



## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

SB2033

Introduced 2/25/2005, by Sen. Chris Lauzen

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/7-8

from Ch. 46, par. 7-8

Amends the Election Code. With respect to political parties that select their State central committee using the "Alternative A" method, provides for election of committeemen by congressional district. Removes the option of election of State central committeemen by ward, township, and precinct committeemen. Requires each State central committee, within 30 days after the bill's effective date, to certify to the State Board of Elections its choice of alternative method of member selection. Makes other changes.

LRB094 11470 JAM 42407 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 the 94th General Assembly ~~1983~~ the State  
13 central committee of each political party shall certify to the  
14 State Board of Elections which of the following alternatives it  
15 wishes to apply to the State central committee of that party.

16 Alternative A. At the primary held on the third Tuesday in  
17 March 2006, 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 State central committee of  
21 the political party under Alternative A shall be composed of  
22 members elected from the several congressional districts of the  
23 State, or appointed to fill a vacancy, as herein provided, and  
24 of no other person or persons whomever. The members of the  
25 State central committee shall, within 30 days after their  
26 election, meet in the city of Springfield and organize by  
27 electing from among their own number a chairman, and may at  
28 such time elect such officers from among their own number (or  
29 otherwise), as they may deem necessary or expedient. The  
30 outgoing chairman of the State central committee of the party  
31 shall, within 10 days before the meeting, notify each member of  
32 the State central committee elected at the primary of the time

1 and place of such meeting. In the organization and proceedings  
2 of the State central committee, each State central committeeman  
3 shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his congressional  
4 district by the primary electors of his party at the primary at  
5 which he was elected. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the State  
6 central committee of the political party, the vacancy may be  
7 filled by appointment by the congressional committee of the  
8 political party in the congressional district from which the  
9 appointee's predecessor was elected, and the member so selected  
10 to fill the vacancy shall be a resident of that congressional  
11 district. ~~At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March~~  
12 ~~1970, and at the primary held every 4 years thereafter, each~~  
13 ~~primary elector may vote for one candidate of his party for~~  
14 ~~member of the State central committee for the congressional~~  
15 ~~district in which he resides. The candidate receiving the~~  
16 ~~highest number of votes shall be declared elected State central~~  
17 ~~committeeman from the district. A political party may, in lieu~~  
18 ~~of the foregoing, by a majority vote of delegates at any State~~  
19 ~~convention of such party, determine to thereafter elect the~~  
20 ~~State central committeemen in the manner following:~~

21 ~~At the county convention held by such political party State~~  
22 ~~central committeemen shall be elected in the same manner as~~  
23 ~~provided in this Article for the election of officers of the~~  
24 ~~county central committee, and such election shall follow the~~  
25 ~~election of officers of the county central committee. Each~~  
26 ~~elected ward, township or precinct committeeman shall cast as~~  
27 ~~his vote one vote for each ballot voted in his ward, township,~~  
28 ~~part of a township or precinct in the last preceding primary~~  
29 ~~election of his political party. In the case of a county lying~~  
30 ~~partially within one congressional district and partially~~  
31 ~~within another congressional district, each ward, township or~~  
32 ~~precinct committeeman shall vote only with respect to the~~  
33 ~~congressional district in which his ward, township, part of a~~  
34 ~~township or precinct is located. In the case of a congressional~~  
35 ~~district which encompasses more than one county, each ward,~~  
36 ~~township or precinct committeeman residing within the~~

~~1 congressional district shall cast as his vote one vote for each  
2 ballot voted in his ward, township, part of a township or  
3 precinct in the last preceding primary election of his  
4 political party for one candidate of his party for member of  
5 the State central committee for the congressional district in  
6 which he resides and the Chairman of the county central  
7 committee shall report the results of the election to the State  
8 Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections shall certify  
9 the candidate receiving the highest number of votes elected  
10 State central committeeman for that congressional district.~~

~~11 The State central committee shall adopt rules to provide  
12 for and govern the procedures to be followed in the election of  
13 members of the State central committee.~~

