



PO Box 1427
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How to Run for Municipal Committee

Section 1.0: Introduction

Running for the Democratic Municipal Committee is the very first step in getting involved as an Democratic elected official. The role enables you to actively engage in the Democratic Party in Princeton and Mercer County, represent your districts' concerns to the Municipal Committee, and start on the path of service as an elected official. As a Democratic Committee Person you are the most important and most direct link between the voters in your district and the Democratic Party organization.

The elective office of Committee Person is provided for under Title 19 of the New Jersey statutes. Each of the twelve (12) municipalities in Mercer County has their own Municipal Committee and district representatives. Title 19 is supplemented by the **Mercer County Democratic Committee** (MCDC) Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules of the Mercer County Democratic Committee Nominating Convention.

Basically, the statutes and MCDC documents provide that election to the Municipal Committee is for a term of two years with voting occurring during the Primary Elections in even numbered years. In Princeton, there are twenty (20) voting districts and two (2) representatives in each district. The standard election process is for Democratic voters in your district to elect you to be their district representative.

Once elected, the forty (40) members of the Princeton Democratic Municipal Committee are also part of the Mercer County Democratic Committee. There are over 400 district representatives from the 12 municipalities in the Democratic Party of Mercer County.

There are two ways to get elected to County Committee:

1. as a candidate on the Primary Ballot; or
2. as a "write in" on the Primary Ballot.

This guide focuses on the activities you need to undertake to run for District Representative as a candidate on the Primary Ballot.

Section 2.0: The Petition

You will need to complete a **Primary Petition for Member of County Committee**. As with any petition, you need to collect signatures. The Mercer County Clerk determines the number of petition signatures required for each voting district in each municipality and communicates this to the Municipal Clerks. The calculation is based on the total number of votes cast in your voting district in the previous election. The highest number of signatures that a candidate for county committee may be required to secure is ten (10).

The petitioners must meet certain requirements as well. By signing your petition, petitioners are certifying that **THEY**:

- reside in the your election district in Princeton, New Jersey;
- are registered (legally qualified) voters in your election district in Princeton;
- are members of the Democratic Party, and intend to affiliate with the Democratic Party at the ensuing election;
- that they endorse you as a candidate for election County Committee; and
- request that your name is printed on the official Democratic Primary Ballot.

The petitioners are also certifying that **YOU**:

- reside at the address you list on the petition which is within the election district
- are legally qualified under the laws of the State of New Jersey to be elected to County Committee in Princeton; and
- are a member of the Democratic Party.

As a best practice, check with the PDMC Municipal Chair or the Princeton Municipal Clerk's Office for signature requirements in your voting district.

If you are not sure that a petitioner who has signed your petition meets all of the petitioner requirements, you can ask the Municipal Chair to check the names in VAN. You can also simply secure additional signatures so if one or two are disqualified, you still meet the signature requirement for inclusion on the Democratic Primary Ballot in your district.

To finalize your petition, you need to have it notarized before you submit it to the Princeton Municipal Clerk's Office. *Petitions must be filed with the Municipal Clerk's Office on or before 4:00 PM 64 days prior to the Primary Election.*

For more details on how to complete your Petition, check out this [How-to Guide](#) which is also included as [Appendix 2 - How to Complete the Petition for Municipal Committee](#).

Section 3.0 Campaigning for County Committee

After winning election to Committee Person, you will represent the Democratic Party to the residents of your election district. Along with the other Committee Person in your district, you are the best link between the municipal, county, state and national Democratic organizations and the people of your election district. Your friends and neighbors should be able to look to you for help with problems needing party or governmental action.

Now that your petition has been notarized and filed with the Municipal Clerk, it's time to start walking the walk and campaigning.

Get to Know Your Party and Elected Officials

You can become acquainted with these officials by attending [Princeton Community Democratic Organization \(PCDO\)](#) club meetings. You can find out when and where by visiting their website at www.princeton Dems.org. These meetings are a great way to meet and greet your Democratic teammates, and public officials often make it a priority to attend.

Get to Know Your Neighborhood

In addition to knowing the boundaries, the geography, and the demographics of your district, you should know the people of your district. What are their concerns, their problems, their hopes and their needs? Remember, you are hoping to become the face of the Democratic Party in your election district. Make sure your neighbors know that face and that they can count on you to be in their corner on a regular basis!

Below are some tips and tricks for getting to **Know Your Neighborhood**:

Obtain an Election District Map

- Know the streets that make up your district. Get a map of your district and mark important landmarks, like apartment buildings, and the polling place. The Municipal Chair can provide you with a map of your district. The Municipal Clerks' website also has this information as does the [PDMC website](#).

Walk the District

- Nothing beats getting outside and knocking on doors for learning about your district. Some people find this difficult to start, but it gets easier once you take the first step and find out that you and your neighbors can learn and benefit from each other. All you will seek to do at your first visit is to introduce yourself and let the resident know that you hope to represent the Democratic Party and that you are there to help. If you stop by when no one is home, you can leave a “[Missed You Meet You](#)” door hanger or something similar with election info as well as your contact information.

The goal is to make the best contact you can and establish some basis for building a relationship with the prospective voters in your district.

Encourage People to Work the Polls

New Jersey needs poll workers. Each polling location requires multiple staff to open, operate, collect voter tallies, and close. Poll workers are compensated for their time and trained by the state of New Jersey. If you identify people interested in serving as Poll Workers, forward those people directly to the [New Jersey Division of Elections](#) website.

