

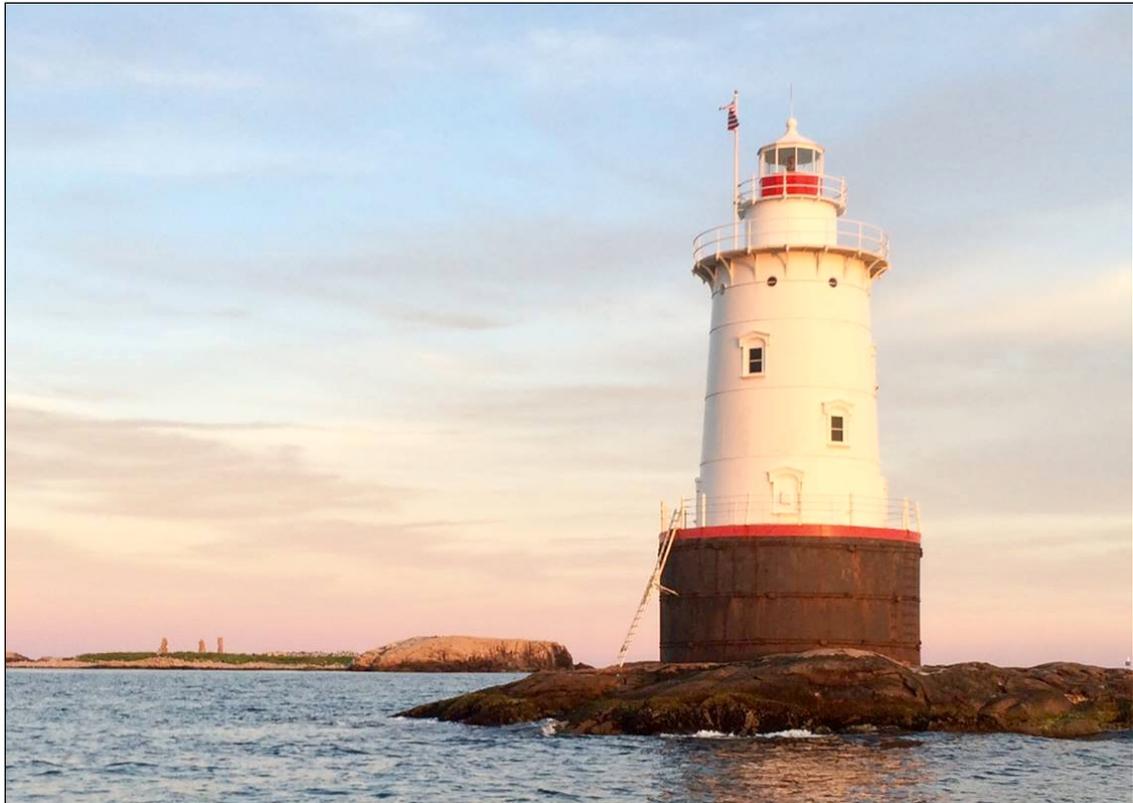
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# Running for Office

## Little Compton Democratic Town Committee

2018 Edition

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## Mission Statement

*We the Little Compton Democratic Town Committee engage our neighbors through civic action to build inclusive government at the local, state, and national levels. We believe in the core values of the Democratic Party: that this country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules.*



### We are dedicated to

- Supporting Democratic candidates at the local, state, and federal levels
- Promoting citizen input and civil conversation within all town boards and committees
- Increasing voter turnout
- Implementing proactive, community-based planning
- Advocating for transparency in government decision-making
- Sponsoring educational forums on relevant issues

**[littlecomptondems.org](http://littlecomptondems.org)**

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## Introduction

The Little Compton Democratic Town Committee (LCDTC) is committed to recruiting and supporting Democratic candidates for elective offices. The election process can be complicated and confusing, especially for first-time candidates. The LCDTC provides some basic election information here, including links to other information sources, such as the Secretary of State, Board of Elections, Ethics Commission, and Town of Little Compton.

## Vital Information

### Important 2018 dates

- ✓ Period to file a Declaration of Candidacy form: June 25, 26, 27
- ✓ Deadline for party committees to file endorsement form: June 28
- ✓ State Primary Election: September 12
- ✓ General Election: November 6

### Switching Parties

If you belong to one party and want to run as a candidate for another party, you must change your party at least 90 days prior to the date you will file your Declaration of Candidacy.

### LC Democratic Town Committee Contacts

Ellen Kinnane, *Committee Chair*; [elynchkinnane@gmail.com](mailto:elynchkinnane@gmail.com)

Steve Sherman, *Webmaster*; [info@littlecomptondems.org](mailto:info@littlecomptondems.org)

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## 2018 Elections

**2018 will be an important and lively political year, for local, state, and federal elective offices alike.**

**Little Compton** elects local officials in two different ways and on two different schedules. Most town officials are elected at the biennial General Election held in November of every even year, when Rhode Island elected offices and federal offices are also on the ballot. The procedures for these elections are governed by state and federal law.

In 2018, elections for the following town offices will occur:

- ✓ Five Town Council members, for two-year terms
- ✓ Three (of five) School Committee members, for four-year terms
- ✓ Town Treasurer and Tax Collector, for two-year term
- ✓ Town Clerk, for two-year term
- ✓ Town Moderator, for two-year term

(As a result of a 2016 amendment to the Home Rule Charter, the former three-member elected Board of Assessors has been replaced with a single Tax Assessor appointed by the Town Council.)