~~14 After the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st  
15 General Assembly, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of  
16 Chairman of a State central committee, or at the end of the  
17 term of office of Chairman, the State central committee of each  
18 political party that has selected Alternative A shall elect a  
19 Chairman who shall not be required to be a member of the State  
20 Central Committee. The Chairman shall be a registered voter in  
21 this State and of the same political party as the State central  
22 committee.~~

23 Alternative B. Each congressional committee shall, within  
24 30 days after the adoption of this alternative, appoint a  
25 person of the sex opposite that of the incumbent member for  
26 that congressional district to serve as an additional member of  
27 the State central committee until his or her successor is  
28 elected at the general primary election in 1986. Each  
29 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
30 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section. In  
31 each congressional district at the general primary election  
32 held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, the male candidate  
33 receiving the highest number of votes of the party's male  
34 candidates for State central committeeman, and the female  
35 candidate receiving the highest number of votes of the party's  
36 female candidates for State central committeewoman, shall be

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

19 The Chairman of a State central committee composed as  
20 provided in this Alternative B must be selected from the  
21 committee's members.

22 ~~The Except as provided for in Alternative A with respect to~~  
23 ~~the selection of the Chairman of the State central committee,~~  
24 ~~under both of the foregoing alternatives, the State central~~  
25 committee of the each political party under Alternative B shall  
26 be composed of members elected or appointed from the several  
27 congressional districts of the State, and of no other person or  
28 persons whomsoever. The members of the State central committee  
29 shall, within 30 days after each quadrennial election of the  
30 full committee, meet in the city of Springfield and organize by  
31 electing a chairman, and may at such time elect such officers  
32 from among their own number (or otherwise), as they may deem  
33 necessary or expedient. The outgoing chairman of the State  
34 central committee of the party shall, 10 days before the  
35 meeting, notify each member of the State central committee  
36 elected at the primary of the time and place of such meeting.

1 In the organization and proceedings of the State central  
2 committee, each State central committeeman and State central  
3 committeewoman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
4 or her congressional district by the primary electors of his or  
5 her party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
6 meeting of the State central committee. Whenever a vacancy  
7 occurs in the State central committee of the ~~any~~ political  
8 party, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the  
9 chairmen of the county central committees of the political  
10 party of the counties located within the congressional district  
11 in which the vacancy occurs and, if applicable, the ward and  
12 township committeemen of the political party in counties of  
13 2,000,000 or more inhabitants located within the congressional  
14 district. If the congressional district in which the vacancy  
15 occurs lies wholly within a county of 2,000,000 or more  
16 inhabitants, the ward and township committeemen of the  
17 political party in that congressional district shall vote to  
18 fill the vacancy. In voting to fill the vacancy, each chairman  
19 of a county central committee and each ward and township  
20 committeeman in counties of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants shall  
21 have one vote for each ballot voted in each precinct of the  
22 congressional district in which the vacancy exists of his or  
23 her county, township, or ward cast by the primary electors of  
24 his or her party at the primary election immediately preceding  
25 the meeting to fill the vacancy in the State central committee.  
26 The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be a resident of  
27 the congressional district in which the vacancy occurs, shall  
28 be a qualified voter, and, ~~in a committee composed as provided~~  
29 ~~in Alternative B,~~ shall be of the same sex as his or her  
30 predecessor.

31 A political party may, by a majority vote of the delegates  
32 of any State convention of such party, select a different  
33 Alternative under this subsection than selected by the State  
34 central committee ~~determine to return to the election of State~~  
35 ~~central committeeman and State central committeewoman by the~~  
36 ~~vote of primary electors.~~ Any action taken by a political party

1 at a State convention in accordance with this Section shall be  
2 reported to the State Board of Elections by the chairman and  
3 secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.

