

## Role of Maryland Democratic State Central Committee Members

Central Committee members are the grass roots-level elected volunteers of the Maryland Democratic Party. They must be dedicated to working to ensure the election of Democrats to public office, while encouraging the participation of activists, volunteers and financial contributors. This calls for many hours of participation, and in some cases a financial commitment themselves.

They should bring to the Central Committee a strong commitment to the Democratic Party and all the things it stands for. Central Committee members should have volunteer experience in various political activities, worked for candidates, or run for office themselves.

Central Committee members are the people elected to work directly in the trenches on behalf of the Democratic Party and to organize an ongoing presence at the local level. They are the people who do the organizing and actual tasks of helping get Democrats elected. Central Committees members are not legislators. They are not managers or members of a board of directors, but worker bees themselves. They help organize and fulfill these tasks:

*Fundraise, staff party booths/events, precinct organization, participate in canvassing operations, distribute political literature, perform voter registration, phone bank, and assist hands on in all of the tasks necessary for Democrats to be successful in elections.*

Central Committee members have an obligation to attend all committee meetings, support party nominees, and to actively participate in all the activities of the State and Local Central Committee. Central Committee members at no time can openly support a candidate of another political party in a partisan race.

Central Committee members cannot do all that must be done by themselves, they must reach out and recruit volunteers to assist in many of these activities and tasks. Recruitment of volunteers therefore becomes the difference between success and failure. Central Committee members must have good motivational and organizing skills to make use of these volunteer resources.

As a member of the local Central Committee individuals are automatic members of the State Central Committee and are expected to attend Semi-annual meetings, vote on State Party issues and participate in State Party projects.

Central Committee members have the official responsibility to fill vacancies of certain offices due to death or resignation of elected official, and fill any vacancy when there is a failure to have a Democratic Candidate file for nomination. The Central Committee also recommends to the Governor appointment of the members and substitute members for the local County Board of Elections and at times makes recommendations to other state and county boards.

**Please Note: Each committee may have more extensive responsibilities. You should contact the chair of your local committee for your local committee by-laws and to learn what is expected of you as a member.**