

Area Coordinators¹

Area coordinators shall be appointed by and be responsible to and shall serve at the pleasure of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of no less than five and no more than ten precincts. Area coordinators shall maintain regular contact with precinct officials in those precincts for which they are responsible. They will be expected to identify problem areas and coordinate activities between precincts and the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee regarding meetings, dollars drives, general elections, and other party activities. They shall also assist in training new precinct officials and assist new officials in organizing their precincts.

Rules Governing Qualifications, Elections and Meetings of the Democratic Precinct Officials of Montgomery County, Maryland, section B²

¹ See also, section E of the Rules Governing Qualifications, Elections and Meetings of Democratic Precinct Officials of Montgomery County, Maryland.

² This superseded the policy adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee on May 19, 1971, and amended on November 17, 1971.

The May 19, 1971 policy stated:

1. Appointments

All Precinct Area Coordinators shall be appointed by the Montgomery County Central Committee for a period of 2 years. Appointments shall be made at two year intervals beginning November 1, 1971. (All present appointments shall expire at that date).

2. Duties

The duties of the Precinct Area Coordinators shall be as follows:

- a. Be a telephone link between precinct chairmen and the Central Committee Registration Chairman and the Dollars Drive Chairman
- b. Perform any of the following duties upon the specific request of the Central Committee:
 1. Orientation of newly-appointed precinct chairmen,
 2. Help plan precinct Registration and Dollars Drive,
 3. Help Precinct Chairmen find area and block workers,
 4. Arrange for the distribution of material to Precinct Chairmen as need arises,
 5. Encourage the writing and distribution of precinct newsletters,
 6. Encourage Precinct Chairmen to review the names of Democrats in their precincts for qualified applicants for State and County Boards and Commissions,
 7. Recommend officers for leaderless precincts where vacancies exist and as vacancies occur,
 8. Bring back to the Precinct Organization Committee an overall view of organizational strengths, weaknesses and problems. Report on successful techniques that can be adopted for general use.

3. Removal

Any Precinct Area Coordinator may be replaced by the Democratic Central Committee for failure to perform adequately the above duties.

The November 17, 1971 policy stated that “[The] Term of [Area] coordinators [is] to run from July 1 to June 30.”

[The Labor Advisory Committee shall] assist the Central Committee Precinct Organization Committee members in terms of filing vacancies (existing and new ones)[.]
Adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, December 14, 1977

Any . . . [area] coordinator not performing the required support for all Democratic candidates or any precinct official or coordinator in violation of the precinct rules with respect to the support of all Democratic nominees in any way, with the inclusion of the defacing of the official Democratic Sample Ballot, may be suspended or removed if that person is a campaign appointment, . . . by the chairperson or vice chairperson of the Central Committee or the Co-Chairpersons of the Precinct Organization [Committee].
Adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, September 20, 1978

As an emergency measure, any member of the precinct organization committee, upon consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, may remove any . . . area coordinator who engages in obvious and flagrant violation of the Precinct Officials' Rules in a manner detrimental to the Democratic Party; on general election day, any member of the Central Committee may summarily remove any precinct official or area coordinator for such conduct.

Any removal shall be subject to the usual hearing procedures provided for in the Rules after the general election.

Adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, September 15, 1982

Section 2. Objections to Candidates: If an elected official or area coordinator raises an objection [to an application for a vacant precinct chair or vice chair position], the applicant will be entitled to meet with a review committee consisting of the Chair(s) of the Precinct Organization Committee, the Central Committee members elected from that district, the area coordinator for that precinct, and (in the case of precinct vice chair applicants) the precinct chair of that precinct, where the applicant can answer any objections. The invitation to the applicant will include the text of the objection. The applicant may bring an advisor to the review committee meeting who may advise and/or speak on the applicant's behalf. The objector may attend the meeting. Where the review committee overrides the objection, the candidate's name will be submitted to the Central Committee for voting at the next Central Committee meeting. The applicant shall have the right to appeal the decision of the review committee to the Central Committee.