4 Ward, Township and Precinct Committeemen

5 (b) At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March,  
6 1972, and every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in  
7 cities having a population of 200,000 or over may vote for one  
8 candidate of his party in his ward for ward committeeman. Each  
9 candidate for ward committeeman must be a resident of and in  
10 the ward where he seeks to be elected ward committeeman. The  
11 one having the highest number of votes shall be such ward  
12 committeeman of such party for such ward. At the primary  
13 election held on the third Tuesday in March, 1970, and every 4  
14 years thereafter, each primary elector in counties containing a  
15 population of 2,000,000 or more, outside of cities containing a  
16 population of 200,000 or more, may vote for one candidate of  
17 his party for township committeeman. Each candidate for  
18 township committeeman must be a resident of and in the township  
19 or part of a township (which lies outside of a city having a  
20 population of 200,000 or more, in counties containing a  
21 population of 2,000,000 or more), and in which township or part  
22 of a township he seeks to be elected township committeeman. The  
23 one having the highest number of votes shall be such township  
24 committeeman of such party for such township or part of a  
25 township. At the primary held on the third Tuesday in March,  
26 1970 and every 2 years thereafter, each primary elector, except  
27 in counties having a population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote  
28 for one candidate of his party in his precinct for precinct  
29 committeeman. Each candidate for precinct committeeman must be  
30 a bona fide resident of the precinct where he seeks to be  
31 elected precinct committeeman. The one having the highest  
32 number of votes shall be such precinct committeeman of such  
33 party for such precinct. The official returns of the primary  
34 shall show the name of the committeeman of each political  
35 party.

36 Terms of Committeemen. All precinct committeemen elected

1 under the provisions of this Article shall continue as such  
2 committeemen until the date of the primary to be held in the  
3 second year after their election. Except as otherwise provided  
4 in this Section for certain State central committeemen who have  
5 2 year terms, all State central committeemen, township  
6 committeemen and ward committeemen shall continue as such  
7 committeemen until the date of primary to be held in the fourth  
8 year after their election. However, a vacancy exists in the  
9 office of precinct committeeman when a precinct committeeman  
10 ceases to reside in the precinct in which he was elected and  
11 such precinct committeeman shall thereafter neither have nor  
12 exercise any rights, powers or duties as committeeman in that  
13 precinct, even if a successor has not been elected or  
14 appointed.

15 (c) The Multi-Township Central Committee shall consist of  
16 the precinct committeemen of such party, in the multi-township  
17 assessing district formed pursuant to Section 2-10 of the  
18 Property Tax Code and shall be organized for the purposes set  
19 forth in Section 45-25 of the Township Code. In the  
20 organization and proceedings of the Multi-Township Central  
21 Committee each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
22 each ballot voted in his precinct by the primary electors of  
23 his party at the primary at which he was elected.

24 County Central Committee

25 (d) The county central committee of each political party in  
26 each county shall consist of the various township committeemen,  
27 precinct committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of such  
28 party in the county. In the organization and proceedings of the  
29 county central committee, each precinct committeeman shall  
30 have one vote for each ballot voted in his precinct by the  
31 primary electors of his party at the primary at which he was  
32 elected; each township committeeman shall have one vote for  
33 each ballot voted in his township or part of a township as the  
34 case may be by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
35 election for the nomination of candidates for election to the  
36 General Assembly immediately preceding the meeting of the



1 county central committee; and in the organization and  
2 proceedings of the county central committee, each ward  
3 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
4 ward by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
5 election for the nomination of candidates for election to the  
6 General Assembly immediately preceding the meeting of the  
7 county central committee.

8 Cook County Board of Review Election District Committee

9 (d-1) Each board of review election district committee of  
10 each political party in Cook County shall consist of the  
11 various township committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of  
12 that party in the portions of the county composing the board of  
13 review election district. In the organization and proceedings  
14 of each of the 3 election district committees, each township  
15 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
16 or her township or part of a township, as the case may be, by  
17 the primary electors of his or her party at the primary  
18 election immediately preceding the meeting of the board of  
19 review election district committee; and in the organization and  
20 proceedings of each of the 3 election district committees, each  
21 ward committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in  
22 his or her ward or part of that ward, as the case may be, by the  
23 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
24 immediately preceding the meeting of the board of review  
25 election district committee.

