

Precinct Overview

What is a Precinct?

A precinct is where elections are won or lost because it is where people live and vote. In your precinct, you know the people, the schools, the churches, the community centers, and the small businesses. You understand the assets and needs of your area and you have the desire to improve it.

What is a Precinct President?

The South Carolina Democratic Party's campaign organization begins with the Precinct President. Being a Precinct President means understanding and promoting our Party's message and utilizing the tools the County and State Democratic Parties provide to organize your precinct, and educate and turn out the voters. It involves a consistent commitment and it's important to be active both in and out of campaign season.

How do I become a Precinct President?

Precinct Presidents are elected by ballot election or appointment by the county executive committee. Any Democratic voter is eligible to become a Precinct President and serve as a precinct officer in the precinct in which he or she lives.

What is the Precinct President term of office?

Each precinct President serves a two-year term, elected in even years.

What are the duties and restrictions of being a Precinct President?

Following the main duties for Precinct President:

- Assist in registering Democratic voters
- Canvass and campaign in your precinct on behalf of all Democratic candidates
- Assist with Get Out The vote (GOTV) projects
- Election Day, assist in turning out a maximum number of Democratic votes
- Precinct Presidents or other Democratic Party Officers may vote for any candidate they wish, but they may **not** publicly support a member of another party. This means a Democratic Party Officer may not have his or her name on the literature or campaign committee of a candidate from another party. He or she may not speak publicly on the candidate's behalf

or put another party's sign in his or her yard. Democratic Party Officers are also prohibited from handing out another party's campaign literature.

What makes an effective Precinct Officer?

- **Know your precinct:** Know the boundaries, the number of households and apartment complexes, the religious centers, schools and businesses. Obtain a map of the area and study it.
- **Know your neighbors:** Get acquainted with the Democrats and Independents in your precinct. Learn their interests and concerns. Get to know them on a personal level as much as possible and make sure they know you are a resource for them.
- **Know your election laws:** Keep informed on election laws and other rules concerning poll managers and poll workers. Know the facts about state and city elections, school board elections, and bond elections. Build a relationship with the election commission.
- **Know your elected officials:** Keep an accurate list of local, state, and federal officials. Know when their term ends, be aware of their public forums, and have their contact information handy.
- **Know the issues:** Stay up to date on the issues that matter to your neighborhood, city, county, and state. Sign up on www.scdp.org to receive emails from the State Party.
- **Know your Party organization:** Get acquainted with your Precinct and County Party officers, as well as State Party staff. They are a resource for you.

- **The Role of the County Executive Committee Member**
- Each Precinct Executive Committee person is a member of the County Executive Committee, which is the governing body of the County Party. The Committee is responsible for seeing that the County Democratic Party carries out its legal duties, and is organized well enough to be a significant factor in electing Democrats.