

SAVE THE DATE: NEW CANAAN REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023 - SAXE MIDDLE SCHOOL

***** SIX THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2023 REPUBLICAN CAUCUS IN NEW CANAAN *****

1. When and where is it, and what time exactly can I vote?

Tuesday, July 25th, 2023 at Saxe Middle School – Doors will open at 6:00pm. The Caucus Meeting will take place in the Auditorium and will begin at 6:30pm. Candidates for contested offices will make speeches as part of the Caucus Meeting. Voting will begin at approximately 6:45pm in the Gym. Voting will end at 9:00pm sharp¹. **Those interested in voting only and not listening to speeches should arrive after 6:45pm and head directly to the Gym after checking in.**

2. Who can vote in the Republican Caucus?

The criteria for attending the caucus are as follows: **(1) You must be a registered New Canaan Republican;** and (2) You must be at least 18 years old as of the caucus date and eligible to vote at the time of the Caucus. Please note that you may not vote on an absentee basis. The Caucus is a meeting and you must attend in person. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!

Voters registered as “Unaffiliated” who switch their party affiliation to Republican up to noon on Monday, July 24th are eligible to vote in the Republican Caucus. Voters who switch from another party to Republican must wait 3 months for the party privileges to vest and are not eligible to vote in the Republican caucus during the vesting period. To check your voter registration status, please call Joan McLaughlin - the Republican Registrar of Voters - at 203-594-3060 or email her at joan.mclaughlin@newcanaanct.gov.

3. What is a Caucus and how does it differ from a Primary?

The Caucus is a political process managed by the New Canaan Republican Party. At the Caucus, New Canaan Republicans gather to endorse candidates to run in the November 2023 election, including First Selectman, Selectmen, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Assessment Appeals.

It is important to understand that a Caucus is an actual meeting, on a designated day, at a designated hour and place, as set forth in the New Canaan Republican Town Committee’s Bylaws. The timing of the caucus is determined by state law and under an election calendar published by the Connecticut Secretary of State. As such, the Caucus must be held on a date publicized in advance by public notice during an 8 day period in July.

Caucuses also differ from primaries in that they are managed and overseen by the New Canaan Republican Party, not the Town of New Canaan.

¹ Voting can be extended under Caucus Rules if the Caucus Meeting runs late; Any extension will be announced

In some caucuses, such as Iowa's, participants openly show support for their candidates by raising hands or breaking into groups, but in New Canaan's Republican caucus, voting is anonymous and done with a paper ballot inserted into tabulator just like general elections.

4. What can you expect?

Upon entering the Saxe Middle School, you will see tables staffed by the Republican Registrar of Voters. You will check in at a table corresponding to your street address and the person will check your party registration and eligibility to vote. Please bring a state-issued photo ID. Once you are verified as a qualified New Canaan Republican elector, you will receive your ballot.

Do not give your ballot to anyone else. No proxy voting is allowed - only you are allowed to vote by placing your ballot into the tabulator.

Entrance into the Auditorium and Gym are limited to qualified New Canaan Republicans. Your ballot will be your "admissions pass" must be shown to gain admission to either the Auditorium or Gym. Children may accompany parents who are qualified electors. Once you have voted by putting your ballot into the tabulator, you will be required to exit the building and it is no longer possible attend the Caucus Meeting.

Because the caucus is a meeting, several minutes will be spent at the start convening the meeting under formal rules of parliamentary procedure: Appointing a permanent Moderator, Secretary, Rules Committee; Adopting rules; and so forth. We estimate that voting will commence at approximately 6:45pm. We will also have candidate speeches as in prior years. Voting will be open during candidate speeches.

Voting will close at 9:00pm sharp (unless extended as explained in footnote #1).

If all you want to do is cast your vote and leave, you may. But if you are interested in being more informed about the candidates before you cast your vote we encourage you to stay and listen to the candidates' speeches prior to casting your vote.

Once the voting closes, we will count the ballots using the tabulator and we plan to announce our Republican Party endorsed candidates as soon as possible.

5. Why should you care?

It's important to show up and vote, particularly if you feel strongly about one candidate or another. If you don't attend the caucus, you're letting someone else decide who our Republican candidates are going to be in the November election.

Please join us – your vote may make the difference.

6. Where can I find more information?

Visit the New Canaan Republican Town Committee's website: www.newcanaanrepublicans.org