

LWV of Scarsdale Non-Partisan Election System Glossary

501(c)(3)—an Internal Revenue System (IRS) designation for a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization. It is restricted from engaging in political activities. Contributions are tax deductible.

501(c)(4)—an Internal Revenue System (IRS) designation for a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Caucus—a closed meeting of members of a party or faction to decide on policies or candidates. The CNC is, in effect, a caucus of the Citizens' Party.

Citizens' Party—references The Scarsdale Citizens' Non-Partisan Party, a local independent party that is organized each year for the purpose of managing the election campaign of the candidates selected in accordance with the Non-Partisan Resolution.

CNC—the acronym for the Citizens Nominating Committee—a nonpartisan committee responsible for nominating candidates for village office. It is comprised of 30 elected members, six from each of the five elementary areas. It is managed by non-voting members: president and vice president of the TVCC, one member designated by SNAP and one member designated by the TVCC.

Democratic Party—one of two major contemporary political parties having a platform. It is a multilevel organization with national, state, county and town committees. It has a dedicated line on the ballot. The Democratic Town Committee is the local affiliate.

Election Districts—voting districts that are determined and defined by legislative bodies. There are, in Scarsdale, separate Congressional, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly, Westchester County and local Scarsdale Election Districts.

Election Units—voting districts determined and defined by the Resolution. The current election units are defined by the five elementary school boundaries. In village elections, the Quaker Ridge district does not include the Mamaroneck Strip, which is not within Scarsdale's borders.

The Forum/Scarsdale Forum—references the Town and Village Civic Club Education Forum, Inc. It is a 501(c)(3) organization. It was established in 2003 as separate from the TVCC.

Independent Party—any political entity that submits an independent nominating petition for a candidate seeking village office--(not the nationally recognized Independence Party). Each independent party must have a name in order to be listed on the ballot. The Citizens' Party is the name of the political entity that places CNC candidates on the ballot.

LWV—the acronym for the League of Women Voters. It is a nonpartisan political organization. It does not support or oppose any candidate for public office; it takes positions on selected government issues after member study and consensus. It is a 501(c)(4) organization.

LWVNYS Education Foundation, Inc.—the educational arm of the LWV that offers programs for youth and adults. It is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Nonpartisan—an adjective to describe persons appointed or elected without regard to political affiliations.

Non-Partisan Elections—an outgrowth of the Progressive Era and the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote. “Reformers aimed to reduce corruption and patronage, create real voter choice, attract a wider-range of candidates, and improve government efficiency by limiting the power of the party bosses to control the ballot, the wellspring of their power....By the 1950s, more than 60% of municipalities nationwide had adopted nonpartisan elections”*

Partisan—adhering to a party or faction.

Primary Election—a preliminary election in which voters directly nominate for office the candidates of their own party.

Procedure Committee—administers the procedure for the election of members to the Citizens Nominating Committee of the Non-Partisan Election System. It is charged with overseeing the Resolution and proposing amendments. It is composed of ten elected members of the CNC who have completed their three-year terms, ten members appointed by the TVCC and two SNAP appointed representatives. The president of the TVCC appoints a vice-chair who ultimately succeeds to chair the Procedure Committee.

Republican Party— one of two major contemporary political parties having a platform. It is a multilevel organization with national, state, county and town committees. It has a dedicated line on the ballot. The Republican Town Committee is the local affiliate.

The Resolution—references the Non-Partisan Resolution, the governing document of the Non-Partisan System, adopted in 1930. Recommendations for changes to the resolution are made by the Procedure Committee and placed on the ballot for a public vote at the time of the Nominating Committee election.

SNAP—the acronym for the Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents. They appoint a non-voting member to the CNC and two members to the Procedure Committee.

The Town Club—the former men’s civic association that was formed in 1904 and, in 1930 with the Woman’s Club, established a Non-Partisan System in Scarsdale. It served as the “custodian” of the Non-Partisan Resolution, responsible for the mechanics of the system. It merged with the Village Club in 1990.

TVCC—the acronym for the Town and Village Civic Club which was formed by the merger of the Town Club and the Village Club in 1990. It is a 501(c)(4) organization.

The Village Club—the former women’s civic association that was formed in 1965 and merged with the Town Club in 1990.

The Woman’s Club/Scarsdale Woman’s Club—traces its roots to the Suffrage Movement and was incorporated in 1918 to promote the civic, cultural and philanthropic needs of the community. The Scarsdale League of Women Voters was formed and began meeting as part of the Public Affairs committee of the Scarsdale Woman’s Club. The Woman’s Club worked with the Town Club to produce the first Non-Partisan Resolution.

*Nonpartisan Elections: Preliminary Options and Recommendations. Staff Report to the New York City Charter Revision Commission, June 26, 2003. pp.9, 10.