



## **POWERFUL CITIZEN ROLES:** **POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Writing Your Name in for County Committee**

**[elections.nj.gov](http://elections.nj.gov)**

In New Jersey, if you did not file a nominating petition to run for a county committee seat by the filing deadline, **YOU CAN STILL RUN.** You and your supporters (neighbors, friends, family) from within your district can write in your name on the ballot on Election Day, using the keypad in the voting booth. And you could potentially win the seat, especially if it is uncontested.

#### **Tips for Success:**

##### **Time to allot (at minimum):**

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Several hours on the first weekend in June. The more time you spend talking with your neighbors and listening to their concerns, the better your chances of success at winning the seat. If you win there are two mandatory evening meetings in June and perhaps monthly meetings, depending upon the county.

##### **Cost:**

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None required.

##### **Things to request from the Municipal Clerk's office:**

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1. Your election district number.
2. A current list of your town's incumbent committee people.
3. A map of your election district.

##### **Things to request from the County Superintendent of Elections:**

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1. An "Oath of Allegiance" form (which must be filed at the county clerk within 7 days after the election, if you win as a write-in candidate – *N.J.S.A. 19:23-16*)
  2. A walking list of registered voters in your municipal election district affiliated with the party of your choice (Republican or Democrat) sorted by who voted in the last Primary election. (*Requesting this in electronic format could save you loads of time.*)
  3. The location and operating hours of your polling place
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## **POWERFUL CITIZEN ROLES:** **POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE**

### **A Month Prior: Make yourself known!**

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1. Mark the Primary election day on your calendar:.
2. Put on your sneakers, put some dog treats in your pocket, and spend about 2 hours for several Sundays walking door to door to the registered party members in your district.
3. You may choose to concentrate on those who voted in the last Primary election.
4. Introduce yourself and tell them you would like to represent their interests to the local Democratic/Republican Party. Explain that you'll be the neighborhood's eyes and ears. Ask about their neighborhood concerns, listen, and take notes next to their name.
5. Ask "Could I count on you to write my name in on [primary election date]?". Keep track of your "yes's" and "maybes".
6. Explain the process of "writing in" a candidate in the voting booth (*using the keypad at the bottom of the booth*).

### **Key Pad**



### **A Week Prior: the BIG PUSH!**

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1. In many cases you need less than 30 votes to win. In this case, you are asking people to **WRITE YOUR NAME IN** and cast a vote.
2. Revisit each "yes" and "maybe" you've met so far. Ask, "Can I count on you to write my name in on [primary election date]?"
3. Leave them something with your name on it. Stickers in the form of address labels are a great idea. Some candidates choose to leave a small sheet of paper listing their qualifications, contact information and poll location/voting hours. You cannot leave these flyers in mailboxes.
4. Show your voter list to friends and colleagues in town to see if they know any of these people in your district and wouldn't mind calling them to endorse you as a "write-in" candidate.

### **Election Day**

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1. Go to the polls and using the keypad in the voting booth, type your name in for the committee man/woman slot. Then hit the 'cast vote' button.
2. Revisit the "yes's" and "maybes" to ask them if they've been to the polls. If you like, you can go to the polling place when they close to find out the results.
3. If you win or lose, thank those who supported you either through a letter or in person and congratulate your opponent on a good race.