THE NATION IS LISTENING.

WHAT WILL YOU SAY?



2024 IOWA CAUCUS GUIDE



Preparation, Participation, Power



WELCOME TO THE IOWA DD COUNCIL'S CAUCUS GUIDE

Dear Fellow Iowan:

While Iowa is not the largest or most diverse state in the country, it is one of the most important states when it comes to presidential politics. This year Iowa Republicans will be the first in the nation to voice their opinion on who should be the next president. Iowa Democrats will also be among the first to pick their candidate, but because of new national party rules, they won't be announcing who wins until March.

Even with these changes, lowa is the first state where people get a chance to meet the possible next president of the United States and form an opinion. The issues lowans bring up during the caucus season are reported throughout the country. Iowans set the tone of the presidential debate and the issues that candidates talk about. Iowans have a lot of power! Everyone should take this opportunity to talk about their issues.

The lowa caucuses require candidates to meet face-to-face with potential supporters. Organized groups of people can have a real voice in the process. The bigger the group, the louder the voice. There are nearly 400,000 lowans with disabilities. That could be a loud voice! A group's success depends on how active its members are. In other words, the more YOU are willing to do, the larger the impact!

The Iowa DD Council wants to help launch you and your group into action. We've prepared this Iowa Caucus Guide to answer some of your questions about the Iowa caucuses. The DD Council also has resources available to motivate you to get involved and stay involved. Candidates, parties and politicians too often believe that if a group of people is silent, it means everything's okay. We all know that's not true, so don't miss this important opportunity to be heard. We're counting on you!

Sincerely,

Brooke Lovelace

Executive Director, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

CAUCUS

A meeting held by people belonging to the same political party to pick the presidential candidate they want to represent them in the general election. The parties run the caucuses.

CONTESTED CONVENTION

A situation when no candidate comes into a party's national convention with a majority of delegates (so there is no clear "winner"). In contrast, a "brokered convention" is when a candidate does not win the majority of delegates on the first vote. At that point, deals may be made and delegates may change their votes before the second round of voting.

DELEGATE

A person selected to represent their political party at the county, district, state or national convention.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

One of two major political parties in the United States and the nation's oldest existing party. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is the governing body for the Democratic Party (www.dnc.org).

GENERAL ELECTION

The election held in November that is open to all registered voters, who will choose between the candidates selected by each party during the primary or caucus process.

INDEPENDENT

A person who is not a member of a political party; an "independent" candidate is running independent of any party.

NONPARTISAN

Not associated with any political party or representing a political party's agenda.

PARTISAN

A strong supporter of one political party's agenda.

PLATFORM

The positions that a political party adopts on the issues. Issues are added to a political party's platform by resolution. Voters offer resolutions at their local precinct caucuses, where they are adopted and forwarded to the county, district, state and national conventions.

PRECINCTS

Cities and rural areas are broken down into small local voting districts areas called precincts.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

One of two major political parties in United States; often called GOP, which stands for Grand Old Party. The Republican National Committee is the governing body for the Republican Party (www.rnc.org).

RESOLUTION

A written position statement or statement of values. Resolutions are offered by people attending their local precinct caucus and, if accepted by other caucus participants, may be included in the political party's platform.

EDUCATE YOURSELF: THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCESS



There are 80,000 elections held each year in the United States. The most visible is the national election for president, held every four years. The process of picking a president lasts more than a year, taking up almost half of the current president's term. The national election process can be confusing, so here are the basics.

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCESS

Each political party picks a presidential candidate to represent them in the general election. Each state holds either a primary election or a caucus to determine that state's choice for the party nominee.

The first step of a presidential campaign is the nomination campaign. During this time, the candidate competes with other candidates in the same party, hoping to win their party's nomination. The candidate works to convince potential voters that they are the best choice and tries to win the most delegates—the people chosen to support the candidate at the national party convention. The nominating process differs from state to state, but the goal is the same: to determine the state party's choice for president.

CAUCUS VS. PRIMARY ELECTIONS

There are two basic nomination processes: the caucus system and primary elections. Caucuses and primaries are both ways for the general public to take part in nominating presidential candidates. Caucuses are not elections, they are events held by a political party. They are a way for voters to show their support for a candidate and tell the parties what issues matter.

