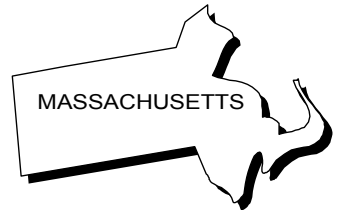




HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEE

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The most local level of organization of **both parties** in Massachusetts are the **Ward and Town Committees**. **Town / Ward Committee members** serve 4-year terms, and are elected during Presidential primary elections. City committees are composed of all ward committee members within the municipality.

The filing deadline to run for a position during the next election will be in **early November, 2007**.
The next election will be March 2, 2008

To become a member of your Town / Ward committee through the regular election process:

1. You must be at least 18 years old; registered to vote as a member of the relevant party for at least 90 days before the filing deadline, not having been enrolled in another political party during the year before the filing deadline (or a newly registered voter in the relevant party); and a resident of the Ward or Town that you intend to run in.
2. The ballot will first list candidates running as groups of three or more (called “slates”). The names of candidates running as individuals will appear last. You should contact your Ward / Town Committee Chair to express your interest in running, and discuss whether your name could be placed on the same slate as the incumbent members who are running for re-election.
3. You must file “nomination papers”, available through your City or Town Clerk’s office. Completed nomination papers must include the name, address, and acceptance signature for each candidate on the slate, plus signatures of at least five voters who are enrolled members of the relevant party, or who are not enrolled in any party, and who support your candidacy. The papers must be filed by the deadline noted above.
4. Your slate (or you as an individual) must receive sufficient votes at the Presidential primary election, so encourage your family and neighbors who are members of your party to get out and vote – for you if for no other reason!

For details of “How to Run for Ward and Town Committee” from the Massachusetts Elections Division, visit:
www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleprim/runforward.htm

It is often possible to join your Town or Ward committee between regular elections:

- **Mid-term vacancies** are filled by a vote of the committee. If there are associate members, they will be the candidates for filling the vacancy.
Republicans only: In the event that five (5) or more local committee membership positions are vacant for more than three months, the local committee Chair fills the vacancies by appointment. If that does not take place three (3) months after such notice, the Regional Chair makes the appointments.
- **Associate Members** are selected by a vote of the Committee. Procedures vary from place to place – in some places Associate Member candidates must attend one meeting and be voted in at the next. In some places they must be sponsored or nominated by a regular member, or submit a written application for Associate Membership. Contact your Town or Ward Chair for details in your location.

There are often **other opportunities** to get involved without yet being a formal member of the committee – volunteer to help, people will come to know you, and you will increase your chances of becoming a member through the next regular election.

For more info about your party (and contact info for your Ward / Town Committee Chair) visit:

Democrats: www.massdems.org

(Click on “Get Local”, then on “Chairs List”)

Republicans: www.massgop.com

[left message with state party asking how to find contact info – vs]