



## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB5861

Introduced 11/16/2006, by Rep. Tom Cross - William B. Black -  
Jim Durkin - JoAnn D. Osmond - Brent Hassert

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/7-8

from Ch. 46, par. 7-8

Amends the Election Code. With respect to the State central committee of a political party organized under Alternative A, provides that each member of the national party committee, appointed pursuant to the bylaws of the State central committee, serves at the pleasure of the State central committee. Provides that if a member of the national party committee is determined removed by a majority weighted vote of the State central committee, the member of the national party committee is deemed disqualified to hold office and there is a vacancy in office. Effective immediately.

LRB094 22008 JAM 60552 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 Each member of the national party committee shall serve at  
33 the pleasure of the State central committee. If the State  
34 central committee, by a majority weighted vote, determines to  
35 remove a member of the national party committee, then that  
36 person is deemed disqualified to hold such office and a vacancy

1 exists.

2       Alternative B. Each congressional committee shall, within  
3 30 days after the adoption of this alternative, appoint a  
4 person of the sex opposite that of the incumbent member for  
5 that congressional district to serve as an additional member of  
6 the State central committee until his or her successor is  
7 elected at the general primary election in 1986. Each  
8 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
9 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section. In  
10 each congressional district at the general primary election  
11 held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, the male candidate  
12 receiving the highest number of votes of the party's male  
13 candidates for State central committeeman, and the female  
14 candidate receiving the highest number of votes of the party's  
15 female candidates for State central committeewoman, shall be  
16 declared elected State central committeeman and State central  
17 committeewoman from the district. At the general primary  
18 election held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, if all a  
19 party's candidates for State central committeemen or State  
20 central committeewomen from a congressional district are of the  
21 same sex, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes  
22 shall be declared elected a State central committeeman or State  
23 central committeewoman from the district, and, because of a  
24 failure to elect one male and one female to the committee, a  
25 vacancy shall be declared to exist in the office of the second  
26 member of the State central committee from the district. This  
27 vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the congressional  
28 committee of the political party, and the person appointed to  
29 fill the vacancy shall be a resident of the congressional  
30 district and of the sex opposite that of the committeeman or  
31 committeewoman elected at the general primary election. Each  
32 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
33 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section.

34       The Chairman of a State central committee composed as  
35 provided in this Alternative B must be selected from the  
36 committee's members.

1           Except as provided for in Alternative A with respect to the  
2 selection of the Chairman of the State central committee, under  
3 both of the foregoing alternatives, the State central committee  
4 of each political party shall be composed of members elected or  
5 appointed from the several congressional districts of the  
6 State, and of no other person or persons whomsoever. The  
7 members of the State central committee shall, within 41 days  
8 after each quadrennial election of the full committee, meet in  
9 the city of Springfield and organize by electing a chairman,  
10 and may at such time elect such officers from among their own  
11 number (or otherwise), as they may deem necessary or expedient.  
12 The outgoing chairman of the State central committee of the  
13 party shall, 10 days before the meeting, notify each member of  
14 the State central committee elected at the primary of the time  
15 and place of such meeting. In the organization and proceedings  
16 of the State central committee, each State central committeeman  
17 and State central committeewoman shall have one vote for each  
18 ballot voted in his or her congressional district by the  
19 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
20 immediately preceding the meeting of the State central  
21 committee. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the State central  
22 committee of any political party, the vacancy shall be filled  
23 by appointment of the chairmen of the county central committees  
24 of the political party of the counties located within the  
25 congressional district in which the vacancy occurs and, if  
26 applicable, the ward and township committeemen of the political  
27 party in counties of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants located  
28 within the congressional district. If the congressional  
29 district in which the vacancy occurs lies wholly within a  
30 county of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants, the ward and township  
31 committeemen of the political party in that congressional  
32 district shall vote to fill the vacancy. In voting to fill the  
33 vacancy, each chairman of a county central committee and each  
34 ward and township committeeman in counties of 2,000,000 or more  
35 inhabitants shall have one vote for each ballot voted in each  
36 precinct of the congressional district in which the vacancy

1 exists of his or her county, township, or ward cast by the  
2 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
3 immediately preceding the meeting to fill the vacancy in the  
4 State central committee. The person appointed to fill the  
5 vacancy shall be a resident of the congressional district in  
6 which the vacancy occurs, shall be a qualified voter, and, in a  
7 committee composed as provided in Alternative B, shall be of  
8 the same sex as his or her predecessor. A political party may,  
9 by a majority vote of the delegates of any State convention of  
10 such party, determine to return to the election of State  
11 central committeeman and State central committeewoman by the  
12 vote of primary electors. Any action taken by a political party  
13 at a State convention in accordance with this Section shall be  
14 reported to the State Board of Elections by the chairman and  
15 secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.

