i Background:

We (UTGOP) have **Two State-Wide Conventions** (actually **three**).
1. **Nominating** Convention - Nominate candidates to the Primary/General Election.
2. **Organizing** Convention - Select State Party Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, & others. Two Year Term
3. **Caucus** Meeting - reorganizing **Precincts** State-wide, but at the Grassroots' level - Electing new: Two Year Term for:
   - **Precinct Chair**
   - **Precinct Vice Chair**
   - **Precinct Secretary**
   - **Precinct Treasurer**
   - **State Delegate(s)**
   - **County Delegate(s)**

Think about the Delegate Position and it's Role. What are "we" (Party membership & Leadership) asking, expecting from a Delegate?

> **To Be** - Elected by neighbors as a Representative, and become a voice of the people (Republicans) at the grassroots level.
> **To Do** - Vet and Nominate candidates to a Primary Election, and Party Leadership at an Organizing Convention.
> **And much more!**

The two year **election cycle** is based on the US Congress and UT State of representatives being elected for two year terms. Every two years, *The People* - vote to **keep**, or **replace** elected representatives. This is both at the US National level and for the State House of Representatives as well.

Every other year (even numbered years), we have our **General Electio**n. In this even numbered Calendar year, typically the 1st week of January, men and women *File* as candidates for office in pursuit of the Party's nomination, and to be elected into office. The **Primary Election** event, generally (just under) **six months later**, narrows down the candidate list to 1 candidate per *Political Party*, and some number of *Independents*.

Compressed into this 6 month period here in Utah, we hold **Caucus Meetings**, vet candidates and run a **Nominating Convention** for each Political Party to nominate their candidate (one or two) to the **Primary Ballot** (if a candidate receives a super majority, then only one candidate advances).

The Time period from Caucus meeting (**electing Delegates**) to **Nominating Convention** ends up being less than **two months**. It all happens - start to finish, from early March to late April.

2024

Target date range to move caucus date.

2025

1. **Candidate filing period - January 2nd to January 8th.**

2. **Caucus - Delegates elected/reelected - March 5th**

3. **Signature gathering deadline(s) - Two weeks before Nominating Convention - late March .**

4. **County Nominating Conventions - Early April, before State Nominating Convention.**

5. **State Nominating Convention - Late April.**

6. **Primary Election - WE HAVE A NOMINEE.**
   ▶ Move caucus date to here - After the Primary, before the General!

7. **General Election**

8. **Organizing Convention - late April, odd numbered year.**

I - The Problem(s)

A - Practicality:

Is it practical for a person to do the delegate tasking in a six to seven week timeframe?

- Become a Delegate
- Learn the Role
- Meet with neighbors, constituents - typically from 100 to 250 (or more) voters
- Learn constituents priorities, positions & preferences
- Meet the candidates that filed to run for each office
- Vet candidates related to policy positions, priorities, background, experience, competency & suitability for the office they are running for.
- Assess for candidate's match and suitability based on knowledge of both candidates and constituents represented

B - Perception:

Voters unfamiliar with the Caucus/Convention system generally feel disenfranchised.

A large percentage of the registered voters have *heard about caucus* but either missed it, chose not to bother going, and are busy with other things at that time.

This should not be misconstrued to imply they *don't care*. Everyone serves the community and causes they care about *in their own way*. There are many ways to get involved.

C - Lack of Public Support:

While citizens throughout the State of Utah seem to agree - the media is agenda driven, full of lies, deception and false narratives; at the same time each individual feels they are smart enough to NOT be deceived.

In short - registered voters see themselves as fully capable to nominate candidates without the need for a delegate doing it on their behalf.

Ask registered republicans in you precinct. An overwhelming majority would rather cast their own ballot for nominating candidates.

Explaining to a voter that the delegate has done the extensive candidate vetting work and knows the candidates, as a result of all this work:

1. Falls on deaf ears
2. Is frequently taken as an insult to the voter's own abilities and intelligence. (Though totally not intended.)
3. Makes a large percentage of voters very angry with the UTGOP and our nominating process.

D - Timing (and, enough Time):

If Delegates want to be deemed credible in the context of **Representing Constituents**, then they will need to have enough time *before the candidate vetting process* to:

- Know who their constituents are - each one as an individual
- Build the trust & confidence of their constituents - way beyond the level of an acquaintance
- Establish a rapport with over hundreds voters in their precinct - beyond caucus attendees.
- Become a recognized, go to person, for information on what the voters in the neighborhood are thinking, saying & feeling
- Be recognized as an Objective Person, ready and willing to recognize points of view that vary from their own as having merit and legitimacy.

Otherwise, the Delegate is simply viewed as some type of "**Privileged Voter**" that the "**Regular Voter**" doesn't need to represent them. **They would rather represent themselves.**

This **cannot be done in a two to six week time period**, and all the voters in the precinct know it. In fact, it takes several months, multiple conversations.

From the voter's perspective, **they don't need some unknown person casting a nominating ballot on their behalf.**

E - Tools:

Delegates receive one to two page descriptions of the role and are left to perform with little to no training.

 There are no tools provided for delegates to organize who their constituents are, what they think, and where they are "coming from".

Constituent data sets available vary from county to county - some counties provide voter lists from county clerks, others try to create their own lists.

No pass - down information from prior delegates are available, because the prior delegate didn't have any tools either.

The old and new delegates don't necessarily have any rapport establish between them. It's hits & misses.

II – Solution (partial)

A - Timing & Practicality - Move Caucus Date

Caucus Date (reorganizing Precincts) should be moved from the Tuesday in March, to a date AFTER the Primary Election, but BEFORE the General Election.

This would have our Neighborhood Caucus meetings between July and October in the even numbered years. I'm Recommending a **late August or early September** for less "Event Competition" with vacations and other summer events.

This would accomplish several things:
- Decouple Delegate elections from the support or non-support of recently filed candidates.
- The time-line for new delegates to learn the role and *get good at it* before any delegate voting activities would be expanded to 8 or 9 months. This is plenty of time for new delegates to get to know, and become personally known by their constituents.
- The first State Convention for Delegates to experience in their two year Cycle/Term would be the **Organizing Convention**.
- The **Nominating Convention** will be the **2nd** Convention of their Term, and the Delegates can come to convention well known by the registered voters of their precinct.
- Both Organizing AND Nominating conventions should receive high percentage participation and support from delegates from the precincts.

B - Provide the tools. - mini PIM is needed

During the two years term, delegates need to become very well known by 150 to 300 registered voters in their precinct. And, the delegate needs know these registered voters very well too. Delegates should embrace the concept of moving beyond the relying on their smart phone to perform the duties of the role.

Delegates need a mini personal information manager (PIM). Not a full blown CRM, or any sort of highly scalable client/server database driven application not even a web based subscription or free (but data harvesting) application.

Just a simple personal contact management tool for Precinct Leadership to:
- Take and updates notes on what matters to the voters in their precinct
- Only collect non-sensitive information
- Constituent's ideas, priorities and suggestions - allowed to be shared with the Precinct Chairs County Leadership, and what can be passed down to future delegates.

C - Value Add

Ideally, Registered voters would view a Delegates as a **valid Representative. I**f they know who they are, have talked directly with the Delegate, on multiple occasions and have built a rapport, with trust and confidence from voter to Delegate and Delegate to voter – This becomes possible, even likely.