

Ledyard Democratic Town Committee

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

- Candidates will introduce themselves to the DTC during the March, April, May, and June Meetings.
- All new prospective candidates will be interviewed by the DTC Nominating Committee (Naomi Rodriguez, Chair). The Nominating Committee will recommend a slate of candidates to the Democratic Caucus.
 - The nominating Committee recommendation is essentially a statement to the Democratic electorate that the Ledyard DTC has researched the potential candidates and found those endorsed to have met the committee's requirements. It is not a final selection of candidates.
- The final endorsed slate is decided by the Caucus. In 2023, the caucus is scheduled for the week of July 18th. The date will be announced at least 5 days in advance and will occur in the evening.
 - Nominations from the floor of the caucus will also be accepted.
 - If there are more candidates than openings available, the top vote getters will be the endorsed candidates. Those who are not endorsed for the office for which they have been nominated may be nominated for any other office still available.
 - Members may vote for as many candidates as there are openings.
 - There are 6 openings for the Board of Education and 6 openings for Town Council.
- By law, CAUCUS dates for 2023 municipal candidates must be held during the week of July 18th to 25th, 2023. **The selected date is the responsibility of the chair after the discussion with its members.** Public notification by newspaper publication must legally be done five to ten days prior to the caucus. We will also notify via social media.
 - Candidates chosen at the caucus are party-endorsed candidates. The caucus chair and/or caucus secretary must file the certificate of endorsement no later than July 26, 2023.
 - The nomination is not official until the primary date (September 12, 2023), however, if no opposing candidacy has emerged by the primary petition deadline (August 9, 2023), the caucus endorsed candidates are the official candidates.
 - All Ledyard electors enrolled in the Democratic party are eligible to vote at a caucus.
 - Voters changing from the Republican party to the Democratic party must do so before April 17th, 2023, in order to meet the 90-day time between changing party affiliation and voting in party elections. In order to vote in the Democratic Primary, voters switching parties must do so before June 12, 2023.

- Voters who are Unaffiliated must register as Democrats by noon on July 17th in order to participate in the Primary.

- Robert's Rules of Order are used to govern the caucus procedure. They will be proposed, voted on, and adopted at the onset of the convening of the caucus.
- Every candidate intending to run for office should be present at the caucus to sign any necessary forms to be filed with the State Election Enforcement Commission and be prepared to have their photo taken (typically a shoulders-and-up portrait)..
- The Caucus Chair and Caucus Secretary are responsible for signing the list of candidates and filing it with the Town Clerk as indicated in the Election Calendar. The Town Clerk will file the list of caucus endorsed candidates with the Secretary of the State.