

Church blamed for caucus chaos

by UPI

FORT WORTH, Texas - Democratic Party officials say after a near riot at a Texas caucus location the church should not be used as a polling place in the future. The Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram reported Sunday that when the polls closed at 7 p.m. for the Texas primary, the Evangel Assembly of God church in Fort Worth closed its doors. Hundreds of caucus goers were reportedly left outside, but Pastor Jerry Roper said more people showed for the caucus than could have fit in the small church. "There were 300 or 400 people there," Roper said. "Our church only holds 100 on a good day." Roper said he arranged to let voters walk through the church one at a time and sign in for their precinct convention. They then walked to an alley where the precinct conventions took place. The newspaper reported that Tarrant County Democratic Party said it received enough complaints that it would like never to see the Evangel Assembly of God Church used as a polling place again. "We had a gentleman's agreement with the county that they could have the election in the back of our church for free," Roper said. "We were not made aware of any kind of caucus."

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