

## **WALKING SUBCAUCUSES**

ONCE YOU ARE IN A CAUCUS OR CONVENTION, ASK, ASK, ASK IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. IT IS EVERY PARTY LEADER'S JOB TO EXPLAIN!

Walking subcaucuses are used to break into smaller groups in order to elect people from the group who might not otherwise have a chance because they can't get a majority of votes at a caucus or convention. They are used when an underrepresented group expresses a desire to do so. The decision is not debatable. With walking subcaucuses, the following things happen:

Anyone who wants to call/nominate a subcaucus goes to a microphone (or otherwise gets the chair's attention). Once recognized by the chair, she gets usually a minute to nominate a subcaucus that **MUST HAVE THE NAME OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**, or **UNCOMMITTED** at the beginning of the subcaucus name.

Example: "Madame Chair, I'm Suzy Q and I call an Abraham Lincoln for Log Cabin Preservation Subcaucus." plus a brief explanation of her reason: "because log cabins are being lost and nobody has done as good a job of preserving them as Abe Lincoln!!"

This goes on until everyone who wants to call a subcaucus is finished.

The Chair then tells each subcaucus where to go. Out in the hall, in a corner, in the center of the room, etc. People who know where they want to be will go, and others will drift. The Chair announces how much time, usually 15-20 minutes, will be allowed for people to separate and congregate into their desired subcaucus.

### **SUBCAUCUSING EXAMPLE:**

#### **FIRST ROUND**

1. The Chair warns when XX amount of time is left before the floor is frozen. Negotiating gets frenzied.
2. The Chair declares the floor is frozen.
3. She calls on each subcaucus to call out its number of members.
4. She divides the total by the number of delegates to be elected:  
Example: 118 divided by 18 = 6.55, which becomes the **INITIAL VIABILITY NUMBER**. Subcaucuses with less than this amount are not viable and must find another subcaucus.
5. The chair gives another time, usually 10 minutes or so, for another round of trench warfare.

#### **SECOND ROUND**

1. The Chair warns when XX amount of time is left before the floor is frozen. Negotiating gets frenzied.
2. The Chair declares the floor is frozen.
3. She calls on each subcaucus to call out its number of members. There will be fewer subcaucuses with members this time, and the numbers will be different.
4. She divides the new total by the number of delegates to be elected.  
Example: 98 divided by 18 = 5.444 (yes, we drag this out to three decimal places).
5. The chair divides subcaucus membership by 5.444. Example: the Abe Lincoln group has 19 members, the Teddy Roosevelt group has 15 (we'll only consider these two groups although there may be more): 19 divided by 5.444 = 3.49 15 divided by 5.44 = 2.755
6. The Abe Lincoln group gets 3 delegates, since 0.49 can't be a person. The Teddy Roosevelt group gets 2 delegates. But since the Teddy group has the largest remainder at 0.755 vs. 0.49, it gets the extra delegate.