

**ARTICLE 1
DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. The policies and principles of the Democratic Party of the Town of Guilford shall be formed, directed, and executed by the Democratic Town Committee.
- Section 2. The Town Committee shall consist of a maximum of 75 members. Said members shall be residents of the Town and shall be enrolled on the latest Democratic caucus list.
- Section 3. In each even-numbered year after year 2000 the Town Committee in conformity with State Election Calendar based on the General Statutes of Connecticut and State Democratic party rules shall fix the date for holding of a caucus for the election of Town Committee members and shall publish said date in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town at least five days before such primary caucus is to be held.
- Section 4. Members of the Town Committee shall serve for two years, commencing on the Wednesday after the first Tuesday in March in each even-numbered year ending on the first Tuesday in March of the next even-numbered year.
- Section 5. Any vacancy on the Town Committee arising from any cause, including failure to elect, may be filled by the Town Committee at a meeting called for that purpose by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting.

**ARTICLE II
OFFICERS**

- Section 1. Within thirty days after election, the members-elect of the town Committee shall meet for organization and shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and other officers as may be deemed advisable. This meeting shall be called by the Chairperson of the incumbent Town Committee.
- Section 2. The Officers of the Town Committee shall be elected from within the membership of the Town Committee.
- Section 3. Officers so elected shall hold office for the term of the Town Committee electing them.
- Section 4. The Chairperson shall call meeting as provided for in these rules; appoint committees as may be deemed advisable to conduct affairs of the Town Committee; be allowed to spend \$200 without a vote; authorize expenditures of funds as approved by vote of the Town Committee; act as temporary Chairperson of party caucuses; and perform other duties incident to the office or as prescribed in these

rules, State Statutes, State Party Rules, or vote of the Town Committee. The Chairperson and/or Vice-Chairperson shall be a member Ex-Officio of each committee of the Town Committee.

- Section 5. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson in the event of absence or incapacity of the Chairperson, or vacancy of the chair.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of the Town Committee; post notices of meetings; maintain a list of names and addresses of members of the Town Committee; act as temporary Secretary of party caucuses; and perform other duties incident to the office or as prescribed in these rules, State election laws, State Party Rules, or vote of the town Committee.
- Section 7. The Treasurer shall administer the financial affairs of the Town Committee; maintain an accounting of income and expenditures; expend funds as authorized by the Chairperson and approved by vote of the Town Committee; and perform other duties incident to the office or as prescribed in these rules, State election laws, State party rules, or vote of the Town Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member Ex-Officio of all committees concerned with raising and expenditure of funds.
- Section 8. Within one week after organization of the Town Committee the Secretary shall file with the Secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee a list of the names and addresses of the officers and members of the Town Committee.
- Section 9. If there should be a vacancy in any office of the Town Committee, arising from any cause, the Town Committee may fill the same by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose.
- Section 10. Officers of the Town Committee may be removed for just cause from their official position by a two-thirds vote of the Town Committee members present and voting a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Town Committee shall meet at least quarterly.
- Section 2. Special meetings of the Town Committee may be called by the Chairperson or upon written request, signed by one-third of the members of the Committee, presented to the Chairperson. Upon

receipt of such request, the Chairperson shall instruct the Secretary to give written notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting to all members of the Committee.

- Section 3. 2/5ths of the membership of the Town Committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
- Section 4. All meeting of the Town Committee shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party, regardless of race, sex, creed, color, or place of national origin, except that an executive session may be called by a majority vote of the Committee members present.
- Section 5. Voting at meetings shall be an open ballot.

**ARTICLE IV
ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES;
NOMINATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS;
ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES**

- Section 1. A caucus of registered Democratic voters in the Town shall, by a majority vote of such registered voters present and voting, select party-endorsed candidates for each municipal office, for Town Committee members, and for delegates to conventions. In the endorsement of any person for an office or for a position as committee member or delegate for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the Town may vote, only registered Democratic voters residing in said political subdivision may participate.
- Section 2. The party endorsement of candidates for delegates to any convention shall be by full slate composed of a number of persons equal to the number of delegates to which the Town is entitled under the state rules of the Democratic Party and such slate shall be endorsed as a unit.
- Section 3. Candidates for municipal office chosen as provided in Section 1 above shall run, in the event of a primary for such office, as party-endorsed candidates; provided any such candidate shall be the nominee of the Democratic Party for the office for which he/she is a candidate if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for nomination to such office by four o'clock pm on the twenty-fifth day preceding the day of the Democratic Primary for such office.
- Section 4. Candidates for Town Committee members chosen as provided in Section 1 above shall run in the Primary for Town Committee members as party-endorsed candidates provided such candidates shall be deemed elected as members of the Town Committee if no valid opposing candidacies have been filed for Town Committee

members by 4 o'clock pm. on the twenty-fifth day preceding the day of the Democratic Primary for Town Committee members.

