

## **Democratic Committeeman/woman JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **What is a Committeeman/woman?**

A Committeeperson (man or woman) represents the Democratic Party on behalf of a specific precinct. (For this reason, the Committeeperson is often referred to as a Precinct Committeeperson.) An elected or appointed Democratic Committeeperson also serves as a member of the Mercer County Democrat Committee.

### **How does a person become a Committeeman/woman?**

To qualify as a Democratic Committee Person, the individual must first be a registered Democrat. (This can be done when registering to vote or at the County Courthouse in the Elections Office.) There is no cost involved in registering as a Democrat.

Next, the individual typically has to acquire ten signatures of registered Democrat voters who live in that precinct on a nomination petition. (A letter listing the requirements for the nominating position in the 2006 primary election is attached.) Your Mercer County Democrat Committee can give you a list of voters and their party affiliations in your precinct to make it easier to know who to ask for a signature. The signed nomination petition needs to be notarized and submitted to the Election Bureau at the Courthouse several months before the General Primary election. There is no fee for filing this petition or for having your name placed on the ballot.

If enough valid signatures are collected, your name will be placed on the Primary ballot as a candidate for the position of Democratic Committeeman or woman. (There is typically one person elected from each gender.) If you win the Primary election, you will become the Democratic Committeeperson for your precinct at that time. Democratic Committeepersons serve for a term of four years.

The second way to become a Committeeperson occurs if the Primary has passed with no Democrat asking to be placed on the ballot to represent a certain precinct. At that time, the Chairperson of the County Democratic Party can appoint a registered Democrat to serve as Committeeperson for the remainder of the four-year term.

### **Responsibilities of a Democratic Committeeperson**

Committeepeople represent the Democratic Party within their voting precincts—and represent the concerns of their neighbors to the Democratic Party. This grassroots representation is at the heart of our democracy and the basis for all other elected positions. Therefore, it is very important that Committeepeople take their responsibilities seriously and serve their party and their community to the best of their ability.

Of course, not all Committeepersons will be able to bring the same level of time and energy to the position, and it's clearly better to have someone doing half a job than to have no one filling the position at all. However, the following list of duties represents the role of the Committeeperson at its very best: as an active participant in County politics and a dedicated public servant within his or her community.

- **Responsibilities to the Mercer County Democrat Party.** As a grassroots organizer for the Democratic Party, the Committeeperson is expected to:
  - ⇒ attend meetings and trainings hosted by the County Democrat Party;
  - ⇒ assist other Democrats in obtaining necessary voter signatures for nominating petitions;
  - ⇒ help distribute information and sell tickets for Party fundraisers;
  - ⇒ organize and assist with the placement of candidate signs throughout the precinct;
  - ⇒ write or co-write letters to newspapers expressing Democrat points of view;
  - ⇒ help with Party marketing or outreach efforts into the precinct;
  - ⇒ assist with written or phoned surveys of voters; and
  - ⇒ actively support endorsed Democrat candidates.
  
- **Responsibilities to the voters in his/her precinct.** As a representative of the Democratic voters in his/her precinct, the Committeeperson is expected to:
  - ⇒ attend meetings of any regional Democrat group;
  - ⇒ arrange for “house” parties or other events within the precinct so that the voters are able to meet Democratic candidates;
  - ⇒ actively seek out and register new voters within the precinct;
  - ⇒ stay in touch with constituents in any way possible; listen to their concerns and bring these concerns back to the County Democrat Committee; and
  - ⇒ strategize with the County Committee to Get Out the Vote on Election Days; recruit and organize volunteers to help cover the polls, canvass the streets, and assist Democrats in getting to the polls.

### **Why become a Democratic Committeeperson?**

If you are interested in making a real change in your community, if you want your voice and the voices of your neighbors to be heard, if you are tired of complaining and want to actually DO something, and if you believe that our democracy is worth preserving—you owe it to yourself and to your country to become a Democratic Committeeperson. In turn, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that you made a contribution that will impact your life and the lives of everyone around you.

Consider turning your concerns into action.

**Consider becoming a Democratic Committeeperson.**