

**RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**OF**  
**THE CITY OF SHELTON, CONNECTICUT**

**PREAMBLE**

1. All public meetings of the Democratic Party in the City of Shelton shall be open to all of its members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin or physical disability.
2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party in this Town shall be required or used which have 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, national origin or physical disability.
3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in the City of Shelton shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places (A) accessible to all Party members and (B) large enough to accommodate all interested persons.
4. The Democratic Party of the City of Shelton shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin or physical disability.
5. The Democratic Party of the City of Shelton shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic officers and representatives. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party of the City of Shelton will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Democratic Party organization of the City of Shelton.
6. The Democratic Party of the City of Shelton shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Democratic Party of the City of Shelton. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the

Democratic Party of the City of Shelton will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

7. Any person eighteen (18) years or more, who is an enrolled Democratic elector, may participate in any party meetings, caucuses and conventions and may be elected to any party office except where specifically prohibited by law.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **DEFINITION OF CERTAIN TERMS**

Wherever used herein, the masculine pronoun shall include the feminine, the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular, and when computing time, the date of the primary or election shall not be included in the computation. If the day specified shall fall on a Sunday or legal holiday, or on a date when no newspaper is published, the following day on which a newspaper is published shall be the designated day. Any reference in these rules to an hour of day shall refer to Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time, whichever prevails in the City of Shelton at the time in question. Any reference in these rules to a newspaper shall mean a newspaper published in or having a substantial circulation in the City of Shelton.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE**

#### **ORGANIZATION**

##### Section 1. Functions and Duties.

The Shelton Democratic Town Committee shall be the official organization of the Democratic Party of the City of Shelton, and shall be charged with the administration and direction of the affairs of the Party in the City. The duties and powers of the Democratic Town Committee shall include, but shall not be limited to: nomination of Party endorsed candidates for municipal and other elective offices, delegations to Party conventions and for Democratic Town Committee membership in the manner hereinafter provided; direction of general election campaigns; encouragement of affiliation of electors with the Democratic Party; sponsorship, supervision and encouragement of constructive Party activities; and collection, administration and disbursement of Party funds received by it.

##### Section 2. Composition of Town Committee.

The Democratic Town Committee shall consist of enrolled members of the Democratic Party, elected as hereinafter provided. In addition, the Democratic Registrar of Voters of

the City of Shelton, the Democratic Mayor of the City, the members of the Democratic State Central Committee from the City of Shelton, the Democratic Senator and Representatives in the General Assembly of the State from the City or from any district which includes the City, the Chairman of the State Central Committee and any officers of the Democratic Town Committee who are not elected members thereof and Presidents of Democratic Clubs in the City of Shelton shall be members ex-officio of the Town Committee without vote.

Each voting ward may appoint twice as many associate members as there are Town Committee members in the ward. Associate members shall be eligible to attend all meetings of the DTC and its Executive Committee, but without vote unless holding a proxy from an elected member. Associate members shall serve until the next election of DTC members.

Individuals that have distinguished themselves by service to the Town Committee may be elected as Town Committee Emeritus. Individuals so selected shall have all the rights and privileges of a Town Committee member. These individuals shall not be included in the total number of Town Committee members and shall not be included in the limitations of the number of members from any specific Ward. The Nominating Committee shall nominate individuals that meet the requirements and the Town Committee shall vote on those individuals so nominated.

### Section 3. Election of Members of Town Committee.

The Town Committee shall be elected from the several voting wards of the City as hereinafter provided. Party endorsed candidates for Town Committee membership shall be selected from and elected by the enrolled members of the Democratic Party in the City of Shelton.

Each ward shall be allotted a minimum of five members of the Committee. No Ward shall comprise more than 49% of the total number of Town Committee member. The total number of members of the Town Committee shall not exceed 60.

In the event of a change of boundaries in any voting ward after the general election which immediately precedes any primary at which a new Town Committee is to be elected, the Town Committee shall allocate the number of members of the new Town Committee to be elected from each of such wards in such a way as fairly to reflect the changes in the number of Democratic voters in such wards.

