



## Filing for office in 2010

### All Party Executive Committee seats to be filled in May primary

All candidates running for office in the 2010 elections must file their official candidacy papers and fee during the filing window of January 11-30. The window closes at midnight on Saturday.

If you are filing for a county office or a district that lies completely within a county you must file with the county clerk. All other offices, including all legislative offices now, must file with the Secretary of State. In the meantime, if you haven't already, you should consider filing pre-candidacy papers. Pre-candidates are allowed to raise and spend campaign funds without officially running for a particular office until the period in January.

In addition to all of the government offices on the ballot in 2010, all of the Party Executive Committees' elected positions are on the ballot in the May 11th Primary. The State and County Executive Committees are the official public faces of the Democratic Party. These two committees are charged with all aspects of promoting the Democratic Party and its candidates in addition to setting Party policies, platforms, electing Party officers (like Chairs), electing national representatives, conventions, poll workers, etc. Also there are three district committees only tasked with filling vacancies in elected offices. These Committees include:

- State Executive Committee - two men and two women from each Senate District - no more than one man and/or woman from any county (except Kanawha) may be elected
- County Executive Committee - one man and one woman from each district
- Congressional District Committee - one man and one woman from each county
- Senatorial District Committee - one man and one woman from each county within each State Senate District\*
- Delegate District Committee - one man and one woman from each county within each House of Delegates District\*

\*Senate and Delegate districts that lie completely within county are governed by the County Executive Committee and do not have their own separate committee.

Many of the Party Executive Committee positions are held by good Democrats who serve aptly in their positions; however, some spots draw no interested candidates and those vacancies have to be filled by appointment after the Primary. After the election officials certify the results of the Primary each newly elected Executive Committee must meet (usually in late May or early June) for an organizational meeting to fill vacancies and elect officers.

The filing fee for Party Executive Committees is only \$20 for the State, \$10 for the County, and \$5 for District committees. So if you want to get more involved in your Democratic Party you should consider running for a Party Committee.