

**RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
THE TOWN OF WATERTOWN**

The Rules of the Democratic Party of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut have been amended on _____, _____, 2007 as follows:

**RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
THE TOWN OF WATERTOWN**

PREAMBLE

1. The Democratic Town Committee shall be organized for the purpose of governing the Democratic Party of Watertown, and shall be responsible for the formulation, direction, and execution of all of the policies of said Party.
2. No test for membership in, or any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
3. The Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

ARTICLE I – TOWN COMMITTEE

SECTION I. MEMBERSHIP

The Democratic Town Committee shall consist of one member for each seventy-five (75) or major fraction thereof of Democratic Registration as shown on the last completed enrollment list from each assembly district. The members of the Town Committee shall be elected from their respective assembly districts. No person shall be elected or hold the position of Town Committee member unless his name appears on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party. In the vote in a primary for the election of Town Committee members from a assembly district shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION II. INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

The Town Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, increase its membership, provided that all new members shall be duly elected and begin their term the date following the election.

SECTION III. TERMS OF MEMBERS

The terms of Town Committee members shall start on the First Day following the date of the primary at which they are elected, and they shall serve for two (2) years or until their successors shall have been chosen. The term of all members shall end on the same day of the primary for Town Committee for next even year.

SECTION IV. VACANCY

Any vacancy on the Town Committee, arising from any cause, including failure to elect, may be filled by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose. The terms of Town Committee members chosen under this section shall start on the day on which they are chosen.

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS

SECTION I. ELECTION

Within one week after election, the members-elect of the Town Committee shall meet for organization and shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed advisable. Said organizational meeting shall be called by the incumbent Chairmen of the Town Committee. No person shall be elected to or shall hold any office on the Town Committee unless his name appears on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party.

SECTION II. QUALIFICATIONS

The Offices of the Town Committee need not be members of the Committee

SECTION III. TERM

Officers so elected shall office for the term of the Town Committee electing them and until their successors have been elected.

SECTION IV. VACANCY

If there shall 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 those present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION V. DUTIES

Each of such officers shall have the duties usually incident to his office and such other duties as the Town Committee may from time to time prescribe. In the event

that a vote is taken that shall result in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by the vote of the Chairman of the Town Committee, but this provision shall not effect his right to cast any vote as a member of the Town Committee to which he is otherwise entitled.

SECTION VI. FILING OF LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Within one week after organization of the Town Committee, the Secretary shall file with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee, and the Municipal Town Clerk, a list of the names and addresses of the Officers and members of the Town Committee, and the name and address of the Democratic Registrars of Voters.

SECTION VII. COMMITTEES

The Chairman of the Town Committee may appoint such committees as may be deemed advisable to the Town Chairman, and shall designate one member of each committee as Chairman thereof. The Town Chairman shall be a member ex-officio of all such committees. These committees shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Chairman.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

SECTION I. REGULAR MEETINGS

The Regular Meetings of the Town Committee shall be held on the First Tuesday of each month.

SECTION II. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Town Committee may be called by the Town Chairman, or upon written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, presented to the Chairman. Upon receipt of such request, the Chairman shall instruct the Secretary to give reasonable notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting to all members of the Committee.

SECTION III. QUORUM

Two-Fifths (2/5) of the membership of the Town Committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting

SECTION IV. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be construed as applicable, controlling and conclusive on all parliamentary issues, except as herein otherwise provided.

ARTICLE IV – ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE, DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS, AND ELECTION OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SECTION I. PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE AND SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

The Town Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, shall, by a majority vote of the members present and voting, endorse candidates for each municipal office and select delegates to conventions.

ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE AND TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

SELECTION OF PARTY ENDORSED CANDIDATES

For Towns of Five Thousand (5,000) or More Population Under the Last Federal Census

The enrolled members of the Democratic Party in the municipality, at a caucus called for the purpose, shall, by majority vote of those present and voting, select party endorsed candidates for the Town Committee. The Town Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, shall, by a majority vote of those present and voting, elect delegates to conventions and select party endorsed candidates for all other offices. In the endorsement of any person for an office, or election of a delegate, for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may vote, only the members of the Town Committee elected from said political subdivision may participate.