At any caucus duly called for the endorsement of members of a Town Committee, nominations for such Town Committee members may be made by (1) presentation to the caucus of a full slate composed of a number of persons equal to the number of Town Committee members prescribed by local party rules and (2) by nomination of individual candidates. In the endorsement of such candidates, voting shall be in accordance with local party rules, but in no event shall a member of the caucus vote for a greater number of candidates than those to be elected. In the event no endorsement is made by the above

stated method, then there shall be no endorsement and election to such Town Committee shall be made by direct primary as provided by law. No person shall be elected to or shall hold the position of Town Committee member unless his or her name appears on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party.

#### Section 4. Terms of Members.

The terms of Town Committee members shall start on the first Monday following the date of the primary set in connection with their election in the event of a contest, and they shall serve for two years or until their successors shall have been chosen, unless their terms are sooner terminated by any other provision of these rules. No term shall continue for more than twenty-six (26) months.

The provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding the lack of cause for a primary to elect said members.

#### Section 5. Loss of Membership in Town Committee.

Any elected member of the Town Committee shall cease to be a member forthwith if he ceases to be an enrolled member of the Democratic Party or if he ceases to be a resident of the voting ward from which he was elected.

#### Section 67. Filling of Vacancies in Town Committee.

Vacancies in the membership of the Democratic Town Committee shall be filled by the members of the Town Committee from the ward in which such vacancy occurs. In the event of a tie vote in any ward, such tie shall be dissolved by a majority vote of the members present in person or by proxy at the subsequent duly convened meeting of the Town Committee.

A person so chosen to fill such a vacancy shall have all the rights; privileges, duties and responsibilities of an elected member of the Town Committee, and all provisions of these Rules pertaining to elected members of the Town Committee shall be applicable to members so chosen.

#### Section 78. Minimum Meetings.

The Town Committee shall meet at least four times a year.

#### Section 8. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Town Committee may be called upon written request, signed by twenty percent (20%) of the members of the committee, presented to the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, in the event the Chairperson is unavailable. Upon receipt of such request, the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, in the event the Chairperson is

unavailable, shall instruct the Secretary to give reasonable notice of the time and place and purpose of such meeting to all members of the committee.

#### Section9. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of meetings of the Town Committee shall be written, and shall be given at least seven days before the date of meeting, unless it is impossible or impracticable to do so, in which case at least three days' notice shall be given, except that at least five days' notice shall be given for meetings for endorsements and amendments of these rules. All notices shall state the purposes of the meetings.

#### Section 10.Voting at Meetings of Town Committee.

Voting at meetings of the Town Committee shall be by individual voice vote poll unless otherwise voted by a majority of the voting members present in person or by proxy.

On all votes taken at meetings of the town Committee each member of the Town Committee, including the Chairperson and other officers if they are elected members, shall have one vote and in the event of a tie vote, the Chairperson or other presiding officer shall have a tie-breaking vote, but he nor any other member can exercise a proxy to create a tie.

#### Section11 Proxies.

Any elected member of the Town Committee may designate any enrolled Democrat of the City of Shelton from his ward to represent him as proxy in any meeting of the Town Committee, except as to endorsement of candidates for public office, delegates or Town Committee members, but no person shall represent more than one member as proxy in any one meeting, and no person prohibited by these rules from Town Committee membership shall be entitled to exercise a proxy. All proxies shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Secretary prior to voting.

#### Section12. Rules of Order.

All matters of procedure not specifically covered herein shall be determined by the rules set forth in Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

#### Section13. Disputes.

Any disputes regarding qualifications of members or apportionments thereof among the wards, qualifications of officers, procedures or rules, shall be resolved by the Town Committee.

#### Section14. Quorum.

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

Section 15. Resignations.

Resignations as a member or officer of the Town Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Town Committee and, unless otherwise noted in the resignation, will be effective upon receipt.

