



Powerful Citizen Roles: Political Party Leader -Part Two

You've won a committee seat in New Jersey, and now you're wondering what's next? We have put together some ideas of how you make the most of your new position within the party, and use your political post to get results on issues you care about.

I've Got a Committee Seat, Now What?

Get Active Within the Party

- ✓ **Get to know your party.** Start by calling the County Clerk for a copy of the county party's constitution and bylaws (it's your right by state law!) and familiarize yourself with the procedures and functions of the county party and your duties as a committee person.
- ✓ **Put your ideas into a constructive proposal.** You may have an idea to remedy an issue within the community, or within your party's structure. Use the skills we teach in our Power Civics© video trainings and develop your own constructive proposal.
 - Ⓢ At a community level, it could be the creation of an auxiliary police force to cut overtime costs and save jobs within the police force that your party may want to support after hearing your proposal.
 - Ⓢ Within your political party, it could be for an amendment of your town's political party platform or propose adoption of a platform if there is none.
 - Ⓢ Present the constructive proposal to the party leaders and committee members at a regular meeting of the committee.



TIP: The municipal and county parties can revise their constitution and bylaws at any time.

If the constitution and bylaws were written long ago and have not been revised, you can volunteer to be part of a committee to take a look at updating them.

- ✓ **Serve on a committee.** There may be local party platform committees or other committees that you can serve on. If none interest you at the local party level, find out what committees exist at the county or state level within your party.
- ✓ **Start a political party club in your town if there isn't one already.** For example, a Widget Town Democratic or Republican Club. There are many benefits to starting such a club, such as concentrating efforts to build grassroots support for your party within your town, and building support on a community level for issues that can be taken to the county party. Encourage others within your town to become more involved.
- ✓ **Volunteer to help with local, county and state campaigns.** Develop ways that your party can attract new supporters. Every party wants to grow and "new blood" is constantly needed. Organize community events or projects in which the Local Party can take the lead and get recognized. This is a great way to gain the attention of the party leaders as well.

Re-Election Time!

- ✓ **Run, even if you don't have the party's support.** Whether you are supported by your local party leaders or not for re-election to your committee seat, you can still run again for your seat. You will just need to put time into a door to door Get Out The Vote campaign.
- ✓ **Need reminders?**
 - 📍 For reminders on running for the committee seat in the next election, just download & follow the online *How to Run for a Political Party Committee Seat* guide
 - 📍 If you miss the petition filing deadline, you can still run a write-in campaign for the seat. Download & follow the online guide *How to Write Yourself in for County Committee*.

Election isn't an option?

If you didn't win the election or it's not an election year, you still have an opportunity to stay involved or win a seat next time. Reach out to your municipal party chair or the committee person of your election district and ask if there is anything you can do to help. Often times there are campaign committees which work on upcoming campaigns. Ask when the next upcoming committee meeting is and if you can sit in. This will keep you on the party leaders' radars, and maybe impress your committee district representative so that if they decide to not run in the next election, they support you instead!

