

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=9691>

Area Counties Prepare for Kansas Republican Caucus

Chairs for the 96 Kansas Republican Presidential Caucus sites are making last minute preparations for Saturday's event.

In this region, Atchison County will be hosting Doniphan and Jackson County Republican voters at the Community Blue Building at 302 Main Street in Effingham.

In Brown County, The Fisher Center on East Iowa Street will be the host and Nemaha County voters will have their caucus at the Nemaha Community Building at 1500 Community Drive in Seneca.

Credentialing at the Effingham site will begin at 8:30 and will last until one.

Kansas Republican Party Director Clay Barker says anyone in line to register as one can still get a ballot but he says as long as organizers have security and control over ballots, counting of ballots can begin before one.

What exactly is credentialing?

Only registered republicans that are on the check-in ledger will be allowed to vote and they must present a form of photo id.

Accepted forms of photo ID include directed by the Secretary of State include a driver's or non-drivers license, concealed carry license, government employee ID, U.S. passport, military ID, Kansas college student ID, public assistance ID or expired ID's for individuals over 65.

However, candidate stump speeches will begin at 10 and will range from five to 10 minutes.

The campaigns for Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum have been contacted to send a representative or a letter to be read.

Barker says if there is time left over for the candidate; supporters may speak for their candidate for up to a minute.

Voters will be given a sticker upon entry and will place the sticker on their ballot after voting.

Voting will officially begin immediately after the candidate stump speeches.

Ballots will be counted at the Effingham site by a representative from each of the three counties, plus one at-large representative.

The tally chair and Caucus chair will also be participating in the count.

A campaign observer for each campaign will be allowed to observe the tally.

The ballot will also have Michelle Bachman, Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman, Rick Perry or Uncommitted as choices in addition to the four remaining mainstream candidates.

Once the ballot is tallied, it will be called into the state GOP office in Topeka.

Atchison County Republican Party Chair Derek Franklin says delegates will not be handed out for conventions at this caucus.

He says there is not a county convention planned at this time.

Final results for the state of Kansas will be announced by five.

Barker says 22 thousand Kansas Republicans voted last year and he expects a stronger turnout for this year's caucus.

For Democrats, their caucus will be April 14th.