At a caucus, a voter registered with a party meets with other members from the same party to nominate a candidate. People attend the caucus to talk about issues, consider candidates, choose delegates, and discuss the party platform (stands on issues and the party's statement of principles). The rules for caucuses are different for each state and party.

A primary is more like a general election. Voters go to the polls to cast their votes for a presidential candidate. Some states have open primaries where any voter can participate; other states require voters to be registered with a party to vote for that party's nominee.

IOWA'S "FIRST IN THE NATION" CAUCUS

lowa uses a caucus system to choose its party nominees. Of all the country's primaries or caucuses, lowa's has historically been the first. The lowa caucuses are the first real test of the public's opinion. lowans have a lot of influence on a presidential candidate's success. Candidate that don't make progress in lowa often don't make it to the next state.

The first Iowa caucuses were held in 1972. Why was Iowa chosen to go first? While Iowa is not the largest or most populated state, there are a few reasons why Iowa was chosen to go first:

- Candidates campaign in person and discuss issues with voters face-to-face in a caucus system. They can't rely on TV ads to get votes. They must get out and meet people.
- lowa's population size ranks right in the middle of the 50 states.
- lowans are politically aware, study the issues, and take their role in the process seriously.
- Campaign costs are lower in lowa. lowans expect candidates to "win" their support by showing up to local events.

CHANGES TO THE 2024 CAUCUSES

The national political parties set the presidential nominating calendar, which means they decide when each state will hold its caucus or primary.

The Republican National Committee decided to keep Iowa first. The Democratic National Committee decided another caucus state will go before Iowa (Nevada). Iowa Republicans will continue to be the first in the nation to select a presidential candidate at their caucus on January 15, 2024.

lowa Democrats will continue to hold the first in the nation caucus to conduct party business and work on their party platform. They will **not** choose a candidate at the caucus. As part of this new plan, Democratic voters in lowa can sign up to receive a presidential preference card now through February 19, 2024. The preference cards will be mailed out starting January 12, 2024. You can request a mail-in preference card online at <u>iowademocrats.org/2024-caucus-2/</u> or call (515) 216-3893 for more options.

The results of this mail-in "vote" would be announced on what is called **Super Tuesday**



(March 5), when a dozen other states hold their primaries. You can see important dates in this new process on the chart to the right.

REPUBLICAN VS. DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

On caucus night, Iowans gather as Democrats or Republicans to elect delegates to the 99 county conventions. While the Republican and Democratic processes are very different, both require you to be registered to vote in order to caucus. Only registered Democrats may participate in a Democratic caucus, and only registered Republicans can participate in a Republican caucus.

If you are not registered to vote, you can do so at the caucuses, but be prepared for long lines and wait times if you choose to wait to register. It is a good idea to do it ahead of time and avoid the lines. You can change your party before or on caucus night to participate in the party's caucus. You can change your party back at any time, but you must be registered with that party to participate on caucus night.

The Republican caucuses are more like a traditional election with a simple vote for the candidate you support. This vote may be done by a show of hands or by paper ballot.

The Democratic caucuses in 2024 will not include a vote, so the old process of physically standing in "preference groups" on caucus night will be replaced with the mail-in preference form. On caucus night, Democrats will only work on their platforms, selection of delegates, and other party business.

lowans participating in both the Democrat and Republican caucus will also develop their party's stands on issues and pick party leaders to carry these messages on through the process. This focus on issues is an opportunity for advocates

Democratic Caucus 2024

NOVEMBER 1, 2023
lowa Democrats can
begin to request
a presidential
preference card be
mailed to them



JANUARY 12, 2024
Begin mailing
presidential
preference forms

JANUARY 15, 2024 In-Person Caucus for party business, party platforms



FEBRUARY 19, 2024 Last day to request a presidential preference form



MARCH 5, 2024 Last day to return presidential preference forms.

Winner of Iowa Democratic Caucus Announced



Delegates are selected to represent the precinct at party county conventions. At the party's county convention, delegates will select other delegates to go on to the district conventions and then to the state convention. Delegates selected at the state convention will go to the national conventions where each party selects their official presidential nominee.

The lowa caucuses are the beginning of a long process of delegate and candidate selection and issue discussion. You can see this process on the chart on page 11.

