

## Ballot Placement – Standing Rules

**Preamble.** The purpose of the Princeton Democratic Municipal Committee is to support the Democratic Party and its candidates, further good government, encourage grass roots participation in the Democratic Party, recruit Democratic candidates, have an open process for recommending ballot placement of, and slogan designation for, Democratic candidates in Primary Elections, and to fulfill its duties under Title 19 of the New Jersey Revised Code.

The Princeton Democratic Municipal Committee (“PDMC”) conducts a ballot placement and slogan designation process and conveys its recommendations to the Chair of the Mercer County Democratic Committee. The County Chair makes the final determination as to which candidates will have their names appear in the favorable county line column positions on the ballot with the party slogan.

The Princeton Community Democratic Organization (“PCDO”) is the Democratic voluntary membership organization within the municipality and supports the efforts of the PDMC. Historically, the PCDO was the one Democratic organization that, before consolidation of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township, brought Democrats together to engage members and endorse candidates. The PDMC recognizes the historical role and ongoing importance of the PCDO in recruiting and supporting Democratic candidates.

**Standing Rules.** Therefore, the PDMC adopts these Rules by which it will conduct its process of recommending ballot placement and designation for municipal candidates:

1. Candidates for municipal office must inform the Chair by email or in writing at least 14 days prior to the ballot placement and designation meeting that they wish to be considered.
2. The Chair will appoint a committee of three to six members of the Municipal Committee at least 14 days prior to the ballot placement and designation meeting. This committee will conduct research to determine that each candidate is a Democrat in good standing and briefly report on each at the ballot placement meeting.
3. The PDMC will hold its ballot placement and designation meeting for municipal candidates after the PCDO’s annual endorsement meeting for municipal offices.
4. The PDMC will encourage all candidates seeking its support to also participate in the PCDO’s endorsement process.
5. At its ballot placement and designation meeting, the PDMC will receive, read, and give consideration to the results of the PCDO annual endorsement meeting.
6. It is the goal of the PDMC to recommend to the Mercer County Democratic Committee Chair that at least as many municipal candidates be placed in the column with the slogan “**Regular Democratic Organization**” as there are municipal offices to fill in the election.