16 Ward, Township and Precinct Committeemen

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

1 township. At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March,  
2 1970 and every 2 years thereafter, each primary elector, except  
3 in counties having a population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote  
4 for one candidate of his party in his precinct for precinct  
5 committeeman. Each candidate for precinct committeeman must be  
6 a bona fide resident of the precinct where he seeks to be  
7 elected precinct committeeman. The one having the highest  
8 number of votes shall be such precinct committeeman of such  
9 party for such precinct. The official returns of the primary  
10 shall show the name of the committeeman of each political  
11 party.

12 Terms of Committeemen. All precinct committeemen elected  
13 under the provisions of this Article shall continue as such  
14 committeemen until the date of the primary to be held in the  
15 second year after their election. Except as otherwise provided  
16 in this Section for certain State central committeemen who have  
17 2 year terms, all State central committeemen, township  
18 committeemen and ward committeemen shall continue as such  
19 committeemen until the date of primary to be held in the fourth  
20 year after their election. However, a vacancy exists in the  
21 office of precinct committeeman when a precinct committeeman  
22 ceases to reside in the precinct in which he was elected and  
23 such precinct committeeman shall thereafter neither have nor  
24 exercise any rights, powers or duties as committeeman in that  
25 precinct, even if a successor has not been elected or  
26 appointed.

27 (c) The Multi-Township Central Committee shall consist of  
28 the precinct committeemen of such party, in the multi-township  
29 assessing district formed pursuant to Section 2-10 of the  
30 Property Tax Code and shall be organized for the purposes set  
31 forth in Section 45-25 of the Township Code. In the  
32 organization and proceedings of the Multi-Township Central  
33 Committee each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
34 each ballot voted in his precinct by the primary electors of  
35 his party at the primary at which he was elected.

36

County Central Committee

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

20 Cook County Board of Review Election District Committee

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



1 election district committee.

2 Congressional Committee

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

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

1 his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
2 meeting of the congressional committee.

3 Judicial District Committee

4 (f) The judicial district committee of each political party  
5 in each judicial district shall be composed of the chairman of  
6 the county central committees of the counties composing the  
7 judicial district.

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

15 Circuit Court Committee

16 (g) The circuit court committee of each political party in  
17 each judicial circuit outside Cook County shall be composed of  
18 the chairmen of the county central committees of the counties  
19 composing the judicial circuit.

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

26 Judicial Subcircuit Committee

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

34 In the organization and proceedings of each judicial  
35 subcircuit committee, each township committeeman shall have  
36 one vote for each ballot voted in his township or part of a

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

#### 14 Municipal Central Committee

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

23 For political parties, other than a statewide political  
24 party, established only within a municipality or township, the  
25 municipal or township managing committee shall be composed of  
26 the party officers of the local established party. The party  
27 officers of a local established party shall be as follows: the  
28 chairman and secretary of the caucus for those municipalities  
29 and townships authorized by statute to nominate candidates by  
30 caucus shall serve as party officers for the purpose of filling  
31 vacancies in nomination under Section 7-61; for municipalities  
32 and townships authorized by statute or ordinance to nominate  
33 candidates by petition and primary election, the party officers  
34 shall be the party's candidates who are nominated at the  
35 primary. If no party primary was held because of the provisions  
36 of Section 7-5, vacancies in nomination shall be filled by the

1 party's remaining candidates who shall serve as the party's  
2 officers.

3 Powers

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

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

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

1 when permitted by the rules of a political party which elects  
2 its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
3 Section.

4 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person is  
5 ineligible to hold the position of committeeperson in any  
6 committee established pursuant to this Section if he or she is  
7 statutorily ineligible to vote in a general election because of  
8 conviction of a felony. When a committeeperson is convicted of  
9 a felony, the position occupied by that committeeperson shall  
10 automatically become vacant.

11 (Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-574, eff. 8-21-03;  
12 93-847, eff. 7-30-04; 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law.