

Partisan Office Replacement Nomination Rules

Adopted by the Executive Board of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee on 25 November 2003, revised by the Central Committee on 13 November 2003.

Section 1. Purpose

1.01 Authority

Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution of the state of Washington requires the Snohomish County Council to choose from three (3) people nominated by the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee when there is an opening in a partisan executive office, or a legislative office if the district is only within Snohomish County, when that office was held previously by a Democrat.

These rules direct the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee when making such a nomination.

Section 2. Applicant Requirements

2.01 Party Membership

Any person nominated must be a Democrat. For purposes of these rules, the person must meet the membership definition in the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee Bylaws, Article 1, Part E (Membership Types).

In addition, a person seeking nomination for a legislative seat must be a member of the Democratic legislative district organization. The legislative district organization determines its membership definitions.

The person seeking nomination is responsible for providing proof of membership to the Central Committee as part of the questionnaire.

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2.02 Questionnaire

The applicant seeking a nomination from the Central Committee must complete the following questionnaire. The applicant must provide at least 150 copies to the Central Committee membership at the meeting, at the expense of the applicant.

1. **Request for Nomination.**
 - a. Request nomination for the specific office.
 - b. Why is the nomination sought?
 - c. Why are you the best candidate?
2. **Constitutional or Charter Requirements.** List the requirements for office from the state constitution or county charter for the office, as applicable, with the reason why the applicant meets each requirement.
3. **Partisan Requirements:**
 - a. What parts of the current Snohomish County Democratic platform and resolutions are supported and not supported? Provide proof of membership found in Section 2.01 of these rules.
 - b. Provide a pledge to maintain membership as found in Section 2.01 while in office?
4. **Retention in Office.** If appointed by the County Council, will retention be sought at the next general election?
5. **Democratic Party Support:**
 - a. How will active support be given to people endorsed by the Central Committee for judicial, political, board, commission, and other appointments?
 - b. Will the applicant help actively recruit new Democratic Party members at the legislative district and county levels?
 - c. Will political appointees made from this office be required to maintain regular membership in the county and legislative district Democratic organizations?

Section 3. Meeting Procedure

3.01 Type of Meeting

When there is an opening in a partisan county office, or legislative office for a district entirely within Snohomish County, the chair of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee shall call a special meeting of the Central Committee to nominate three (3) eligible Democrats for consideration by the Snohomish County Council to fill that opening. The call for the meeting shall clearly state the purpose of the meeting.

3.02 Agenda

This is the agenda of the special meeting:

1. Call the Central Committee to order.
2. Place applicants in nomination before the Central Committee. The required questionnaires must be made available to the Central Committee members by the time this nomination is made.
3. After closing nominations, recess the Central Committee for a caucus of the applicable Central Committee members to recommend three applicants to the full Central Committee. See Section 3.03 for the rules to conduct the caucus.
4. After the caucus adjourns, the chair announces the caucus results to the Central Committee.
5. Vote on the applicants to be nominated the Snohomish County Council by the precinct committee officers. See Section 3.04 for the rules to conduct the vote.
6. Announcements.
7. Adjournment.

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3.03 Caucus Rules

These rules govern the caucus:

1. The following person chairs the caucus:
 - a. If the opening is for a county office, the Central Committee chair, or a member appointed by the Central Committee chair.
 - b. If the opening is for a legislative office, the chair of the legislative district organization. If that person is not present, the Central Committee chair appoints a member from that district.
2. Only elected and appointed precinct committee officers in the applicable caucus shall be entitled to vote.
3. The caucus may grant voice to any other person by a simple majority of those voting.
4. The caucus interviews the applicants in a manner approved by a simple majority of those voting.
5. Procedures for voting on the recommendation to the Central Committee:
 - a. Each caucus member votes for three different applicants. If there are more than three people applying, the vote must be by signed paper ballot.
 - b. To receive the recommendation of the caucus, a person must receive votes from a majority of valid ballots cast.
 - c. When three applicants fail to receive votes from a majority of valid ballots cast, the applicant receiving the least number of votes is dropped from consideration before taking the next ballot.

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3.04 Rules for Vote by the Precinct Committee Officers

These rules govern the vote on the nomination to the County Council by the precinct committee officers:

1. Elected and appointed precinct committee officers may vote subject any limitations recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the Central Committee.
2. A motion may be made to accept the recommendation of the caucus as the nomination to the Snohomish County Council. Voting on this motion does not require a signed paper ballot. A simple majority is necessary to pass this motion. If this motion fails, a vote using signed paper ballots must be made.
3. Procedures for voting on the nomination to the County Council, unless voting to accept the recommendation of the caucus:
 - a. When voting, each precinct committee officer votes for three different applicants using a signed paper ballot.
 - b. To receive the nomination of the Central Committee, a person must receive votes from a majority of valid ballots cast.
 - c. When three applicants fail to receive votes from a majority of valid ballots cast, the applicant receiving the least number of votes is dropped from consideration before the next ballot is taken.

Section 4. Appendix

4.01 Washington State Constitution Provisions

ARTICLE II
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
SECTION 15 VACANCIES IN LEGISLATURE
AND IN PARTISAN COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE.
Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the vacancy occurs:

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Provided, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county or county commissioner district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his successor is elected at the next general election, and shall have qualified: *Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of said county commissioners do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated.

[**AMENDMENT 52**, part, 1967 Senate Joint Resolution No. 24, part; see 1969 p 2976. Approved November 5, 1968.]