

Republican Party Caucus
Saxe Middle School – New Canaan CT
July 25, 2023 - 6:30pm

CAUCUS RULES

The Rules of this Caucus are as follows:

Presentation of Candidates and Speeches

- All qualified candidates for uncontested offices shall be presented to the Caucus for endorsement *en bloc*.
- Each qualified candidates for the contested offices will be allotted 5 minutes to deliver a speech in support of their candidacy. At his or her option, the candidate may take all 5 minutes or may designate another qualified New Canaan Republican elector to support his or her candidacy for any portion of the allotted time.
- Candidates seeking the same office will speak in succession with the order of speeches by drawing lots; Lots will be drawn in advance of the Caucus.
- The Moderator will time all speeches and indicate to each speaker when he or she has 15 seconds remaining. All remarks must end when the allotted time expires.

Admission to Caucus and Official Ballot Distribution

- Voting will be done by a paper ballot configured to run through a tabulator (an “Official Ballot”); This is the same process and equipment used for the November elections.
- Each qualified Republican elector will receive an Official Ballot upon checking in with the check in table staffed by the Republican Registrar of Voters.
- A qualified Republican elector is a registered New Canaan Republican of at least 18 years of age and whose party privileges have vested as of the date of the Caucus.
- Entrance to the Saxe Middle School Gym and Auditorium is limited to qualified Republican electors. An Official Ballot shall act as an “admission pass” and must be shown to gain admittance to either the Gym (for voting) or the Auditorium (for the Caucus Meeting and candidate speeches). Children under 18 years old may accompany parents who are qualified Republican electors.
- Members of the press may not attend unless they are qualified New Canaan Republican electors.
- Audio and video recording of the caucus is not allowed.

Caucus Meeting Procedures

- The Caucus Meeting is governed by New Canaan RTC Bylaws and these Caucus Rules once adopted in the Caucus Meeting.
- The New Canaan RTC will appoint a temporary Moderator and temporary Secretary and will propose this document as the Caucus Rules. The New Canaan RTC will also recommend people to participate in the Rules Committee and Credential Committee and to act as Tally Clerk.

- At the start of the Caucus Meeting, the temporary Moderator will run through a series of steps to vote in the permanent Moderator and Secretary and to establish the Rules Committee and Credential Committee. This process will be done using formal parliamentary procedure with motions and voting. Only those physically attending the Caucus Meeting at the time of the voting will be eligible to vote.
- Voting will only commence once these formalities are completed and the opening of voting is announced by the Moderator.

Voting Process and Ballots

- As an accommodation to qualified Republican electors who do not wish to attend or stay for the Caucus Meeting and candidate speeches, the Moderator shall open the voting as soon as practicable after the Caucus Meeting formalities outlined above. Voting will only open via an announcement from the Moderator (approximately 6:45pm).
- Voting will take place in the Gym. Each qualified Republican electors will personally place his or her Official Ballot in tabulator with the oversight of election officials appointed by the Tally Clerk.
- At the end of all Caucus Meeting and the candidate speeches, the Moderator will:
 - Announce the time for the end of voting (which will be 9:00pm unless extended - see below);
 - Appoint a Tally Clerk and such assistants as are necessary to count votes.
- Voting will last not less than 15 minutes after the end of the Caucus Meeting and candidate speeches per the New Canaan RTC Bylaws; If the Caucus Meeting and candidate speeches do not end before 8:45pm, the voting period will be extended and a new later time for the end of voting will be announced by the Moderator.
- Official Ballots may be cast at any time that voting is open by depositing them into the tabulator; Once the qualified Republican elector votes by placing the Official Ballot in the tabulator, they must exit the building.
- No ballot may be cast, or accepted for counting before the Moderator declares the voting open and after the Moderator declares the voting closed.
- There is no proxy voting at this Caucus; each elector has the duty to mark his or her own ballot and place it into the tabulator.
- During voting, the tabulator will be under the direct supervision and control of the Tally Clerk and his or her assistants.

Counting Ballots and Announcing Results

- When the voting is closed, the Tally Clerk and his or her assistants will commence the counting procedure.
 - Any ballot which has more than the number of votes allowed for an office or is otherwise improperly marked, in the sole discretion of the Moderator, will not be counted if there is any ambiguity as to the intent of the elector.
 - In the event that five (5) or fewer votes separate the top two candidates for any office, votes for that position will be automatically recounted via the standard election recounting procedures.
 - In case of a tie vote, the Moderator shall cast one vote to break the tie.

- When all ballots have been counted, the Moderator will announce the results of the Caucus.

Rules and Procedural Issues

- The Moderator, in consultation with the Rules Committee, is the sole interpreter of the Rules, and all rulings of the Moderator are deemed final.