**Section 16: The use of secret ballots, or any form of secret voting is prohibited for any vote being held at a Town Committee meeting. Voting for Town Committee Officers or Town endorsed candidates may be by secret ballot.**

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **OFFICERS**

Section 1. Election of Officers and Call of Organization Meeting.

Not more than fourteen (14) days following the day fixed for the holding of a primary for the election of Town Committee members, the Chairperson of the Town Committee in office immediately prior to the day of said primary shall call a meeting of the newly elected Town Committee for the purpose of electing a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed advisable.

If such Town Chairperson fails, for any reason, to call such meeting within the period prescribed, it shall be the duty of the Vice-Chairman serving concurrently with said Town Chairperson to do so. If, for any reason, said meeting is not called in the manner prescribed, it shall be the duty of the State Central Committee members in each ward to do so.

Section 2. Qualifications.

The officers of the Town Committee need not be members of the committee.

Section 3. Term of Officers.

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

Section 4. Removal of Officers.

Officers of the Town Committee may be removed for just cause from their official position by a two-thirds vote of the committee members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose. Before any such action is taken to expel a member under this section, the Town Chairperson shall give said member notice by registered mail no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting at which said action is contemplated, stating in clear terms the offense or offenses committed by said member. Said member shall have due process of law with regard to the notice, the opportunity to be heard, to make informed choices with regard to the action taken and to assert before the Town Committee the reason for such choice.

#### Section 5. Duties of Officers.

Each of such officers shall have the duties usually incident to his or her 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 Chairperson of the Town Committee, 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.

#### Section. 6 Filing List of Officers and Members of the Town Committee.

Within one week after organization of the Town Committee, the Secretary shall file with the Secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee, the City Clerk and the Democratic Registrar of Voters a list of the names and addresses of the officers and members of the Town Committee.

#### Section 7. Vacancy in Town Committee Office.

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.

### Article IV - Duties And Obligations

Section 1. Membership in the town committee constitutes a firm commitment to the Democratic Party. This commitment shall be fulfilled by:

- a. Attendance at the regularly scheduled town committee meetings;
- b. Attendance at the special town committee meeting;
- c. Attendance at meetings;
- d. Attendance at fundraising events; and
- e. Attendance and participation in election activities.

Section 2. It is mandatory that each town committee member attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of the town committee meetings. Extenuating circumstances will be recognized by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. At the end of each calendar year, the Executive Committee shall advise any member who has not fulfilled his or her commitment as set forth in Section 1 of this Article that he or she will have to meet those requirements in the following year to remain eligible for re-endorsement by the Shelton Democratic Town Committee. At the end of the term, the Executive Committee may recommend that any member who has not fulfilled his or her requirements not be endorsed by the Shelton Democratic Town Committee for re-election.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION**

#### Section 1. Financial Organization.

(a) Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse moneys on behalf of the Town Committee. The Treasurer of the Town Committee shall also serve as “Campaign Treasurer” (as defined in Chapter 150 of the General Statutes of Connecticut). All disbursements shall be in accordance with the budgets duly approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall present a financial report to the Executive Committee and Town Committee annually, and on a quarterly basis pursuant to Chapter 150 of the General Statutes of Connecticut. The Treasurer shall also file with the Secretary of the State and City Clerk such statements or reports required to be filed under Chapter 150 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

(b) Deputy Treasurer.

The Chairman and Treasurer of the Town Committee shall appoint a Deputy Treasurer. Said Deputy Treasurer shall also serve as “Deputy Campaign Treasurer” (as defined in Chapter 150 of the General Statutes of Connecticut) of the Town Committee, and shall perform such duties as the Treasurer may direct. In the event the Treasurer is unable for any reason to perform his duties, the Assistant Treasurer shall serve in the capacity of Treasurer.

(c) Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer--Assumption of Duties.