Welcome New Residents

Be one of the first people in the neighborhood to welcome new residents and help them get settled in. Keep an eye out for “For Sale” signs and make a note to visit when they become “Sold” signs. Stop by to introduce yourself and point your new neighbors to [voter registration forms](#) for the household. Leave your phone number with them so they can reach out to you if they have a question about the neighborhood later on. You’ll be making a friend for yourself and one for the Democratic Party! This is another great opportunity to use the “[Missed You Meet You](#)” door hanger or something similar.

Register New Voters

Voter registration efforts are one of the most fundamental activities you will undertake to ensure your success if elected to Committee Person. By bringing potential voters into the process of government by registering them to vote, you give them a voice and you give yourself another vote on Election Day. You can find resources for voter registration on New Jersey’s [Voter Registration Portal](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to the [PDMC Municipal Chair](#). The PDMC is here to support both our district representatives and candidates for election to district representative!

Appendix 1: Sorry I Missed You – Nice to Meet You



- Sorry I Missed You!
- Nice to Meet You!

Do you have questions about the Democratic candidates for the **2024 Primary Election**? Would you like to get more involved in or learn more about our elections?

I'm running for district representative for the **Princeton Democratic Municipal Committee (PDMC)** and I can help! Here's what's on the ballot for the **June 4, 2024 Democratic Primary Election**:

FEDERAL Election Candidates in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District (CD-12)

President of the United States–1 seat
United States House of Representatives–1 seat
United States Senate–1 seat

COUNTY Election Candidates for Mercer

County Commissioner–3 seats

MUNICIPAL Election Candidates for Princeton

Town Council–2 seats
Mayor–1 seat

2024 Democratic Primary Candidates

President of the United States CD-12 (1 seat)

1. Joseph R. Biden (*incumbent*)

US House of Representatives CD-12 (1 seat)

1. Bonnie Watson Coleman (*incumbent*)
2. Daniel Dart

US Senate CD-12 (1 seat)

1. Patricia Campos-Medina
2. Lawrence Hamm
3. Andy Kim
4. Tammy Murphy

Mercer County – County Commissioner (3 seats)

1. Samuel T. Frisby, Sr. (*incumbent*)
2. Kristin McLaughlin (*incumbent*)
3. Terrance Stokes (*incumbent*)

Princeton Mayor (1 seat)

1. Mark Freda (*incumbent*)

Princeton Town Council (2 seats)

1. Leighton Newlin (*incumbent*)
2. Brian McDonald

_____ Candidate

To text or talk to me: _____

To send an email: _____

_____ Candidate

To text or talk to me: _____

To send an email: _____

Appendix 2: How to Complete the Petition for Municipal Committee



PO Box 1427
Princeton, NJ 08542

How to Complete the Petition for Municipal Committee – Pages 1 and 2

PRIMARY PETITION FOR MEMBER OF COUNTY COMMITTEE

To: The MUNICIPAL CLERK of PRINCETON

CANDIDATE NAME: _____

CANDIDATE RESIDENCE: _____

CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CANDIDATE EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Party Affiliation: Rep Dem Municipality: **PRINCETON** Election District: _____
Member of: Male Female non-Binary

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we reside in the above indicated municipality and election district of the State of New Jersey, and that we are qualified voters therein; that we are members of the above indicated Party, and that we intend to affiliate with the said party at the ensuing election; that we endorse the person hereinafter mentioned as candidate for election to the position of **Member of the County Committee**, and that we request that you print upon the official Primary Ballot of said party the name of said person as the candidate for such position; we further certify that the residence and Post Office Address of the said person so endorsed is as above set forth, and that the said person so endorsed is legally qualified under the laws of the State of New Jersey to be elected to said position and is a member of the political party named in this petition.

ALL SIGNERS MUST SIGN AND PRINT NAMES IN COMPLIANCE WITH NJRS 19:23-7, eff. 01/01/1995
(Further Instructions on Page 4 of this petition)

1. _____ Signature _____ Print Name _____

_____ Residence Address (Number & Street) _____ (Town & Zip Code)

2. _____ Signature _____ Print Name _____

_____ Residence Address (Number & Street) _____ (Town & Zip Code)

3. _____ Signature _____ Print Name _____

_____ Residence Address (Number & Street) _____ (Town & Zip Code)

9. _____ Signature _____ Print Name _____

_____ Residence Address (Number & Street) _____ (Town & Zip Code)

10. _____ Signature _____ Print Name _____

_____ Residence Address (Number & Street) _____ (Town & Zip Code)

Complete your:

- **Name;**
- **Residence Address;**
- **Mailing Address** (if different); &
- **Email Address.**

Check **Dem** and write in District #
Select most appropriate option

By signing your petition, petitioners are certifying **THEY**:

- reside in the your election district in Princeton, NJ;
- are registered (qualified) voters;
- are Democrats;
- endorse you for election to County Committee; and
- request your name is printed on the official Democratic Primary Ballot.

The petitioners are also certifying that **YOU**:

- reside at the address you list as “Candidate Residence” which is within the election district
- are legally qualified to be elected to County Committee in Princeton, NJ; and
- are a Democrat

Do not forget to:
SIGN YOUR OWN PETITION!!!

