



# HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEE

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The most local level of organization for **both parties** in Illinois is the **County Central Committee**. Depending on where you live, members of this committee are elected by - and represent - your **Precinct, Ward, or Township**. Thus, members of the county committees are called **Precinct, Ward, and Township Committeemen**. All committee members serve 2-year terms.

The next election will be: **March 21, 2006**.

The filing deadline to run during that election was : December 19, 2005

NOTE: In some counties, elections for **Township Committeemen** take place in **odd-numbered years**, whereas elections for **Ward** and/or **Precinct Committeemen** take place in **even-numbered years**.

## To become a member of your county committee through the regular election process:

1. You must be eligible based on the following criteria:
  - 18 years of age;
  - Registered to vote as a member of the party of your choice
  - A resident of the political subdivision in which you are running.
2. In some counties, you must gather signatures on a petition, which must then be notarized before it is filed, to declare your candidacy (see deadline listed above). The specific rules governing petitions, primaries and caucuses vary from county to county. Your county (or in some cases Township) chair is the best resource for more information. Contact information can be found on the websites listed below.

## It is often possible to join the committee between regular elections:

- You can fill a **mid-term vacancy**. Some vacancies are filled through election by the current committee members from the relevant geographical subdivision (subject to approval by the county committee as a whole). Other vacancies are filled through appointment by the County Chair (generally upon recommendation from the Township Chair.) The Chair may appoint you in a precinct other than the one you live in.
- Each committeeman may have an **Alternate**, to take over his/her duties when he/she cannot be present. These alternates are called "**proxies**". They are selected in writing by current committeemen, and submitted to the County Central Committee. Check with your county or township chair to see if there are currently members without proxies. One of them might be willing to select you as his/her proxy.
- There are often **other opportunities to get involved** without yet being a formal member of the committee – volunteer to help, people will come to know you, and you will increase your chances of becoming a member through the next regular election.

For more information, visit:

**Democratic Party of Illinois** [www.ildems.com](http://www.ildems.com)

**Illinois Republican Party** [www.ilgop.org](http://www.ilgop.org)

### **County Democratic Party websites:**

### **County Republican Party websites:**

Cook: <http://www.cookcountydems.com/>

<http://cookrepublicans.com/>

DuPage: <http://www.dupagedemocrats.org/>

<http://www.dupagegophq.com/hq.htm>

Lake: <http://www.lakedems.org>

<http://www.lcgop.org/>

Peoria: <http://www.peoriademocrats.org/>

<http://www.ilgopeoria.org>

Kane: <http://www.kanedems.org>

<http://www.kanegop.org/>