No person shall act as Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer unless, after his appointment, a statement designating him as “Campaign Treasurer” or “Deputy Campaign Treasurer”,

signed by the Secretary of the Town Committee, has been filed with the Secretary of the State. The statements shall also designate the period during which such Treasurership shall continue.

(d) Solicitors.

The Treasurer may, from time to time, appoint Solicitors to receive, but not to disburse, moneys on behalf of the Town Committee. Each Solicitor shall be responsible for filing with the Treasurer a list of all contributions and depositing with the Treasurer all contributions received by him within the time limits set forth in Chapter 150 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Section 2. Use of Party Funds.

The allocation and disbursement of funds contributed to the Town Committee for general party purposes shall be determined and controlled by the Budget and Finance Committee in the absence of a specific direction with respect to such allocation or disbursement by the Town Committee.

No such funds may be used to support any candidate in any pre-endorsement contest or primary unless specifically contributed for such purpose.

Under no circumstances shall any funds of the Town Committee be used to support any candidate or candidates for the Town Committee.

All party funds shall be disbursed in accordance with statutory requirements.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN COMMITTEE**

Section 1. Composition of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Town Committee, one Town Committee Member elected as Ward Leader from each of the voting wards by the Town Committee members from such ward, and the Chairperson from each of the Standing Committees.

Section 2. Offices of the Executive Committee.

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members. Town Committee Officers are precluded from holding Officer positions on the Executive Committee.

### Section 3. Powers of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Vacancies, the Policy Making Committee and the Platform Committee of the Democratic Town Committee. Whenever the Executive Committee or any subcommittee thereof shall consider the candidacy of any of its members for public office, such member shall absent himself from any discussion and vote thereon. The acts of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Town Committee, except when acting as the Committee on Vacancies with respect to vacancies occurring within ten days prior to a Primary and except when acting to remove Executive Committee members for just cause from their official position by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose.

As the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee shall (1) keep informed of all Democratic vacancies as they come due, elected or appointed; (2) identify, recruit and screen potential candidates for all elected and appointed offices, boards and commissions; (3) keep in contact with the Ward Leaders as to potential nominees; (4) recommend candidates to the Town Committee and (5) keep minutes of each meeting and furnish the Town Committee Chairperson and Executive Committee Chairperson with a copy.

### Section 4. Meetings of Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall hold monthly meetings except in August and December, the time and place thereof to be decided by vote of the Committee. The Executive Committee Chairperson may also call special meetings of the Executive Committee.

### Section 5. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be written, and shall be given at least seven days before the date of meeting, unless it is impossible or impracticable to do so. All notices shall state the purposes of the meetings.

### Section 6. Quorums.

A majority of the members of the Executive Committee when present in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 7. Voting at Meetings of Executive Committee.

Voting at meetings of the Executive Committee shall be by voice vote unless otherwise voted by a majority of the members present in person or by Proxy.

On all votes taken at meetings of the Executive Committee each member, including all officers, regardless of whether or not they are elected members of the Democratic Town Committee, shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson or other

presiding officer shall have an additional tie-breaking vote, but he cannot exercise a proxy to create a tie.

#### Section 8. Proxies.

A Ward member of the Executive Committee may designate another elected member of the Town Committee from his ward to represent him as a proxy in any meeting of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Town Committee may designate another elected member of the Town Committee without regard to ward to represent him as proxy in any meeting of the Executive Committee. No person shall represent more than one member as proxy in any one meeting. All proxies shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Secretary prior to voting.

#### Section 9. Annual Report to the Town Committee.

Annually, at the February meeting of the Town Committee, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall submit a written report to the Town Committee of the Executive Committee's activities and accomplishments for the preceding twelve (12) month period.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

#### Section 1. Appointments.

Within two (2) weeks after the organization of the Town Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint the members of the following standing committees and shall also appoint the standing committees' Chairpersons. Each of the Standing Committees shall consist of five or more members, who shall be enrolled Democrats in the City of Shelton, but not necessarily members of the Town Committee, except at least three members or each committee must be Town Committee members. All of the Standing Committee members shall serve at the Executive Committee's pleasure.

