



**93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2003 and 2004**

Introduced 2/6/2004, by Dan Rutherford

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

10 ILCS 5/7-8

from Ch. 46, par. 7-8

Amends the Election Code. Provides that any ward, township, or precinct committeeman who is convicted of an infamous crime, shall be disqualified from hold the office of the committeeman and that office shall become vacant.

LRB093 13150 BDD 40838 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Section  
5 7-8 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/7-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 7-8)

7 Sec. 7-8. The State central committee shall be composed of  
8 one or two members from each congressional district in the  
9 State and shall be elected as follows:

10 State Central Committee

11 (a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this  
12 amendatory Act of 1983 the State central committee of each  
13 political party shall certify to the State Board of Elections  
14 which of the following alternatives it wishes to apply to the  
15 State central committee of that party.

16 Alternative A. At the primary held on the third Tuesday in  
17 March 1970, and at the primary held every 4 years thereafter,  
18 each primary elector may vote for one candidate of his party  
19 for member of the State central committee for the congressional  
20 district in which he resides. The candidate receiving the  
21 highest number of votes shall be declared elected State central  
22 committeeman from the district. A political party may, in lieu  
23 of the foregoing, by a majority vote of delegates at any State  
24 convention of such party, determine to thereafter elect the  
25 State central committeemen in the manner following:

26 At the county convention held by such political party State  
27 central committeemen shall be elected in the same manner as  
28 provided in this Article for the election of officers of the  
29 county central committee, and such election shall follow the  
30 election of officers of the county central committee. Each  
31 elected ward, township or precinct committeeman shall cast as  
32 his vote one vote for each ballot voted in his ward, township,

1 part of a township or precinct in the last preceding primary  
2 election of his political party. In the case of a county lying  
3 partially within one congressional district and partially  
4 within another congressional district, each ward, township or  
5 precinct committeeman shall vote only with respect to the  
6 congressional district in which his ward, township, part of a  
7 township or precinct is located. In the case of a congressional  
8 district which encompasses more than one county, each ward,  
9 township or precinct committeeman residing within the  
10 congressional district shall cast as his vote one vote for each  
11 ballot voted in his ward, township, part of a township or  
12 precinct in the last preceding primary election of his  
13 political party for one candidate of his party for member of  
14 the State central committee for the congressional district in  
15 which he resides and the Chairman of the county central  
16 committee shall report the results of the election to the State  
17 Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections shall certify  
18 the candidate receiving the highest number of votes elected  
19 State central committeeman for that congressional district.

20 The State central committee shall adopt rules to provide  
21 for and govern the procedures to be followed in the election of  
22 members of the State central committee.

23 After the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st  
24 General Assembly, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of  
25 Chairman of a State central committee, or at the end of the  
26 term of office of Chairman, the State central committee of each  
27 political party that has selected Alternative A shall elect a  
28 Chairman who shall not be required to be a member of the State  
29 Central Committee. The Chairman shall be a registered voter in  
30 this State and of the same political party as the State central  
31 committee.

32 Alternative B. Each congressional committee shall, within  
33 30 days after the adoption of this alternative, appoint a  
34 person of the sex opposite that of the incumbent member for  
35 that congressional district to serve as an additional member of  
36 the State central committee until his or her successor is

1 elected at the general primary election in 1986. Each  
2 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
3 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section. In  
4 each congressional district at the general primary election  
5 held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, the male candidate  
6 receiving the highest number of votes of the party's male  
7 candidates for State central committeeman, and the female  
8 candidate receiving the highest number of votes of the party's  
9 female candidates for State central committeewoman, shall be  
10 declared elected State central committeeman and State central  
11 committeewoman from the district. At the general primary  
12 election held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, if all a  
13 party's candidates for State central committeemen or State  
14 central committeewomen from a congressional district are of the  
15 same sex, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes  
16 shall be declared elected a State central committeeman or State  
17 central committeewoman from the district, and, because of a  
18 failure to elect one male and one female to the committee, a  
19 vacancy shall be declared to exist in the office of the second  
20 member of the State central committee from the district. This  
21 vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the congressional  
22 committee of the political party, and the person appointed to  
23 fill the vacancy shall be a resident of the congressional  
24 district and of the sex opposite that of the committeeman or  
25 committeewoman elected at the general primary election. Each  
26 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
27 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section.

28 The Chairman of a State central committee composed as  
29 provided in this Alternative B must be selected from the  
30 committee's members.