A NOTE ON CAUCUS ACCESSIBILITY

Both political parties have made it a priority to be accessible to voters of all abilities. Some communities still have a hard time finding local neighborhood gathering places that are fully accessible. If you plan to caucus and need accommodations, it is important to contact your political party's county chair (see page 21) before caucus night). This helps them plan and helps make sure you have a good caucus experience. It is important to note that you must be physically present at the Republican caucus to show your suppport for a candidate. Democrats in lowa do not have to attend the caucus to participate in the mail-in selection process.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

After all of the state primaries and caucuses are over, each party holds a national convention. Each state has representatives called delegates. The main purpose of a national convention is to announce the party's platform and nominate candidates for president and vice president. At each convention, delegates vote on a platform that is written by the platform committee.

The heart of the national convention is the nomination of a presidential candidate.
The convention chair calls the roll of states alphabetically. Each state nominates a candidate. A simple majority is required. The process of awarding the delegates is very complicated. In

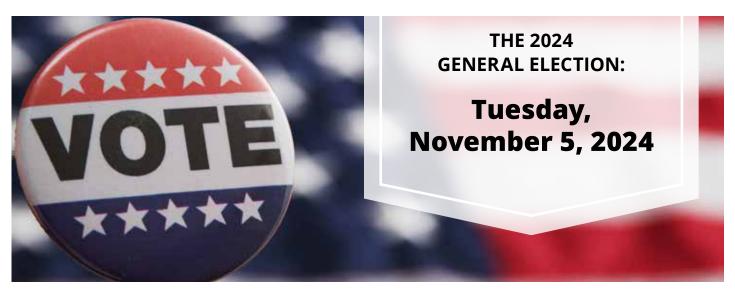
most cases, delegates cast their vote for the candidate that their state voted for in their primary or caucus. The candidate who has the most delegate support at the convention wins the party's presidential nomination.

If there is no clear front runner by the time the national conventions are held, there is a possibility of what is called a contested convention (when no candidate has the majority of delegates at the national convention). At that point, the delegates' second choice will be really important. This is similar to a brokered convention, when no candidate wins the first vote at the national convention. Again, if the majority of delegates do not support a candidate during that first vote, lots of deals (or "brokering") can be made before the second vote. This hasn't actually happened since the 1952.

THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

After the conventions, the campaign to win the general election begins. It's heated, it's expensive, and it's exciting.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, millions of U.S. citizens go to local polling places to elect, among other officials, the next president and vice president of the United States of America. Their votes will be recorded and counted, and winners will be declared.





THE ROAD TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

PRECINCT CAUCUSES

Held in 1,600+ precincts throughout Iowa

Monday, January 15, 2024 (7 pm)



COUNTY CONVENTIONS

Held in each of 99 counties

February 17, 2024 (Republicans) March 23, 2024 (Democrats)



DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Held in each of the 4 congressional districts

April 6, 2024 (Republicans) May 4, 2024 (Democrats)



STATE CONVENTION

National Delegate Selection

May 4, 2024 (Republicans) June 15, 2024 (Democrats)



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 19-22, 2024

Chicago, Illinois

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 15-18, 2024

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

RESOLUTIONS:

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Many people think the caucuses are all about picking a candidate for president. That is certainly a part of it but not the only part. Caucuses are a time when you get together with others in your party to pick a candidate for president AND talk about the issues that will become a part of the party's platform.

A party platform is a document produced by a political party every two years that outlines the party's beliefs and values as well as its positions on the important issues of the day. What you may not know is that party platforms start in precinct caucuses.

Anyone attending a caucus can propose a resolution that asks the party to take a position on a specific issue. For instance, if you believe that adult changing tables should be placed in every public bathroom, you may offer a resolution that says that the Iowa (Democratic or Republican) Party supports requiring all public bathrooms be equipped with an adult changing table.

Whatever your issue, you can influence your party's stand on that issue by writing and submitting a resolution for consideration at your caucus. It's not as difficult as it may seem, and each caucus will handle the resolution process differently.

- 1. You can use the template on the next page to draft your resolution.
- 2. If you are having trouble getting started, we have included a few sample resolutions that were actually offered at caucuses.
- 3. Go to your caucus and submit your resolution!

