

State Party Committees consist of one committeeman and committeewoman from each county elected in gubernatorial years at the Primary Election for a term of four years. The principal functions of the state committees are to maintain party organization, call state party conventions, recommend candidates, and choose two members of the party's national committee. They also collect and disburse funds. The chairman of each state committee nominates one member of each County Board of Elections each year to serve for a two-year term.

National Party Committees include one committeeman and committeewoman representing each state party organization. Their functions are determined by the party bylaws. These committees call national party conventions.

PROFILE OF VOTING PATTERNS IN SCOTCH PLAINS

	Number Registered	Number Voting	Percent of Registered voters
General Election, 1976	13,094	10,743	82%
General Election, 1978	11,520	7,166	62%
General Election, 1979	11,379	6,179	54%
School Bond Referendum, 1979	11,379	2,889	25%

Local Elections

The five Councilmen are the only local offices now filled by election. In Scotch Plains, the present Township Clerk acquired tenure by virtue of election prior to the current charter. Future Clerks will be appointed. Township elections of Councilmen are held with the General Election in November of every even-numbered year. Councilmen are elected for four-year, overlapping terms.

Local Participation in Elections

There are currently 11,379 registered voters in Scotch Plains. In the most recent General Election, November 1979, 6,179 persons voted representing 54 per cent of the voters registered.

Primary Elections

A Primary Election is a party election. At the primaries, party members nominate party candidates for public office to be filled at the next General Election, and elect party county committeemen and committeewomen from their respective election districts. During gubernatorial election years, party members vote for state committee members; during Presidential years, for delegates and alternates to the national convention.

In a primary you may vote only one party's ballot. If you have never voted in a primary, you may declare your party choice the first time at the polls. After your first vote in a primary election, you are considered a member of the party whose ballot you voted. If you wish to change the party of your choice, you must declare your party of current choice with your county or municipal clerk at least 50 days before the next primary election.

Any party member may have his name placed on the primary ballot of his party for any office for which he is qualified by filing a petition signed by the required number of party members.