

BENTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

2016 COUNTY POOLED CAUCUS

Saturday, February 20, 2016



TALKING POINTS FOR CHAIRMAN

1. Seating Registered Voters – *Start at 9:45 am*

- If you know your precinct number, come in and sit at the table for that precinct.
- If you do not know your precinct number, check your voter registration card or check the large map at the door and ask for help.
- If you discover that your precinct number is not included in the pooled caucus at this location, you will have to go to another location. Again, check the map at the door and ask for help.

2. Welcome and Introductions – *Start at 10:00 am*

- Welcome to the Benton County Republican Pooled Caucus for ___(area)_____
- This pooled caucus includes precinct numbers _____
- I am _____. I have been appointed the Temporary Chairman for this pooled caucus. _____ has been appointed Temporary Secretary.
- One of the first things we will do here today is elect the Permanent Chairman and Permanent Secretary for this pooled caucus.
- But first we will open the caucus with the Pledge of Allegiance (*we need a flag for each location*) and an Invocation. (*The Chairman can lead the Pledge; identify someone who can give the invocation.*)

3. What are we going to accomplish today?

- We are going to elect delegates and alternates to the Benton County Republican Party Convention, scheduled for Saturday, March 26.
- We are going to provide input to the content of the Benton County Republican Party Platform, including any Resolutions your precinct wishes to submit to the Platform Committee for adoption at the County Convention.

How are we going to get that done?

- Right now, across Benton County, others are meeting just like us to accomplish the same two tasks.
- We have rules, provided by the Washington State Republican Party that we must follow to preserve our legitimacy to be seated at the county convention.

- Simply put, this is a two level process. For the first few minutes I, as a the Temporary Chair appointed by the Benton County Republican Party Chair, will facilitate the election of the Permanent “Pooled Caucus Chair” from those present. We will also elect a Permanent “Pooled Caucus Secretary” to record our proceedings. Once elected, these officers will continue to manage this pooled caucus.
- Once the pooled caucus activities are completed, our attention will shift to the precinct caucuses, conducted at the tables where you are now seated. If your Precinct Committee Officer is present, they will Chair your precinct caucus. If your PCO is not present or your precinct has no PCO, you will elect your own “Precinct Caucus Chair” to preside over your caucus. You will also elect a “Precinct Caucus Secretary” to record your proceedings.
- From a high level, these caucuses are governed by Robert’s Rules of Order. That doesn’t mean we have to be overly rigid or formal in how we accomplish our tasks. Remember the goal is to accomplish the two objectives...elect delegates and alternates to the County Convention and have input to the Party Platform.
- For those who may have come in late, please take a seat at the table for your precinct. If you do not know your precinct number, check the large map at the door or ask for help.

4. Election of Permanent Chairman and Permanent Secretary

- I have received training for managing this pooled caucus and I am willing to serve as the Permanent Chairman. However, this being a Constitutional Republic, you have the right to elect any other registered Republican present to be the Permanent Chairman. Are there any nominations from the floor for Permanent Chairman? *If there is a nomination, introduce the nominee.* Any other nominations? We will now vote and I will ask the Temporary Secretary to determine the outcome of the vote and record the winner. By a show of hands, please vote for nominee 1...or nominee 2..... The Permanent Chair is _____
- _____ has received training for being the Temporary Secretary for this pooled caucus and _____ is willing to serve as the Permanent Secretary. However, you have the right to elect any other registered Republican present to be the Permanent Secretary. Are there any nominations from the floor for Permanent Secretary? *If there is a nomination, introduce the nominee.* Any other nominations? We will now vote and I will determine the outcome of the vote and the Secretary will record the winner. By a show of hands, please vote for nominee 1 or nominee 2..... The Permanent Secretary is _____
- *If the Temporary Chairman and Secretary are elected Permanent Chairman and Secretary, continue the pooled caucus. If others are elected, transfer the pooled caucus management to them.*

5. Registration of Caucus Participants

- On your precinct table you will find an envelope with a label that shows the precinct number and the number of delegates and alternates that are allotted for your precinct based on the number of registered voters in your precinct.
- In the envelope you will also find copies of the 2016 BCRP Platform, participant registration forms, a form for reporting on the elected delegates and alternates, a timeline for this caucus activity, and other supporting information.
- A very important form is the one for recording the registration of each precinct caucus participant. Each person at the table who is a registered voter must fill in their name, address, phone no., email address, and Presidential Preference. By signing the form, you are declaring you are a Republican, a registered voter, a resident of the precinct, and you will not participate in the 2016 caucus of any other political party. You must be registered on this form to have a vote in the precinct caucus.
- Your indication of your Presidential Preference is not an official caucus vote. The Washington State Primary Election will be on May 24, and those results will give direction to the Washington State delegates to the National Convention in Cleveland in August. Your indication of your Presidential Preference may be useful information to others in your precinct when they elect delegates and alternates to the County Convention.
- There are copies of the Benton County Republican Party Platform in the envelope. Please share them around your precinct table so everyone gets to see the Platform before we discuss it at your precinct caucus.

6. General Discussion of the Benton County Republican Party Platform

- The BCRP Platform is similar, but not identical, to the Washington State Republican Party Platform and the National Republican Party Platform. It is different because it addresses some local issues.
- Copies of the draft Platform, updated for 2016, are provided in the envelope on your precinct table. Please be sure everyone at your precinct table has had a chance to see the Platform.
- You will notice the Platform addresses several important topics, like taxation, health care, national security, energy, education, immigration, and the environment.
- The BCRP Platform has evolved over many years as a result of citizen input at previous caucuses like this one.
- Today, at your precinct caucus, you will have an opportunity to provide input to our Benton County Republican Party Platform. If you see something in the Platform that you think needs revision, or if you identify a new topic that is not addressed, this is your chance to voice your concerns. This is perhaps the most

important part of the Republican Party Grassroots movement where your input and ideas are solicited...unlike the Democrat Party where everything is managed from the top down.

- Your input today will be collected by the Platform Committee and refined into the 2016 Platform that will be presented at the County Convention and voted upon by the elected delegates.
- You can continue to give input to the Platform Committee after today up until February 27 by sending your written comments or Resolutions to Victor Morris, Platform Committee Chairman at 418 E. 3rd Ave, Kennewick, or at victor.morris@frontier.com. Phone 586-1235.
- It works better if you can establish priorities for the items you want in the platform. You eat the elephant one bite at a time.
- Please be respectful of your fellow precinct caucus attendees who may have differing opinions.

7. Other Business - Announcements

- The Benton County Lincoln Day Dinner will be on Friday, March 4 at the Red Lion Columbia Center. This will be an opportunity to meet Republican candidates for Washington State offices and hear from our State Legislators. Go to www.bentoncountygop.com for more information.
- The Benton County Republican Party Convention will also be at the Red Lion Columbia Center on Saturday, March 26.
- The Washington State Republican Party Convention will be on May 19-21 at the TRAC in Pasco. Again, go to www.bentoncountygop.com for more information.

8. Adjourn to the Individual Precinct Caucuses

- This will conclude the pooled caucus part of our caucus today. Now it is time to open your precinct caucus meeting. If your Precinct Committee Officer is present, they will Chair your precinct caucus. If the PCO is not present or your precinct has no PCO, the first thing you will do is elect a Chairman and Secretary for your precinct. There are instructions in the envelope on your table.
- We will have trained staff to assist you with any questions and provide additional forms or any other help you need. Just raise your hand and we will come to you.
- The most important item on the timeline is that you must start the delegate election process no later than 11:30 am.