[Bracketed text in red] are deleted text from the old rules.

Text in blue is new text for these revised rules. Explanation & comments in green side bar

RULES GOVERNING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE CITY OF NORWALK

PREAMBLE

1. All public meetings of the Democratic Party of the City of Norwalk shall be open to all who wish to attend regardless of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party shall be required or used, especially any which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
3. The time and place of all public meetings of the Democratic Party shall be publicized fully and in such 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.
4. The Democratic Party shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
5. The Democratic Party in the City of Norwalk shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Democratic Party organization.
6. The Democratic Party in this town shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal qualifications for all officers and representatives of the town Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within this town Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

RULES

SECTION A. NAME OF GOVERNING BODY

1. Name: The Democratic Party in the City of Norwalk shall be governed by a body known as the Democratic Town and City Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Town and City Committee.
2. Purpose: It shall be the purpose of the Town and City Committee:
    a. To encourage and facilitate the participation of all registered Democrats

in the nominating and electing process, and in governmental affairs;

b. To promote the election of Democratic candidates in general and special elections;

c. To increase voter registration and Democratic affiliation by taking affirmative action to reach all groups and by all other means;

d. To promote the political education of all citizens in the City of Norwalk and to promote their involvement in all government levels.

3. Finances: The Town and City Committee shall have power to raise and expend funds for the above purposes, but in no case shall Town and City Committee funds be used in support of or opposition to any slate or individual in a primary.

4. **Duties and Responsibilities: The Town and City Committee members shall promote the aims and principles of the Democratic Party at the national, state and local levels. Members shall work to promote harmony among all people, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, religion, or sexual orientation.**

Copied from state party rules

SECTION B. COMPOSITION OF TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE

1. The Town and City Committee shall consist of **[seven (7)] eleven (11)** members from each of the council districts of the city of Norwalk, for a total of **[thirty-five (35)] fifty-five (55)** members.

2. Any person who is registered to vote in Norwalk and is enrolled in the Democratic Party is eligible to serve on the Town and City Committee **from the council district of his or her voting residence**.

Per recent DTC vote

SECTION C. ELECTION OF THE TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Endorsement by Caucus

[a. Nominees for membership to the Town and City Committee shall be selected at a caucus of their council district from their respective council district. All persons registered to vote from that district and enrolled in the Democratic Party are eligible to participate in this caucus. To receive the party endorsement a person must be a member of the district committee he or she will represent on the Town and City Committee.]

1. **Candidates for endorsement for membership on** the Town and City Committee shall be selected at a caucus of the council district **by vote of the eligible participants**. All active electors (registered voters) from that district who are enrolled in the Democratic Party are eligible to participate in this caucus **and/or be a candidate**.

[b. For each even-numbered year, the Town and City Committee shall fix places, time and dates within that time period provided for by state statute for the holding of the district caucuses for the selection of candidates for nomination for membership on the Town and City Committee, and shall

Caucus required by state rules. Any democrat is eligible to be selected, also per state rules. District committee membership can not be required.

publish notice of the same, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Norwalk, at least five (5) days before such caucuses are to be held. If eight (8) or more candidates have filed with the registrar of voters pursuant to section c-1-d of these rules, said caucus shall be called for a time and a place which will permit a run-off vote to be held pursuant to these rules within said statutory period and at least 24 hours after the convening of the caucus, and the published notice of the caucuses shall include a statement of the date, time and place of each such run-off in the event that a runoff should become necessary. If exactly seven (7) candidates have filed with the registrar of voters pursuant to Section C-1-d, said notice shall include notice that the caucus is subject to closing at 8:00 p.m. Pursuant to section K-9 of these rules. Caucuses held pursuant to this section shall be subject as well to the procedures for caucuses set out in section k of these rules.]

2. For each even-numbered year, the Town and City Committee shall fix places, times and dates within that time period provided for by state statute for the holding of the **council** district caucuses and for any necessary run-off vote and shall publish notice of the same, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Norwalk, at least five (5) days before such caucuses are to be held, **or as otherwise provided by law. Said notice shall include notice that the caucus is subject to early closing if, after nominations are closed, there are exactly the same number of candidates as membership positions to fill.**

This just recites state law.

3. **Caucuses held pursuant to this section shall be conducted pursuant to the general procedures for caucuses set out in Section K of these rules.**

[c. The chairperson of each district shall act as chairperson of the caucus in his or her district, but in case of his or her absence, inability, neglect or refusal to act, the next officer in line will act as chairperson of the caucus.]

4. **The chairperson of the district, or the next officer in line, shall be the chairperson for the caucus and shall appoint necessary caucus officials to check in electors, distribute and count ballots and tend the ballot box.**

Clarified as to appointment of caucus officials

[d. Any individual seeking the party endorsement for the Town and City Committee from his or her district must notify the registrar of voters (democratic) in writing of his or her interest at least fourteen (14) days prior to the caucus date. The town chairperson shall announce the list of all candidates in advance of the caucus, and the Town and City Committee shall provide printed ballots listing those candidates in alphabetical order to each caucus.]

5. **Any eligible democrat residing in the council district may become a candidate for endorsement either 1) by notifying the Democratic Registrar of Voters in writing (letter, fax, email), in time for their name to appear on the official caucus ballot, or 2) by nomination from the floor at the beginning of the caucus, in order to become a write-in candidate on said ballot.**

Nomination from floor is per state rules

The registrar shall maintain a list of all interested potential candidates and shall make that list available to the press and anyone who asks to see it. **[The town chairperson shall notify all district committee members of the date of the caucus at least thirty (30) days in advance of the caucus and also notify the district committee members of the requirement to register in advance of their intent to serve on the Town and City Committee.]**

Notification not necessary as registration with ROV is not exclusive means of running for DTC at the caucus.

6. **[If at any time prior to the preparation of ballots pursuant to this section, any candidate having registered his or her candidacy with the registrar of voters pursuant to this section officially withdraws his or her candidacy, said candidate's name shall not be included on the ballot.] Any candidate may officially withdraw his or her candidacy by written notice to the registrar.** If such withdrawal is subsequent to the preparation of the ballots, **the written notice shall be made to** the chairperson of the appropriate caucus, **who** shall post prominently **[both at the entrance to the caucus room and]** inside the caucus room a notice stating that said candidate has withdrawn, and that any vote for said candidate will be void in its entirety. **[No such withdrawal may occur after the close of business at the office of the registrar of voters the day of the first meeting of the caucus in question. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a candidate eligible for a run-off vote who withdraws subsequent to the first vote of the caucus and prior to the run-off vote shall be permitted to withdraw at any time up to the close of business at the office of the registrar of voters the day of the run-off vote.]** In the event that the withdrawal of a candidate renders a run-off unnecessary, such runoff may be canceled by the chairperson of the caucus, and the remaining candidate shall be considered the nominee of the caucus.

Simplified wording.

