

Pursuant to the authority granted in Title 9, Chapter 153, Section 9-393 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the rules for the government of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Lyme, Connecticut, are amended effective immediately upon their filing with the Secretary of the State and the Town Clerk, to read as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Section 1. The policies and principles of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Lyme shall be formed, directed and executed by the Democratic Town Committee.

Section 2. The Town Committee will consist of up to forty (40) members.

Section 3. Party endorsed candidates for Town Committee membership shall be selected by the enrolled members of such party in caucus. At any caucus duly called for the endorsement of members of a Town Committee, nominations for such Town Committee members may be made by (1) presentation to the caucus of a full slate composed of a number of persons equal to the number of Town Committee members prescribed by local party rules and (2) by nomination of individual candidates. In the endorsement of such candidates, voting shall be in accordance with local party rules, but in no event shall a member of the caucus vote for a greater number of candidates than those to be elected. In the event no endorsement is made by the above stated method, then there shall be no endorsement and election to such Town Committee shall be made by direct primary as provided by law. No person shall be elected to or shall hold the position of Town Committee member unless his or her name appears on the last completed enrollment list of the Democratic Party.

Section 4. In each even numbered year the Town Committee shall fix a day pursuant to State statute for the holding of a caucus for the election of Town Committee members and shall publish the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of East Lyme within the time period as mandated by statute.

Section 5. Members of the Town Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years, commencing on the day following the day established for holding the primary for the election of the members of the succeeding Town Committee.

The Provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding the lack of cause for a primary to elect said members.

Section 6. Any vacancy on the Town Committee, arising from any cause including failure to elect, shall be filled by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose.

Section 7. Any present and/or former Town Committee Member may choose, at any time, to resign active membership and serve as an ex-officio member. An ex-officio member is a nonvoting member who will be notified of all Town Committee meetings and activities.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

Section 1. On such date as prescribed by State statute, the members-elect of the Town Committee shall meet for organization and shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed advisable.

Section 2. The Chair of the Town Committee may be elected from within or without the membership of the Committee.

Section 3. The officers of the Town Committee other than the Chair shall be elected from within the membership of the Town Committee.

Section 4. Officers so elected shall hold office for the term of the Town Committee electing them.

Section 5. Each of the officers shall have the duties usually incident to the office and such other duties as the Town Committee may from time to time prescribe.

Section 6. Within one (1) week after organization of the Town Committee, the Secretary shall file with the Secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee a list of the names and addresses of the officers and members of the Town Committee.

Section 7. If there shall be a vacancy in any office of the Town Committee, arising from any cause, the Town Committee shall fill the same by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose.

Section 8. Officers of the Town Committee may be removed for just cause from their official position by a two-thirds vote of the Town Committee members present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Town Committee shall meet at least six (6) times a year, with a calendar to be set in March of each year. In the interim, the Executive Committee, comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall conduct business as needed provided a quorum of 75% (3/4) of the Executive Committee is present.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Town Committee may be called by the Executive Committee or upon written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Town Committee, and presented to the Chair.

Section 3. Two-fifths (2/5) of the membership of the Town Committee shall constitute a quorum at any duly called meeting.

ARTICLE IV

ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES NOMINATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES

Section 1. The enrolled members of the Democratic Party in the municipality, at a caucus called for the purpose, shall, by a majority vote of such enrolled members present, select party-endorsed candidates for each municipal office, for Town Committee members and for delegates to conventions. The time and place of holding all such caucuses shall be determined by the Democratic Town Committee; and notice of the time, place and purpose of any such caucus shall be given to all enrolled Democratic voters of the municipality, at least five (5) days in advance of the caucus by publication of the same in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality. The time of any such caucus shall be fixed so as to permit compliance with the provisions of all applicable state statutes. The Chair of the Town Committee shall be the temporary Chair of all such caucuses and shall preside until the meeting has selected its permanent Chair. In like manner, the Secretary of the Town Committee shall act as the temporary Secretary at all such caucuses until the meeting has selected its permanent Secretary. The caucus shall be conducted in conformity with the provisions of all applicable state statutes.

Section 2. The party endorsement of candidates for delegates to any convention shall be by full slate composed of the number of persons equal to the number of delegates to which the Town is entitled under the state rules of the Democratic Party, and such slate shall be endorsed as a unit.

Section 3. Any candidate for municipal office chosen as provided in Section I above shall be the nominee of the Democratic Party for the office for which he or she is a candidate if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for nomination in compliance with the timetable as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

Section 4. Candidates for Town Committee members chosen as provided in Section I above shall run in the primary for Town Committee members as party-endorsed candidates; provided such candidates shall be deemed elected as members of the Town Committee if no valid opposing candidacy has been filed for Town Committee in compliance with the timetable as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

Section 5. The slate of candidates for delegates to a convention chosen, as provided in Sections 1 and 2 above, shall run in the primary for delegates to such convention as the party-endorsed slate; provided such slate of candidates shall be deemed elected as the delegates to such convention if no valid opposing candidacy by a complete slate including persons other than party-endorsed candidates has been filed in compliance with the timetable as prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

Section 6. If for any reason the Town Committee fails to make sufficient endorsements of candidates for municipal office, Town Committee members or delegates to conventions, the Connecticut General Statutes shall govern.

