



**Stand up for educators, students, and our communities!
Get involved in your local party committee.**

Across the country, teachers and education professionals are standing up for the rights of their students, their communities, and each other; pushing back against efforts to erode collective bargaining rights, unfair cutbacks, and corporate giveaways. Here in New Jersey, there are numerous ways to participate - even locally - in standing up for our communities and quality public education. One way to get involved is participating in your local political party or what is known as ‘county committee.’

What is County Committee?

County Committee is the local building block of both major parties in New Jersey. County committee members are elected during the primaries in each municipality and can contribute to the positions their local parties take and even weigh-in on the candidates the party endorses. Each party has two committee seats per polling district (except in Camden & Atlantic Counties where seats are assigned at large in each municipality). Participating on county committee is a relatively low commitment, you will be expected to attend just several meetings a year, but serving on county committee can provide an opportunity for educators and education professionals to have a strong voice in political decisions.

Why Run for County Committee?

When you become a county committee member your voice is amplified in the political process, as well as the voice of your community and others who share your concerns. There may be hundreds of voters in an electoral district, but just two committee members for each party. In fact, many committee seats are left vacant, meaning there’s a good chance you might not face any opposition. Serving on county committee will give you a crucial role in the decisions made by your local party, including the candidates the party chooses to support. Given the low time commitment of being a committee member, if you think political participation matters than there is good reason to run for county committee. You will also insure that educators and education professionals are having their voices heard in decisions about our communities.

How to run for County Committee

You can sign up to run for county committee by requesting a county committee candidate petition from your municipal clerk at your town/city hall. You will need to collect between 1 and 10 signatures from your neighbors registered to your party. Your municipal clerk’s office should be able to tell you the number of signatures needed - but to be safe aim for at least 10 signatures. Your clerk’s office can even provide a list of registered voters in your district. You will need to return your petition to your municipal clerk’s office no later than **Monday, MARCH 30TH before 4pm** - but earlier is better!

See the reverse side for a checklist and timeline on running for county committee U

Timeline	Checklist
February	<p>Visit your Municipal Clerk's office (usually located in your municipal government building) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Request a **Nominating Petition** to run for county committee. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask “How many signatures are required in my voting district?” (Anywhere from 1-10 signatures will be required). Signatures will need to come from voters registered to <i>your political party</i> and living <i>in the same voting district</i> as you. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for a map outlining your district or a list of addresses that serve as a border for your district. Municipal Clerk offices usually make copies of voting district maps available for a \$1 or less. <input type="checkbox"/> You may confirm whether your district is vacant or has an incumbent committee member by requesting a copy of your party's municipal committee. <p><i>Additionally, you may also email your County Clerk for a list of voters registered to your party living in your district. The County Clerk's office should be able to answer any questions you have about running for committee.</i></p>
February - March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather the required number of signatures on your nominating petition (<i>usually around or less than 10</i>) from registered members of your party in your district. 2. Submit the notarized nominating petition to the clerk well before the deadline of March 30th. (Many banks & municipal clerks offer notary service for free or low cost.) 3. The clerk may find some signatures invalid, in which case you have until four days after the deadline to submit an amended petition. 4. Follow up with your municipal clerk to make sure your name will appear on the primary ballot. 5. You may also request if there is a copy of your party's committee bylaws on file.
April - May - June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark the Primary election day on your calendar (it's Tuesday, June 2nd) 2. Reach out to voters in your district and ask for their vote.
Tuesday, June 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go out and vote for yourself. Remind others to do so too. <p><i>**If you arrive at the voting booth on primary day and there is anything less than two candidates running for your party's municipal committee seats, consider writing your name in. (If you can, encourage family and neighbors to write your name in, as well).</i></p>