

DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOARD ELECTIONS
APRIL 16, 2016, ALBANY**

TO: DRC Voting Members

FROM: DRC nominating committee (Mike Schell, Kim Muller, Steve Jones, Phil Jones)

RE: NOTIFICATION OF DRC BOARD ELECTIONS- 2016

There will be elections for six directors to the DRC Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the DRC, April 16 in Albany. Five directors will be elected to a two-year term; one will be elected to a one-year term (to finish a vacated position that expires in 2017).

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

To have your name placed on the printed ballot as a candidate for the Board you must, **no later than Midnight, Tuesday, April 5, 2016**, send Mike Schell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at **michaelwschell@yahoo.com**, an email stating you are a candidate for the position.

Election process:

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the DRC membership, commencing at **9 am on April 16 at the Hilton Hotel, downtown Albany:**

1. Eligibility to Vote: Members eligible to vote must be:
 - a. County Chairs and State Committee members from the 47 member Counties; and
 - b. Current in their dues (paid before meeting is called to order).
2. Vacancies: The following is required for a State Committee position to be filled at the DRC for the purposes of this meeting, even if the State Committee has not yet acted on the appointment
 - a. The position is vacant
 - b. **Written** proof from the County Chair that a person has been duly recommended by their County Chair to fill that vacancy; and
 - c. Dues are paid before the meeting is called to order.
3. Proxy voting: DRC By-Laws provide that “a member may vote by a written proxy held by a registered Democrat from the absent member’s county, so long as said signed proxy is registered with the DRC Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting.”
 - a. Proxy forms will be distributed by and be available from the Secretary in advance of the meeting.
 - b. Proxy form is attached.
4. Weighted Votes: Each voter’s ballot will be given weight, as set forth in the by-laws.
 - a. Ballots may be color coded to indicate the value of the ballot; or
 - b. Voters may be given the number of ballots accorded by the bylaws.
 - c. Voting is by secret written ballot, except in the case of acclamation.

5. Candidates: To have names placed on the printed ballot, candidates **must meet the following:**
- a) **Must be a voting member of the DRC;**
 - b) **Must submit the statement of candidacy** by the above deadline. While nominations may be made from the floor, and write-in votes will be counted, candidates who do not file with the Nominating Committee by the deadline will not have their names appear on the written ballot.

6. Campaigning:

- a. Candidates are encouraged to reach out and inform the membership of their candidacies and qualifications; a list of email addresses may be requested from DRC Secretary, Jason Clark at jasonclark2001@msn.com
- b. Candidates may be given a limited defined time to speak at the meeting before the balloting, subject to the final decision of the nominating committee.
- c. A candidate who is not present may have a voting member speak for him/her.

7. Ballot:

- a. There will be one ballot listing all candidates for the Director position.
- b. The top five finishers will receive the two-year terms, the sixth finisher will receive the one-year term.
- c. Voters may mark up to six candidates.
- d. Ballots marked with more than six candidates will be disqualified.
- e. If there are only six candidates for director, and one opts to accept a one-year term, the election may be held by acclamation. The ballot will indicate incumbents and the home county of each candidate.

Geographic Diversity on the Board:

The by- laws require the nominating committee to seek geographic diversity on the board so that all regions of the DRC are fairly represented on the ballot:

1. The ballot will indicate incumbents and the home county of each candidate
2. Attached is a map showing the geographic distribution of current members of the board. This map will be updated as people become declared candidates and will be distributed by e-mail prior to the meeting.
3. Members from underrepresented regions are encouraged to seek election to the board, or to encourage other members from that region to seek office.

Incumbents:

The following incumbents presently hold the Directors seats up for election in 2016:

Mark Bellardini	St. Lawrence
Peter Bujanow	Columbia
John Hurley	Ontario
Lorie Longhany	Genesee
Richard Souza	Herkimer
Ted Young	Seneca

There are 5 officers and 4 incumbent directors who are not up for election until 2017. Those individuals represent the following counties:

Tompkins

Livingston (2)

St. Lawrence

Wayne

Schenectady

Livingston

Cattaraugus

Orleans

Wyoming

Information about Board responsibilities:

- 1) Directors meet in person three or four times a year and hold about as many telephone conference call meetings per year.
- 2) This is a working Board. Directors are expected to join at least one committee (Issues, By-Laws, Finance, Communications/Outreach, Political, Youth Recruitment and Retention and other ad hoc committees as needed).
- 3) A board member who misses three consecutive Executive Committee meetings is automatically removed from the board per the by-laws.