1. Budget and Finance Committee
2. Election Committee
3. Legislative Committee
4. Public Relation/Issues Committee

The Executive Committee may create and appoint such other committee as it may deem advisable.

## Section 2. Organization.

Within two (2) weeks after notification to its members of their selection by the Executive Committee, the standing committees shall meet and organize, and shall notify the Secretary of the Town Committee at once of such a meeting. The standing committees shall elect such officers from its members, as it deems necessary.

## Section 3. Powers.

No Standing Committee shall incur any debt or involve the Democratic Party of Shelton in any way unless given full authority to do so by the Executive Committee.

## Section 4. Duties.

Each Standing Committee shall prepare and submit a two-year budget to the Budget and Finance Committee for its approval. Each Standing Committee shall keep written minutes of each meeting and shall, within five (5) days of each meeting, furnish copies of such minutes to each member of the Standing Committee and to the Town Committee Chairperson and Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Each Standing Committee has the responsibility of generating its own publicity, regarding its own province. All publicity releases must be submitted to the Executive Committee for advice and approval before release.

## Section 5. Responsibilities of the Standing Committees.

### (a) Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for the allocation of Party funds. The Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare a budget for the maintenance of Party activities and shall present a copy thereof to each member of the Executive Committee. Each budget shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee also shall annually audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall serve as the Finance Committee of the Town Committee with the responsibility of collecting moneys for the Town Committee through those members designated by the Treasurer as Solicitors pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (d).

The Budget Committee shall consist of five or more members, three of whom shall be the Chairperson of the Town Committee, the Treasurer, and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the remaining members appointed by the Executive Committee.

### (b) Election Committee

The Election Committee shall have general charge of elections plans and shall cooperate with the Districts in the establishment of a uniform system that will facilitate Democratic voting in the various wards on election days.

The Election Committee also shall be responsible for the registration of new voters and enrollments in the Democratic Party on the basis of the entire City. The Committee shall call on and welcome newcomers to the City, encourage new voters to register with the Democratic Party and contact newly registered Democrats for the purpose of inviting their participation in activities of the Democratic Party.

The Democratic Registrar and Assistant Registrar of Voters shall be members of this committee.

(c) Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee shall consider and study such legislation affecting the City as may be referred to it by the Chairperson of the Town Committee or the Executive Committee and shall also recommend, propose or prepare legislation which it may deem to be necessary or beneficial to the City.

(d) Public Relations/Issues Committee

The Public Relations/Issues Committee shall have charge of all Democratic publicity and shall submit to the Budget and Finance Committee a proposed budget for each year upon order of the Executive Committee. The Public Relations/Issues Committee shall keep records of Party actions in connection with local issues and shall prepare a record that will be informative and useful in elections. Said Committee shall, throughout the year, publicize the deeds of Party officials, as well as the views and goals of the Democratic Party in Shelton, which are informative to the public and create good will and esteem for the Party. All Press Releases must be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

The Committee shall act as a point of contact with the voters in the City for the purpose of communicating to the Democratic Town Committee and appropriate Democratic Town officials any problems or issues which the Town Committee should address for the good of the City.

Section 6. Quorum.

A majority of any Standing Committee must be present at all its meetings before any such meeting may be commenced.

Section 7. Meetings.

Meetings of the Standing Committees shall be held when called by the Chairperson of such a committee or by the Executive Committee Chairperson or by the majority of the

members of such Standing Committee. Minutes shall be kept of each such meeting, copies of such meeting shall be provided to the Town Chairperson and Executive Committee Chairperson within five (5) days of the meeting.

Section 8. Notice of Meetings.

All members of such committees must be given five (5) day's notice by phone or mail of any such meeting.

Section 9. Member Ex-Officio—Town Committee Chairperson.

The Town Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees but without right to vote.

Section 10. Report to Town Committee.

