

DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen

What is a DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman?

- DEC Committeemen and women are the elected members of each DEC. They serve four-year terms beginning in December following a Presidential Election. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(4\)](#)]
- In some areas DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen are known as Precinct Captains or Precinct Leaders.

How Does One Become a DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman?

- A candidate for DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman files a [Candidate Oath](#) with the county Supervisor of Elections (SOE). [[FLA. STAT. section 99.021\(1\)\(a\)1. and 99.021\(2\)](#)]
- The [Candidate Oath](#) is filed during the qualifying period for the Primary Election in a Presidential Election year. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(4\)](#)]
- A candidate for DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman must reside in the precinct or district that he or she is seeking to be elected in. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]
- A candidate for DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman cannot have been a registered member of any other political party for 365 days before the beginning of the qualifying period. Note: a candidate who was previously registered No Party Affiliation (NPA) and is now a registered Democrat is not considered to have been a registered member of any other political party. [[FLA. STAT. section 99.021\(1\)\(b\)](#)]
- DEC's can fill vacancies in committee positions if no one is elected or a vacancy occurs from any other cause; however, per FDP Bylaws and the FDP DEC Manual, vacancies cannot be filled prior to or during the DEC Organizational Meeting. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(5\)](#)]

If DEC's Can Fill Vacancies, Why Do We Need to File Candidate Oaths During the Primary Candidate Qualifying Period?

- Only DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen elected during the August Primary in Presidential Election years are eligible to run for DEC officer positions and vote for DEC officers at the DEC Organizational Meeting in December of the Presidential Election year. (FDP will provide additional details about conducting DEC Reorganizational Meetings in the fall.)

Do DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen appear on the local ballot?

- If only one qualified candidate files for a position, his or her name will not appear on the ballot and he or she is declared elected to the DEC. If more than one qualified candidate files for a position, their names will appear on the August Primary ballot in their precinct or district. [[FLA. STAT. section 101.252\(2\)](#)]

How many Committeemen and Committeewoman Can there be Per Precinct or District?

- [FDP Bylaws Article V Section 1.1.2](#) allows for a man and a woman from each precinct to be elected. If the *Democratic registration* of a precinct exceeds 1,000 as of January 1 in a Presidential Election year, an additional 1 man and 1 woman are entitled to be elected for each additional 1,000 registered Democrats, or fraction thereof, to represent the precinct. To determine the number of precinct committeeperson positions in your county, you should request the *Democratic registration* for each county precinct as of January 1, 2020 from your SOE. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]

- Example: a precinct with 2,298 *registered Democrats* has 3 precinct committeemen and 3 precinct committeewomen positions in that precinct.
- [FDP Bylaws Article V Section 1.1.2](#) also says at any time after the Primary election if a precinct's registered Democrats increases, additional precinct committeeperson positions are created for each additional 1,000 Democrats, or fraction thereof. These positions are filled by the DEC according to its procedure for filling vacancies.
- [FDP Bylaws Article V Section 1.1.3](#) provides an optional precinct system *for counties with fewer than 200 precincts*. Upon amending the local DEC bylaws, notifying their SOE and notifying the State Chair, these DEC's may elect an additional 1 man and 1 woman to represent a precinct which exceeds 1,000 *registered voters* as of January 1 in a Presidential Election year. To determine the number of precinct committeeperson positions in these counties, you should request the *voter registration* for each county precinct as of January 1, 2020 from your SOE. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]
 - Example: a county using the optional precinct system that has a precinct with 2,298 *registered voters* has 2 precinct committeemen and 2 precinct committeewoman positions in that precinct.
- [FDP Bylaws Article V Section 1.1.3](#) also says at any time after the Primary election if a precinct's registered voters increases to 1,000, additional precinct committeeperson positions are created. These positions are filled by the DEC according to its procedure for filling vacancies.
- [FDP Bylaws Article V Section 1.1.4](#) provides an optional district system *for counties with over 100 precincts*. Upon approval by a majority vote of their DEC members, a certified letter notifying the State Chair prior to December 31 preceding a Presidential Election year, and approval of their Board of County Commissioners, these DEC's may elect a man and a woman from each district. If the *Democratic registration* of a district exceeds 1,000 as of January 1 in a Presidential Election year, an additional 1 man and 1 woman are entitled to be elected for each additional 1,000 registered Democrats, or fraction thereof, to represent the district. To determine the number of district committeeperson positions in these counties, you should request the *Democratic registration* for each county district as of January 1, 2020 from your SOE. [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]
 - Example: a county using the optional district system that has a district with 2,298 registered Democrats has 3 district committeemen and 3 district committeewoman positions in that district.

Can a Candidate for DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman file to run for another public office?

- While [Florida Statutes 99.012 \(2\)](#) prohibit people from qualifying as a candidate for more than one public office, [Florida Statutes 97.021\(6\)](#) clarifies that the term "candidate" does not include candidates for political party executive committees; therefore, those filing for a DEC Committeeman or Committeewoman position can also file to qualify for another position.

Do DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen have any other candidate filing requirements?

- Unlike candidates for other positions, DEC Committeemen and Committeewomen do not have any other filing requirements unless they receive contributions or make expenditures, in which case they must file a report of all contributions and expenditures on the 4th day preceding the Primary Election. [[FLA. STAT. section 106.0702](#)]

The Candidate Oath has Options for Precinct, District, and State Committeeman or Committeewoman. Which Do We Select?

- Most of our DEC's use the Precinct System or Optional Precinct System described in [FDP Bylaws Article V, Section 1.1.3](#). Candidates in these counties should select "Precinct Committeeman or Committeewoman." [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]

- Per [FDP Bylaws Article V, Section 1.1.4](#), counties with more than 100 precincts may have voted to use the Optional District System. In these counties, candidates should select “District Committeeman or Committeewoman.” [[FLA. STAT. section 103.091\(1\)](#)]
- The Florida Democratic Party holds the election of its State Committeemen and Committeewomen during the DECs’ Organizational Meetings held in December following the Presidential Election. After being elected at the DEC meeting, the State Committeemen and Committeewomen file their [Candidate Oath](#) with the county SOE, selecting “State Committeeman or Committeewoman.”