31 Except as provided for in Alternative A with respect to the  
32 selection of the Chairman of the State central committee, under  
33 both of the foregoing alternatives, the State central committee  
34 of each political party shall be composed of members elected or  
35 appointed from the several congressional districts of the  
36 State, and of no other person or persons whomsoever. The

1 members of the State central committee shall, within 30 days  
2 after each quadrennial election of the full committee, meet in  
3 the city of Springfield and organize by electing a chairman,  
4 and may at such time elect such officers from among their own  
5 number (or otherwise), as they may deem necessary or expedient.  
6 The outgoing chairman of the State central committee of the  
7 party shall, 10 days before the meeting, notify each member of  
8 the State central committee elected at the primary of the time  
9 and place of such meeting. In the organization and proceedings  
10 of the State central committee, each State central committeeman  
11 and State central committeewoman shall have one vote for each  
12 ballot voted in his or her congressional district by the  
13 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
14 immediately preceding the meeting of the State central  
15 committee. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the State central  
16 committee of any political party, the vacancy shall be filled  
17 by appointment of the chairmen of the county central committees  
18 of the political party of the counties located within the  
19 congressional district in which the vacancy occurs and, if  
20 applicable, the ward and township committeemen of the political  
21 party in counties of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants located  
22 within the congressional district. If the congressional  
23 district in which the vacancy occurs lies wholly within a  
24 county of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants, the ward and township  
25 committeemen of the political party in that congressional  
26 district shall vote to fill the vacancy. In voting to fill the  
27 vacancy, each chairman of a county central committee and each  
28 ward and township committeeman in counties of 2,000,000 or more  
29 inhabitants shall have one vote for each ballot voted in each  
30 precinct of the congressional district in which the vacancy  
31 exists of his or her county, township, or ward cast by the  
32 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
33 immediately preceding the meeting to fill the vacancy in the  
34 State central committee. The person appointed to fill the  
35 vacancy shall be a resident of the congressional district in  
36 which the vacancy occurs, shall be a qualified voter, and, in a

1 committee composed as provided in Alternative B, shall be of  
2 the same sex as his or her predecessor. A political party may,  
3 by a majority vote of the delegates of any State convention of  
4 such party, determine to return to the election of State  
5 central committeeman and State central committeewoman by the  
6 vote of primary electors. Any action taken by a political party  
7 at a State convention in accordance with this Section shall be  
8 reported to the State Board of Elections by the chairman and  
9 secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.

10 Ward, Township and Precinct Committeemen

11 (b) At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March,  
12 1972, and every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in  
13 cities having a population of 200,000 or over may vote for one  
14 candidate of his party in his ward for ward committeeman. Each  
15 candidate for ward committeeman must be a resident of and in  
16 the ward where he seeks to be elected ward committeeman. The  
17 one having the highest number of votes shall be such ward  
18 committeeman of such party for such ward. At the primary  
19 election held on the third Tuesday in March, 1970, and every 4  
20 years thereafter, each primary elector in counties containing a  
21 population of 2,000,000 or more, outside of cities containing a  
22 population of 200,000 or more, may vote for one candidate of  
23 his party for township committeeman. Each candidate for  
24 township committeeman must be a resident of and in the township  
25 or part of a township (which lies outside of a city having a  
26 population of 200,000 or more, in counties containing a  
27 population of 2,000,000 or more), and in which township or part  
28 of a township he seeks to be elected township committeeman. The  
29 one having the highest number of votes shall be such township  
30 committeeman of such party for such township or part of a  
31 township. At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March,  
32 1970 and every 2 years thereafter, each primary elector, except  
33 in counties having a population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote  
34 for one candidate of his party in his precinct for precinct  
35 committeeman. Each candidate for precinct committeeman must be  
36 a bona fide resident of the precinct where he seeks to be

1 elected precinct committeeman. The one having the highest  
2 number of votes shall be such precinct committeeman of such  
3 party for such precinct. The official returns of the primary  
4 shall show the name of the committeeman of each political  
5 party.

6 Terms of Committeemen. All precinct committeemen elected  
7 under the provisions of this Article shall continue as such  
8 committeemen until the date of the primary to be held in the  
9 second year after their election. Except as otherwise provided  
10 in this Section for certain State central committeemen who have  
11 2 year terms, all State central committeemen, township  
12 committeemen and ward committeemen shall continue as such  
13 committeemen until the date of primary to be held in the fourth  
14 year after their election. However, a vacancy exists in the  
15 office of precinct committeeman when a precinct committeeman  
16 ceases to reside in the precinct in which he was elected and  
17 such precinct committeeman shall thereafter neither have nor  
18 exercise any rights, powers or duties as committeeman in that  
19 precinct, even if a successor has not been elected or  
20 appointed. If any ward committeeman, township committeeman, or  
21 precinct committeeman is convicted of a felony, bribery,  
22 perjury, or other infamous crime or of any offense involving a  
23 violation of his or her official oath, then that person shall  
24 be disqualified from holding the office of committeeman and  
25 that office shall become vacant before the expiration of the  
26 term of the office. For purposes of this Section, a conviction  
27 for an offense that disqualifies a committeeman from holding  
28 that office occurs on the date of the return of a guilty  
29 verdict or, in the case of a trial by the court, the entry of a  
30 finding of guilt.