Section 2 of policy
adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, May 9, 1995³

A Precinct Chair or Vice Chair will be deemed to have moved out of their precinct (and therefore to have resigned) if the Central Committee receives a letter certifying that the Precinct official has moved out of their precinct signed by either (1) two District Liaisons from that district or (2) the Area Coordinator for that precinct and one District Liaison for

³ This policy superseded the Procedural Methods to be Followed in Selecting Precinct Officials for Appointment, adopted by the Central Committee on January 15, 1975, which did not mention area coordinators.

that district. Additionally, a letter must be sent to the precinct official's last known address in the precinct (endorsed "Do Not Forward") and that that letter must have been returned.

Adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, June 9, 1998

The Assistant Secretary shall: . . .

5. see to it that the "Circulation List" (i.e., the Central Committee reviewed list of applicants for precinct chair and vice chair vacancies provided for in section 1 of the Policy on Filling Vacancies adopted by the Central Committee on May 9, 1995) is distributed in a timely manner to: . . .(d) all precinct chairs and vice chairs whose area coordinator is on the Circulation List, and (e) the area coordinator responsible for any precincts on the Circulation List. . . .

Duties of the Assistant Secretary, § 5(d)-(e),
adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, April 13, 1999

. . . the long-standing practice (in accordance with section C(2)(c) of the Precinct Organization Rules) has been that precinct officials may support Democratic candidates on primary election day, provided that they are not wearing their Precinct Chair, Precinct Vice Chair, or Area coordinator pins when they campaign.

Minutes of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, February 8, 2000

§ 1. Purpose.

This policy will govern reorganization of the Montgomery County Democratic Party resulting from the redistricting of the Maryland General Assembly that occurs every ten years after the national census; as well as other precinct boundary changes that take place between decennial reapportionments.⁴

§ 2. Implementation Date of New Legislative Districts.⁵

The Precinct Organization will remain organized under the previous election's legislative districts until the second Tuesday in August of the first year that state legislators will be elected in using the new districts. (For instance, since the first election of state legislators to take place after the redistricting from the 2000 census is in November 2002, the Precinct Organization would use the 1990 census legislative districts until August 8, 2002, and then switch over to the new legislative districts on August 9, 2002.)⁶

§ 3. Definitions.

For purposes of this policy:

- (a) "Redistricting Years" means the years specified in § 2 of this policy;
- (b) "Old legislative districts" means the legislative districts that were in effect before the Redistricting Year;

⁴ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee added "as well as other precinct boundary changes that take place between decennial reapportionments".

⁵ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee added "of New Legislative Districts".

⁶ On June 11, 2002, the Central Committee replaced the three references to "July" in this section with "August".

- (c) “New legislative districts” means the legislative districts that were in effect starting with the Redistricting Year;
- (d) “Precinct Organization Rules” means the “Rules Governing Qualifications, Elections and Meetings of Democratic Precinct Officials of Montgomery County, Maryland”
- (e) “Permanent Chair” is a Precinct Chair who is neither a Provisional Chair or a campaign appointment Chair;
- (f) “Permanent Vice Chair” is a Precinct Vice Chair who is neither a Provisional Vice Chair or a campaign appointment Vice Chair.⁷

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§ 5. Term of Office of Area Coordinators.

Area Coordinators serve at the pleasure of the Central Committee. In Redistricting Years, the term of office of all Area Coordinators will expire on the second Tuesday of August.⁸ In other years, the term of office for all of the Area Coordinators in a particular legislative district will end at the start of the third regular monthly meeting of the Central Committee held after the Montgomery County Board of Elections changes the number of precincts for that legislative district.⁹

§ 6. Nomination of New Area Coordinators.

(a)¹⁰ No later than August 1 of each Redistricting Year, the members of the Central Committee will meet according to the new legislative district that each resides in and will draw up a list of persons to be nominated as Area Coordinators, effective the second Tuesday of August. The lists will designate which precincts each Area Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating. (As required by § B of the Precinct Organization Rules, each Area Coordinator is to be responsible for no fewer than five precincts and no more than ten precincts.) Each delegation should promptly send their list to the Chair of the Precinct Organization Committee, who will include them in the Circulation List for the August Central Committee meeting.¹¹ Precincts with no registered voters will not be assigned to any area coordinator.¹²

(b) When the Board of Elections changes the number of precincts in a legislative district in a non-Redistricting Year, no later than the week before the terms of the Area Coordinators from that district are scheduled to expire, the members of the Central Committee from that legislative district will meet will draw up a list of persons to be nominated as Area Coordinators, effective the next regular meeting of the Central Committee. The list will designate which precincts each Area Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating. (As required by § B of the Precinct Organization Rules, each Area Coordinator is to be responsible for no fewer than five precincts and no more

⁷ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee added subsections (e) and (f).