Section 7. The Secretary of the Town Committee shall certify to the Town Clerk the names and street addresses of the party-endorsed candidates selected as provided in Sections 1 and 2 above, the title of the office or position as Committee member or delegate for which each such person is endorsed, and the date upon which the primary is to be held.

Section 8. Each party endorsement of a candidate to run in a primary for the nomination of candidates for municipal office or for election as Town Committee members or as delegates to conventions shall be made within the same time frame established by the Connecticut General Statutes. Said endorsement shall be certified to the Town Clerk by the Chair or presiding officer and Secretary of the Town Committee, caucus or convention, as the case may be, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 9. In the event that a vote on the selection of a party-endorsed candidate results in a tie, such tie vote shall be dissolved by the vote of the permanent Chair of the caucus, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote as a member of the caucus to which he or she is otherwise entitled.

Section 10. If a party endorsed candidate for nomination to a municipal office or for election as Town Committee member or delegate to a convention, prior to twenty-four (24) hours before the opening of the polls at the primary, dies, or prior to ten (10) days before the day of the primary withdraws his or her name from nomination, or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold office or the position for which he or she is a candidate, an endorsement may be made to fill such vacancy by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at a meeting called for that purpose. The Chair of the Town Committee may cast a vote on such endorsement to break a tie, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote, as a member of the Town Committee to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The Secretary of the Town Committee shall immediately certify the endorsement to fill such vacancy to the Democratic Registrar of Voters, who shall direct the Town Clerk to have stickers printed and inserted upon the ballots, having the name of the person so certified appearing thereon, and the moderator in each polling place shall cause such stickers to be pasted on the ballots before the opening of the polls at such primary. No candidate shall be deemed to have withdrawn until a letter of withdrawal signed by such candidate is filed with the Town Clerk.

Section 11. The nominations of the Democratic Party to all municipal offices and the election of members of the Town Committee and delegates to conventions shall be made in all respects as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes, Title 9, Chapter 153, as the same may be amended from time to time. Whenever a primary for nomination to a municipal office or for election of Town Committee members or delegates to conventions is to be held under the provisions of said law, the nominee of the Democratic Party for such office, and the members of the Town Committee and the delegates to conventions shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast.

Section 12. If a nomination has been made for municipal office and the nominee thereafter but not prior to twenty-four (24) hours before the opening of the polls on the day of the election for which such nomination has been made, dies, withdraws his or her name, or for any reason becomes disqualified to hold the office for which he or she has been nominated, a nomination to fill such vacancy may be made

by the Town Committee, by a majority vote of the Town Committee members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose. The Chair of the Town Committee may cast a vote on such nomination to break a tie, but this provision shall not affect his or her right to cast any vote, as a member of the Town Committee, to which he or she is otherwise entitled. In the case of a withdrawal, said nomination shall not be valid until the candidate who has withdrawn has filed a letter of withdrawal, signed by such candidate, with the Secretary of the State, and also has filed a copy with the Town Clerk. The Chair of the Town Committee shall certify the nomination to fill such vacancy to the Secretary of the State, and shall file a copy with the Town Clerk. Such certification of a nomination to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification shall include a statement setting forth the reason for such vacancy.

Section 13. Each delegate to a convention elected in conformity with the law and with these rules may in writing designate an alternate delegate or a proxy to act for him or her in his or her absence.

ARTICLE V

CAUCUSES

Section 1. Caucuses may be called for the purpose of amending these rules or for any other lawful purpose by a majority vote of the Town Committee, or, except as here after provided, by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered Democratic voters in the town. The call for any such caucus shall be in writing. If it is called by the vote of the Town Committee, it shall be signed by the Chair of the Town Committee. If it is called by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered Democratic voters, it shall be signed by such voters.

Section 2. Notice of time, place and purpose of any such caucus shall be given to all registered Democratic voters of the Town of East Lyme at least five (5) days in advance of any such caucus by publishing such notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town.

ARTICLE VI

PROCEDURE

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be considered as conclusive on parliamentary issues.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Local party rules may be amended by one of the three following methods:

1. By a caucus of the enrolled Democratic electors of the municipality called in the same manner as a caucus for selecting party endorsed candidates.
2. By a convention of delegates chosen by the enrolled Democratic electors of the municipality in a manner prescribed in the local party rules of each municipality.
3. By the Democratic Town Committee at a meeting called in the same manner as a Town Committee meeting for selecting party endorsed candidates.

ARTICLE VIII

DEFINITIONS

As used in these rules, "municipal office" means any office for which only the electors of the Town may vote, including the office of each elective public office of the Town, as well as Justice of the Peace and State Representative. The other terms used in these rules shall have the same meaning as in the Connecticut General Statutes.

ARTICLE IX

If any provision of these rules is found to be in conflict with the provisions of any law, the provisions of such law shall govern and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force.

The above rules governing the Democratic Party of the town of East Lyme, Connecticut were adopted by a unanimous vote at a duly warned and held meeting of the Democratic Town Committee of East Lyme of February 9, 1956 at the Flanders Firehouse in East Lyme.

Amended: February 26, 1963

Amended: August 29, 1966

Amended: December 30, 1957

Amended: January 24, 1978

Amended: March 26, 1985

Amended: January 15, 1986

Amended: January 8, 2002

Amended: July 22, 2019