

## **How YOU Can Help Al Win The DFL Endorsement**

The DFL endorsement will be decided at the DFL convention in Rochester (June 6-8) by roughly 1,300 state convention delegates – DFLers just like you who are elected at their local Senate District or County convention.

**We need you to become one of those state delegates.**

We'll be getting in touch with you soon to let you know about special meetings and trainings in your area to help you learn the ropes and meet other delegates supporting Al. And our organizers will make sure you have plenty of opportunities to ask questions along the way.

But we wanted to give you a resource you could put on your fridge, keep in your drawer, or just read over and over again to learn about how this works and how you can help Al become the DFL-endorsed candidate to take on Norm Coleman.

### **Do I attend a Senate District convention or a County convention?**

It depends. If you live in the metro area, your local DFL party unit is likely a Senate District unit; if you live elsewhere, it's likely a County unit. You only need to go to one convention, and it operates the same way whether it's a Senate District or County unit.

### **When and where is my convention?**

Conventions take place on different days throughout February, March, and April. If we haven't been in touch already to let you know when and where yours is being held, we will be soon. Mark your calendar to make sure you're available. And while you're there, please save June 6-8 for the state convention in case you become a state delegate.

### **What happens at a Senate District or County convention?**

In many ways, it works just like your precinct caucus, but with one big difference. In many precincts, becoming a delegate was as easy as showing up. At your Senate District or County convention, however, there are likely to be many enthusiastic DFLers who want to be state convention delegates. So, delegates will likely be selected through either an at-large vote or a walking sub-caucus.

### **How do I become a state delegate?**

Each Senate District or County unit is allotted a certain, fixed number of state delegates. There are two ways of deciding which people get to become delegates: at-large and the walking sub-caucus.

The at-large method is pretty simple. Everyone who wants to become a delegate gets up and gives a short speech about why they want to go to the state convention. After

everyone who wants to be a delegate has spoken, everyone votes, and those who receive the most votes become delegates.

**Hint:** Your “speech” doesn’t have to be very long – just 30 seconds should do it. You should simply introduce yourself and explain why you want to be a delegate. It’s a good idea to write down some notes before the meeting.

### The walking sub-caucus

The walking sub-caucus method gets its own section because it’s a little bit more complicated.

As with the at-large method, the convention chair will announce the number of state delegate slots available. And as with the at-large method, the convention chair will solicit nominations. But here, the nominations won’t be of individuals, but of sub-caucuses.

A nominated sub-caucuses **must** include the name of at least one candidate (“uncommitted” is considered a candidate) and **may** include the name of at least one issue. Beyond that, sub-caucuses are limited only by the nominator’s creativity.

#### Examples of acceptable sub-caucuses

- Al Franken for Senate
- Al Franken for Senate / global warming
- Al Franken for Senate / global warming / Iraq
- Uncommitted / labor
- Mike Ciresi for Senate / Iran
- Al Franken for Senate / rural broadband / instant runoff voting
- Dennis Kucinich for President / Uncommitted on Senate/hot fudge sundaes are delicious

As you can see, it can be a little hectic, with people shouting out all sorts of nominations. But at some point, the convention chair will close the floor.

Here’s where the “walking” part comes in. Everyone will **physically move** to the group they support (you can only be in one group at a time). There will be a lot of noise and motion as groups try to direct supporters (“Al Franken for Senate back here!” “Uncommitted / labor over by the window!” “Kucinich / hot fudge sundaes over here!”)

After about ten minutes of that, the convention chair will call an end to the first round, and each sub-caucus will report how many members it has.

The convention chair will then decide which sub-caucuses are viable.

A sub-caucus is viable if it has a large enough percentage of the meeting's attendees to elect one or more state delegates.

**Example:** County Unit X is allotted 10 state delegate slots. There are 50 people. That means that there are 5 people for every state delegate slot ( $50 / 10 = 5$ ). Therefore, to be viable, a sub-caucus must have at least 5 members.

If a sub-caucus does not have enough members to be viable, it has two options. It can either join forces with another non-viable sub-caucus and try to become viable, or it can join a sub-caucus that is already viable.

**Example:** In the aforementioned County Unit X, the "Franken / rural broadband" sub-caucus only has 3 members and is non-viable. Another sub-caucus, "Franken / small business," has 4 members. If the two non-viable sub-caucuses merge, the resulting "Franken / rural broadband / small business" sub-caucus will have 7 members and become viable.

**Example:** In the aforementioned County Unit X, the "Franken / rural broadband" sub-caucus only has 3 members and is non-viable. The "Franken / health care" sub-caucus has 27 members and is viable. The members of the "Franken / rural broadband" sub-caucus can simply join the viable "Franken / health care" sub-caucus, giving it 30 members.

A lot of this merging and joining happens during a second round of "walking." There will again be a lot of noise and motion – and a lot of negotiating. Here's where your persuasive powers come into play – convince people to join your sub-caucus!

After the second round of "walking," the convention chair will call for the remaining sub-caucuses to announce their numbers.

Delegate slots are then allotted to the sub-caucuses based on the same math as before.

**Example:** If the "Franken / health care" sub-caucus now has 30 members (out of Precinct B's 50 attendees), it is allotted 6

of Precinct B's 10 delegates ( $30 / 50 = 0.6$ ;  $0.6 \times 10$  delegate slots available = 6 delegate slots for this sub-caucus).

If the math doesn't work out cleanly, fractions become involved.

**Example:** If the "Franken / health care" sub-caucus has 32 members, it is allotted 6.4 delegate slots. That means that it will get at least 6 slots, and could possibly get a 7<sup>th</sup> if the .4 fraction is larger than the fractions of other sub-caucuses.

The most important thing is to recruit as many people to your sub-caucus as possible – the more people in your sub-caucus, the more delegate slots your sub-caucus gets to fill.

Once the delegate slots have been divided up between the various sub-caucuses, each sub-caucus votes amongst itself to decide which sub-caucus members will fill the allotted state delegate slots.

It is **very** important that you try to fill one of those slots. Make sure you give a good (if brief) speech about why you want to be a delegate. Make sure you choose a sub-caucus established around a candidate or issue you feel strongly about. If your sub-caucus has an issue, talk about why that issue is important to you.

And, most importantly, **when you vote to select delegates, please be certain only to vote for people whom you are certain support AI!**

### **Next steps**

-- Watch for us to contact you to tell you more about the time and location of your upcoming convention and the training resources we will be offering.

-- Keep an eye on our website, <http://www.alfranken.com>, for the latest campaign news and information

--If you are selected to be a delegate to the DFL State convention, that means you can go to Rochester June 6-8 and cast your vote to endorse AI!