7. **At the district caucus, each attending elector shall be checked against, and marked as voting on, an official party enrollment list certified by the Registrar of Voters. Any contested vote for endorsement shall be by secret ballot. Each ballot cast must contain the same number of votes as membership positions to fill, i.e. Votes for exactly eleven (11) separate nominated candidates. Any ballot with an incorrect number, either more or less than eleven (11) will be void. This requirement will be posted in writing and pointed out to all participants periodically during voting. Pursuant to state party rules, voting by slate shall only be permitted when the contest is exclusively between two or more full slates.**

Full ballot rule, same as before. Helps prevent ties. Slate vote is per state rules

[e. If there are only seven (7) candidates for nomination, the chairperson shall declare those seven (7) persons the nominees of the caucus for membership on the Town and City Committee. If there are more than seven (7) nominees, the caucus will vote by written ballot with each qualified person attending the caucus having one (1) vote for each of seven (7) positions. The seven (7) candidates for nomination receiving the most votes shall be declared the nominees for membership on the Town and City Committee. In the case of a tie for the final position, a run-off election by written ballot shall be held between those who are tied. Said run-off election shall be held

within that time period provided for by state statute and at least 24 hours later at the same location, if possible, and for the same period of time as the caucus. There shall be no proxy votes at the caucus. Each voter must vote for seven (7) different candidates. If there are fewer than seven (7) candidates for nomination, the chairperson shall declare those persons the nominees of the caucus for membership on the Town and City Committee, and the caucus shall vote for a nominee or for different nominees equal in number to only the number of unfilled positions then remaining, as provided in this section for the election of a full slate of seven (7) nominees. Any ballot containing a vote cast for the incorrect number of candidates or for a candidate not in nomination or a withdrawn candidate shall be void in entirety. No person shall solicit in behalf of the candidacy of another or himself or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy five (75) feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any caucus.

f. The chairperson shall file with the town clerk the names and addresses of the Nominees of the caucus no later than that time provided for by state statute.]

8. The chairperson of each council district caucus shall submit the names of the successful candidates to the Town and City Committee chairperson, who shall file with the town clerk the names and addresses of the party-endorsed candidates selected at the caucus no later than that time provided for by state statute.

DTC chair files form

[g. If, for any reason, sufficient endorsements of the nominees to the Town and City Committee are not made, the provisions of C.G.S. (Connecticut general statutes), section 9-419 shall govern, as the same may be amended from time to time. (See sec. K)]

9. If, for any reason, sufficient endorsements of the nominees to the Town and City Committee are not made, the provisions of C.G.S. (Connecticut General Statutes) 9-419 shall govern, as the same may be amended from time to time. (See Section K)

Renumbered

[2. Primary

a. In each even-numbered year, the first Tuesday in March shall be the date for the holding of a primary for the election of the members of the Town and City Committee and the Town and City Committee shall publish a notice of the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Norwalk, on or before the date specified by Connecticut general statutes section 9-435, or other applicable statutes.

b. Nominees for the Town and City Committee chosen as provided in section C-1 shall run in the primary for Town and City Committee members as party endorsed nominees.

c. Such nominees shall be deemed elected as members of the Town and City Committee if no valid opposing candidacies have been filed for members of the Town and City Committee by four p.m. Within the number of days specified by Connecticut general statutes section 9-405, or other applicable statutes. Primary procedures shall be those set forth in C.G.S. Section 9-415, as from time to time amended, and the rules of the Democratic Party of the state of Connecticut. (See Section J.)]

Election in a Primary

10. **Pursuant to current state law, a slate of candidates challenging the party-endorsed candidates, for election to the Town and City Committee, may petition for a primary election to be held the first Tuesday in March. The challenging candidate slate must include challengers at least equal in number to 25% of the number of Town and City Committee members to be elected from that district. The challenging candidates must obtain the signatures of 5% of the enrolled members of the Democratic Party from the district, by 4:00 p.m. On the 34th day preceding the primary date, on petition forms obtained from the Registrar of Voters as prescribed by law. C.G.S. 9-411; C.G.S. 9-405. The chairperson of** the Town and City Committee shall publish a notice of the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Norwalk, on or before the date specified by C.G.S. 9-435, or other applicable statutes.

Recites state law

11. **The candidates** for the Town and City Committee nominated **at the above noted district caucuses**, shall run in **any** primary for Town and City Committee members as the party-endorsed candidates. Such nominees shall be deemed elected as members of the Town and City Committee if no **opposing slate of candidates has qualified for a within the time period** specified by applicable statutes. Primary procedures shall be those set forth in C.G.S. 9-415 **and other applicable statutes**, as from time to time amended, and the rules of the Democratic Party of the state of Connecticut. (See Section J.)

[Section d. Increased membership of the town and city committee

The town and city committee, at a meeting called for that purpose, may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, amend these rules, where applicable, to increase or decrease its membership proportionately by district. The new positions thus added or decreased shall not be filled until the next regular primary date for the election of members of the town and city committee, and such additional members shall begin their term on the first monday following that primary date.]

Redundant, see Section O. 3.

SECTION D. TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE

1. The terms of the Town and City Committee members shall start on the first Monday following the date of the primary at which they are elected, and they shall serve for two (2) years or until their successors and shall be chosen, but not

more than twenty-six (26) months. The terms of all members shall end on the same day. **[in the event that the membership of the Town and City Committee shall be increased by amendment to these rules, said amendment shall state the date upon which the terms of said newly-created positions shall begin.]**

[Section F. Vacancy on the Town and City Committee

Except as provided in section n-3-c, below, any vacancy on the Town and City Committee, arising from any cause including failure to elect or failure to reside within the council district (exclusive of district committee boundary changes), shall be filled by the district committee in which the vacancy exists from members of said district committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting of the district committee called, by written notice, for that purpose.]

SECTION E. VACANCY ON THE TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE

New. Clarifies when a vacancy on DTC exists.

1. **A vacancy on the Town and City Committee shall exist whenever a member dies, resigns, is disenfranchised according to law, moves out of the council district in which the member was elected (exclusive of council district boundary changes), or ceases to be an enrolled member of the Democratic Party in Norwalk.**

SECTION F. FILLING A VACANCY ON THE TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE

District chair takes seat per N-3-c or fill vacancy in 60 days.

1. Except as provided in Section N-3-c, below, any vacancy on the Town and City Committee, arising from any cause, **[including failure to elect, or failure to reside within the council district (exclusive of district committee boundary changes)]** shall be filled **within 60 days** by the district committee in which the vacancy exists from members of said district committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting of the district committee called by written notice, for that purpose.

SECTION G. OFFICERS OF THE TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE

1. Elections: Within one (1) week after election, the members-elect of the Town and City Committee shall meet for organization and shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson, a recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and other such officers as may be deemed advisable. Said organizational meeting shall be called by the incumbent chairperson of the Town and City Committee or, in the case of his or her absence, inability, neglect or refusal to act, the next officer in line, or, **pursuant to state party rules, by the state central committee members in the district,** and, in the event these fail timely to act, then twenty percent (20%) of the members-elect of the Town and City Committee shall call said meeting. The notice of said meeting shall be in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, and said notice shall be given to all members-elect of the Town and City Committee. Election of officers shall be by

majority vote of those present and voting.

2. Qualifications of officers: The officers of the Town and City Committee shall be elected from among the membership of the Town and City Committee; provided, however, that the **chairperson and** assistant treasurer **[must be a member of a district committee and]** need not be a member of the Town and City Committee. No person shall hold more than one office of the Town and City Committee.

