

APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS

Missoula County Democrats

Name: Charles Carpenter

Address: 5510 Prospect Drive

Precinct: Hellgate 94

Office Sought: Alternate State Committeeman

Instructions: All officer positions in the Missoula County Democrats are subject to election at the May 9, 2017 County Convention; incumbent officers are permitted to run for re-election on the same terms as new candidates for any officer position.

Every qualifying applicant will be nominated by the Nominations Committee for the positions for which they submit this form. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. All nominees will be limited to a 1 minute speech at the Convention; this form is your opportunity to provide more detail than can be expressed in a single minute.

Only Central Committee members may vote at the County Convention. A list of Central Committee members is available at the website. To be elected to an officer position, a candidate must get more than 50% of the votes cast for the position. When no candidate gets more than 50%, a new ballot for the position will be prepared, dropping off the candidate(s) with the lowest number of votes.

A person may be nominated for more than one officer position, but may only occupy a single position. Please prepare a separate form for each position to which you wish to be nominated.

The duties and responsibilities of each officer and of the officers collectively are set forth in the Missoula County Democrats bylaws, which are posted to the website.

Officers of the Missoula County Democrats may sometimes be considered public figures, and have in the past been the subject of negative press attention for matters unrelated to their service as an officer. The County Convention is open to the public, as are meetings of the Central Committee.

Please submit completed forms, electronically, to the Nomination Committee by emailing a copy to Anita Green (anitagreenmt@gmail.com) or Charley Carpenter (carpentc@carpenterlawfirmplc.com). If you have questions or concerns regarding the process, service as an officer, or any items on the form, please contact Charley or Anita.

1. Briefly describe your previous experience and community involvement:

I am just now completing a two year term in this position. The highlight of my service so far has been taking the lead on organizing the county delegate selection convention last June; overall, though, I have had a number of opportunities to be of service on the E-Board (including the platform convention in July and the recent special convention), and look forward, if the Central Committee will have me, to another term.

In addition to my Democratic Party service, I am on the board of a local arts educational organization (Zootown Arts Community Center), and also a regional outdoor advocacy organization Pacific Northwest Trail Association). My law practice has given me a number of opportunities for pro bono work – I've recently taken another case with the ACLU, and have (unfortunately) continued in the Guantanamo Bay Detention Litigation.

2. Which of your skills and abilities are you willing to volunteer as part of your service on the next Executive Board?

My most important skill is practical decision-making, and I have tried to bring this to the various issues that come before the E-Board. There are occasions when drafting and advocacy comes in handy.

3. Please describe your specific qualifications for the specific position you are seeking.

While the Alternate committee positions have a role to lay in programming, I think the more important responsibility of this position comes in participation in E-Board discussions of various issues. I have tried to stay focused on the practicalities. In addition, my decades of experience advocating in a representative capacity served me well in arguing positions adopted by the central committee at the state platform convention last summer.

4. Please describe your philosophy on group decision-making and conflict resolution:

There is nearly always a way to reach a consensus among mutually respectful people of good faith with (mostly) shared values: certainly my experience on the E-Board has borne that out. We don't always agree at the start of the discussion, but if everyone listens, and thinks, we can get to a solution.

5. Do you have the time to dedicate to the job?

I do.

6. What are your top goals for the Missoula County Democrats in the future? How would propose achieving such goals?

The recent national election campaign – the whole campaign, not just the end result – has brought great enthusiasm and dedication from all over the spectrum. I hope that the expansion of the E-Board I have worked on will be part of sustaining and building momentum, and I think finding other ways of doing so should be the principal focus of the E-Board.

I am still working on a project (discussed at the January central committee meeting) to recruit new central committee members from our rural precincts: we've not done as well in elections in rural precincts in recent years, but if we can expand our representation (and campaign activity) this can change. This could have an helpful impact in a number of legislative races in 2018 and state-wide races in 2020.

I plan to draft a proposed rule change to present to the state rules convention in August giving more populous counties greater representation at state conventions. If adopted, this would give provide more opportunities for participation in state party direction.