

# Election of Members of the Democratic and Republican Town Committees

**Town Committee Seats:** The number of Town Committee seats are established by the political parties. Currently, seats are allocated as shown in the following chart.

Assembly District	Voting Districts	Democratic Town Committee Seats	Republican Town Committee Seats
#1	1, 2, 3, and 4	8	3
#3	8, 9, and 10	11	3
#4	15, 16, 17, and 18	9	3
#5	19, 20, 21, 22, and 23	12	3
#6	11, 12, 13, and 14	13	6
#7	5, 6, and 7	13	3

## Election Process

**Scheduled Election:** Elections for Town Committee members are scheduled for the first Tuesday of March in even numbered years. (*Note: This election is called a "primary", but elections are final at its conclusion. There is no subsequent election.*) However, as described below, this election may not actually be held.

**Caucus:** Each party holds a party caucus 7 to 8 weeks before the election to select candidates for the Town Committee seats. The party must place a notice of the caucus in a newspaper of general circulation at least 5 days prior to the caucus date. All registered members of the party are eligible to attend and vote in the caucus. Those attending the caucus participate only in the selection of candidates for the seats allocated to the Assembly District in which they live. Each party determines the voting process used at the caucus. The individuals selected during the caucus are the "endorsed candidates".

**Example:** A registered Democrat who lives in Assembly District #1, votes only for the 13 town committee members who will represent Assembly District #1. A registered Republican who lives in Assembly District #7, votes only for the 3 town committee members who will represent Assembly District #7.

Following the caucus, the party submits the list of endorsed candidates to the Town Clerk. This list must be certified (submitted in a specified form) no later than 4 PM on the 48<sup>th</sup> day prior to the scheduled election.

**Petitions:** Individuals who want to be candidates for Town Committee seats but who have not been endorsed during the caucus, may "petition" to be candidates. There are two basic requirements. First, a petition must include more than one candidate and the number of candidates must be equal to at least 25% of the number of seats in the Assembly District. Second, the candidates must secure signatures, on the petition, of other registered party members in the Assembly District which the candidates will represent. The required number of signatures equals at least 5% of the registered party members in that district (or some lesser amount if party rules allow).

**Example:** Assembly District #3 has 12 seats on the Democratic Town Committee. Assuming that there are 5,500 registered Democrats living in District 3, there must be at least 3 candidates named on a petition (25% of 12 seats) and 275 (5% of 5500) registered Democrats must sign the petition.

All petitions must be submitted to the Registrar of Voters by 4 PM on the 34<sup>th</sup> day prior to the scheduled election. The Registrar verifies that the candidates and the people who have signed the petition are registered voters of the appropriate party. If the petition meets the requirements listed above, the Registrar certifies the petition and submits it to the Town Clerk.

## **Is an election held?**

**Yes:** Under State Law, an election **is** held if 1) there is an endorsed slate as well as petitioning candidates and, 2) together, the number of candidates adds up to more than the number of seats in an Assembly District.

**No:** Under State Law, an election is **not** held for Town Committee members in any District where either of the following circumstances exists.

- Where there is only one slate of candidates (either endorsed or petitioning) for Town Committee seats in an Assembly District, those candidates are considered lawfully elected.
- Where the number of endorsed and petitioning candidates, together, is equal to or fewer than the total seats in the District, the candidates are considered to be lawfully elected.