

Rules Governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut

ARTICLE I State-Wide Rules

Section 1. Primary Date.

Beginning in 1972, and every two years thereafter, each Town Committee shall fix the first Tuesday in March for the holding of a primary for the election of Town Committee Members. Said primaries shall be conducted in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 2. Increased Membership.

The Town Committees, 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 terms the first Monday following the next primary date in the State Election Calendar.

Section 3. Quorum.

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

Section 4. Election of Town Committees.

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. A Town Committee may be endorsed and elected on a district basis as such rules may prescribe. 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 the 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 5. Alternates.

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 or her in his or her absence. In the absence of such alternate delegate, the Town Chairperson shall have the right to fill any vacancy arising for any cause in delegations to conventions until the convention adjourns. This right to fill the vacancy shall cease upon adjournment of the convention.

**Rules Governing the Democratic Party
of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut**

**ARTICLE II
Democratic Town Committee**

Section 1.

The policies and principles of the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen shall be formed and directed by the Democratic Town Committee.

Section 2. Size of Committee.

The Town Committee shall consist of no fewer than eight nor more than twenty-one members who shall be elected at large. Representation shall be given to each section of the town.

Section 3. Terms of Members.

The terms of Committee Members shall start on the day following the date of the primary at which they are elected and they shall serve for a term of two years ending on the day established for the holding of the primary for the election of the members of the succeeding Town Committee. In the event a member misses three consecutive meetings without prior explanation of his or her absence to the chairperson, or other officer, his or her term shall automatically end.

Section 4. Dues

Dues will be set annually at the meeting following the caucus where members are elected. Dues should be paid by May each year.

Section 5. 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.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. Election and call of organizational meeting.

Not more than thirty (30) days following the day fixed for the holding of a primary for the election of Town Committee members, the Chair 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 such officers of the Town Committee as are prescribed in local party rules.

Rules Governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut

If such Town Chair fails, for any reason, to call such meeting within the period prescribed, it shall be the duty of the Vice-Chair serving concurrently with said Town Chair 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 the district to do so.

The notice of such meeting, called by either the said Vice-Chair or said members of the State Central Committee, shall be issued to each of the newly elected Town Committee Members within forty-eight (48) hours of the necessity of either to do so, notwithstanding any party rule concerning time notification of meetings to Town Committee Members.

Section 2. Qualifications.

All officers of the Town Committee need not be members of the Town Committee.

Section 3. Term.

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

Section 4. Duties.

Each of the 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 5. Filing.

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

Section 6. 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.

Section 7. Meetings.

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

Rules Governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut

Section 8. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Town Committee may be called upon written request, signed by 20% of the members of the Committee, presented to the Chairperson. Upon receipt of such request, the Chairperson shall instruct the Secretary to give reasonable notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting to all members of the committee.

ARTICLE IV

Endorsement of Candidates for Municipal Office, Town Committee Member and Delegates to Conventions

Section 1.

The enrolled members of the Democratic Party in the Town of Goshen, at a caucus called for the purpose, shall, by a majority vote of those present and voting, select party-endorsed candidates for each municipal office, for Town Committee members, and for delegates to conventions. The time and place of holding all such caucuses shall be determined by the Town Committee and notice of the time, place and purpose of any such caucus shall be given to all enrolled Democratic voters of the Town of Goshen at least five (5) days in advance of the caucus by publication of the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Goshen and by posting the same on the Town of Goshen bulletin board at Town Hall. The time of such caucus shall be fixed so as to permit compliance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended, from time to time. The Chairperson of the Town Committee shall be the Temporary Chairperson of all such caucuses and shall preside until the meeting has selected its Permanent Chairperson. The above rule is applicable also to the secretary. The caucus shall be conducted in conformity with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 2.

In the event that a vote on the selection of a party-endorsed candidate results in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by the vote of the Permanent 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 entitled.

Section 3.

If any provisions of these rules is found to be in conflict with the provisions of any law, the provisions of such law shall govern. If some contingency arises which is not covered by these rules, the members of the Goshen Democratic Town Committee must comply with the rules of the State Democratic Party covering such contingency.

Rules Governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut

ARTICLE V

Filing of Local Rules

Within seven days after party rules or any amendments to party rules are adopted by the Democratic Party of Goshen, 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 the full section to be amended. Matter to be omitted or repealed shall be surrounded by brackets, and new matters shall be indicated by capitalization.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

These rules may be amended in any Town Committee meeting by a majority vote of those present and voting, provided that the meeting is called in the same manner as a Town Committee meeting for selecting party-endorsed candidates as provided in Section 1. of Article IV of these rules.

ARTICLE VII

Participation

Section 1.

All public meetings should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, philosophical persuasion or physical disability (herinafter collectively referred to as "status").

Section 2.

The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Goshen should be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

Section 3.

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

**Rules Governing the Democratic Party
of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut**

ARTICLE VIII

Definitions

The term "State Primary law" as used in these rules and in the sections in connection therewith refer to Title 9, Chapter 153 of the general statutes (Rev. 1969), Parts I through IV, entitled "Nominations and Political Parties". The terms used in these rules shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 9-372 of said Title and Chapter.

ARTICLE IX

Procedure

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

The above rules governing the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen, as revised in accordance with amended state party rules, were adopted at a duly warned and held caucus of the Democratic Party of the Town of Goshen on April 26, 2001.