

Do you know your precinct? Here's why you should.



By ban nock

Sunday Nov 08, 2015 9:28 AM EST

In comments a while ago I realized the person I was conversing with had no idea of his precinct or how big it is. He was thinking it was probably the people in his town which means ten people. Precincts average maybe a thousand voters, ~~they vary but not by too much, probably seldom under 500 or over 1,500.~~ *Edit: From comments I've learned precincts are sometimes as few as none or as many as 5,800 voters. I was using wiki's averages for different states from US census numbers.*

Precincts are the next step up from the single voter. Precincts are the connection between the Democratic Party and the Democratic Party Members. That connection has become frayed and more often than not broken.

If you are not familiar with your precinct you are missing out on one of the most powerful tools you have to elect Democrats. It's free, it's effective, and it's been proven to win elections and the majorities to govern.

If I'm getting anything wrong correct me in comments, I couldn't find much of anything online, so I'm winging it from what I know.

Precincts are run by a captain or coordinator or whatever you want to call the person. Captains are elected or appointed by the next higher electoral entity. Here we elect them during our primary caucuses. In many precincts you can be the main person just by showing up, no one else wants to do it.

A precinct captain tries to get every registered Democrat to the polls to vote. They also run the primary. Primaries are where we not only choose between Democratic candidates but submit issues to our county parties that we think they

should address. The county sends us a pre printed suggested platform that we can support or amend as we'd like and send back to the county.

Representatives from every precinct go on to meet and vote in county caucuses which go on to meet and vote in state caucuses and so on. Your suggestion to make the boll weevil the national insect could well go on to become part of the National Democratic Platform.

I'm into leveraging my influence on voting. I let the tides push and pull me where they might in the 80s, not my concern, in the 90s I didn't even know there were elections unless I read it somewhere in an English language newspaper. In 2000 I got pissed, and after 04 I felt like doing something about it. If I can get just one more person to vote for the candidate of my choice then I've accomplished my goal. Aim low and overachieve I always say. I like doubling my vote.

The most basic responsibility of a precinct coordinator is to get out the vote. It's as simple as that and it's often real easy to do. Call someone, (registered Dem) ask them to go and vote, knock on their door, remind them to return their ballot. Here we simply compare our lists with the list the state puts out of returned ballots and we don't let up until all the ballots are mailed in or election day is passed.

After a contact or two people vote, they get in the habit. More than likely you won't change minds about issues. Who wants to do that. I just want them to vote, mostly for the national ticket but also for the local ones too. If the local ones have made an impression on my I'll name drop them and be sure to carry some literature too.

You should know all the Dems businesses in your precinct, get one of those folks to run for something. Someone that can self fund heh heh., and knock on doors. You should know the old timers and veterans, every and anyone who can help get out the votes. Dems that is. Repubs it's fine to be friendly with, a precinct is a small place, don't want enemies, but I never talk politics with them. They can forget election day, lose their way, go on a vacation.

If your precinct already has a coordinator, you should be his or her greatest assistant. If there already are a couple assistants you should have every single vote in that precinct voting, twice or three times. Last primary four people showed up for the six precincts I was organising. One of the people didn't want to be a precinct captain as she'd just finished running the Democratic Party in CO,

ran a national convention here, she was taking a break, but she did come to the caucus. Good Dem. She showed up.

The precinct level is where the rubber meets the road. Our precincts are a shambles. If we had precinct captains in every precinct in the country we'd probably take just about every federal, state, and local office because our voters would show up.

You should know your precinct. It's boundaries, how many Dems, how many Dems on off year elections, what people's issues are, what gets them pissed what makes them happy. You should know what your precinct number is, the captain should be a name and phone number on your list. When someone talks voting precincts you should know all about yours.