



Cumberland County



Republican Committee

Welcome aboard!

The planned destination of the Cumberland County Republican Committee is victory for Republican candidates. As a Precinct Committee Person (Committee member) you are the backbone of the grassroots activities of the Republican Party. You are the representative of the Republican Party in your precinct or commonly referred to as your neighborhood. Fulfilling your role is critical to the winning of elections. To follow is information to introduce you to the responsibilities of a committee member.

Lets start with what a precinct is. A “precinct is a subdivision of a county, town, city, or ward for election purposes.” A precinct represents one polling place. There are two committee members for each precinct, and they are either elected for two years on even years during the Primary election or appointed by the Committee Chairperson to serve until the next Primary election in which Committee members are elected.

Your main duties:

1. Get to know your Republican and Independent neighbors:

- A. Consider hosting a house party and invite your neighbors to talk about politics and issues concerning your precinct. Consider partnering with a few other Precincts’ Committee People in your area to host an event like a picnic.
- B. Canvass (going door-to-door) the precinct using the walking list provided in your poll bag each election. Keep track of changes in voter data on your lists (change of address or phone, candidate preferences, etc.). Record little reminders about that voter to reference when you visit again.

2. Register new Republican voters, either at their door or online.

- A. Canvass Republican households and make sure all eligible voters in the house are registered at their residence address. A voter is responsible for updating their registration any time they move or change their name. online information at <https://www.gopccpa.org/voter-information.html>
- B. Check your local paper for home sales in your precinct to welcome new neighbors and register them to vote.
- C. Contact members of groups you belong to and register them to vote, either in person or online.

3. Participate in Cumberland County Republican Committee meetings, events, and activities including providing assistance to the Cumberland County Republican Committee (CCRC) by staffing registration drives and tables, supporting Republican candidates, and taking part in local fundraising efforts.

4. Be a visibly proud Cumberland County Republican - display yard signs, window signs, campaign buttons, bumper stickers.

5. Staff your poll on election day or find replacements. *There will be training provided on how to do this.*

6. Recruit other volunteers in your precinct and communicate with them regularly. Adding volunteers means you can divide the precinct for more personal contact with the voters. It also means providing additional support and backup for each other and for your candidates. Develop winning strategies by utilizing the group’s collective skills, contacts, and energy to get the job done. *Page 3 has information on recruiting volunteers.*

Other Nuts & Bolts

1. **Know your precinct:** the number of houses and apartment complexes, the religious centers, schools, and businesses. Obtain a map of the area and study it. Look at the Cumberland County Bureau of Elections website <https://www.ccpa.net/66/Bureau-of-Elections> for information about your precinct in the section on the election results. Know who the elected officials representing your precinct and make an effort to meet them.
2. **Get acquainted** with the Republicans in your precinct; meet their families and 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. **Give them your phone number and email address** (*consider making business cards for this purpose*). Make sure that in households with at least one identified Republican, you ask all the other adults if they too would like to register to vote. Keep track of young people who will be turning 18 on or before Election Day in May or November and get them registered to vote. **Most importantly, focus on relationships; build trust.** Our focus is on the Republican voters first then Independent voters.
3. **Stay up to date on current events.** Read your local newspapers to learn about the major concerns affecting your city, county, and the state. Know the prevalent issues in your community and how people in your precinct feel about them. Stay informed by visiting the PA GOP and CCRC websites. www.pagop.org <https://www.gopccpa.org/> Sign up for the email list on the state and county websites. Sign up for the email updates for elected officials who represent your precinct. Finally, stay up-to-date on what's happening in state government by visiting the Senate Republican Caucus at <http://www.pasenategop.com/> and the House Republican Caucus at <http://www.pahousegop.com/> Other resources can be found at <https://www.gopccpa.org/resources.html>
4. **Why is canvassing important?**

A canvass is walking door-to-door or calling and getting to know the people in your precinct. Canvassing - both door-to-door and telephone - is a valuable method for mobilizing Republican voters and creating visibility for legislative and issue campaigns. Mature canvass networks have refined strategies and techniques in petitioning, targeting, voter registration, letter writing, and other grassroots campaigns. The best way to accomplish this task is getting to know your neighbors and their needs. Canvassing does this. Make sure you follow through on all requests for help. If you don't know the answers to questions, say, "I don't know, but I will find out and get back to you."
5. **"Service"** is the key word to remember in neighborhood canvassing. The voters in your precinct will come to rely on you and the Republican Party for answers to their questions and solutions to their problems.
 - A. Make every effort to meet everyone (Republicans) in your precinct. Start and build a relationship.
 - B. Let them know "they are not alone," that there are Republicans and others in the area who agree with them.
 - C. Find out what issues are most important to them and share Republican principles and values with them.
 - D. Make sure everyone in the house is registered to vote at their residence address.
 - E. Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) prior to elections. More details will be provided at the training.
 - F. Recruit volunteers.
 - G. Educate on issues.
 - H. Educate on candidates.
 - I. NEVER try to convince someone you are right, and they are wrong. We'll never gain support trying to convince people they are wrong.
 - J. Let them know you're a Republican resource for them, and there are Republican activities they can take part in and candidates they can vote for who share their values.

The bottom-line goal is this: we win elections by getting all of our supporters to vote – whether by absentee ballot or at the poll on Election Day.

Recruiting Volunteers

Working your precinct effectively requires help. Recruiting volunteers can happen as you build relationships with the Republican voters in your precinct.

Here is a general way you might approach voters to volunteer:

Hello, may I speak with Mr. / Ms./ Mrs. ? _____ Good evening, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer with the local Republican Party. We're organizing our precinct to get more Republicans active in our community. The coming election will be very important for our city/ county / country, and we're working to elect Republicans who agree with our values and will fight for our principles Would you like to hear about our plans for getting this done? We're having a meeting on (date) _____ at (time) _____ at (location) _____ to get organized. There's no obligation at this time other than to be interested. Will you join us?

Have descriptions of the jobs you need volunteers to do. The CCRC will be working on these in the future. You will be coordinating the volunteers in your precinct along with the other precinct's committee person.

- Please visit the CCRC website <https://www.gopccpa.org/leadership.html> to find a copy of the current Committee bylaws. Please note Chairman Lou Capozzi is creating a Bylaws Review Committee to make recommendations on revisions to the current bylaws which will then come before the full Committee for discussion and a vote.

From the bylaws – The duties of a member of the Cumberland County Republican Committee shall consist of the following:

- a. To faithfully attend meetings of the Cumberland County Republican Committee;
 - b. To support endorsed party candidates;
 - c. To arrange for appropriate distribution of campaign literature, posters and other election materials;
 - d. To arrange for appropriate coverage of the polling places on primary and general election days;
 - e. To attempt to register new Republican voters;
 - f. To faithfully support the official functions and fundraising events of the Cumberland County Republican Committee; and
 - g. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the County Chairman
- There will be an in-person Precinct Committee Person and Poll Worker training in the Fall before the November 5, 2019 election. Please look for details to come out in September.

**Thank you for your willingness to serve.
You are essential to the grassroots success of the Republican Party.
The Cumberland County Republican Committee
appreciates and thanks you!!**

Sources for this Precinct Committee Person Information Sheet were various documents found on the internet from both Dems and Republicans. Good information is good information regardless of the source. Created by Theresa Myers for the CCRC July 2019.