

Electing Delegates

There are two ways to elect delegates. One way is by holding an election and electing delegates at-large. The second way is by walking subcaucus. If the number of folks who want to walking subcaucus equals the number of people it would take to form a viable subcaucus, walking subcaucusing must be used. Below is a description of how the walking subcaucus works:

First: The Chair opens nominations for subcaucuses. Each subcaucus must begin with either a candidate's name or the word, "uncommitted" and may include a particular issue. For example:



Second: Nominations are closed and a space for subcaucusing is designated by the chair.

Third: People have a certain period of time to find a subcaucus they want to join.



Fourth: After the given period of time, the floor becomes "frozen" and each participant must stay in the subcaucus they have joined. At this time each subcaucus counts how many members it contains. Only viable subcaucuses will be allowed to continue on.



WAIT A MINUTE! Subcaucus Viability: The viability of a subcaucus, or the "viability number," is determined by dividing the total number of participants by the number of delegates to be elected. So if there are 62 people to elect 4 delegates, each subcaucus would need at least 16 people to be viable.

Fifth: If there are subcaucuses that are not viable, they are dissolved and the process begins again at the third step. If all subcaucuses are viable, the process moves onto the sixth step.

Sixth: Delegates are allotted to the viable subcaucuses.



WAIT A MINUTE! Delegate Allotment: To allot delegates, calculate the viability number. Remember this number to at least three decimal places. Next, take the number of participants in each subcaucus and divide it by the number you've just remembered. The whole number result is the number of delegates that walking subcaucus is allotted. Any left-over delegates are allotted from the largest remainder to the smallest remainder in order. For example, imagine a universe of 62 people allotting 4 delegates. To be viable, a subcaucus needs 15.500 people ($62/4 = 15.500$). Now imagine there's three subcaucuses, one subcaucus with 26 people, a second with 20 people and a third with 16. All of them are viable, because they all have more than 15.500 people. Now, to determine who gets which delegates we divide the number of people in each caucus by the viability number. $26/15.500 = 1.677$; $20/15.500 = 1.290$; $16/15.500 = 1.032$. Each subcaucus gets 1 delegate. We then look at the decimal place, or the remainder, to determine who gets the fourth delegate. Since .677 is the biggest remainder, the subcaucus with 26 people gets the fourth delegate.

Seventh: Once delegates have been allotted, each subcaucus decides by a majority vote how to elect its allotted delegate(s) keeping in mind the party's commitment to gender equality.



WAIT A MINUTE! This seems super complicated! Why would anyone want to walking subcaucus? Well, because it can protect minority interests in a way that at-large voting cannot. For example, imagine there are 24 people electing 3 delegates in a 2 candidate race. If 13 are on the side of Candidate A and the voting is at-large, it's likely that all three folks elected will be delegates for Candidate A. If, however, you walking subcaucus and you end up with two viable subcaucuses - one subcaucus for Candidate A with 13 people and another for Candidate B with 11 people - one subcaucus will get 2 delegates and the other subcaucus will get 1 delegate. The minority is thus represented by having a single delegate, where had the voting been at-large they risked having none.