



MEMORANDUM

TO:

1st and 5th Senate District RD and Ward Chairs	Betsy Maron, Chair, Del Dems
1st and 5th Senate District Committee Members	Travis Williams, Executive Director, Del Dems
Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, Pres. of the Senate	Kate Coulter, Technology Director, Del Dems
Sen. Dave Sokola, President Pro-Tempore	New Castle County Executive Committee
Sen. Bryan Townsend, Senate Majority Leader	City of Wilmington Democratic Committee
Sen. Tizzy Lockman, Senate Majority Whip	Jesse Chadderdon, Sen. Majority Chief of Staff

FROM: Kat Caudle, Chair, New Castle County Executive Committee
Cassandra Marshall, Chair, City of Wilmington Dems

Introduction

In anticipation of two likely vacancies in the State Senate, Districts 1 and 5, we are issuing the following memo to RD Committee Members, potential candidates, Senate Leadership and anyone who may be a party of interest. This memo should not be construed to mean that we believe these races have been won before election day. In fact the very opposite—we encourage our members to knock on doors, make phone calls or other direct voter contact in order to secure the US Congressional Seat for Sarah McBride and the Lt. Governor seat for Kyle Evans Gay.

We understand that there is a lot of information in this memo, and have provided an executive summary at the end.

Dept. of Elections Special Election Process

Delaware law requires that Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, as presiding officer of the State Senate, issue a writ of election to the New Castle County Department of Elections within 10 days of any vacancy. 15 Del.C. §7101. Thereafter, the Department of Elections sets the day for holding the special election not less than 30 days or more than 35 after receiving the writ. 15 Del.C. §7102. Should State Senator McBride and State Senator Gay win their respective races they will resign their current seats at a future date. It is anticipated that the special election will occur mid- to late- February, 2025.

The Subdivision Chair(s) have the authority to submit a name for the Democratic candidate for the special election by filing a certificate of nomination with the Department of Elections. 15 Del.C. §7103. There is no primary election. These nominations are submitted once the writ of election has been ordered and a date has been set for a special election.

Democratic Party Special Elections Process

The Rules of the Democratic State Committee provide for the method of selection of a candidate in the event of a special election. Specifically, Rule 8.2 provides:

Non-Statewide Elections. If after the deadline for an individual to file notification of candidacy for any office that is to be filled by partisan election, other than a statewide office, there is no Democratic candidate for such office, or in the event of the need for a special election for any such office, the candidate for such office shall be named under the rules of the subdivision in which all the voters for said office live. If such subdivision's rules provide no procedure for filling such vacancies, the subdivision chair shall call a meeting within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, giving notice to all district committee members who would be entitled to vote for such office at a general election, at which meeting the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of the district committee members present and voting.

Candidate's Forum

Accordingly, the subdivision chairs from New Castle County and the City of Wilmington, hereby schedule a ***candidate's forum*** for **Senate District 1** on **Wednesday, November 20 and Thursday, November 21, 2024** at 6pm via Zoom. We understand the interest for this race is broad. In order to allow a sufficient amount of time for candidates and committee members to learn more, we are scheduling two nights for Senate District 1. Should the second date not be needed, a notice of cancellation will be posted no less than 5 days before the meeting. Each night will feature local Democrats seeking the nomination for SD 1. They will be given an opportunity to address the members in attendance. Candidates wishing to address members of either SD1 or SD5 will need to register (form to be provided) no less than 5 days prior to the first candidates forum. Registration for candidates to speak at a candidate forum will close on November 13 at 11:59pm.

A ***candidates forum*** for **Senate District 5**, will be set for **Monday, November 18, 2024** at 7pm also via Zoom. Local Democrats seeking the nomination will be given an opportunity to address the members in attendance.

Candidate Selection Meeting

The ***candidate selection meeting*** for **Senate District 1 and Senate District 5** will be held ***in person*** on **Monday, December 9**, at a location and time forthcoming. In accordance with Delaware Democratic Party rules, those who are eligible to vote on the candidate selection, must be a member of the RD for no less than 30-days. The Democratic State Committee Rule #2 in part:

2.D.3 Organization and Election.

- 3 Vacancies. Vacancies in a District Committee shall be filled with persons meeting the requirements of these rules by a majority of the members of the Committee; provided, however, that such persons need not reside in the election district which they shall represent but must be registered Democrats in the District (or City Ward) which they shall represent. Vacancies may be filled at any time, but District Committee members must have been elected or appointed thirty (30) days before voting on any endorsements or recommendations for endorsement.

Eligibility

The eligible voters will meet in Executive Session to formally recommend a Democratic candidate. At this selection meeting, in accordance with Rule 8.2 of the Rules of the Delaware Democratic Party, the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of the district committee members present and voting. Proxy votes are permitted for this meeting. Please contact us at SpecialElectionsDelaware87@gmail.com to request a proxy designation form.

Rep District Rosters/Membership List

In order to ensure transparency and accuracy in who is eligible to vote in either selection caucus and in accordance with Delaware Democratic Party rules, the deadline to add new members to any RD for the purposes of selecting a candidate is set for Saturday, November 9, 2024, 30-days prior to the selection caucus. Eligible voters are defined by past practice and include anyone who lives within the district borders of Senate District 1 and 5, regardless of which ED they may be assigned. RD chairs must submit any new members by **Saturday, November 9, 2024** to SpecialElectionsDelaware87@gmail.com.

After November 9, any person interested in being the candidate for either Senate District and wanting a list of eligible voters, must email SpecialElectionsDelaware87@gmail.com and make a request for the list.

Conclusion

More specific information and mobilize links for registration will be forthcoming.

After the writ of election has been ordered the New Castle County subdivision chair will then submit the nomination for each district to the Department of Elections.

Any questions should be addressed via email to SpecialElectionsDelaware87@gmail.com.

Executive Summary

- RD and Ward committee chairs and members should continue to focus on direct voter contact efforts through election day, Nov. 5, 2024.
- In anticipation of two possible State Senate vacancies in districts 1 and 5 this memo lays out specific dates to allow for thoughtful deliberation and swift candidate selection as follows:
 - October 31, 2024- RD and Ward chairs must confirm current membership rosters
 - November 9, 2024- Deadline to add new members to any RD or Ward for the purposes of determining eligible voters in both SD 1 and 5.
 - Members may continue to be added to committees, but will not be eligible to vote in the SD 1/SD 5 selection caucus.
 - November 13, 2024- Candidates wishing to seek nomination from SD 1 or SD 5 must register by today (link/form to follow)
 - November 18, 2024- SD 5 Candidate Forum via Zoom
 - November 20 and 21, 2024- SD 1 Candidate Forum via Zoom
 - If the number of candidates allows for one night, a notice of cancellation will be sent no less than 5 days before Nov. 21.
 - December 9, 2024- SD 5 and SD 1 Candidate Selection Meeting in-person, location TBD
- Eligible voters are:
 - RD committee members for 30 days or more per State Committee Party Rule 2.D
 - Reside in an Election District that is within SD 1 or SD 5 regardless of what ED they have been assigned by their RD.
- Questions should be addressed via email to SpecialElectionsDelaware87@gmail.com.