31 (c) The Multi-Township Central Committee shall consist of  
32 the precinct committeemen of such party, in the multi-township  
33 assessing district formed pursuant to Section 2-10 of the  
34 Property Tax Code and shall be organized for the purposes set  
35 forth in Section 45-25 of the Township Code. In the  
36 organization and proceedings of the Multi-Township Central

1 Committee each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
2 each ballot voted in his precinct by the primary electors of  
3 his party at the primary at which he was elected.

4 County Central Committee

5 (d) The county central committee of each political party in  
6 each county shall consist of the various township committeemen,  
7 precinct committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of such  
8 party in the county. In the organization and proceedings of the  
9 county central committee, each precinct committeeman shall  
10 have one vote for each ballot voted in his precinct by the  
11 primary electors of his party at the primary at which he was  
12 elected; each township committeeman shall have one vote for  
13 each ballot voted in his township or part of a township as the  
14 case may be by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
15 election for the nomination of candidates for election to the  
16 General Assembly immediately preceding the meeting of the  
17 county central committee; and in the organization and  
18 proceedings of the county central committee, each ward  
19 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
20 ward by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
21 election for the nomination of candidates for election to the  
22 General Assembly immediately preceding the meeting of the  
23 county central committee.

24 Cook County Board of Review Election District Committee

25 (d-1) Each board of review election district committee of  
26 each political party in Cook County shall consist of the  
27 various township committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of  
28 that party in the portions of the county composing the board of  
29 review election district. In the organization and proceedings  
30 of each of the 3 election district committees, each township  
31 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
32 or her township or part of a township, as the case may be, by  
33 the primary electors of his or her party at the primary  
34 election immediately preceding the meeting of the board of  
35 review election district committee; and in the organization and  
36 proceedings of each of the 3 election district committees, each



1 ward committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in  
2 his or her ward or part of that ward, as the case may be, by the  
3 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
4 immediately preceding the meeting of the board of review  
5 election district committee.

6 Congressional Committee

7 (e) The congressional committee of each party in each  
8 congressional district shall be composed of the chairmen of the  
9 county central committees of the counties composing the  
10 congressional district, except that in congressional districts  
11 wholly within the territorial limits of one county, or partly  
12 within 2 or more counties, but not coterminous with the county  
13 lines of all of such counties, the precinct committeemen,  
14 township committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of the  
15 party representing the precincts within the limits of the  
16 congressional district, shall compose the congressional  
17 committee. A State central committeeman in each district shall  
18 be a member and the chairman or, when a district has 2 State  
19 central committeemen, a co-chairman of the congressional  
20 committee, but shall not have the right to vote except in case  
21 of a tie.

22 In the organization and proceedings of congressional  
23 committees composed of precinct committeemen or township  
24 committeemen or ward committeemen, or any combination thereof,  
25 each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot  
26 voted in his precinct by the primary electors of his party at  
27 the primary at which he was elected, each township committeeman  
28 shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his township or  
29 part of a township as the case may be by the primary electors  
30 of his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
31 meeting of the congressional committee, and each ward  
32 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in each  
33 precinct of his ward located in such congressional district by  
34 the primary electors of his party at the primary election  
35 immediately preceding the meeting of the congressional  
36 committee; and in the organization and proceedings of

1 congressional committees composed of the chairmen of the county  
2 central committees of the counties within such district, each  
3 chairman of such county central committee shall have one vote  
4 for each ballot voted in his county by the primary electors of  
5 his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
6 meeting of the congressional committee.

7                   Judicial District Committee

8           (f) The judicial district committee of each political party  
9 in each judicial district shall be composed of the chairman of  
10 the county central committees of the counties composing the  
11 judicial district.

12           In the organization and proceedings of judicial district  
13 committees composed of the chairmen of the county central  
14 committees of the counties within such district, each chairman  
15 of such county central committee shall have one vote for each  
16 ballot voted in his county by the primary electors of his party  
17 at the primary election immediately preceding the meeting of  
18 the judicial district committee.