Annually, at the February Meeting of the Town Committee, all Chairpersons of the Standing Committees shall submit written reports of their activities and accomplishments for the preceding twelve (12) month period to the Town Committee.

## ARTICLE VIII

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

Section 1. Selection of Party Endorsed Candidates.

The enrolled member 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, select party endorsed candidates for delegates to conventions and all other offices. 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 municipality may vote, only the members of the Town Committee elected from said political subdivision may participate.

Section 2. Slate Endorsement.

At any caucus or Town Committee meeting duly called for the endorsement of candidates for delegates to any convention, nominations for said delegates may be made by (1) presentation to the caucus of Town Committee of a slate composed of a number of persons not exceeding the number of such delegates to which the town is entitled under the state rules of the Democratic Party and or (2) by nomination of individual candidates.

In the endorsement of such candidates, the vote of each member of the caucus or Town Committee member present and voting shall be for a number of candidates not to exceed the number of a full slate as defined above. The voting for endorsement of delegates to each convention shall be done by individual convention.

### Section 3. Party Endorsed Candidates for Municipal Office.

Candidates for municipal office chosen as provided in Section 1 above, shall run in the 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 is a candidate if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for nomination to such office by Four O'clock (4:00) P. M. on the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day preceding the day of the Democratic primary for such office.

### Section 4 Party Endorsed Candidates for Town Committee

Candidates for Town Committee members chosen as provided in Section 1 above, shall run in a primary for Town Committee members as a party endorsed candidate, 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 Four O'clock (4:00) PM. on the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day preceding the day of the Democratic primary for Town Committee members.

### Section 5 Party Endorsed Candidates for Convention Delegates.

The slate of candidates for delegates to a convention as provided in Sections 1 and 2 above, shall run in the primary for delegates to such conventions as the party endorsed slate; such slate of candidates shall be deemed elected as the delegates to such convention if no valid opposing candidacy by a complete slate of persons other than party endorsed candidates has been filed by Four O'clock (4:00) P.M. on the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day preceding the day of the Democratic primary for delegates to convention.

### Section 6 Insufficient Endorsements

If, for any reason, sufficient endorsements of candidates for municipal office, Town Committee members or delegates to conventions are not made, the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes shall govern.

### Section 7 Certification of Party Endorsed Candidates

The Secretary and the Chairperson or the presiding officer of the Town Committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, shall certify to the municipal City Clerk the names and street addresses of the party endorsed candidates selected as provided in Section 1 and 2 above, the title of the office or position as committee member or delegate for which in the case of endorsement of a person for an office or for a position as committee member or delegate for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of

the municipality or for a senatorial district located entirely within the municipality may vote, the Secretary of the Town Committee shall certify to the municipal City Clerk the name or number of such political subdivision or senatorial district.

Section 8 Date of Party Endorsement of Candidates.

Each party endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the nomination of candidates for municipal office or election as Town Committee members or delegates to conventions shall be made within the time frame established by the Connecticut General Statutes. Said endorsement shall be certified to the clerk of the municipality by the Chairperson or presiding officer and Secretary of the town Committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 9. Tie Vote.

In the event that a vote taken on selection of a party endorsed candidate results in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by the vote of the Chairperson of the Town Committee, 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.

Section 10. Vacancies in Party Endorsed Candidacy.

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 (24) hours before the opening for the polls at the primary, dies, or prior to ten (10) days before the day of the primary withdraws his or her name from nomination, or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold office or position for which he or she is a candidate, an endorsement may be made to fill such vacancy by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose; provided if the original endorsement was made by the members of the Town Committee elected from only one political subdivision of the municipality, only such members shall participate in the endorsement to fill such vacancy. 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 Secretary of the Town Committee shall immediately certify the endorsement to fill such vacancy to the Democratic Registrar of Voters. No candidate shall be deemed to have withdrawn until a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate is filed with municipal City Clerk.

**NOMINATIONS: ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
AND DELEGATES**

Section 11. Plurality Vote Determinative of Nomination.

