

## Republican precinct caucuses are Tuesday

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Precinct caucuses for Phillips County registered Republicans will be held next Tuesday, Feb 7. Caucuses for Phillips County registered Democrats will be held a month later on Tuesday, March 6.

These caucuses are organized by Colorado's political parties to begin the process of selecting candidates and policy positions for the 2012 election. Caucuses are open to the public and participation is encouraged by the political parties.

Registered Republicans in Phillips County precincts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 (east part of county) will meet for the Feb. 7 caucus at 7 p.m. at SunSet View Community Center in Holyoke.

Republicans in precincts 5, 6 and 7 will meet at 7 p.m. at the Haxtun Community Center.

The only statewide race this year is CU Regent at Large, according to Steve Young, Phillips County Republican central committee chair.

"Precinct caucus is really just a time for neighbors to come together to discuss political issues or candidates and get more information," Young said. He also noted they will be doing a presidential preference poll. This will be done statewide but at the precinct caucus level. It is just a preference poll with nothing binding.

Young noted getting involved with the precinct caucuses is a great way to get involved with politics at the local level.

In order to vote in any precinct caucus of a political party, the voter must meet the following requirements:

—be a resident of the precinct for at least 30 days.

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—be registered to vote no later than Jan. 6 (Republican), Feb. 6 (Democrat).

—been affiliated with the Republican Party by Dec. 7, 2011 and Democratic Party by Feb. 6 (except that any voter who turns 18 or becomes a naturalized citizen during the two months prior to the caucus may vote in the caucus even though he or she hasn't been affiliated with the political party for the required time period).

Republicans and Democrats who do not go through the caucus and county assembly process have until April 20 to file an affidavit of intent for the primary election.

The Republican County Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Peerless Center in Holyoke.

The Republicans will also host their annual Lincoln Day Dinner Sunday, Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at Phillips County Event Center.

Interested people may register for the Republican precinct caucus at [www.caucus.cologop.org](http://www.caucus.cologop.org). Registration prior to the event is not mandatory, according to Young.

“Precinct caucuses is really the grassroots political system in Colorado,” Young added. “It’s as basic as it gets.”

Other officers for the Republican Phillips County central committee are Keith Sagehorn, vice chair; Monse Conde, secretary; and Kayla Young, treasurer.

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