



111 Main Street, Flemington NJ 08822 • info@hcdems.org

Hunterdon County Democratic Committee

Endorsement Convention Rules

(Revised and ratified as of 1/22/2026)

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Endorsement Convention is to endorse candidates for Federal, State and County office to represent the Democratic Party in Hunterdon County. Endorsed candidates shall be permitted to use the Party slogan: Hunterdon County Regular Democratic Organization.

Section 2. Membership

The following individuals shall be considered a voting delegate at the Hunterdon County Democratic Endorsement Convention:

1. All elected municipal, county, and legislative district officials serving districts that encompass all or part of Hunterdon County;
2. All County Committee members of the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee;
3. The Democratic Chair and Vice Chair of each Hunterdon County municipality;
4. All elected and appointed members of the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee Executive Committee;
5. All officers of the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee Executive Committee;
6. Both New Jersey Democratic State Committee representatives from Hunterdon County;
7. The President and Vice President of the Hunterdon County Young Democrats; and
8. Up to ten (10) delegates selected by the County Chair who have demonstrated their dedication to the mission of the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee, exhibits the qualities of a County Committee Member and not otherwise eligible to vote.

All voting delegates must be registered Democratic voters in Hunterdon County as of the date of the Endorsement Convention with the exception of those who qualify under item 1, elected officials who may reside outside of Hunterdon County.

Section 3. Endorsement Convention Chair and Parliamentarian

The County Chair shall appoint or serve as the Chairperson of the Endorsement Convention, who shall be the presiding officer at the Endorsement Convention. The Endorsement Convention

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Chairperson shall ensure compliance with the Endorsement Convention Rules and make all decisions necessary to effectuate a fair and orderly convention. The County Chair shall also appoint an Endorsement Convention Parliamentarian.

Section 4. Candidate Nominations and Speeches

Any individual seeking any office shall submit a *Letter Of Intent* to the Endorsement Convention Chairperson at info@hcdems.org at least five (5) days before the date of the Endorsement Convention. Slates of candidates may be nominated together on a single nomination letter of intent. Nominations will not be permitted from the floor, except in the case that no one has filed a letter of intent to run for a specific office. A list of nominated candidates shall be posted on the HCDC website four (4) days prior to the Endorsement Convention.

Once the letter of intent is received by the Endorsement Convention Chairperson, each candidate for office will receive a list of all voting delegates.

At the Endorsement Convention, the Endorsement Convention Chairperson shall announce the candidates and then call to open the floor to nominations based on the submitted Nomination Letter of intent. Each candidate must be nominated (no more than one minute and thirty seconds) and seconded (by name only) by a voting delegate other than the candidate, based on the submitted Nomination Letter of intent. All candidates nominated, or their proxy, for a federal, state or county office must be present at the Endorsement Convention to accept the nomination; the only exception to the attendance requirement is for the office of the U.S. President and U.S. Vice President.

Section 5. Candidate Speeches

Each candidate for office shall be permitted three minutes time to address the voting delegates. The order of presentation of the candidates shall be determined by the elected position sought, and then alphabetically by last name.

Section 6. Voting

- a. All delegate voting shall be in-person with the exception of past Hunterdon County Democratic Chairpersons, with voting delegate status, who may vote by in-person proxy through the Endorsement Convention Parliamentarian provided that a letter of request is made and accepted by the current County Chair.
- b. The use of secure, secret electronic voting is permitted.
- c. Each delegate shall have one vote recorded by secret ballot. The winner must receive more than fifty (50%) percent of the votes cast to receive the Party's endorsement. In the event more than fifty (50%) percent is not reached on the first ballot, the top two finishers shall proceed to a second ballot.

- d. All delegates may vote in an election at the Endorsement Convention for the endorsement of a candidate for a countywide office, e.g., County Commissioner, County Clerk, County Surrogate and County Sheriff as well as statewide and national offices. If there is a contested election for the endorsement of a candidate for any office that is not a countywide office, e.g., Legislative District 15, 16 and 23, then only those delegates from that specific district in which there is a contested election may vote in that election.
- e. If there is only one (1) candidate nominated for endorsement for any office, whether national or local, then a secret ballot does not need to be held. A voice vote will be sufficient to carry forward the endorsement.

Section 7. Date of the Endorsement Convention

The Endorsement Convention shall be held on one day, unless the County Chair decides that additional Endorsement Convention dates are necessary. If, during the Endorsement Convention, the Endorsement Convention Chairperson decides that good cause exists for the Endorsement Convention to be continued to another day or days, same shall be acceptable. The Endorsement Convention Chairperson will go on record as to the reason why, and that written notice of the new date shall be set within ten (10) days of the Endorsement Convention.

Section 8. Meeting Procedures

Any conflicts or clarifications regarding the Endorsement Convention procedure shall be determined pursuant to the Bylaws by the Endorsement Convention Parliamentarian.