

PAID FOR BY MELALEUCA

# The Community Page

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

## CAUCUS MEANS BIG CHANGES IN VOTING PROCEDURES FOR IDAHO REPUBLICANS

Attend your local caucus March 6 | To learn where to vote, visit: [idgop.org](http://idgop.org)



### IF YOU WANT A VOICE IN WHO IS NOMINATED AS THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE IN THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL RACE, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1. The Republican candidate for the presidency will be determined in late August at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, FL.
2. Each state sends a representative number of delegates to the Convention to vote for their candidate; Idaho will send 32 (a total of 2,422 delegates will cast their votes).
3. Idaho Republicans will determine which candidate will be their nominee in a statewide caucus held on "Super Tuesday" March 6.
4. Caucuses are held county by county and vary slightly in procedure, but all are designed to yield a single winning candidate.
5. Residents of the county are encouraged to attend the caucus location and cast their vote by secret ballot.
6. Only registered members of the Republican party may participate, but residents may register as members of the Republican party at the caucus site.
7. Unlike voting in a typical election, voting takes place in successive rounds, eliminating low-vote getters (this may take up to 2-3 hours).
8. Voting ends when either a) one candidate receives a simple majority of at least 50% of the vote, or b) only two final candidates remain on the ballot and the final vote is taken.
9. Idaho's delegates will be apportioned candidates based on the voting totals from the county caucuses.
10. In the event that one candidate receives more than 50% of the statewide county caucus total, that candidate will be awarded all 32 Idaho delegates for the Republican National Convention.



### A change from previous election years.

In the past, Idaho did not follow a caucus system. Instead, candidates were selected through a primary vote held in May. The winner of that vote "won" soft-pledges from 24 of Idaho's 32 delegates. The remaining 8 delegates were allowed to determine their vote at the National Convention.

Though the caucus process may require a little more time commitment from citizens wishing to vote, it ensures Idaho's voice is more unified and makes a bigger impact on the race, much earlier in the process.

### Where will your county caucus be held?

To find out exactly where the caucus in your county will be held—see the Republican Party website at [idgop.org](http://idgop.org) or [idaho-republican-caucus.com](http://idaho-republican-caucus.com) or contact your local Republican Party office. Most will be held in centrally located schools or civic buildings.

### A few more things to know about the upcoming caucuses.

- You must personally attend the caucus to vote for the Republican presidential nominee of your choice. Be sure to bring a photo ID.
- You must be registered to vote and your political party designation must be "Republican" before you can participate in the Republican caucus. Democrats hold their own election.
- You can find registration information online at [www.idahovotes.gov](http://www.idahovotes.gov), or at the office of any county clerk.
- You may also submit your voter registration and party affiliation at the caucus before the meeting begins, but lines could be long.
- The caucus is for the presidential election only. Nominations for all other local, state and federal positions will be conducted as usual in late May.

### Caucuses only work when you do your part.

This move will, for the first time ever, give Idaho's Republicans a real voice in the presidential nominations. You should expect to see more presidential campaign activity occurring in Idaho as a result. The caucus tends to take on an old-time neighborhood-meeting atmosphere. Come prepared to cast your vote and have fun in the process.

Since Idaho is a battleground race, your vote matters more than ever! Attend your local caucus March 6. To learn where to vote, visit: [idgop.org](http://idgop.org).