Members of the town Beach Commission (staggered four-year terms) and Budget Committee (staggered two-year terms) are elected at the Annual Financial Town Meeting in the third full week of May. As provided in the town's Home Rule Charter (Sec. 204), these are non-partisan elections. Candidates for the two boards can declare their candidacies by filing a form with the Town Clerk no later than 21 days prior to the Financial Town Meeting. No additional nomination signatures are required. The polls for such elections commence when the doors open for the Financial Town Meeting and close one half hour after the meeting is adjourned.

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**At the State level,** Little Compton voters will have the opportunity in the November 2018 General Election to vote for candidates to serve two-year terms as State Representative (District 71) and State Senate (District 12) in the Rhode Island General Assembly. Depending upon the number of declared party candidates, there may be a September Primary Election for these legislative offices.

State General Officers, serving four-year terms, will also be up for election in 2018.

These offices include

- ✓ Governor
- ✓ Lieutenant Governor
- ✓ General Treasurer
- ✓ Attorney General
- ✓ Secretary of State

**Federally,** Elections for U.S. Representative, District 1 (two-year term) and U.S. Senator (six-year term) will take place in 2018.

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## Election Calendar

**In January 2018 the Rhode Island Secretary of State will publish a 2018 How to Run for Office Guide, which will provide a complete calendar of elections dates and deadlines for candidates and voters.**

### **Important known 2018 dates include:**

- ✓ Period to file a Declaration of Candidacy form: June 25, 26, 27
- ✓ Deadline for party committees to file endorsement form: June 28
- ✓ State Primary Election: September 11
- ✓ General Election: November 6

NOTE: Much of the following information is adapted or quoted directly from the website of the Rhode Island Secretary of State: <http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/elections>

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## Voter Registration

A citizen can register to vote online at the Secretary of State's [Online Voter Registration Portal](#) OR at the Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles any time one makes a transaction OR by completing a registration form and submitting it to the [local Board of Canvassers at Town Hall](#).

To register to vote in Rhode Island, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of the Rhode Island city or town where you wish to vote
- At least 16 years of age (you must be at least 18 years of age to vote)
- You must not be currently deemed non-compos mentis by a court of law
- You must not be currently incarcerated in a correctional facility under felony conviction

When you submit a voter registration form, an acknowledgment notice from your local board of canvassers will be sent to your address. If you do not receive the acknowledgment notice please contact your local board of canvassers

The most recent version (2016) of the Secretary of State's [How to register to vote and be a voter in Rhode Island](#) guide is available here: <http://sos.ri.gov/assets/downloads/documents/Register-and-Vote-RI-2016.pdf>

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## Party Affiliation

**If you plan on running as a party candidate, you must be a member of that particular party (Democrat, Moderate or Republican) or unaffiliated at the time of filing your Declaration of Candidacy.**

**IMPORTANT: If you belong to one party and want to run as a candidate for another party, you must change your party at least 90 days prior to the date you will file your Declaration of Candidacy.**

When registering to vote or updating voter registration information a voter has the option to affiliate with a political party. A voter may choose not to belong to a party, in which case he or she will be registered as an “Unaffiliated” voter.

Rhode Island currently has three recognized political parties:

- Democratic Party
- Moderate Party
- Republican Party

A member of a political party may only vote in the primary of the party to which he or she belongs. An “unaffiliated” voter may vote in any party primary. Unaffiliated voters voting in party primaries become members of that party upon voting. If, after voting in a party primary, a previously unaffiliated voter wishes to remain unaffiliated, he or she must fill out a form to “disaffiliate” from the party in which he or she has just voted.

It takes 90 days for a party change to take effect.

Party Eligibility for Candidates

Affiliated candidates: If you plan on running as a party candidate, you must be a member of that particular party (Democrat, Moderate or Republican) or unaffiliated at the time of filing your Declaration of Candidacy.

**IMPORTANT: If you belong to one party and want to run as a candidate for another party, you must change your party at least 90 days prior to the date you will file your Declaration of Candidacy.**

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## Campaign Finance

**“Any candidate for public office, political action committee or political party committee must adhere to Rhode Island’s campaign finance laws (R.I.G.L. 17-25).**

The State Board of Elections' Campaign Finance Department oversees all campaign finance matters in Rhode Island.”

Rhode Island Board of Elections website: <http://www.elections.state.ri.us/>

(Past election results are also available at the Board of Elections website.)

## Ethics

“All candidates for elective office must file a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, covering the prior calendar year, within thirty (30) days of filing a declaration of candidacy (R.I.G.L.36-14-16(c)). This filing can be made online through the Ethics Commission’s website. Failure to timely file this form may result in the imposition of a substantial monetary fine. For information on financial disclosure, or to obtain a PIN # for online filing, simply call the Ethics Commission at [\(401\) 222-3790](tel:4012223790).”

Rhode Island Ethics Commission website:

<http://www.ethics.ri.gov/>

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## Little Compton Board of Canvassers

As quoted directly from the Town of Little Compton website:

The Board of Canvassers acts as the local election authority in conformity with State Law and the Town Charter.

Its duties include:

- Receiving and certifying nomination papers,
- Registering voters,
- Certifying voting lists,
- Certifying local election results,
- Assisting the Town Moderator with the management of the Financial Town Meeting,
- Running the elections on Election Day,
- Serving as local liaison for the Secretary of State and Board of Elections,
- And all other functions under State Law.

As provided in Section 202 of the Home Rule Charter, the Board of Canvassers consists of three appointed members (no more than two of whom may represent the same political party) and two alternates (no more than one of whom may represent a political party).

The Town Clerk serves as secretary for the Board of Canvassers.

Town Clerk's office phone number: [635-4400](tel:635-4400)

Town of Little Compton website: <http://www.little-compton.com/>