



CAUCUS AGENDA - March 30th, 2024

1. Call Caucus to order by Temporary Chair
2. Temporary Chair Appoints Temporary Secretary
3. Temporary Secretary reads caucus notice
4. Election of a permanent Chair
5. Election of a permanent Secretary
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Explanation of Caucus Procedure
8. Adoption of Procedure (1 motion)
 - Vote on list of candidates via secret paper ballot
 - Floor Nominations Allowed
 - “Majority of Democrats present and voting” to become a Delegate
 - Up to 8 Delegates for Statewide, Congressional, State Senate Conventions
 - Up to 4 Delegates for HD 43, 2 for HD 45, 2 for HD 139 from that part of town
9. Nominations
 - List of volunteers gathered by DTC
 - From Floor (NOTE: Write in Floor-Nominated candidates on ballot to vote for them if you wish)
10. Vote, collection, and tabulation of ballots
11. Announcement of results (Caucus Chair)
12. Adjourn
 - Filing of Certification Paperwork
 - Delegates meet for briefing

NOTICE OF LEDYARD DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To the enrolled members of the Democratic party of the Town of Ledyard, Connecticut:

Pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party and Connecticut General Statutes, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Saturday, March 30th at 11:00 a.m., at the Ledyard Town Hall Annex, 741 Colonel Ledyard Hwy., to elect Delegates to the Party's upcoming Statewide, Congressional, and General Assembly Candidate Conventions. Please note that the caucus must be conducted in person.

Children are welcome and the caucus should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes. RSVPs to ledyarddtc@gmail.com are requested to ensure a sufficient number of ballots to be available. More information on the caucus can be found on the Ledyard DTC's Facebook page [@ledyardctdems](https://www.facebook.com/ledyardctdems) and at ledyarddtc.com.

(Published in the Day's Classified Ad section, March 20th, 2024.)

Ledyard Democrats Delegate Election Caucus:

Why are we here today?

At today's Caucus, we will *elect Ledyard's Delegates* to the Democratic Party's Statewide, Congressional, and General Assembly Candidate Conventions. These Delegates are our town's voice in the party's process for deciding which candidate to endorse and whether or not there needs to be a Primary Election.

We will elect 8 Delegates to the State Convention, 8 to the Congressional Convention, 8 to the State Senate Convention, 4 to the 43rd House District Convention, 2 to the House District 45 Convention, and 2 to the House District 139 Convention.

Why use Delegates instead of a Primary Election?

The Democratic Party schedules a Primary Election to select its candidates for the General Election on November 5th. But if the party can show that only one candidate is running, or that other candidates cannot gather enough support to be viable, the Primary can be canceled. This saves the time and money spent running a Primary.

In order to determine whether or not we need a Primary, the state party has set up this Delegate process. Delegates are elected from among each town's Democrats, who then gather at Conventions. At these Conventions, they vote to endorse a candidate. This "endorsed" candidate becomes the Democratic Party's candidate for the General Election in November unless one of 2 things happen to show there may be enough competition to require a Primary election:

- A different candidate fails to win endorsement, but still gets enough Delegates to vote for them during the Endorsement process.
- Another candidate petitions on to the ballot after the Conventions.

Didn't we just do a Caucus?

We did! In even years, we hold 2 Caucuses. Back in January, we elected the Democratic Town Committee. Now, we are electing Delegates to Conventions. Caucusing to elect Delegates ensures that the town's Democrats, and not just the DTC, choose who speaks for Ledyard at these Conventions.

On the back page is a detailed explanation of the Caucus Procedure. This will be discussed and voted on, so ask any questions you have!

Caucus Process:

The Caucus agenda is structured to ensure that the Democrats, not the DTC, run the election. The DTC determines the Caucus date, and the Executive Team determines the time and location, and sends out the Notice. The DTC Chair calls this Caucus to order, but the Democrats decide who runs it.

By having the Democrats elect a Permanent Chair and Secretary, the Democrats are assured that the process is not completely controlled by the DTC, and are provided a check on the DTC's power over the election of its Delegates. For someone to be elected Delegate today, they do not need to be present, but they must receive a majority vote of the Democrats present and voting at this Caucus.

Voting will be by secret paper ballot, per our by-laws, and we are allowed to elect up to 8 Delegates for the State, Congressional, and State Senate Conventions, as well as 4 to the 43rd District and 2 each to the 45th and 139th District Conventions.

Once we call the Caucus order, read the notice, and elect the Chair and Secretary, we will go over the rules and vote to adopt them. This way, we are all on the same page with the process and we can do this in an efficient and orderly manner. Then we complete the nomination process, vote, announce the results, and adjourn!

There are 4 big steps to the Caucus.

First: Adoption of the Caucus Procedure. The Chair will explain the procedure, and answer any questions about it, before we vote on it.

Second: Nominations. The Chair will open nominations from the Floor. This is a step required per Robert's Rules and State Party Rules, and provides the Democrats present a chance to nominate one or more candidates from among those Democrats not already on the ballot. The Chair will ask, "Are there any Nominations from the Floor?" three times.

- Once recognized, state your name and "I nominate (first name last name) for Delegate to [say which convention(s)]". Then the Chair will ask for a Second.
- Then the Chair will announce, "(First name last name) is nominated for Delegate to (Convention[s])".
- Once the Chair has asked for nominations from the floor for the third time and following a short pause thereafter, the Chair will announce, "Hearing none (or no more), floor nominations are closed."
- If you want to vote for one of these floor-nominated candidates, fill in the name and check the Convention(s) block(s) in one of the blank lines on your ballot.

Third: We vote! The vote will be a 'yes' or 'no' for the entire list.

These are secret ballots, so please mark your choices clearly, but do not put your name on them. If you do not want to vote yes on the whole list, mark 'no', then vote for individual candidates in the space next to their name. Remember that if you want to vote for a floor-nominated candidate, write their name in, then vote for them by checking YES on top, or next to their name if you are voting just for individuals. Remember that if you want to vote for a floor-nominated candidate, write their name in, then vote for them by checking YES on top, or next to their name if you are voting just for individuals. I will come and collect them, or Wendy and Alyssa can too. Again, *these are secret ballots, so please respect your fellow Democrats' right to vote quietly and quickly.* The Secretary will tabulate the ballots, and the Chair will announce the results.

Fourth: We adjourn! The Chair will make a brief address, then ask for a motion to adjourn. The motion will be seconded and voted on. Then we're done!