

RULES AND GUIDELINES ON TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS PROCEDURES

1. Caucuses for town committee are required by state law and are open to all town registered Democrats in accordance with the local Registrar of Voters' records.
2. Caucuses must be advertised in a local newspaper at least 5 full days before the caucus. Five full days does not include the date of the actual caucus. The time, date, location, and purpose of the meeting must be stated within the advertisement.
3. Caucuses must be held between January 8-15th 2008. Results of the caucus must be certified by the Town Clerk by January 16th at 4:00 PM.
4. Any registered Democrat may observe, vote, speak, or participate in the caucus.
5. According to state party rules, nominations the night of the caucus shall be taken by slate and by individual nominations from the floor.
6. After all nominations have been closed (slate and individual), voting may proceed.
7. Since the caucus is a local election, paper ballots and/or secret ballots are permitted. Secret ballots are not permitted in Democratic Town Committee meetings because members of the DTC are considered elected officials voting on behalf of all local Democrats. In the case of a caucus, voters are voting on their own behalf – they are not representing another person or party. It is recommended that ballots be kept on file for at least 60 days after the election.
8. It is permissible on a paper ballot to identify “town committee endorsed candidates” if local town committee by-laws allow for such a process.
9. Voters may not vote for more town committee members than slots available. If a voter votes for more members than available, the ballot should not be counted.
10. Voters may vote for as many or as few town committee members as desired in accordance with the slots available. For example, a voter may vote for only 1 town committee member on their ballot even if 20 are running.
11. DTC members must be elected by a majority of those present and voting. For example, if there are more people nominated than there are slots available, and there are 50 people voting at the caucus, only those who receive 26 votes or more are elected on any given ballot. If the full slate of party-endorsed candidates is not chosen on the first ballot, then the names of those who did not receive at least 26 votes should be voted on a second ballot, and so on until a full slate is chosen.
12. If a slate wishes to file for a primary, petitions and information on the number of signatures required on the petition may be obtained from the registrar of voters.
13. To obtain primary petitions, the challenge slate must consist of at least 25% of the total number of DTC members permitted on a town committee. For example, X town has 20 town committee members on its town committee. A primary slate must have at least 5 candidates on its petition. These candidates need not be members of the caucus-endorsed town committee or of the existing town committee.
14. New DTC members take office on the day after the day schedule for the primary. Town Committee primaries are scheduled for March 4, 2008. Even in towns where no primary is being held, members do not take office until March 5, 2008. Town Committee Officers are elected after the March primary date.

**The above rules and guidelines are in response to frequently asked questions
regarding the town committee caucus elections.
Additional questions or clarification may be obtained by calling the DSCC at 860-560-1775.*