19                   Circuit Court Committee

20           (g) The circuit court committee of each political party in  
21 each judicial circuit outside Cook County shall be composed of  
22 the chairmen of the county central committees of the counties  
23 composing the judicial circuit.

24           In the organization and proceedings of circuit court  
25 committees, each chairman of a county central committee shall  
26 have one vote for each ballot voted in his county by the  
27 primary electors of his party at the primary election  
28 immediately preceding the meeting of the circuit court  
29 committee.

30                   Judicial Subcircuit Committee

31           (g-1) The judicial subcircuit committee of each political  
32 party in each judicial subcircuit in a judicial circuit divided  
33 into subcircuits shall be composed of (i) the ward and township  
34 committeemen of the townships and wards composing the judicial  
35 subcircuit in Cook County and (ii) the precinct committeemen of  
36 the precincts composing the judicial subcircuit in any county

1 other than Cook County.

2 In the organization and proceedings of each judicial  
3 subcircuit committee, each township committeeman shall have  
4 one vote for each ballot voted in his township or part of a  
5 township, as the case may be, in the judicial subcircuit by the  
6 primary electors of his party at the primary election  
7 immediately preceding the meeting of the judicial subcircuit  
8 committee; each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
9 each ballot voted in his precinct or part of a precinct, as the  
10 case may be, in the judicial subcircuit by the primary electors  
11 of his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
12 meeting of the judicial subcircuit committee; and each ward  
13 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
14 ward or part of a ward, as the case may be, in the judicial  
15 subcircuit by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
16 election immediately preceding the meeting of the judicial  
17 subcircuit committee.

18 Municipal Central Committee

19 (h) The municipal central committee of each political party  
20 shall be composed of the precinct, township or ward  
21 committeemen, as the case may be, of such party representing  
22 the precincts or wards, embraced in such city, incorporated  
23 town or village. The voting strength of each precinct, township  
24 or ward committeeman on the municipal central committee shall  
25 be the same as his voting strength on the county central  
26 committee.

27 For political parties, other than a statewide political  
28 party, established only within a municipality or township, the  
29 municipal or township managing committee shall be composed of  
30 the party officers of the local established party. The party  
31 officers of a local established party shall be as follows: the  
32 chairman and secretary of the caucus for those municipalities  
33 and townships authorized by statute to nominate candidates by  
34 caucus shall serve as party officers for the purpose of filling  
35 vacancies in nomination under Section 7-61; for municipalities  
36 and townships authorized by statute or ordinance to nominate

1 candidates by petition and primary election, the party officers  
2 shall be the party's candidates who are nominated at the  
3 primary. If no party primary was held because of the provisions  
4 of Section 7-5, vacancies in nomination shall be filled by the  
5 party's remaining candidates who shall serve as the party's  
6 officers.

#### 7 Powers

8 (i) Each committee and its officers shall have the powers  
9 usually exercised by such committees and by the officers  
10 thereof, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.  
11 The several committees herein provided for shall not have power  
12 to delegate any of their powers, or functions to any other  
13 person, officer or committee, but this shall not be construed  
14 to prevent a committee from appointing from its own membership  
15 proper and necessary subcommittees.

16 (j) The State central committee of a political party which  
17 elects its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
18 Section shall adopt a plan to give effect to the delegate  
19 selection rules of the national political party and file a copy  
20 of such plan with the State Board of Elections when approved by  
21 a national political party.

22 (k) For the purpose of the designation of a proxy by a  
23 Congressional Committee to vote in place of an absent State  
24 central committeeman or committeewoman at meetings of the State  
25 central committee of a political party which elects its members  
26 by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this Section, the proxy  
27 shall be appointed by the vote of the ward and township  
28 committeemen, if any, of the wards and townships which lie  
29 entirely or partially within the Congressional District from  
30 which the absent State central committeeman or committeewoman  
31 was elected and the vote of the chairmen of the county central  
32 committees of those counties which lie entirely or partially  
33 within that Congressional District and in which there are no  
34 ward or township committeemen. When voting for such proxy the  
35 county chairman, ward committeeman or township committeeman,  
36 as the case may be shall have one vote for each ballot voted in

1 his county, ward or township, or portion thereof within the  
2 Congressional District, by the primary electors of his party at  
3 the primary at which he was elected. However, the absent State  
4 central committeeman or committeewoman may designate a proxy  
5 when permitted by the rules of a political party which elects  
6 its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
7 Section.

8 (Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-574, eff. 8-21-03;  
9 revised 9-22-03.)