

# 2018 Convention & Election Timeline

## State, Congressional & Local Conventions

### DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE (DTC) CALENDAR

- **December – January 10:** Last day DTC caucus notices are due (REMINDER: Caucus notice must be published between 5-15 FULL DAYS before the caucus date)
- **January 9 – January 16:** DTC caucuses must be held
- **January 17:** DTC member certification forms due to Town Clerk
- **March 6:** Town Committees Primary date
- **March 7:** Town Committees begin term
- **March 7 – April 5:** Town Committees must vote and select their officers

### DELEGATE SELECTIONS CALENDAR

- **Prior to March 9:** State Party Chairman appoints Pre-Convention Rules and Pre-Convention Platform Committees
- **March 27– April 3:** Town Committees select delegates for all conventions
- **April 4:** Delegate certification forms due to Town Clerk
- **April 13 – April 23:** Democratic State Central Committee elections and Permanent Convention Committee elections
- **State Convention: May 18 - May 19**
- **U.S House of Representatives Conventions:** May 14
- **Multi-Town State House Conventions:** May 16
- **State Senate Conventions:** May 21
- **Judge of Probate (multi-town):** May 23
- **Local (Single-Town) Election Endorsements:** May 22 - May 29 *(These include Registrars of Voters, State House Districts and Judge of Probate)*
- **August 14:** Primary Election Day
- **November 6:** General Election Day

# Frequently Answered Questions

## State, Congressional, and Local Conventions

### What elections and conventions are happening this year?

- Constitutional: *Governor, Lt. Governor, Sec. of the State, Attorney General, Comptroller, and Treasurer*
- U.S Senatorial Election: *One Senate seat*
- U.S. House of Representatives Elections: *All five Congressional Districts*
- State Senate Elections: *All 36 State Senate seats*
- State Assembly Elections: *All 151 State House seats*
- Local Elections (Single-Town): *State House, Registrar of Voters, and Judge of Probate*
- Judge of Probate: *Multi-Town*
- DTC member and officer elections
- Democratic State Central Committee member elections
- Delegate selections for each convention (Local, State, Federal)

### What is the purpose of these conventions?

- To endorse a candidate(s) for nomination to run as the party-endorsed candidate in the Primary
  - For Constitutional, US Senate, Congressional, State Senate, State House, and Judge of Probate
- Endorsement/qualification thresholds for convention results:
  - Any candidate who receives 15% shall be eligible to engage in the Primary
  - A candidate shall automatically be the nominee of the Democratic Party if no other person has received at least fifteen percent (15%) of the votes of the convention delegates.

### When are these elections and conventions?

- Constitutional, U.S. Senate, Congressional, State Senate, State House and Multi-Town Probate elections:
  - Statewide Convention will take place on May 18th-19th
  - All Other Conventions between May 9<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Primary Election Date on August 14<sup>th</sup>
  - General Election Date on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- Local (Single-Town) Elections:
  - Party Endorsements between May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> (*locations to be determined in each district*)
  - Primary Election Date on August 14<sup>th</sup>
  - General Election Date on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- DTC Member Elections & Officers
  - DTC Caucus Endorsements between January 9<sup>th</sup> – January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - DTC endorsements certified with Town Clerk by January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm
  - DTC member Primary elections set for March 6<sup>th</sup>
  - DTC member term begins March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Delegate selections
  - Between March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Delegate lists must be certified with Town Clerk by April 4<sup>th</sup>, and copy of delegate list with contact information must be emailed to the DSCC office

- DSCC elections
  - Between April 13th - 23rd
  - At these elections delegates also selects a temporary vice-president and secretary for the State Convention, and selects one member for each convention committee.

**How are Convention and election dates decided?**

- **State, Congressional, State Senate, Multi-Town State Assembly, and Multi-Town Judge of Probate Conventions:** Decided based on Connecticut General Statutes and our party rules. All conventions must happen no earlier than the ninety-eighth day and closed not later than the seventy-seventh day preceding the day of the primary for such office. Congressional, State Senate, State House, and Probate Conventions must conclude within 21 days following the State Convention, but there is no rule stating they cannot happen before the State Convention. The Congressional and State Convention dates shall be called by the State Party Chair, but with the acknowledgement of the DSCC members.
- **Local (Single-Town) Endorsement Conventions:** Conventions deciding endorsements for Single-Town State Assembly, Registrar of Voters, and Single-Town Judge of Probate must happen between May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. These dates are decided by the DTC Chair.
- **DTC Member & Officer Elections:** These dates are based on Connecticut General Statutes and our party rules. After the DTC primary date, DTCs must decide on electing their officers within 30 days. The standing chair at the time decides the date for the officer elections.
- **Delegate Selection Elections:** These dates are based on Connecticut General Statutes and local party rules. The General Statutes set the time frame for when these selections are held. Based on the local party's bylaws, delegates can be decided by vote by the new serving DTC members or by caucus. A caucus is open to all registered Democrats in that town. Typically, a town with a population less than 500 will hold a caucus, while most towns with a population of more than 500 will hold a convention with their respective DTC. Please check your town committee bylaws