Chair & Asst Tres. not required to be members

3. Terms of office: Officers so elected shall hold office for the term of the Town and City Committee electing them. No officer of the Town and City Committee shall hold that office for more than **four (4) [three (3)]** consecutive terms.

Previous limit of 3 terms

4. Duties of officers: Each of such officers shall have the duties usually incident to this office and such other duties as the Town and City Committee may from time to time prescribe. In the event that a vote is taken that shall result in a tie, the motion is lost; the chairperson may vote to break a tie, unless he or she has already voted. The chairperson cannot vote twice, first to make a tie and then to give the tie-breaking vote. The chairperson shall appoint the chairpersons and members of such committees as he or she deems necessary to properly conduct the business of the Town and City Committee, subject to the approval of a majority of the Town and City Committee. **[At least eight (8) days prior to a convention or caucus held pursuant to these rules, the chairperson shall propose to the Town and City Committee rules for the caucus or meeting for nominations which are not inconsistent with these rules. When proposed in advance, the Town and City Committee shall adopt these rules for the convention or caucus by majority vote. The Town and City Committee may amend or adopt the rules within the eight (8) day period by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Town and City Committee.]** The town chairperson shall review the rules and logistics of the caucus with the persons chairing the caucus prior to the caucus.

Rules cannot be changed on 8 days notice.

5. Filing list of officers and members: Within one (1) week after organization of the Town and City Committee the newly elected town chairperson shall have the newly elected recording secretary file with the secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee and the Norwalk Registrar of Voters, a list of the names and addresses of the officers and members of the Town and City Committee.

6. Vacancy in Town and City Committee officer **positions**: If there shall be a vacancy in any office of the Town and City Committee, arising from any cause, the Town and City Committee shall fill the same **within 60 days** by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose by written notice **(letter, fax, email)**.

60 days to fill vacancy is same as state rules

7. Audit of treasurer's books: An audit of treasurer's books and accounts must be made prior to the meeting of the new Town and City Committee. All books and records of the treasurer and secretaries are property of the Town and City Committee and must be turned over to the new Town and City Committee chairperson.

[8. Good Practices and Ethics Committee: A good practices and ethics committee shall be formed to conduct hearings on complaints of "dirty tricks" and unethical conduct. It shall report its findings and recommendations to the Town and City Committee. The Town and City Committee shall then determine what course of action is necessary to maintain its propriety, its dignity and a clean house.]

8. **Executive Committee: The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the Town and City Committee, the state central committee members from Norwalk, and the chairpersons of the five council district committees. Meetings of the executive committee shall be presided over by the chairperson of the Town and City Committee, and may include other Norwalk democrats as non-voting participants, either temporarily or permanently at the discretion of the chair. The executive committee shall meet at the call of the chair to take such action and render such decisions as may be necessary to carry out the rules, policies, instructions and resolutions of the Town and City Committee between regular meetings thereof, and for any other lawful purpose.**

New Section, reflecting recent practice

9. **Dispute Resolution Committee: The Executive Committee may appoint and convene a Dispute Resolution Committee to advise the Chair, Executive Committee, and Town and City Committee, as the case may be, on the resolution of disputes between and among party members, concerning the interpretation of these Rules, questions of conflict of interest and other matters of good practice referred to it for its advice and recommendation.**

NEW replaces Ethics Committee

The committee shall be made up of no fewer than three nor more than five registered Democrats in good standing who are not currently members of the Town and City Committee. The chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the Town and City Committee chairperson. The terms of the committee members shall be co-terminus with the membership of the Town and City Committee.

The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Executive Committee and/or the Town and City Committee, which group shall then determine what course of action may be appropriate and necessary.

SECTION H. MEETINGS OF TOWN COMMITTEE

1. Regular meetings: The Town and City Committee shall hold regular meetings at least once per calendar month, at the call of the chairperson, who shall have the power to cancel, omit or reschedule a regular meeting. However, no more than two (2) meetings per year can be omitted and not in consecutive months. Any omissions, cancellation or rescheduling of any regular meeting shall be by reasonable **written** notice **(letter, fax, email), [via regular mail, electronic mail, or telefax.]. Pursuant to state party rules, Article VII, Section 8, all meetings of the Town and City Committee shall be open to the public and votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.**

2. Special meetings:

   a. Special meetings of the Town and City Committee may be called by the chairperson at his or her own discretion, or upon written request, signed by twenty percent (20%) of the members of the committee, presented to the chairperson. Upon receipt of such request, the chairperson or, in the case of his or her absence, inability, neglect or refusal to act, the next officer in line, shall instruct the corresponding secretary to give reasonable written notice **(letter, fax, email)** of the time, place and purpose of such meeting to all members of the committee **[via regular mail, electronic mail, or telefax.]**. In the event the chairperson or officer neglects or refuses to call a special meeting within four (4) days after such a request is presented, such meeting may be called by twenty percent (20%) of the Town and City Committee, by giving notice of the special meeting, mailed at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

   b. An exception will be made to the requirement of the seven (7) day notice in the case of a meeting called to replace a candidate for nomination or election who shall have died or shall have withdrawn, or shall have become disqualified prior to twenty-four (24) hours before opening of the polls for a primary or election**, or to fill any vacancy in any elected or appointed office with official duties in any primary or election**. In such cases, if time does not permit of seven (7) days notice, the rule is waived.

3. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of two-fifths (2/5) of the membership of the Town and City Committee.

2/5 for quorum is per state rules

4. Proxy voting: Members of the Town and City Committee may be represented by proxy; provided, however, that the person exercising the proxy for a Town and City Committee member shall:

   a. Be a registered democrat and a member of the district committee residing in the same district in which the Town and City Committee member is elected;

   [b. Present to the presiding officer of the meeting of the Town and City Committee at which he or she is to vote a signed authorization from the Town and City Committee member designating in the handwriting of the Town and City Committee member the name of the proxy holder, the date of the meeting, and the date signed by the Town and City Committee member. Alternatively, such a proxy transmitted from the Town and City Committee member via telefacsimile prior to the meeting may be presented; or a proxy may be transmitted via electronic mail prior to the meeting by the Town and City Committee member to the presiding officer or recording secretary of the meeting, provided that the member shall in advance of the meeting also communicate same via telephone to the presiding officer or record-

ing secretary, in order to verify the authenticity of the electronically mailed proxy which would not contain a written or reproduced signature.]

b. Present to the presiding officer of the meeting a signed authorization from the member designating the name of the proxy holder **and** the date of the meeting. **Alternatively, such a proxy transmitted by letter, fax, or email may be presented**;

Follows current practice.

c. Hold only one (1) proxy at a time;

d. Not be a current member of the Town and City Committee.

SECTION I. SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES [AND SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS]

Section re-ordered. Convention delegates not subject to primary, are actually "selected" while others candidates are "endorsed"

Selection of Delegates to Conventions

1. The Town and City Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, shall by a majority vote of those present and voting, select delegates to conventions, other than a council district convention called to amend these rules pursuant to Section O. 3.

[c. Endorsement by slate: The party endorsement of candidates for delegates to any convention shall be by full slate composed of a number of persons equal to the number of delegates to which the town is entitled under the state rules of the Democratic Party. The delegates shall be apportioned as evenly as possible among the council districts of the city by dividing the number of council districts into the number of delegates. Any additional delegates should be chosen at-large by the Town and City Committee.