- Section 5. The slate of candidates for delegates to a convention chosen as proved in Sections 1 and 2 above shall run in the Primary for delegates to such convention as the party-endorsed slate; provided such slate of candidates shall be deemed elected as the delegates to such convention if no valid opposing candidacy by a complete slate including persons other than party endorsed candidate has been filed by four o'clock pm. on the Primary for delegates to conventions.
- Section 6. If for any reason the Democratic Party fails to make sufficient endorsements of candidates for municipal office, Town Committee members or delegates to conventions, the provisions of Sections 9-418, 9-419 and 9-420 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as many as the same may be amended from time to time, shall govern.
- Section 7. The Chairperson and the Secretary of the Caucus shall certify to the Town Clerk the name and street address of the party-endorsed candidates as provide in Sections 1 and 2 above, the title of the office or position as Committee member or delegate for which each such person is endorsed and the date upon which the Primary is to be held. In the case of the endorsement of a person for and office or for a position as Committee member or delegate fro whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the town my vote, the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Caucus shall certify to the Town Clerk the name or number of such political subdivision.
- Section 8. Each Party endorsement of a candidate to run in a Primary for the nomination of candidates for municipal office or for the election of the Town Committee members or delegates to convention shall be made not earlier than the forty-second day nor later than the fortieth day preceding the day of the Primary and certified to the Town Clerk as provided in Section 7 above, not later that the thirty-ninth day preceding the day of the Primary.
- Section 9. In the event that a vote taken on the selection of a Party endorsed candidate results in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by a the vote of the Chairperson of the Caucus but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote as a member of the Caucus to which he or she is otherwise entitles.
- Section 10. If a Party-endorsed candidate for nomination to a municipal office or for election as Town Committee member or delegate to a convention, prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls at the

Primary, dies or prior to ten days before the day of the Primary, withdraws his or her name from nomination, or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office or position for which he or she is a candidate, an endorsement may be made to fill such vacancy by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose. The Chairperson of the Town Committee may cast a vote on such endorsement to break a tie, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote as a member of the Town Committee to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The Chairperson and the Secretary of the Town Committee shall immediately certify to the Democratic Registrar of Voters the endorsement to fill such vacancy.

Section 11. The nomination of the Democratic Party to all offices and the election of members of the Town Committee and delegates to conventions shall be made in all respects as provide in the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time. Whenever a Primary for nomination to municipal office or for the election of Town Committee members or delegates to conventions is to be held under the provision of said statute, the nominee of the Democratic Party for such office and the members of the Town Committee and the delegates to conventions shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast.

Section 12. If a nomination has been made for a municipal office and the nominee thereafter but prior to twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls on the day of the election from which such nomination has been made dies, withdraws his or her name, or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he or she has been nominated, a nomination to fill such vacancy may be made by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose. The Chairperson of the Town Committee may cast a vote on such nomination to break a tie, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote as a member of the Town Committee to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The Chairperson and the Secretary of the Town Committee shall immediately certify to the Town Clerk the nomination to fill such vacancy.

Section 13. Each delegate to a convention elected in conformity with law and with these rules may in writing designate an alternate delegate or a proxy to act for him or her in his or her absence. In the absence of such alternate delegate, the Chairperson of the Town Committee shall fill

any vacancy arising for any cause in delegations to conventions.

Section 14. No candidate for municipal office, Town Committee member or delegate shall be deemed to have withdrawn until a letter or withdrawal signed by such candidate shall be filed with the Town Clerk.

Section 15. If any provision of these rules is found to be in conflict with the provision of any law, the provisions of such law shall govern.

ARTICE V CAUCUSES

Section 1. Caucuses shall be called for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates as provided for in Article IV. Section 1, and may be called for the purpose of amending these rules or for any other lawful purpose by a majority vote of the Town Committee, or except as hereinafter provided, by a petition of not less than 5% or 500, whichever is less, of the registered Democratic voters in the town. The call for any such caucus shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Town Committee if called by the Town Committee. If it is called by a petition, it shall be signed by such voters and filed with the Democratic Registrar of Voters. Upon such filing the Chairperson of the Town Committee shall call such Caucus not less than five days or more than thirty days after such filing.

Section 2. Notice of time, place and purpose of all caucuses called for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates shall be given in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut General Statutes. Legal notice of time, place and purpose of any caucus shall be given to all registered Democratic voters of the town at least five days in advance and be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town, and such notice shall be posted on the public sign post at the Town Hall.

Section 3. No such caucus shall be called for the purpose of removing a Town Committee during its term of office, except by the Chairperson of the State Central Committee upon a petition of not less than 10 percent of the registered Democratic voters of the Town and showing to the satisfaction of the Chairperson of the State Central Committee that the existing Town Committee has failed to perform its legal or proper functions. If such a caucus votes to remove a Town Committee during its term of office the permanent Chairperson of the caucus shall fix a day not less than six and not more than seven weeks thereafter for the holding of a primary for the election of Town Committee members and shall publish the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town, not less than forty-two days before such primary is to be

held. The procedure for the election of anew Town Committee shall be the same as the procedure for the election of a Town Committee in March of the even numbered years, except that party endorsed candidates for new Town Committee members shall file their candidacies in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-406 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Town Committee members shall be chosen at the Primary, except as provided in Section 9-419 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Town Committee members so elected shall hold office from the time of their election until the next Monday following a Primary in the next even-numbered year.

Section 4. The Chairperson of the Town Committee shall be the temporary Chairperson of all caucuses and shall preside until the meeting has selected its permanent Chairperson. In like manner, the Secretary of the Town Committee shall act as Secretary at such caucuses until permanent organization has been effected.

**ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. In addition to the caucus by petition described in Article V Section 1 herein, these rules may also be amended by the Democratic Town Committee at any regular meeting upon a 2/3 vote of those members present and voting.

**ARTICLE VII
DEFINITIONS**

Section 1. All terms used in these rules shall have the same meanings as in chapter 153, "Nominations and political parties" of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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The above rules, governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Guilford, Connecticut were adopted by a vote at a duly warned and held caucus of the Democratic Party of the Guilford on February 24, 2000 in Guilford. As amended at a duly warned and held caucus of the Democratic Party of Guilford on March 28, 2002 and January 11, 2006

These changes were filed with SOTS and CT Dems on January 19, 2006 by mail.