

Town/City Democratic Chair: The Town Chair is the presiding officer for the Town or City Democratic Committee. The Town/City Committee is a subset of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee. The Town Committee consists of representative from each of the town/city election districts and each district is to be represented by up to two members. Maps and list of election districts is available at votechautauqua.com

A person becomes a member of the Town/City Democratic Committee by circulating a county committee designating petition in even number years and that petition is filed with the Chautauqua County Board of Elections. Those committee members who circulated the petition are to meet with the others who circulated petitions from the Town/City within 20-days (or as soon as practical) following the NYS Primary Election in even years for the purpose of reorganizing and electing officers, including the Town/City Chair. The Town/City Chair does not necessarily need to be a County Committee member, but that is not the norm. Vacancies on the Town/City Committee can only be filled by the County Democratic Committee or its designated Committee to Fill Vacancies.

Once elected as chair, it is the duty of the Town/City Chair to communicate with the County Democratic Committee Chair and to call and preside over regular meetings of the Town/City Committee. The meetings should provide the opportunity for committee members to discuss the local, regional and national issues of the day and to make plans for recruiting and supporting town, city or village Democratic candidates. This committee should also be raising funds for the purpose of supporting the Town Democratic Committee's day-to-day functions and its Democratic endorsed candidates. The Hanover Town Chair should be signed up to receive e-mail alerts from the County Committee and the signup takes place at the County Committee's website CHQDEM.org

Each year, there will be a set of designating petitions that will be necessarily circulated by the members of the County Democratic Committee to qualify Democratic candidates endorsed by the full County Democratic Committee, along with the even year circulation to retain one's seat on the Town/City (and county) Democratic Committee. It is the job of the Town/City Chair to ensure that the petitions are distributed and to encourage the Hanover County/Town Committee members to circulate the petitions and have a goal of obtaining 20 signatures that will help to qualify the Democratic candidates named on the petition. The signatures are needed in order to qualify the countywide or County Legislature candidates for the ballot. The circulation also serves as a powerful party building tool that allows committee members the opportunity to speak and gather thoughts from their Democratic neighbors. Completed petitions are gathered and returned to the County Democratic Committee by the Town/City Chair.

The village and town Democratic candidates are nominated by way of a caucus that is facilitated by the Democratic Town Chair. The caucus packet is made ready by the Chautauqua County Board of Elections Democratic Commissioner and is provided to the Town Chair to set and hold the caucus. Once set, the caucus is attended by any

registered Town Democrat and at the caucus the nominations are put forward for the Democratic ticket.

Note that towns with villages may distribute the work as seen fit by the Town Chair, but there is no recognition by the County Committee of Village Chairs. Even if the Town Chair does not reside within the village that is within the town, the village remains under the town chair's jurisdictional responsibility.

If there is also a Democratic Club, the Town Chair traditionally but not necessarily leads the club. The meetings of any Democratic Club may or may not take the place of the Town Committee meetings in a loose organization that allows for maximum input from all Democrats. However, the club only exists with the approval and support of the Town Committee.

Functions of the Democratic Party are under the umbrella of the National Democratic Committee. The National Democratic Committee empowers each state committee. The NYS Democratic Committee empowers the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee and the County Committee empowers the Town and City Committees. Finally, any local political clubs that use "Democratic" as part of its name, must be authorized by the Town/City Chair. The National Democratic Committee owns the Democratic brand.

The Town Chair is a member of the County Democratic Committee Executive Committee that meets irregularly in months when the full County Committee is not in session. The full County Committee meets in even years following the State Primary for reorganization purposes to elect officers. It also meets to endorse candidates for elections. The County Committee cannot print and distribute petitions without a County Committee endorsement.

In conclusion, I as County Chair stand ready to assist and partner with any duly elected Town or City Democratic Chair.

Norman P. Green

Chautauqua County Democratic Committee Chair

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