2. **The selection of delegates to any convention shall be by full slate composed of a number of persons equal to the number of delegates to which the town is entitled under the state rules of the Democratic Party. In the case of state, congressional district, senate district and other conventions including a city-wide delegation, the delegates shall be apportioned evenly among the council districts of the city with any additional delegates chosen at-large by the Town and City Committee. In the case multi-town assembly district conventions and other conventions not including a city-wide delegation, the delegates shall be apportioned among the council districts on the basis of the number of democratic electors residing in each council district or portion thereof within the geographic boundary of the district.**

Follows current practice.

Convention Delegates are no longer subject to challenge in a primary under state law

d. The slate of candidates for delegates to a convention chosen as provided above shall run in the primary for delegates to such convention as a slate, but such slate of candidates shall be deemed elected as the delegates to such convention if no valid opposing candidacy by a complete slate of candidates has been filed within the applicable time period provided for by Connecticut general statutes sections 9-405, 9-417, 9-420 and 9-361a.]

Selection of Candidates for Municipal Offices

[A. The Town and City Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, shall by a majority vote of those present and voting, select candidates for municipal office, except for the general assembly, and for delegates to conventions, other than council district conventions. Balloting shall continue indefinitely until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. In the endorsement of any person for an office or for delegate for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may vote, or in filling a vacancy in an elected office for which only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may vote at an election, only the members of the Town and City Committee residing in said political subdivision may participate.]

Municipal offices include ROV (and state reps in 137th, 140th) even though elected in state year

1. The Town and City Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose, shall by a majority vote of those present and voting, select candidates for municipal office, except for the general assembly. Balloting shall continue until **sufficient candidates to fill the offices receive** a majority of the votes cast**, or until, after several ballots with no change in results, a majority of those present and voting declare the committee deadlocked for the office, or vote to adjourn**.
2. In the endorsement of any person for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may vote, or in filling a vacancy in an elected office for which only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may vote at an election, only the members of the Town and City Committee residing in said political subdivision may participate.

Deadlock rule is new, but consistent with recent practice.

Selection of Candidates for General Assembly **in Districts Wholly Within Norwalk**

3. [b.] Candidates for municipal office chosen as above shall run in any primary for such office as the party endorsed candidates. Any such candidate shall be the nominee of the Democratic Party for the office for which he or she is a candidate, if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for nomination to such office within the applicable time period provided for by Connecticut general statutes sections 9-405, 9- 417, 9-420. [9-361a]

1. Candidates for **endorsement for the** general assembly **from districts wholly within Norwalk** shall be selected at a caucus of their assembly district **by vote of the eligible participants**. All **active electors (registered voters)** from that district **who are** enrolled in the Democratic Party are eligible to participate in this caucus.

   At least two (2) weeks before the first day of the period set by the laws of the state of Connecticut for choosing candidates for the general assembly in each even-numbered year, the Town and City Committee shall fix places, times and dates within that time period for the holding of each assembly district caucus

These are municipal offices per state law on selection methods

and for any necessary run-off vote and shall publish notice of the same, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the city of Norwalk, at least five (5) days before such caucuses are to be held **[if two or more candidates have filed with the registrar of voters pursuant to section i-2-c of these rules, said caucus shall be called for a time and a place which will permit a run-off vote to be held pursuant to these rules within said statutory period and at least 24 hours after the convening of the caucus, and the published notice of the caucuses shall include a statement of the date, time and place of each such run-off in the event that a runoff should become necessary. If no more than one (1) candidate has filed with the registrar of voters pursuant to section i-2-c of these rules, said notice shall include notice that the caucus is subject to closing at 8:00 p.m. Pursuant to section k-9 of these rules. Caucuses held pursuant to this section shall be subject as well to the procedures for caucuses set out in section k of these rules.], or as otherwise provided by law. Said notice shall include notice that the caucus is subject to early closing if, after nominations are closed, there is only one candidate**.

2. Caucuses held pursuant to this section shall be conducted pursuant to the

[If no candidate has registered with the registrar of voters pursuant to section i-2-c of these rules, notice of the caucus shall be given as if the caucus were a contested caucus, with additional language included in the notice to indicate that nominations will be accepted from the floor for the first fifteen (15) minutes of said caucus.

C. Any individual seeking to be the party's nominee for the general assembly from his or her assembly district must notify the registrar of voters (democratic) in writing of his or her interest at least fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the period set by the laws of the state of Connecticut for choosing candidates for the general assembly. The registrar shall maintain a list of all interested potential candidates and shall make that list available to the press and anyone who asks to see it. [Note: this provision may be deemed inapplicable to nominating caucuses for special elections, because of the impossibility of effectuating it in the restricted time available.]

The town chairperson shall announce the list of all candidates in advance of the caucus and the Town and City Committee shall provide printed ballots listing those candidates in alphabetical order to each caucus.

If at any time prior to the preparation of ballots pursuant to this section, any candidate having registered his or her candidacy with the registrar of voters pursuant to this section officially withdraws his or her candidacy, said candidate's name shall not be included on the ballot. If such withdrawal is subsequent to the preparation of the ballots, the chairperson of the appropriate caucus shall post prominently both at the entrance to the caucus room and inside the caucus room a notice stating that said candidate has withdrawn, and that any vote for said candidate will be void in its

entirety. No such withdrawal may occur after the close of business at the office of the registrar of voters the day of the first meeting of the caucus in question. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a candidate eligible for a run-off vote who withdraws subsequent to the first vote of the caucus and prior to the run-off vote shall be permitted to withdraw at any time up to the close of business at the office of the registrar of voters the day of the run-off vote.

In the event that the withdrawal of a candidate renders a run-off unnecessary, such runoff may be canceled by the chairperson of the caucus, and the remaining candidate shall be considered the nominee of the caucus.]

general procedures for caucuses set out in Section K of these rules.

Procedure follows recent practice

3. **The chairperson of the Town and City Committee shall appoint a neutral chairperson for the caucus. The caucus chairperson shall appoint necessary caucus officials, including a vice-chairperson, to check in electors, to distribute and to count ballots and to tend the ballot box.**

4. **Any eligible democrat may become a candidate for endorsement either by 1) notifying the Democratic Registrar of Voters in a writing (letter, fax, email), received at least one business day before the caucus, in order for his or her name to be printed on the caucus ballot, or 2) by nomination from the floor at the beginning of the caucus, in order to become a write-in candidate on said ballot.**

Nomination from floor allowed, as required by state rules

5. Any candidate may officially withdraw his or her candidacy. If such withdrawal is subsequent to the preparation of the ballots, the chairperson of the caucus shall post a notice stating that said candidate has withdrawn, and that any vote for said candidate will be void. In the event that the withdrawal of a candidate renders a run-off unnecessary, such run-off may be canceled by the chairperson of the caucus, and the remaining candidate shall be considered the nominee of the caucus.

