

6. issues licenses (such as marriage, dog and liquor) and permits, receives and records sealed bids for municipal contracts, and acts as an information resource.

The present Township Clerk has gained tenure after two consecutive elections under a tenure of office law. The Clerk, whose office is located in the Municipal Building, is available to the public Monday through Friday.

Township Attorney

The attorney, with his assistant, represents the Township in all litigations and other legal matters. He attends all conferences and regular meetings of the Township Council, both to answer questions relative to the law and to serve as parliamentarian. In addition, he processes tax foreclosures and draws up ordinances. His assistant serves also as the Prosecutor in Municipal Court.

Initiative, Referendum, and Recall

Reserved to the people under all forms of government permitted by the Faulkner Act are the powers of initiative, referendum, and recall. To initiate any of these actions requires a petition signed by 25 percent of the registered voters.

1. Initiative: the voters may propose any ordinance and adopt or reject it at the polls.
2. Referendum: the voters have the power to approve or reject at the polls any ordinance submitted by the Council to the voters, or any ordinance passed by the Council on filing a referendum petition within 20 days of passage of the ordinance.
3. Recall: permits the voters, by a recall action signed by 25 percent of the registered voters, to require a referendum to remove and replace one or more elected officials after one or more years of service.

Civil Service Regulations

As a result of a public referendum in 1958, the Township's employment practices are regulated by the New Jersey Department of Civil Service. The Township Council determines the need for jobs, sets salaries and working conditions, and may--where permitted by enabling legislation--recruit non-residents. Township employees under Civil Service regulations may be dismissed only for cause, such as neglect of duty, after a hearing before the Manager.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

"Genius can only breathe free in an atmosphere of freedom." — Mill

In New Jersey, established political parties operate the election system and in turn are organized and regulated under the state election laws, Title 19. As defined by New Jersey law, a political party is any group which polled 10 per cent or more of the total vote cast for members of the General Assembly in the last Assembly election. At present, only the Democratic and Republican parties qualify under this statute.

Party Organization

The law establishes municipal, county, and state committees within the parties, which perform the necessary party work and shape the party platforms. Municipal Party Committees consist of the County Committee resident in the municipality. Members promote party interests locally by working to increase party membership, getting out the vote, checking voting lists, and acting as challengers at the polls in each district. There are twenty districts in Scotch Plains.

The County Party Committees are composed of one committeeman and committee-woman from each district elected at the Primary Election for a term of one year. Their principal functions are to maintain party organization, recommend candidates, and receive and disburse funds. The chairman may appoint challengers for elections.