

## **Carlisle Area Democratic Committee Candidate Recommendation Process**

- 1) In order to be considered for recommendation by the Carlisle Area Democratic Committee, a candidate for Representative to Congress, Representative or Senator to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Magisterial District Judge, County or Borough office must submit a request, in writing, to the chairperson of the Committee on Candidate Recruitment and Recommendations and meet other such criteria as deemed necessary and appropriate by that committee.
- 2) Recommendations of candidates for public office shall not be considered before the filing deadline for said office.
- 3) These requirements do not apply to candidates for President of the United States, United States Senate, or statewide offices, which may instead be considered for recommendation by a vote of two-thirds of the Executive Committee and ratified by 60% of members present at a recommendation meeting.
- 4) The Committee may only recommend candidates that will appear on the ballot of the Carlisle area, as defined by the boundaries of the Carlisle Area School District, and only as many candidates for an office as voters will be allowed to vote for in the election.
- 5) Prior to a Recommendation Meeting, the Committee on Candidate Recruitment and Recommendations shall hold a Screening Meeting at the call of the chairperson, majority of the Executive Committee, or ten or more members of the Committee for the purpose of reviewing recommendation requests and making recommendations to the Committee. No final recommendation of any candidates shall be made at a Screening Meeting, but the members of the committee may interview prospective candidates and hear presentations on their behalf as the members see fit. More than one Screening Meeting may be held prior to the Recommendation Meeting. There shall be no quorum requirement for Screening Meetings.
- 6) In addition to one or more Screening Meetings, a Recommendation Meeting may be called by the chairperson or a majority of the Executive Committee, with notification given at least ten days in advance, at which time the Committee may vote whether to recommend a candidate. No recommendation shall be made unless the prospective candidate receives the votes of at least 55% of those present and who are entitled to vote for that office. The chairperson may prescribe the manner of voting at Recommendation Meetings of the Committee except that it shall be by secret ballot if there is more than one candidate for that office.
- 7) Meetings to consider recommendations shall operate under the same provision as to call, location, notice, openness, and proxies as do other meetings of the Committee, except that the members of the Committee eligible to participate may, by majority vote of those present, decide to close the proceedings, or any portion thereof, to all except members of the Committee and members of the Executive Committee.
- 8) No candidate for Representative to Congress, Representative or Senator to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Magisterial District Judge, County or Borough office shall be considered for

recommendation unless all of the duly filed Democratic candidates who wish to be recommended for the same office have been notified of the meeting in the same manner as members of the Committee. All such candidates shall have the right to offer brief remarks to the meeting.

9) A recommendation shall mean the Committee favors the nomination and election of a particular candidate but shall not be binding on any Carlisle area Democrat. No money or effort may be expended by the Committee in support of a candidate who is not recommended by the Committee.

10) A recommendation may be revoked by the Committee if a candidate exhibits conduct that reflects negatively on the Democratic Party. The recommendation may be revoked by two-thirds vote of the members present.

11) The Executive Committee reserves the right, by a two-thirds vote, to revoke, suspend, or otherwise invalidate a recommendation of the Committee when, in its determination, a recommendation would reflect negatively on the Democratic Party, was made in violation of the Committee's bylaws or policies, or any reason deemed appropriate by two-thirds of the Executive Committee members.

12) Any committeeperson or candidate who circulates or causes to have circulated any campaign literature or sample ballot designed to imply a recommendation by the Carlisle Area Democratic Committee when such a recommendation has not been given or has been given to other candidates shall be removed from any Committee office and membership. The committeeperson shall be removed for two years and a candidate shall be removed for a period equivalent to the term of office sought and further may not receive a recommendation or support for any office for the same period of time. Additionally, should such a candidate win a primary victory, the Committee and its subordinates shall be under no obligation to support such a candidate in the general election.

13) Specifically, this section precludes unrecommended candidates from using sample ballots and from using the words "Official Democratic Sample Ballot" or "Officially Recommended" or "Endorsed" or "Democratic Sample Ballot" or any other construction and appearance that would clearly mislead the public into believing a candidate was recommended or endorsed by the Committee. Candidates who are not recommended by the Committee and who choose to distribute sample ballots must distribute sample ballots that are distinct and separate in size, color, and design layout from the official Carlisle Area Democratic Committee's sample ballot.

14) Any purported violation of this section shall be referred to the Executive Committee, which shall conduct a hearing and report to the Committee, which shall, by a majority vote of the members present, apply the above stated sanctions or dismiss the complaint.