



## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEE

For more info, contact Valerie Smith at AAI:  
202-429-9210 or vsmith@aaiusa.org



The most local level of organization for **both political parties** in New York is the **County Committee**, which helps build the party, elects the County Chair, and plays a role in choosing candidates to run for elective office. Democratic **Town** and Republican **Assembly District** clubs provide other opportunities to get involved in the party. Their work is generally coordinated through the county committees.

Members of the County Committees are called either **Committeepersons** or **District Leaders**, and are elected to serve **2-year terms**. Republicans are elected in the odd years' party primary elections. New York County Democrats elect their county committee during September of odd years; other counties elect their Democratic committees during September of even years.

The next election will be:

**September 12, 2006** for Democrats outside of New York County,

**Filing Deadline** for running in this election is: **July 13, 2006**. The filing period begins in June.

**September 11, 2007** for all Republicans and New York County Democrats,

Filing Deadline for running in this election is: **July 12, 2007**

### To become a member of this committee through the regular election process:

1. You must be 18 years old, a currently registered member of the relevant party, and a resident of the district in which you are running.
2. Filing usually requires a petition with signatures equal to 5% of the registered voters of your political party in your political unit. These requirements vary depending on the size of the electoral district.

### It is often possible to join the committee between regular elections:

- **Mid-term vacancies** are filled differently by the two parties. **Democrats** fill vacancies by appointment by the County Chair, and **Republicans** by a "committee to fill vacancies" which is designated every two years by the county committee.
- 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.

Contact your County Chair to express your interest and determine if there is a vacancy in your geographical unit. Contact information may be found through the following websites:

### State party websites:

[www.nydems.org](http://www.nydems.org)  
Click on "Get Local"

[www.nygop.org](http://www.nygop.org)  
Click on "County Committees"

### Some county parties have websites with additional information, for example:

Kings County (Brooklyn)	N/A	<a href="http://brooklyn.republican.com/">http://brooklyn.republican.com/</a>
Queens County	N/A	<a href="http://www.electgop.net/ny/nyqcgop.shtml">www.electgop.net/ny/nyqcgop.shtml</a>
New York County (Manhattan)	N/A	<a href="http://www.nycrepublican.org/">www.nycrepublican.org/</a>
Richmond County (Staten Island)	<a href="http://www.sidemocrats.net/">http://www.sidemocrats.net/</a>	N/A