There are more than 1,600 precinct caucuses in Iowa, all chaired by a volunteer from your community. They will all run their caucus in slightly different ways. Typically the direction from the state parties is for the caucus to "discuss resolutions to be submitted to the county platform committee."

Some may require resolutions to be submitted in writing. Some may allow them to be offered verbally (someone just standing up and stating a position for consideration). Some may ask for the person offering the resolution to make comments and explain the position. Others will simply ask for a vote. Sometimes to save time, the volunteer running the caucus will ask for all resolutions to be sent to the district conventions (without discussion).

It is best to be prepared and have your resolution written before you go. It can be handwritten or typed. You just need one copy for the chair (but you might want to keep a copy for yourself, in case you are asked to speak). Just ask the chair when you arrive at your caucus how resolutions will be handled, so you know what to expect!



Offering resolutions at your caucus is the best way to make sure the voice of your party is YOUR VOICE.

Democratic Party Platform (2022): iowademocrats.org/resources/

Republican Party Platform (2022): iowagop.org/about

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Copy and use this template to help you draft your resolution, using the following pages to help you get started.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON
Submitted by
Whereas
Whereas
Whereas
whereas
Therefore, be it resolved that

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE GUIDE

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON	(SUBIECT/ISSUE)

Submitted by (YOUR NAME)

Whereas

Present fact #1, which gives a reason why it is important to do what you ask in your resolution. These statements should contain facts that have been verified, not just opinions.

Whereas

Present fact #2.

Whereas

Fact #3. Present as many facts as needed to support the resolution. You can present one fact or three, but we do not recommend going beyond 5-6 facts.

Therefore, be it resolved that

The (Democratic/Republican) Party shall ...



A good resolution identifies:

- WHO should take action (the party, elected officials)
- WHAT actions should be taken (with as much detail that you have)
- WHEN the action should be taken (if you want to set a deadline)
- HOW the action should be taken (if you need to provide more detail)

SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS

Not all resolutions need to be long. Here are two that were offered during recent caucuses. These resolutions were given to advocates as templates by an organization promoting these issues. These organizations told advocates they could submit all of the items or chose the ones they cared most about. Advocates were encouraged to customize the list.

Many organizations provide sample resolutions to their members. If you are a member of an organization, you might ask if they have a caucus resolution they would like you to offer at your caucus. The following are examples to help you start thinking about the things you care about:

EXAMPLE #1: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON INCLUSION

- 1. We support an inclusive and accessible community for all lowans and support the concepts of universal design.
- 2. We urge Congress to update the Americans with Disabilities Act to require all government and public spaces to be fully accessible.
- 3. We support increased state and federal funding to give individuals with disabilities of all types better access to community supports.
- 4. Wages MATTER: We support a living wage for direct support professionals who assist lowans with disabilities who live and work in their communities of choice.
- 5. We believe every lowan with a disability has the right to meaningful choice in where they live and where they receive services and supports; state and federal policies should reflect this belief and support options and choice.
- 6. We support full inclusion of lowans with disabilities in the workforce, and direct the state to adopt competitive integrated employment principles and practices.
- 7. We support strong state and federal policies that provide opportunities for all of lowa's 400,000 citizens with disabilities.

SAMPLE RESOLUTIONS (Continued...)

EXAMPLE #2: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON MENTAL HEALTH

BECAUSE IN IOWA TODAY,

- 1 in 7 adults (437,000 lowans) have a mental health condition (that's three times the population of Cedar Rapids).
- Access to adequate treatment is difficult (only half of Iowa's adults with mental illness were treated).
- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, and 75% by age 25.
- 13% of youth live with a mental illness severe enough to cause significant impairment in daily living.
- 58.1% of Iowans age 12-17 who have depression did not receive any care in the last year.
- High school students with depression are two times more likely to drop out than their peers.
- 93 of Iowa's 99 counties are designated a mental health professional shortage area (lowa is 47th in the number of psychiatrists per capita, 46th in the number of psychologists, and 44th in available mental health workforce availability, and 51st in ratio of state psychiatric beds to residents).