6. **At the assembly district caucus, each attending elector shall be checked against, and marked as voting on, an official party enrollment list certified by the Registrar of Voters.**

7. **Any contested vote for endorsement shall be by secret ballot.**

[D. If there is only one (1) candidate for nomination, the chairperson shall declare that person the nominee of the caucus for that general assembly district. If there is more than one candidate, the caucus will vote by written ballot with each qualified person attending the caucus having one (1) vote. That candidate for nomination receiving a majority of the votes validly cast shall be declared the nominee of the caucus for that general assembly district. In the case of a tie between the two highest vote-getters, a run-off election by written ballot shall be held within that time period provided for

by state statute and at least 24 hours later at the same location, if possible, and for the same period of time as the caucus, between those who are tied. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes validly cast at the caucus, a run-off election by written ballot shall be held within that time period provided for by state statute and at least 24 hours later at the same location, if possible, and for the same period of time as the caucus, between those two candidates who received the highest vote totals. There shall be no proxy votes at the caucus. Any ballot containing a vote cast for the incorrect number of candidates or for a candidate not in nomination or a withdrawn candidate shall be void in entirety. No person shall solicit in behalf of the candidacy of another or himself or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy five (75) feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any caucus.

If no candidate has registered with the registrar of voters pursuant to section i-2-c of these rules, or if all candidates who had so registered have withdrawn their candidacies prior to the opening of the caucus, the chairperson of the caucus shall allow nominations from the floor starting at 7:30 p.m. And extending for fifteen (15) minutes, and shall delay the balloting until such nominations have been made. Any ballot containing a vote cast for the incorrect number of candidates or for a candidate not in nomination or a withdrawn candidate shall be void in entirety. If only one candidate is so nominated, said candidate shall be declared the nominee of the caucus. If no candidate is nominated from the floor prior to the close of the period of time for such nominations, the caucus shall adjourn with no nominee.

8. If**, after nominations are closed,** there is only one candidate for nomination, the chairperson shall declare that person the nominee of the caucus for that general assembly district. If there is more than one candidate, the caucus will vote by written ballot with each qualified person attending the caucus having one vote. That candidate for nomination receiving a plurality of the votes validly cast **for a candidate** shall be declared the endorsed candidate for that general assembly district. In the case of a tie between the two highest vote-getters, a run-off election by written ballot shall be held within that time period provided for by state statute and at least 24 hours later at the l**ocation and time noticed for the caucus,** between **the** two **tied**.

9. The chairperson of each assembly district caucus shall certify to the town clerk and to the secretary of the state the name of the party-endorsed candidate selected at the caucus no later than that time provided for by state statute.

Selection of Candidates for the General Assembly in Districts Partially Within Norwalk

Note for informational purposes only: Candidates for the general assembly from districts partially within Norwalk and partially within another municipality are endorsed at a convention called by the Connecticut Democratic **Informational**

State Central Committee pursuant to its rules, and to state law.

Selection of Candidates For the General Assembly in Special Elections

New, but just for completeness

1. **In the case of any special election for the general assembly, candidates will be endorsed pursuant to the time frame and procedures of the applicable provisions of these rules, in conformity to and as modified by, state law and state party rules.**

Additional Provisions Concerning Endorsement of Candidates and Selection of Delegates

[E. If the chairperson of the town and city committee or, in the case of his or her absence, inability, neglect or refusal to act, the next officer in line, neglects or refuses to timely call such a caucus, such a caucus shall be called by twenty (20) percent of the town and city committee, by publishing notice of such caucus and the time, place and date of the caucus, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the assembly district, at least ten (10) days before such caucus is to be held. F. In the event that neither the town and city committee chairperson nor the next officer in line, or twenty (20) percent of the Town and City Committee, fix the time, place and date, and name the temporary chairperson of such a caucus, a caucus shall be held the night before the date required by law for endorsement of candidates, at 8:00 p.m. At the steps of Norwalk city hall, from where such caucus may adjourn to another place to conduct its business.]

1. **Failure to call:** If the chairperson of the Town and City Committee or, in the case of his or her absence, inability, neglect or refusal to act, the next officer in line, neglects or refuses to act in order to timely call such a caucus or Town and City Committee meeting for the purpose of candidate endorsement or delegate selection, such caucus or meeting **[shall] may** be called by twenty (20) percent of the Town and City Committee, and if the members of the Town and City Committee fail to act, such caucus or meeting shall be held the night before the last date required by law for such meeting or caucus, at 8:00 p.m., in front of Norwalk city hall, from where such caucus may adjourn to a room in city hall, or another convenient place, to conduct its business.

2. Insufficient endorsements: If, for any reason, sufficient endorsements of candidates for municipal office, state office, Town and City Committee members or delegates to conventions are not made, the provisions of C.G.S. 9-418, 9-419 and 9-420 **[C.G.S. (rev. 1964),]** as the same may be amended from time to time, shall govern.

3. Certification of candidates: The secretary and the chairperson of the Town and City Committee or caucus, as the case may be, shall certify candidates selected as provided, and the title of the office or position for which the primary or election is to be held. In the case of the endorsement of a person for an office or position for whom only the electors of a political subdivision of the municipality may

vote, the secretary of the Town and City Committee shall also certify to the town clerk the name or number of such political subdivision or senatorial district.

4. Selection and certification period: The endorsement of a nominee to run in a primary for municipal office or election to the Town and City Committee, or as a delegate to a convention, shall be made not earlier than is provided under the applicable provisions of C.G.S. 9-405, 9-417, **and** 9-420 **[and 9-361a],** and shall be certified to the town clerk by the chairperson and the secretary of the Town and City Committee or caucus within the time period required by the applicable provisions of said statutes.

5. Tie votes: In the event that a vote taken on the endorsement of a nominee at a Town and City Committee meeting results in a tie, the chairperson may vote to break the tie, if he or she has not already voted. If there is a tie, and the chairperson has already voted, there must be another ballot. **[this rule shall not apply to tie votes at caucuses, which are to be resolved by runoff votes in accordance with these rules.] For tie votes at a caucus, see Section K. 10.**

6. Vacancies in nomination:

a. If a candidate for nomination to a municipal office or as convention delegate, or a nominee to municipal office, or delegate to a convention, dies, withdraws or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the position he or she seeks, prior to ten (10) calendar days before the election, primary or convention, the vacancy shall be filled by the same method by which the original candidate or nominee was chosen, as provided in C.G.S. 9-460. In the event a caucus is held, it shall be called within five (5) days of the **[vacancy's occurring] occurrence of the vacancy**, and held within seven (7) days of the **[vacancy's occurring] occurrence of the vacancy**.

b. If a candidate for nomination to a municipal or state office, or delegate to a convention, or nominee for such office or convention dies, withdraws or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the position he or she seeks, ten (10) **days** before the election, but more than twenty four (24) hours before the primary or convention, the vacancy shall be filled by the same method by which the original candidate or nominee was chosen, as provided in C.G.S. 9-460.

c. No nominee or candidate for nomination to an office or as delegate to a convention shall be deemed to have withdrawn until a letter of withdrawal signed by the candidate is filed with the town clerk, the Town and City Committee chairperson and the secretary of the state**, as required by law**.

d. In the case of a candidate for nomination to office, **[or as delegate to a convention]** the Town and City Committee chairperson shall immediately certify the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy to the Democratic Registrar of Voters**, as required by law**.

e. In the case of a nominee for office, the chairperson shall certify the name of the person selected to fill the vacancy to the secretary of the state and the town clerk. Such certification shall include a statement setting forth the reason for the vacancy**, as required by law**.