The nominations 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 provided in the State Primary Law, as the same may be amended from time to time. Whenever a primary for nomination to a municipal office or for election of Town Committee members or delegates to conventions is to be held under the provisions of said law, 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. Vacancy in Nomination.

If a nomination has been made for a municipal office and the nominee thereafter, but prior to twenty-four (24) hours before the opening of the polls on the day of the election for 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. In the case of withdrawal, said nomination shall not be valid until the candidate, who has withdrawn, has filed a letter of withdrawal, signed by such candidate, with the Secretary of the State, and also has filed a copy with the municipal City Clerk. The Chairperson of the Town Committee shall certify the nomination to fill such vacancy to the Secretary of the State, and shall file a copy with the municipal City Clerk. Such certification of a nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy.

#### Section 13. 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, state representative in an assembly district composed of a single town or part of a single town, state senator in a senatorial district composed of a single town or part of a single town, and judge of probate in a probate district composed of a single town. The other terms used in these rules shall have the same meanings as in the State Primary Law, as the same may be amended from time to time.

#### Section 14. Special Caucuses.

Special causes may be called for any lawful purpose by a majority of the Town Committee or by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered Democratic voters in the town. The call for any such special caucus shall be in writing and signed by each of the persons issuing the same, and notice of the time, place and purpose of said special caucus shall be given to all registered Democratic voters in the town, at least five (5) days

in advance of such caucus, by publication in a newspaper having circulation in said town and by posting on the public sign post.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL PARTY RULES**

Local party rules may be amended by one of the three following methods:

1. By a caucus of the enrolled Democratic electors of the municipality called in the same manner as a caucus for selecting party endorsed candidates as provided in Section 1 of Article VII of these rules.
2. By a convention of delegates chosen by the enrolled Democratic electors of the municipality in a manner prescribed in the local party rules of each municipality.
3. By the Democratic Town Committee at a meeting called in the same manner as a Town Committee meeting for selecting party endorsed candidates as provided in Section 1 of Article VII of these rules, or as provided in local party rules.  
Whenever the third method is used, local party rules shall be adopted to conform with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In any municipality in which the Town Committee has not so adopted and filed such rules or amendments, the Chairperson of the Town Committee in any municipality consisting of one voting district, or in the event of his or her failure to act, the Vice-Chairperson, shall call a caucus within twenty (20) days upon filing with the Registrar of Voters of such party in such municipality a petition signed by at least five percent (5%), but no more than five hundred (500), of its enrolled party members, to take action on such petition.

In all other municipalities, the Chairperson of the Town Committee, or, in the event of his or her failure to act, the Vice-Chairperson, shall call a convention within twenty (20) days upon the filing with the Registrar of Voters of such party in such municipality of a petition signed by at least five percent (5%), but not more than five hundred (500), of its enrolled party members, to take action on such petition.

Such convention shall consist of three (3) delegates from each voting ward elected at a caucus of the enrolled party members of that ward. It shall be the duty of the Town Committee Chairperson, or, in the event of his or her failure to act, the Vice-Chairperson, to call such caucuses, which shall be held on the same day designating the time, place and

day by publishing said call in a newspaper having a circulation in such municipality, at least five (5) days before the day of such caucuses.

In the event the enrolled Democratic electors or the Town Committee in any town shall fail to adopt a method for amending the local party rules as provided by the Connecticut General Statutes, then, in that event, the method of amending said local party rules of said municipality shall be the same method used to select party endorsed candidates until such time as a method of amendment is lawfully adopted and filed by the proper authority.

Within seven (7) days after party rules or any amendment to party rules are adopted by the Democratic Party, a copy of the same shall be filed with the Secretary of the State, and with the Town Clerk, and with the Secretary of the State Central Committee. Any amendments so filed, shall, set forth in full the Section to be amended. The matter to be omitted or repealed shall be surrounded by brackets, and the new matter shall be indicated by underscoring.

Proposed Revision 2006