- The number of mental health prescribers in the state is 316 (for a population of 3.1 million).
- Without a workforce, there is no mental health system.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth age 10-24 and 25-34. It's the third leading cause of death in ages 35-45.
- 490 Iowa lives were lost to suicide and 129,000 adults had thoughts of suicide in the last year.
- 1 in 4 people with a serious mental illness has been arrested by the police sometime in their lifetime.
- 7 in 10 youth in the juvenile justice system have a amental health condition.
- Jails and prisons have become the new psychiatric hospitals.
- COVID-19 has had a negative impact on mental health, with 42.2% of Iowa adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression (25.4% were unable to get needed counseling or therapy).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT AS A PARTY, WE SUPPORT:

- A long-term funding formula to assure adequate access to adult and children's mental health services.
- Immediate steps to improve the capacity of the mental health workforce.
- Stopping the criminalization of mental illness and addiction - a systemic change to move persons with mental illness and addictive disorders into treatment, not punishment.

EDUCATE YOURSELF:

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

There are many people running for president. While this means there are more candidates to learn about, it also means voters have more choices. Following is a list of Democratic and Republican candidates. The list includes some brief background information on each candidate. You can visit the candidates' websites to learn more about them and their positions on the issues that concern you.

Taking the time to research and understand the candidates and their ideas helps you become a knowledgeable and informed voter. Find out which candidate fits you best. We have also prepared an issue checklist where you can score candidates as an insert to accompany this Guide.

Candidates are current as of October 24, 2023.

DEMOCRATS

JOE BIDEN

www.joebiden.com

- · Current President, former Vice President
- · Former US Senator from Delaware
- Practiced law

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

marianne2024.com

- Self-help author & spiritual leader
- Ran for Congress in 2014 (lost)
- Ran for President in 2020 (lost)

REPUBLICANS

RYAN BINKLEY | binkley2024.com

Texas businessman & pastor

DOUG BURGUM | dougburgum.com

- North Dakota Governor (2nd Term)
- Former software enrepreneur
- Sold company to Microsoft for \$1 billion+

CHRIS CHRISTIE | chrischristie.com

- Former New Jersey Governor
- Ran for President in 2016 (lost)
- Former US Attorney for New Jersey

RON DESANTIS | rondesantis.com

- Governor of Florida
- Served in Congress (2012-2018)
- US Navy (JAG officer, Bronze Star)

LARRY ELDER | larryelder.com

- Ran for California Governor in 2021 (lost)
- Author, documentary filmmaker

NIKKI HALEY | nikkihaley.com

- Served in SC House of Representatives
- · Former South Carolina Governor
- UN Ambassador (Trump Administration)

ASA HUTCHINSON | asa2024.com

- Former Arkansas Governor (2 terms)
- Served in Congress (3 terms)
- Led US Drug Enforcement Administration

PERRY JOHNSON | perryjohnson.com

- Former Arkansas Governor (2 terms)
- Served in Congress (3 terms)
- Led US Drug Enforcement Administration

MIKE PENCE | mikepence2024.com

- Former Indiana Governor
- Former Vice President
- Served in Congress

VIVEK RAMASWAMY | vivek2024.com

- Biotech entrepreneur
- Asset management company founder
- Author (Woke Inc; Nation of Victims)

TIM SCOTT | votetimscott.com

- Insurance agent & financial advisor
- US Senator from South Carolina
- Served in Congress & SC Legislature

DONALD TRUMP | donaldjtrump.com

- Former President
- Real estate developer, businessperson
- Reality TV star



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

POLITICAL PARTY CONTACTS

IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

iowademocrats.org (515) 244-7292

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY CHAIRS

iowademocrats.org/iowa-democraticcounty-parties

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF IOWA

iowagop.org (515) 282-8105

REPUBLICAN COUNTY PARTY CHAIRS

iowagop.org

OTHER HELPFUL SITES

IOWA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

iowaddcouncil.org/voter-assistance (800) 452-1936

INFONET/IOWA DD COUNCIL PROJECT

iowaddcouncil.org/infonet

DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA

disabilityrightsiowa.org (800) 779-2502

GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

catchdesmoines.com/iowa-caucus/

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

lwv.org | lwvia.org

VOTE 411 (INFORMATION ON VOTING)

vote411.org

REV UP!