7. Alternate or proxy: Each delegate to a convention elected in conformity with law and with these rules may in writing designate an alternate delegate or a proxy to act for him or her in his or her absence. In the absence of such alternate delegate or proxy, the Town and City Committee chairperson shall fill any vacancy arising for any cause in delegations to conventions.

SECTION J. PRIMARY PROCEDURES

1. State primary law and plurality:

   a. The nominations of the Democratic Party to all offices and the election of members of the Town and City Committee **[and the delegates to conventions]** shall be made in all respects as provided for in the state primary law, as the same may be from time to time amended.

   b. Whenever a primary for nomination to municipal office, or for election of **members of** the Town and City Committee **[members for election of delegates to a convention]** is to be held under the provisions of such law, the nominee of the Democratic Party for such office or offices, **[and for members of the Town and City Committee, and for delegate conventions,]** shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast.

2. **Primary** petition forms:

State law currently requires that:

   a. Petition forms for candidates **to challenge party-endorsed candidates, or to fill a vacancy in any [for]** nomination to municipal office or for election **[as] of** members of the Town and City Committee **[or delegates or district delegates to conventions]** shall be available from the Registrar of Voters as is provided under C.G.S. 9-409.

[b. Any person who requests a petition form shall give his name and address, and the name, address and office or position sought for each candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a statement signed by each such candidate that he or she consents to be a candidate for such office or position.]

b. Any person who requests a petition form from the Registrar of Voters shall give his or her name and address, and the name, address and office or position sought for each candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a statement signed by each such candidate that he or she consents to be a candidate for such office or position. **Informational**

[3. Number of candidates and petition for Town and City Committee members: no primary petition for Town and City Committee members shall be approved unless it contains the names of a number of candidates, other than party endorsed candidates, equal in number to at least twenty-five (25) percent of the number of Town and City Committee members to be elected (C.G.S. Section 9-411).

4. Number of signatures on petition: a candidacy for nomination to a municipal office or to election as a member of the Town and City Committee, or a slate of candidates for nomination for election as delegates to convention chosen city-wide, or from the city and another town or part of another town, may be filed by or on behalf of an eligible person or slate, by filing with the registrar of voters a petition signed by at least five (5) percent of the electors whose names appear on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party in the subdivision electing the candidate. (C.G.S. Section 9-408).]

c. Such petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the enrolled democratic electors in the subdivision electing the candidate(s) (C.G.S. 9-408). **Informational**

[5. Time for filing petitions: candidacies for persons, other than party-endorsed candidates, For nomination to any municipal office, or for election as Town and City Committee members or as Delegates to conventions, shall be filed with the registrar of voters not later than four (4) p.m. On The thirty fourth (34th) day preceding the day of the primary for the Democratic Party for such Nomination or election, except that when such thirty fourth (34th) day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal Holiday, such candidacies shall be filed not later than four (4) p.m. Of the next succeeding business Day, which day and hour shall be specified on the petition forms when obtained. (C.G.S. Section 9-405).

d. Such petitions shall be filed with the Registrar of Voters not later than four p.m. On the 34th day preceding the established primary date for the town committee and other offices to be voted on in a municipal election and on the 63rd day preceding the established primary date for the general assembly and other offices to be voted on in a state election (C.G.S. 9-405). **Informational**

SECTION K. GENERAL CAUCUS PROCEDURES

Any caucus held pursuant to these rules shall be conducted according to the following **general** procedures. **Follows recent caucus proceedures.**

[In addition to procedure already set out herein, any caucus held pursuant to these rules shall be conducted according to the following procedure:

1. Caucus site: each caucus shall be held in the appropriate district in a public room large enough to hold at least one hundred (100) people, except that if

no more than nine (9) candidates have, in the event of a Town and City Committee caucus, filed with the registrar of voters as provided in section c-1-d, or no more than one (1) candidate for general assembly from a given assembly district has filed with the registrar of voters as provided in section i-2-c, then the caucus may be held at any location in the city of Norwalk in a public room large enough to hold at least fifty (50) people.]

1. Caucus site: Each caucus shall be held **at Norwalk city hall or** in the appropriate district in a public room large enough to hold at least fifty (50) people, or such larger group as may reasonably expected to participate at a contested assembly district caucus.

[2. Caucus costs: the Town and City Committee will pay all caucus costs and will provide Uniform ballots.]

2. Caucus costs: The Town and City Committee will pay all caucus costs and will provide sufficient ballots with the names of registered candidates and blank line(s) for nominated write-in candidates.

[3. Eligibility to vote: the district chairperson (or in the case of an assembly district caucus, the caucus chairperson) shall appoint from two (2) to five (5) people to admit electors to the caucus. Only those people whose names appear on the last completed enrollment lists of the Democratic Party in the political subdivision holding the caucus shall be allowed into the caucus and permitted to vote. The press shall also be allowed to enter the caucus room but shall not vote. Before any Ballot is deposited, the name of the elector offering to vote shall be given to the clerk or secretary of Such caucus, and such name shall be checked off the last completed enrollment list by tellers Appointed by the chairperson.]

3. Eligibility to vote: Only those people whose names appear on the last completed enrollment lists of the Democratic Party in the political subdivision holding the caucus shall be allowed into the caucus and permitted to vote. There shall be no proxy votes at caucus, and no absentee votes. The press shall also be allowed to enter the caucus room but shall not vote.

4. **Providing ballots:** The chairperson of the Town and City Committee, **with the assistance of the Democratic Registrar of Voters,** shall provide **sufficient** printed ballots listing candidates in alphabetical order to each caucus. **Each ballot shall also contain space for a write-in vote or votes.**

[4. Secret ballot: all written ballots shall be secret.

6. The chairperson of the caucus must provide adequate privacy for voters preparing a written ballot to insure confidentiality of the ballot.

8. No person shall solicit in behalf of the candidacy of another or himself or loi-

4., 6. & 8. combined and re-worded as 5. & 6.

ter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five (75) feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any caucus, except for candidate speeches as provided herein.]

5. Secret ballot: All written ballots shall be secret. The chairperson of the caucus should provide adequate privacy for voters preparing a written ballot to insure confidentiality of the ballot. No one will be permitted to remain in the vicinity of the ballot box except the ballot box tenders and an individual casting his or her vote. The chairperson of the caucus shall arrange the caucus site so that there are separate areas for voting and for speechmaking, if allowed. No person shall solicit in behalf of the candidacy of another or himself or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within the room being used for a Town and City Committee caucus, or within a radius of seventy-five (75) feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any assembly district caucus, except for candidate speeches where allowed.

Mercy rule for DTC caucus, which is in January. Solicit votes outside door of caucus room

6. Official checklist: The Registrar of Voters shall provide the Town and City Committee with an up-to-date official checklist of all enrolled democrats in each district. The Registrar of Voters shall also assist the town committee and caucus chairperson in selecting qualified officials for each caucus, preferably democrats who have had experience in working at the polls in elections. Each person voting in the caucus shall give his or her address and name to the checkers and be marked on the checklist as attending.

