

Here are some questions and considerations to guide you in conducting a youth group caucus. Not sure what a "caucus" is? [Check out NFTY's complete guide to youth group elections.](#)

1. "What are the things our TYG wants to get from the regional board? Which of the candidate's platforms do you think are in line with our goals/desires?"
2. "If we just divide our votes equally amongst the two (or more) candidates, then we aren't really making a decision. What is the point of voting if we aren't making a decision. Let's at least split the vote 5 and 3 (or 4 and 2) rather than just splitting in half."
3. Questions/comments that are not appropriate in MTC – and potential responses
 - a. I heard you are on the soccer team, debate team and underwater basket weaving teams. How will you balance all of that next year?
 - i. It's really not up to us how they choose to balance their time. If they are elected, it is their job to make it all happen. We don't get to judge how they may or may not balance their time.
 - b. I heard you missed every program deadline and were rude to your TYG board last year.
 - i. This is all hear-say and not a fair thing for us to judge. We don't know why they didn't make their deadlines – maybe they had good reasons.
 - c. Didn't you get in trouble at Summer Kallah and weren't you suspended from an event?
 - i. That's not relevant to this at all. All of the candidates are members in good standing of their TYGs right now.
 - d. She cheated her boyfriend at homecoming this year with that guy from another youth group – she wouldn't be a good board member.
 - i. Yeah, just not relevant here. *Lashon Harah!*
4. If the group is having a hard time choosing, perhaps you might consider the difference between electing a sophomore and a junior – the geographical makeup of the board – how various people's strengths might play together...
5. Look at each position for who is most qualified for that position – groups of people don't run as a 'board block'. It is the responsibility of the board-elect and the regional advisor to make the magic happen. Make sure you are electing the person you truly feel is most qualified for each position, not what your overall expectation is of what a board should look like.
6. Follow your gut feelings – sometimes the underdog stands out for a reason. Everyone deserves a chance.
7. We elect leaders on their potential, not because they are super-qualified they day they inherit a new responsibility. Make sure that you are giving every candidate the benefit of the doubt, and the room to grow into their position over time.
8. In Taanit Esther, it is written, "It is not the position that honors the person, but the person who honors the position." Choose a candidate you believe will honor the position first and foremost.
9. An essential role in fulfilling any regional board position is the ability to guide the network of TYG counterparts. Are the people you are choosing people who can meaningfully connect with people?