Each delegate to a convention selected in conformity with this Article may in writing designate an alternate delegate to act for them in their absence. In the absence of such alternate delegate, at the respective convention, the Town chairperson shall fill the vacancy arising for any cause.

SECTION II. ELECTION OF TOWN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SELECTION OF DELEGATE

- A. A party endorsed candidates of any local party for Town committee members shall be selected by the enrolled members of such party in caucus in such manner as local party rules may provide. Notice of the time, place and purpose of such caucus shall be given to all enrolled Democratic voters of the municipality at least five (5) days, but not more than fifteen(15) days, in advance of the caucus by publication of the same in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality and by posting the same on the public sign post in said municipality. The time of any such caucus shall be fixed so as to comply with the provisions of the

Connecticut General Statutes. The caucus shall be conducted in conformity with the provisions of the Connecticut general Statutes.

- B. All primary petitions must be signed by no less than five percent (5%) of the Democratic registration from each Assembly District as shown on the last completed enrollment list as determined by the Registrar of Voters.
- C. If the number of Candidates for Town Committee members who file and are validated does not exceed the total membership from each Assembly District, there shall be no primary in said Assembly District, and each of the persons filing and validated shall be deemed to have been elected as Town Committee members from said Assembly District.

ARTICLE V – NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES

SECTION I. CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Candidates for municipal office chosen as provided in Article IV shall run in the primary for such office as party-endorsed candidates; provided that any such candidate shall be the nominee of the Democratic Party for the Office for which he is a candidate if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for nomination to such office by four o'clock p.m. on the twenty-first day preceding the day of the Democratic primary for nomination for such office.

SECTION II. CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

The slate of candidates for delegates to a convention chosen as provided in Article IV shall run in the primary for delegates to such convention as the party-endorsed slate; provided that 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 candidates, has been filed by four o'clock p.m. on the Twenty-First day preceding the day of the Democratic primary for election of delegates to conventions.

SECTION III. VACANCY IN NOMINATIONS

If for any reason the Town Committee failed to endorse a number of candidates equal to the number of persons to be nominated for municipal office or delegate to a convention, then the provisions of Section 9-418 and Section 9-420 of the General Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time shall govern.

SECTION IV. TIE VOTE

In the event that a vote taken on the selection of a party-endorsed candidate for municipal election or for delegate to any convention results in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by the vote of the Chairman of the Town Committee but this provision

shall be affect his right to cast any vote as a member of the Town Committee to which he is other-wise entitled.

SECTION V. ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Each delegate to a convention elected in conformity with law and with these rules may in writing designate an alternate delegate to act for him in his absence. In the absence of such alternate delegate or proxy, the Town Chairman shall fill any vacancy arising for any cause in delegations to conventions.

ARTICLE VI – GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION I. AMENDMENTS

These rules may be amended by the Town Committee at a meeting called in the same manner as a Town Committee meeting for selecting party-endorsed candidates as provided in Article IV, Section 1, of the these rules.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS

As used in these rules “municipal office” means any elective office of a Town, City, or Borough and the offices of Justice of the Peace.

SECTION III. EXPULSION FROM COMMITTEE

No member of the Town Committee shall publicly endorse or take any public action which may be construed as an endorsement of any candidate who is not a member of the Democratic Party. Any member of the Town Committee who violates this section will be subject to a vote of censure by a majority of the Town Committee present and voting at a meeting properly called for the purpose. If censured, the member shall not receive endorsement for election by the Democratic Town committee at the next party caucus.

The foregoing is a true copy of the Rules of the Democratic Party of Watertown, Connecticut as adopted by the membership of the Democratic Party for that purpose on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1971, and as amended on TUESDAU, NOVERMBER 27, 1973, and further amended on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1979.

Denise Russ, Chairman
Democratic Town Committee

Suzan M. Plowman, Secretary
Democratic Town Committee