[5. Ballot count and availability: the chairperson of the caucus shall appoint from two (2) to five (5) tellers to count the ballots and all ballots shall be made available for a recount if a question arises as to the validity of the count. Ballots and checkers voting lists shall be returned to the registrar of voters within a period of twenty-four (24) hours of the caucus by the caucus chairperson to be kept by the registrar of voters for a period of at least thirty (30) days. No candidate shall serve as teller or checker.

Combined and reworded into 7.

7. The chairperson of the caucus shall appoint two (2) ballot box tenders to supervise the ballot box. No one will be permitted to remain within six (6) feet of the ballot box except the ballot box tenders and the individual voter.]

7. Caucus officials: The caucus chairperson shall appoint a secretary of the meeting, along with sufficient checkers, ballot box tenders, and ballot counters, plus any other necessary caucus officials, including a moderator for assembly district caucuses that are expected to be contested. The chairperson shall call the caucus to order promptly at 7:30 p.m. And shall read the posted names of the candidates already on the ballot, and may point them out or ask them to identify themselves, if present. The chairperson shall then ask if there are any other candidates. Any qualified caucus participant may declare his or her own candidacy and/or propose the candi-

Chair appoints necessary officials. Numbers omitted

dacy of one or more other qualified consenting persons who are present, or from whom he or she gives to the chairperson written permission or authorization. No second is required. No speeches on behalf of candidates shall be allowed at Town and City Committee caucuses. Any such nominations from the floor shall be added by hand to the posted list of candidates already on the ballot. Nominations from the floor will be declared closed when the caucus chairperson calls for them three times, without hearing an affirmative response.

Nominations from the floor are required to be allowed per state party rules

8. If, after nominations are closed, there are **exactly eleven (11)** candidates for nomination at a caucus for Town and City Committee membership, or exactly one candidate for nomination at a caucus for the General Assembly, the chairperson shall declare those eleven (11) persons or that person the nominees or nominee of the caucus **and the caucus shall be declared closed**.

[9. At all caucuses, the polls shall remain open for voting from 7:30 p.m. Until 9:00 p.m. No person shall be permitted to cast his or her vote after 9:00 p.m. unless such person had entered and was within the caucus room at 9:00 p.m. The chairperson of the caucus shall arrange the caucus site so that there are separate areas for voting and for speechmaking. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if exactly seven (7) candidates have filed with the registrar of voters as provided in section c-1-d in the event of a caucus for Town and City Committee membership, or no more than one (1) candidate has filed with the registrar of voters as provided in section i-2-c, the polls at a caucus may be closed at 8:00 p.m., provided that the published notice of said caucus has stated that the caucus would be subject to closing at 8:00 p.m.]

9. **Voting times:** At all **contested** caucuses, the polls shall remain open for voting from 7:30 p.m. Until 9:00 p.m. No person shall be permitted to cast his or her vote after 9:00 p.m. unless such person had entered and was within the caucus room at 9:00 p.m. At the close of voting, the ballots shall be tallied and the winners declared. Caucus officials shall sign all tally sheets and at least two official sheets with the results shall be prepared and signed, one results sheet shall be kept by the caucus chairperson and another shall be sealed in the ballot box.

10. Tie votes: At caucuses, **any** such ties are to be resolved by runoff votes in accordance with these rules. **The runoff vote may be held at Norwalk city hall, or at a location within the municipal district involved, as specified in the official notice of the caucus**.

If tie vote, everything must be returned immediately

11. After the caucus, all of the counted ballots, checker list, unused ballots, and ballots that were not counted on account of containing too many or two few votes, together with a results sheet and other caucus materials, shall be sealed in the ballot box and returned to the Registrar of Voters by 4:30 p.m. On the first business day after the caucus, by the caucus chairperson, to be kept and preserved by the Registrar of Voters so that they are avail-

able for a recount or other challenge and until the time for a primary is over or as otherwise required by law.

12. **In the case of a tie, all ballots, checklists, tally sheets, ballot boxes and other materials from the caucus shall be returned to the Registrar of Voters no later than 9:00 a.m. On the day immediately following the day of the caucus or meeting involved, or as otherwise directed by the chairperson of the Town and City Committee**.

SECTION L. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY, AND OTHER LAWS AND RULES

1. If any provision of these rules is found to be in conflict with the provisions of any state or national law or state or national Democratic Party rules, the provision of the state or national law or party rules shall prevail.
2. The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Town and City Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these rules.

SECTION M. DEFINITIONS

1. Next officer in line: The order of precedence shall be: chairperson, vice-chairperson, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer.
2. **Written proxy or notice: When a written proxy or written notice is required under these rules, the writing shall be a letter or other document signed by the person involved, or an email, or fax from said person, which, on the available evidence, reasonably appears to be genuine.**

[4. Caucus: a meeting, at a designated hour and place, of the enrolled members of a political party within a municipality or political subdivision thereof for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for a primary to be held by such party or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party.

4. **Convention: a meeting of delegates of a political party held for the purpose of designating the candidate or candidates to be endorsed by such party in a primary of such party for state or district office or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party.**
5. **Primary: a meeting of the enrolled members of a political party held during consecutive hours at which such members may, without assembling at the same hour vote by secret ballot for candidates for nomination to office or for Town and City Committee members or delegates to conventions.**
6. **Proxy: a member enrolled in the political party within a municipality or political subdivision having signed written document, is authorized to act as a substitute at a specific convention.**
7. **Majority vote: a vote of over 50% of those present and voting.**

8. **Plurality: a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate; but not more than one-half (1/2) the total votes cast.]**

3. **Caucus, convention, primary, majority, plurality: The terms "caucus", "convention", "primary", "majority", and "plurality" shall have the meaning given them under state law, and the Democratic state party rules.**

SECTION N. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

1. Composition and purpose of District Committees:

    a. There shall be a district committee in each council district of the City of Norwalk, composed of **[at least fifteen (15)]** persons on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party of such district. The district committees in existence when these rules are adopted shall be the district committees for the purpose of these rules. There shall be no limit on the number of members of the district committee.

    b. It shall be the purpose of the District Committees to:

        i. Encourage and facilitate the participation of all registered Democrats in the nominating and electing process and in governmental affairs.

        ii. To promote the election of Democratic candidates in general and special elections.

        iii. To increase voter registration and Democratic affiliation by taking affirmative action to reach all groups, and by all other means.

        iv. To promote the political education of all citizens in the City of Norwalk and to promote their involvement in all governmental levels.

    c. The district committee **may register as a PAC as authorized by state law and** shall have power to raise and expend funds for the above purposes, but in no case shall district committee funds be used in support of or opposition to any slate or individual in a primary.

