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## **Arapahoe County political parties to hold March 4 precinct caucuses** *Caucus is first step to shaping ballot initiatives and selecting candidates for elections*

**LITTLETON, CO** – Arapahoe County's Democratic and Republican parties will hold precinct caucuses March 4, the first of four steps in which the parties choose candidates and decide on a county and statewide platform for the 2014 elections. The precinct caucus is followed by the County Assembly, the State Assembly and the Primary Election.

"We want to ensure voters are aware of the opportunity to get involved in this important, highly localized form of democracy," said Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Matt Crane. "A precinct caucus is a neighborhood meeting operated by a political party that is separate from the County election process, but it is a very exciting way to get involved in the selection of candidates and issues in your community."

Arapahoe County has 381 precincts, the smallest political unit in the state. Any registered voter who is affiliated with a party may attend the caucus in their precinct for that party. Both party's caucuses begin at 7 p.m., March 4 and locations vary, such as schools, community centers, churches and homes.

At the precinct caucus for each party, attendees will elect two citizens to serve as Precinct Leaders. These volunteers will represent the party in each precinct, serve on the County Party Central Committee, help get out the vote for party candidates, and assist with planning the next caucus.

Attendees at the precinct caucus also will choose delegates to the party's County Assembly on March 22, where the party will nominate candidates for county offices and Colorado legislative districts, approve the county party platform, and choose delegates for the State Assembly.

At the State Assembly on April 12, each party will nominate candidates for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General, and approve the statewide party platform.

A candidate must receive 30 percent of the vote at the County, Congressional or State Assembly in order to be placed on the June 24 Primary Election ballot. The winners of each primary race will appear on the ballot in the Nov. 4 General Election.

For more information, contact the Arapahoe County Democratic Party at 303-338-1202 or visit [www.arapahoedems.org](http://www.arapahoedems.org) or the Arapahoe County Republican Party at 303-779-1115 or visit [www.arapahoerepublicans.org](http://www.arapahoerepublicans.org).

To learn about Arapahoe County elections, please call 303-795-4511 or visit [www.arapahoevotes.com](http://www.arapahoevotes.com).

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