

BALTIMORE COUNTY STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER DUTIES

Central Committee members are the grass roots-level elected volunteers of the State Democratic Party. They must be dedicated to working for 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 by the members themselves.

Members should bring to the Central Committee a strong commitment to the Party and everything it stands for. Central Committee members should have volunteer experience in various political activities, worked for a candidate, or run for office themselves.

In essence, Central Committee members are the people elected to work directly in the trenches on behalf of the Party and develop a Democratic Party presence at the local level. They are the ones who do the organizing and actual tasks that help get Democrats elected. They are not managers or members of a board of directors, but worker bees themselves. They help organize and when necessary do the following activities:

Fundraising, staff party booths / events, precinct organizing and canvassing, distribute political literature, voter registration, phone banking and any task needed to be successful in an election.

Central Committee members have an obligation to attend all committee meetings. According to the Bylaws of the BCDSCC Article IV, Section 3, "It is the responsibility of each member of the Committee to attend a majority of the Regular (at least 6 per year) and Special meetings of the Committee and at least one (1) meeting of the Maryland State Central committee during any twelve (12) month period. *Failure to meet this attendance standard may result in removal from the Committee.*" All absences—whether excused or not—are counted toward the attendance requirement.

Central Committee members are obligated to *publicly support party nominees without question*, and to *actively participate* in all the activities of the Central Committee. Central Committee members at *no time* can openly support a candidate of another political party in a partisan race, or run against a nominee of the Democratic Party in a General Election while serving as a Central Committee member.

Central Committee members cannot do all that must be done by themselves; they must recruit volunteers to assist in many Party 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.

Members of the local Central Committee are also 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 officials, and to fill vacancies when no Democratic candidate has filed for nomination. The Central Committee also makes recommendations to the Governor to fill openings on the local County Board of Elections and, at times, recommendations for other state and county boards.

Central Committee members are obligated to be familiar with the BCDSCC Bylaws and Policy Guidelines Handbook, as well as the Maryland State Democratic Party Bylaws, and the State Board of Elections Summary Guide to Campaign Candidacy and Campaign Finance Laws (found in the Appendix of the Policy Guidelines Handbook).