2. Membership:

    a. Any person who is registered to vote within a **council** district and is enrolled in the Democratic Party is eligible for membership.

    b. To become a member of a district committee, the person must attend three (3) meetings within a twelve month period, expressing **[in writing]** at the first meeting his or her desire to join the committee **by signing the attendance record**, upon which the secretary will maintain appropriate records and will place that person's name on the mailing list to receive meeting notices for the next **[twelve] twenty-four months**. At the second meeting the person attends, he or she will have a voice but no vote. At the third meeting, the person becomes a full member of the committee.

c. **Maintaining** membership in good standing **on a district committee** requires attendance at **[three] two** regular or special meetings **[within any twelve month period beginning each January 1.] during a 12 month period consisting of the then current month and the previous 11 months**. Failure to do so will result in loss of the right to vote **at the district committee meeting**. **[Before the first meeting of theyear the] The secretary of the district committee shall [establish a list of those members who have lost the right to vote and shall notify by mail those who have lost the right to vote.] maintain an attendance list, and the district chair shall forwad such list to the Secretary of the Town and City Committee after each district committee meeting**. Any member may regain voting rights upon attending **[two regular meetings, and may then vote at the beginning of the third regular meeting] sufficient meetings to meet the good standing requirement**. **Any member dropped or about to be dropped from the mailing list may remain on the mailing list for an additional 12 month period by expressing, in writing, an interest in continuing to receive such notices.**

Membership in good standing calculated over last 12 months, not by calendar year.

New, but necessary for DTC to notify them. A copy of the minutes will suffice if they contain attendance list

[d. When any member shall have failed to attend any district committee meeting within a period of twenty-four (24) months or more, the chairperson may, with the consent of the committee, advise such member that he or she will not thereafter receive regular meeting notices, unless the member shall express an interest in continuing to receive such notices. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to waive the requirement that members who have lost the right to vote shall be so informed annually, as provided in Section N-2-c, above.]

d. **[e.]** No district committee shall remove a member from its roll except for failure to reside within the district or failure to be an enrolled democrat.

e. **[f.]** Any district committee member who moves to another **council** district in the city of Norwalk shall automatically become a member of that district's committee, immediately **upon notifying the new district committee**. **The member shall [and]** be added to its mailing list for notice of meetings, etc. Credit for meetings attended as required for the preservation or restoration of said member's voting rights on ward committee matters as provided in Section N-2-c, above, shall be transferred along with his or her committee membership.

f. The district secretary and district chairperson shall, upon request, promptly provide the Town and City Committee officers with a then current lists of district members in good standing, including such members phone numbers and email addresses.

3. Officers:

a. In January of each even-numbered year, each district committee shall meet and elect from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary and other such officers as the committee deems necessary. **In the case of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the line of succession shall be as specified in Section M, paragraph 1.**

b. No officer of the district committee shall hold that office for more than three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms.

c. In the event that the chairperson of the district committee is not a member of the town committee, the chairperson shall automatically become a member of the town committee by filling the open position created by the next-occurring vacancy from the district on the town committee, notwithstanding the provisions of Section F, above.

4. Meetings: Each district committee shall meet in at least six months each year**, in accordance with a meeting schedule adopted at the first meeting of the year**. It shall be the responsibility of the chairperson to arrange for such meetings and assure reasonable notice of each meeting to committee members **[via regular mail, electronic mail, or telefax.] in writing (letter, fax, email)**. **At least one committee meeting shall be held each calendar quarter.**

5. Special meetings: Special district committee meetings may be called by the chairperson at his or her own discretion, and shall be called by him or her upon petition of any five district committee members who have voting rights; however, adequate written notice shall be given to all members at least seventy-two (72) hours before any such meeting. Such notice may be waived, in writing, provided such waiver is signed by at least seventy-five (75) percent of the district committee members eligible to vote.

6. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of at least twenty (20) percent of those members of a district committee who have voting rights.

7. Proxies: : **[Members of the district committee may not give proxies to anyone to vote for them at district meetings.] Proxy voting is not permitted at any district committee meeting.**

8. **[Rules: each district committee may adopt rules that do not conflict with these rules, state rules, national rules or any law. All district committee rules shall be filed within thirty (30) days of adoption with the recording secretary of the Town and City Committee and the democratic registrar of voters.]**

Not needed as district committees are PACs

SECTION O. AMENDMENT OF TOWN AND CITY COMMITTEE RULES

These rules may be amended by either of the following procedures:

1. **Meeting of the Town and City Committee:**

a. The Town and City Committee, at a meeting called for that purpose, may,

by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, amend these rules.

2. **City-wide** convention:

   a. The rules may also be amended by a majority vote of a city convention of delegates chosen by the enrolled democrats of the city of Norwalk.

   b. The chairperson of the Town and City Committee, or in the event of his or her failure to act, the vice-chairperson shall call a convention within twenty (20) days of the filing, with the Democratic Registrar of Voters, a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) or 500 whichever is less of the enrolled Democratic Party members. The Town and City Committee chairperson, or in the event of his failure to act the vice-chairperson, shall designate the time and place of said convention.

   c. Such convention shall consist of **[nine (9)] three (3)** delegates from each council district elected at a caucus of the enrolled party members of that district. It shall be the duty of the Town and City Committee chairperson or, in the event of his or her failure to act, the vice-chairperson to call such caucuses, designating the time, places and date, by publishing the call, in a newspaper having general circulation in the city, at least five (5) days before the date of such caucuses.

   d. The Town and City Committee chairperson shall be the temporary chairperson of the convention. The convention shall elect a permanent chairperson, a secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary.

[3. Caucus.

a. These rules may also be amended by a majority vote of a caucus.

b. The chairperson of the Town and City Committee or in the event of his or her failure to act, the vice-chairperson, shall call a caucus within twenty (20) days upon the filing with the democratic registrar of voters of a petition signed by a least five percent (5%) or 500 whichever is less of its enrolled party members to take action on such petition.

c. It shall be the duty of the Town and City Committee chairperson or in the event of his or her failure to act, the vice-chairperson, to call such caucus, designating the time, place and day by publishing the call in a newspaper having a circulation in such town at least five (5) days before the date of such caucus.

d. Any enrolled party member may attend such caucus.]

State party rules specify these 3 methods. City-wide caucus omitted, which is okay by state rules as methods are optional

3. Increased membership: **[Also] Pursuant to Article VII, Section 7 of the state party rules**, the Town and City Committee, at a meeting called for the purpose may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, amend these rules where applicable, to increase **[or decrease]** its membership. The new positions thus added shall not be filled until the next regular primary date for the election of

Required per state rules, but decrease not required, so omitted

members of the Town and City Committee, and such additional members shall begin their term on the first Monday following that date.

SECTION P. EFFECTIVE DATE AND FILING OF RULES

1. Effective Date: Party rules shall not be effective until the date provided by C.G.S. 9-374 or other applicable statutes.

2. Filing of Rules: Within seven (7) days after party rules or any amendments to party rules are adopted, a copy of the same shall be filed with the Secretary of the State, with the Town Clerk, and with the secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee**, in accordance with state law and state party rules**. **[Any amendments so filed shall set forth in full the section to be amended. Matter to be omitted or repealed shall be surrounded by brackets, and new matter shall be indicated by underscoring.]**

   The above rules governing the Democratic Party of the City of Norwalk were adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a duly announced meeting of the Democratic Town and City Committee held on **[November 28, 2005]** _____, **2015**.

Chairperson,
Democratic Town and City Committee

Secretary

"MINORITY REPORT
“After reviewing the recommendations expressed by other members of the Rules Committee, I do not agree to the change proposed in Section G 2 (“Officers of the Town and City Committee”) that would enable the election of a NDTC Chair who is not a member of the Town Committee and instead I would favor retaining the current rule unamended.
Alex Knopp”