**Who gets to vote in these elections and conventions?**

- Constitutional Convention
  - Convention – Delegates from each town selected by their newly elected DTC members or caucus & superdelegates (these are DSCC members serving during 2016-2017 term)
  - Primary – All statewide registered Democrats
  - General – All statewide registered voters
- US Senate Convention
  - Convention – Delegates from each town selected by their newly elected DTC members & superdelegates (these are DSCC members serving during 2016-2017 term)
  - Primary – All statewide registered Democrats
  - General – All statewide registered voters
- Congressional Conventions
  - Convention – Delegates from each town/portion of town within each congressional district
  - Primary – All registered Democrats who live within the district lines
  - General – All registered voters who live within the district lines
- State Senate Conventions
  - Convention – Delegates from each town/portion of town within each Senate district
  - Primary – All registered Democrats who live within the district lines
  - General – All registered voters who live within the district lines

- State House Conventions
  - Convention – Delegates from each town or portion of town within each House district
  - Primary – All registered Democrats who live within the district lines
  - General – All registered voters who live within the district lines
  
- Local (Single-Town) conventions
  - Convention/Endorsements – DTC members will endorse any single office candidate town
  - Primary – All registered Democrats who live within the district lines
  - General – All registered voters who live within the district lines
  
- Democratic Town Committee selections
  - DTC Party Endorsements - Registered Democrats in that town or city may vote for their slate of Democrats. Some cities and towns choose not to hold a caucus, but instead go right to the town committee primary to determine their DTC members.
  - Primary – Registered Democrats in that town or city can vote up to the total number of DTC membership seats. Each town or city has different numbers of DTC member representation. These numbers are determined by their town rules.
  - Term Date – Newly elected DTC members begin their term the day after the primary
  
- Democratic State Central Committee elections
  - State Convention delegates
  - Once these delegates select the two DSCC members for their district the newly elected DSCC members start their two year term on the day after the State Convention
  
- Delegate selections
  - Based on the local party’s bylaws, delegates can be decided by vote by the new serving DTC members or by caucus. A caucus is open to all registered Democrats in that town. Most of Connecticut’s towns decide their delegates by their DTC membership voting. Please refer to your town committee bylaws.
  - Each town shall be entitled to one delegate for each five-hundred or fraction thereof registered Democrats within the district for the Congressional, Assembly, Senate, and Probate conventions. At each State Convention, each town shall be entitled to the sum of the delegates representing their senatorial district(s).
  - One person can serve as a delegate in multiple conventions.
  - Any registered Democrat can be a delegate; there is no requirement to be a member of a DTC
  
- **In preparation for these Conventions, what must happen and what are the key rules?**
  - **Delegate List:** Each Town Chair must send delegate certification forms, electronically or by paper, to the Connecticut Democratic Party office ([conventions@ctdems.org](mailto:conventions@ctdems.org))
  - **Alternates List:** Each delegate to a convention may designate in writing an alternate delegate to act for him or her in the delegate’s absence at any convention. If no alternate delegate has been designated, the Town Chair shall have the right to fill vacancies in delegations to conventions (*the alternate must be designated in writing prior to the adjournment of the convention*).
  - **Pre-Convention Platform & Rules Committees:**
  - **State Convention Committees:** The Committees of the State Convention shall include a) Platform Committee, b) Committee on Credentials, c) Committee on Permanent Organization and d) Committee on Rules and Resolutions. The memberships of each committee shall be elected by the delegates to the State Convention from each senatorial district, who will select from their numbers a temporary vice-president and secretary for the State

Convention, and shall also select one member for each convention committee. The committees shall fulfill the following functions:

- Platform - Puts forth a proposed draft of the State Democratic Platform
  - Credentials - Report on all challenges to delegates
  - Permanent Organization - To nominate the Permanent Chair and Permanent Secretary of the State Convention and to appoint the Sergeants-at-Arms and Pages of the State Convention
  - Rules and Resolutions - To propose changes deemed necessary in these rules and to propose procedures for the State Convention and such resolutions
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- **Nomination and Selection of Party Endorsed Candidates:** Candidates for nomination may be proposed from the floor of the convention by any delegate. Whenever two or more candidates for nomination to any office are proposed, the vote between them shall be taken by roll call. To obtain the endorsement of a convention, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting. In the event a vote taken on the selection of a party endorsed candidate results in a tie, such tie shall be resolved by the vote of the permanent chairperson of the convention, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to vote as a delegate in the first place.