



**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL CANVASSING
AUTHORITIES – PARTY AFFILIATION**

**Promulgated by order of
The Rhode Island State Board of Elections
Frank J. Rego, Chairman**

**RULES & REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES –
PARTY AFFILIATION ADOPTED BY THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF
ELECTIONS**

The Rhode Island Board of Elections hereby adopts rules and regulations for local canvassing authorities – party affiliation pursuant to and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 17-8-1 et seq., 17-9.1-23 and 17-9.1-24 .

Said rules and regulations are adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (R.I.G.L. § 42-35-1 et seq.) and are available for public inspection at the offices of the Rhode Island Board of Elections, 50 Branch Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island.

Section 1. Purpose

This rule is adopted by the Board of Elections to ensure that all Local Canvassing Authorities are bipartisan in composition, and to enforce the provisions of Rhode Island General Law § 17-8-1 et seq.

Section 2. Definitions

Party Member/Affiliation means any person who is a member of a designated political party pursuant to § 17-9.1-23.

Section 3. Appointment and Composition of Local Canvassing Authorities

The legislative body of each city and town shall appoint a bipartisan canvassing authority of three (3) qualified electors of the city or town, not more than two (2) of whom shall belong to the same political party, and may appoint two (2) alternate members, not more than one of whom shall belong to the same political party. At any meeting of the canvassing authority at which a member is to be absent, the member may request that an alternate replace him or her for that meeting; provided that the alternate member must be of the same political party as the member. The mayor or the president of the town council shall nominate the members of the canvassing authority from lists of party voters submitted by the respective chairpersons of the city or town political committee, which lists shall contain the names of five (5) times the number of persons to be appointed. If the legislative body refuses to approve the nomination of any person to the canvassing authority, the mayor or the president shall submit to the legislative body another person named on one of the lists, and so on until a person is appointed. If the chairperson of the city or town committee of a political party entitled to an appointment fails or refuses to submit a list, the mayor or the president shall nominate any party voter of the political party entitled to the appointment.

Section 4. Term and Qualifications for Office.

Each member of a local canvassing authority shall be appointed to serve for a term of six (6) years beginning on the first Monday of March succeeding the date of his or her appointment and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. No person shall be appointed or serve as a member of the authority who is an officer or employee of the United States or of this state, or who is an officer or employee of the authority's city or town. The disqualification of a member shall take effect immediately, upon commencing employment or office with the United States, this state or the authority's city or town, provided that in any city a member of the authority may be employed as its clerk.

Section 5. Party Affiliation of Members Appointed to the Local Canvassing Authority

Members of the Local Canvassing Authority must maintain their party affiliation for the duration of their membership. If a member changes party affiliation during his or her tenure, he or she shall be disqualified from holding membership upon the authority and his or her successor shall be immediately elected. The disqualification of the member shall take effect immediately, upon the filing of the papers changing his or her party affiliation. No further action is required to effectuate the disqualification from holding membership upon the authority.

Section 6. Authority Member becoming a Candidate for Public Office

Any member of the authority who becomes a candidate for election to any public office and who fails to file a declination of the candidacy within the time allowed by law shall be disqualified from holding membership upon the authority and his or her successor shall be immediately elected.

Section 7. Implementation

The Board of Elections may promulgate procedures and forms necessary to implement the within rules and regulations required under the Rhode Island General Laws.

These rules and regulations were adopted at a meeting of the State Board of Elections held on the Eleventh day of January, 2012 pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (R.I.G.L. 42-35-1, *et seq.*).

By Order of the Rhode Island Board of Elections

Frank J. Rego, Chairman

Date

Witnessed by

Robert Kando, Executive Director

Date