

## **Curious about Caucus?**

Cindy Orr, Chair

A caucus is a gathering of members of a political party where they discuss and select candidates for office, elect Precinct Organizers, and elect delegates to attend assemblies. Unlike primary elections where voters cast secret ballots, caucuses involve open discussions and group voting.

Colorado has transitioned from a traditional caucus system to a primary system. This change occurred in 2020 when Colorado voters approved Proposition 107, which reinstated a presidential primary in the state. The move to a primary system was intended to increase voter participation and make the process more accessible. In Colorado, unaffiliated voters can participate in the primary election. They can choose to vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary, but not both.

Caucuses emphasize grassroots engagement and community involvement. They encourage face-to-face interactions among party members, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. Attendees engage in discussions, express their opinions, and help shape the party's platform.

To participate in the Caucus in Colorado you must be at least 18 years old, must be a registered Democrat and a resident for at least 22 days of the precinct you are voting in. Anyone can attend, but only those that meet the requirements may vote. If you are interested in being a delegate, you simply have to declare your desire to be one at Caucus and be committed to attending the County Assembly after lunch.

County Assembly is a gathering to declare candidate preference for election ballots and elect delegates to higher-level assemblies such as Multi-County, Congressional District, and State Assembly. At County Assembly, you can submit your name to be a delegate to Multi-County and State Assemblies and be voted on. Rarely are enough people asking to be delegates that it becomes contested.

**Won't you join us to strengthen our Democracy?**