⁸ On June 11, 2002, the Central Committee replaced “July” with “August”.

⁹ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee added the final sentence of § 5.

¹⁰ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee, designated the previous text of § 6 as § 6(a).

¹¹ On June 11, 2002, the Central Committee replaced the three references to “July” in this section with “August”.

¹² On June 11, 2002, the Central Committee added the last sentence of § 6.

than ten precincts. Precincts with no registered voters will not be assigned to any area coordinator.) Each affected delegation should promptly send its list to the Chair of the Precinct Organization Committee, who will include the delegation's list in the Circulation List for the next Central Committee meeting.¹³

§ 7. Approval of New Area Coordinators.

At the Central Committee meeting when the Area Coordinators' positions are to expire,¹⁴ the Central Committee will vote on approval of the Area Coordinators as part of the normal process of approving the Circulation List.

§ 8. Multi-district Precincts.

If, after the Board of Elections has finalized the precinct boundaries for the next election, a precinct is split between two or more new legislative districts, the precinct will be considered (for purposes of Party organization) to be in the district that contains most of the registered Democrats in that precinct.

Policy on Legislative Redistricting and Party Organization, §§ 1-3 and 5-8,
adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, May 14, 2002,
amended by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, June 11, 2002, and
further amended by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, March 14, 2006

§ 1. Definitions.

"Campaign appointments" are appointments of Acting Area Coordinators, Acting Precinct Chairs, and Acting Precinct Vice Chairs.

"Next election" is the next general election, primary election, special general election, or special primary election. "Next election" does not include precinct chair and vice chair elections held under § D of the Precinct Organization Rules.

§ 2. Expiration of term of office.

Each appointment of an Acting Precinct Chair or an Acting Precinct Vice Chair will expire at the end of the day of the next election held in that precinct. Each appointment of an Acting Area Coordinator will expire at the end of the day of the next election held in any of the precincts within the Acting Area Coordinator's area.

§ 3. Appointments by the Central Committee.

Campaign appointments may be made by the Central Committee at its last regular meeting prior to the next election. If possible, proposed campaign appointments should be included in that meeting's Circulation List – however, campaign appointments do not have to be held over to the next meeting of the Central Committee.

¹³ On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee added subsection (b).

¹⁴ On June 11, 2002, the Central Committee replaced "At the July Central Committee meeting" with "At the August Central Committee meeting". On March 14, 2006, the Central Committee replaced "At the August Central Committee meeting" with "At the Central Committee meeting when the Area Coordinators' positions are to expire".

§ 4. Appointments by the Chair of the Central Committee.

Campaign appointments may be made by the Chair of the Central Committee provided that:

- (a) all of the voting Central Committee members who live in that legislative district agree to the appointment; and
- (b) the appointment is made after the meeting specified in § 3 of this policy and before the next election.

§ 5. Notification.

The Assistant Secretary will see to it that a notification of any campaign appointment is promptly made (by electronic mail) to all persons specified in § 5 of the Policy on Duties of the Assistant Secretary, adopted by the Central Committee, April 13, 1999.¹⁵

Policy on Campaign Appointments,
adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, August 13, 2002

¹⁵ Section 5 of the Policy on Duties of the Assistant Secretary, adopted by the Central Committee, April 13, 1999, states that: “The Assistant Secretary shall . . . see to it that the “Circulation List” . . . is distributed in a timely manner to: (a) all Central Committee members and all elected Democratic public office holders (elected as Democrats) representing all or part of Montgomery County, (b) the precinct chair, if any, of any precinct where a vice chair is on the Circulation List, (c) the precinct vice chair, if any, of any precinct where a chair is on the Circulation List, (d) all precinct chairs and vice chairs whose area coordinator is on the Circulation List, and (e) the area coordinator responsible for any precincts on the Circulation List.”