(REGISTER, EDUCATE, VOTE, USE YOUR POWER)

Disability Vote Project of the American Association of People with Disabilities aapd.com/advocacy/voting/

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council 2024 Caucus Initiatives

CONNECTING YOU TO THE CAUCUSES IN 2024

The Iowa DD Council has created several caucus initiatives with the goal of getting more people with disabilities and their families active and involved in the Iowa Caucuses. The success of these efforts depends on you!

Take a few minutes to review the descriptions below. If there is something you are interested in and you need more information, check the Iowa DD Council website at iowaddcouncil.org, email us at contactus@iowaddcouncil.org or call us at 1-800-452-1936.

1. DEBATE-WATCHING PARTY GRANTS

Get 10 of your friends together and have a Debate-Watching Party. Grants of \$50 are available to buy food, rent a room or to cover other expenses.

2. CAUCUS GRANT

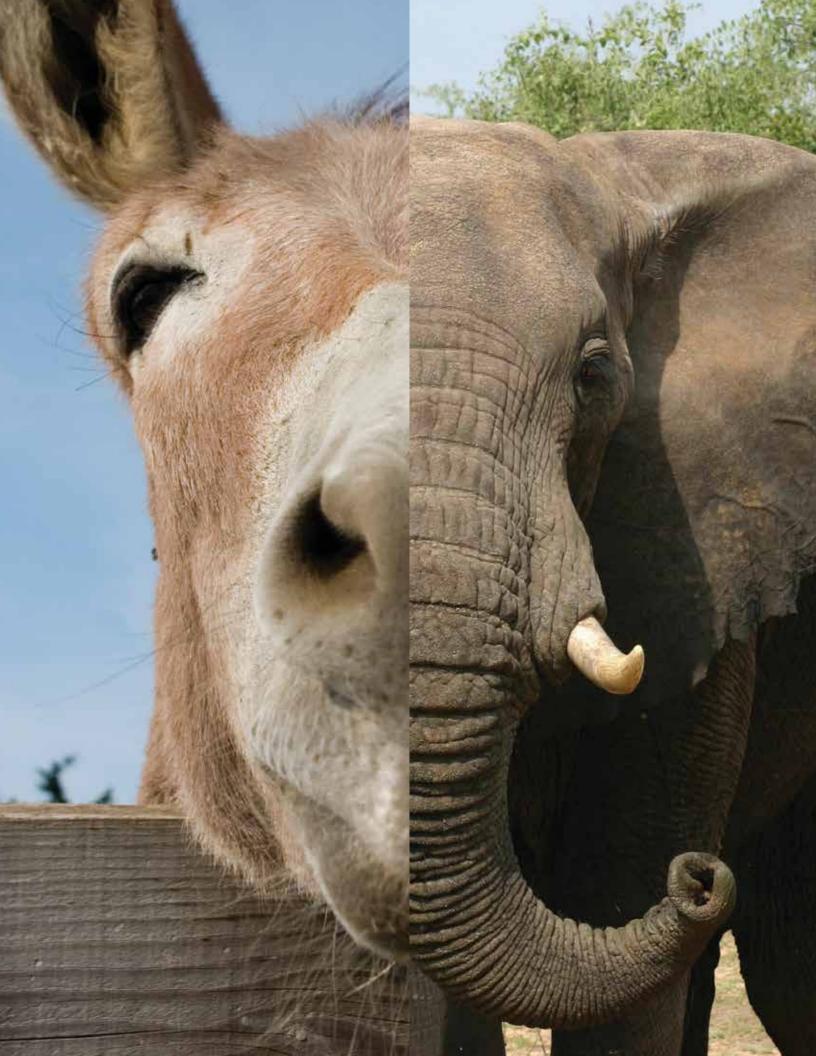
Grants of \$150 are available for grassroots get-out-the-vote activities, candidate forums, or other creative activities that increase interest and involvement in the lowa caucuses. Have an idea? Contact us now.

3. FREE WORKSHOPS

Iowa DD Council offers free interactive workshops on the caucuses and voter education. Do you have a group that wants to learn more about the caucuses or voting? Contact us for more information.

4. ONLINE LINK

Go to the Iowa DD Council website for links to the resources and information you need to help you become a more informed voter and effective advocate. Visit us at iowaddcouncil.org.





Preparation, Participation, Power

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