contact NCSL's Elections Team at 303-364-7700



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

		were elected at the last primary election, or who have since been appointed as precinct committeemen, as such election or appointment is shown on the records of the county clerk. If the county clerk has no record of precinct committeemen, he shall in writing, so inform the chairman of the county central committee” (Idaho Code §34-502).
Illinois	On the primary ballot	“At the primary in 1970 and at the general primary election every 2 years thereafter, each primary elector, except in counties having a population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote for one candidate of his party in his precinct for precinct committeeman” (Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 10 §5/7-8 (b))
Iowa	At caucuses	“Two members of the county central committee for each political party shall, at the precinct caucuses, be elected from each precinct” (Iowa Code Ann. §43.99).
Kansas	On the primary ballot	“At each primary election, the members of the party residing in each precinct in each county of the state shall elect a man of their number as precinct committeeman and a woman of their number as precinct committeewoman” (Kan. Stat. Ann. §25-3801)
Michigan	On the primary ballot	“As many delegates in each precinct as a political party is entitled to according to the certificate authorized by the chairperson of the county committee or the board of election commissioners shall be elected at the August primary in even numbered years by direct vote of the registered electors of each political party in the county” (Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §168.623a)
Montana	On the primary ballot	“(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the names of candidates for precinct committee representative of each political party must appear on the party ticket in the same manner as other candidates and are voted for in the same manner as other candidates. (4) If the number of candidates nominated for a party’s precinct committee representatives is less than or equal to the number of positions to be elected, the election administrator may give notice that a party’s precinct committee election will not be held in that precinct” (Mont. Code Ann. §13-38-201)
North Dakota	At caucuses	“3. The legislative district chairman of each party shall set the date and time for the precinct caucus.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Last updated October 8, 2014

For questions or updates, contact NCSL's Elections Team at 303-364-7700



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

		If there is not a district chairman in a legislative district, the state party executive committee may issue the call for the precinct caucus. The call must contain the following: f. A statement of the business to be conducted, including the election of precinct committeemen and such other individuals as may be provided by state law and district party bylaws” (N.D. Cent. Code §16.1-03-01)
Ohio	On the primary ballot	“All members of controlling committees of a major political party shall be elected by direct vote of the members of the party, except as otherwise provided in section 3517.05 of the Revised Code. Their names shall be placed upon the official ballot, and, notwithstanding division (B) of section 3513.23 of the Revised Code, the persons receiving the highest number of votes for committeepersons shall be the members of those controlling committees. Each member of a controlling committee shall be a resident and qualified elector of the district, ward, or precinct that the member is elected to represent” (Ohio Rev. Code §3517.02).
Oregon	On the primary ballot	“At the primary election a major political party shall elect from its members a committeeperson of each sex for every 500 electors, or major fraction thereof, who are registered in the precinct on January 31 of the year of the primary election” (Or. Rev. Stat. §248.015(1)).
South Dakota	On the primary ballot	“Each political party may elect precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen at each primary election. If a party chooses to elect precinct committeemen and committeewomen at the primary election pursuant to §12-5-4 to 12-5-13, inclusive, the party shall provide for such election in the party's constitution or bylaws” (S.D. Codified Laws Ann. §12-5-2).
Texas	On the primary ballot	“For each commissioners precinct and for each justice precinct, a precinct executive committee is established as provided by this subchapter for each political party holding a primary election” (Tex. Election Code §171.071).
Washington	On the primary ballot	“The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the primaries apply to candidates for precinct committee officer. The office must be voted upon at the primaries, and the names of all

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Last updated October 8, 2014

For questions or updates, contact NCSL's Elections Team at 303-364-7700



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

		candidates in contested races must appear under the proper party and office designations on the ballot for the primary for each even-numbered year” (Wash Rev. Code §29A.80.051).
Wisconsin	Elected during political party meeting	“(1)(a) Political parties qualifying for a separate ballot under s. 5.62(1)(b) or (2) shall elect their party committeemen and committeewomen as provided under sub. (5)(b). The function of committeemen and committeewomen is to represent their neighborhoods in the structure of a political party” and “A combined meeting of the county committee and members in good standing of the party in the county shall be held no sooner than 15 days after the partisan primary and no later than April 1 of the following year. At this meeting, the party committeemen or committeewomen and the county committee offices of chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer shall be filled by election by the incumbent committeemen, committeewomen and other party members present and voting, each of whom is entitled to one vote. At this meeting, the county committee shall elect the members of the congressional district committee as provided in sub. (6)(b), (c) and (d)” (Wis. Stat. Ann. §8.17).
Wyoming	On the primary ballot	“The county central committee of each political party consists of precinct committeemen and committeewomen elected in the county at the regular biennial primary election” (Wyo. Stat. §22-4-101(b))

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Last updated October 8, 2014

For questions or updates, contact NCSL's Elections Team at 303-364-7700