26 Congressional Committee

27 (e) The congressional committee of each party in each  
28 congressional district shall be composed of the chairmen of the  
29 county central committees of the counties composing the  
30 congressional district, except that in congressional districts  
31 wholly within the territorial limits of one county, or partly  
32 within 2 or more counties, but not coterminous with the county  
33 lines of all of such counties, the precinct committeemen,  
34 township committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of the  
35 party representing the precincts within the limits of the  
36 congressional district, shall compose the congressional

1 committee. A State central committeeman in each district shall  
2 be a member and the chairman or, when a district has 2 State  
3 central committeemen, a co-chairman of the congressional  
4 committee, but shall not have the right to vote except in case  
5 of a tie.

6 In the organization and proceedings of congressional  
7 committees composed of precinct committeemen or township  
8 committeemen or ward committeemen, or any combination thereof,  
9 each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot  
10 voted in his precinct by the primary electors of his party at  
11 the primary at which he was elected, each township committeeman  
12 shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his township or  
13 part of a township as the case may be by the primary electors  
14 of his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
15 meeting of the congressional committee, and each ward  
16 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in each  
17 precinct of his ward located in such congressional district by  
18 the primary electors of his party at the primary election  
19 immediately preceding the meeting of the congressional  
20 committee; and in the organization and proceedings of  
21 congressional committees composed of the chairmen of the county  
22 central committees of the counties within such district, each  
23 chairman of such county central committee shall have one vote  
24 for each ballot voted in his county by the primary electors of  
25 his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
26 meeting of the congressional committee.

27 Judicial District Committee

28 (f) The judicial district committee of each political party  
29 in each judicial district shall be composed of the chairman of  
30 the county central committees of the counties composing the  
31 judicial district.

32 In the organization and proceedings of judicial district  
33 committees composed of the chairmen of the county central  
34 committees of the counties within such district, each chairman  
35 of such county central committee shall have one vote for each  
36 ballot voted in his county by the primary electors of his party

1 at the primary election immediately preceding the meeting of  
2 the judicial district committee.

3 Circuit Court Committee

4 (g) The circuit court committee of each political party in  
5 each judicial circuit outside Cook County shall be composed of  
6 the chairmen of the county central committees of the counties  
7 composing the judicial circuit.

8 In the organization and proceedings of circuit court  
9 committees, each chairman of a county central committee shall  
10 have one vote for each ballot voted in his county by the  
11 primary electors of his party at the primary election  
12 immediately preceding the meeting of the circuit court  
13 committee.

14 Judicial Subcircuit Committee

15 (g-1) The judicial subcircuit committee of each political  
16 party in each judicial subcircuit in a judicial circuit divided  
17 into subcircuits shall be composed of (i) the ward and township  
18 committeemen of the townships and wards composing the judicial  
19 subcircuit in Cook County and (ii) the precinct committeemen of  
20 the precincts composing the judicial subcircuit in any county  
21 other than Cook County.

22 In the organization and proceedings of each judicial  
23 subcircuit committee, each township committeeman shall have  
24 one vote for each ballot voted in his township or part of a  
25 township, as the case may be, in the judicial subcircuit by the  
26 primary electors of his party at the primary election  
27 immediately preceding the meeting of the judicial subcircuit  
28 committee; each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
29 each ballot voted in his precinct or part of a precinct, as the  
30 case may be, in the judicial subcircuit by the primary electors  
31 of his party at the primary election immediately preceding the  
32 meeting of the judicial subcircuit committee; and each ward  
33 committeeman shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his  
34 ward or part of a ward, as the case may be, in the judicial  
35 subcircuit by the primary electors of his party at the primary  
36 election immediately preceding the meeting of the judicial

1 subcircuit committee.

2 Municipal Central Committee

3 (h) The municipal central committee of each political party  
4 shall be composed of the precinct, township or ward  
5 committeemen, as the case may be, of such party representing  
6 the precincts or wards, embraced in such city, incorporated  
7 town or village. The voting strength of each precinct, township  
8 or ward committeeman on the municipal central committee shall  
9 be the same as his voting strength on the county central  
10 committee.

11 For political parties, other than a statewide political  
12 party, established only within a municipality or township, the  
13 municipal or township managing committee shall be composed of  
14 the party officers of the local established party. The party  
15 officers of a local established party shall be as follows: the  
16 chairman and secretary of the caucus for those municipalities  
17 and townships authorized by statute to nominate candidates by  
18 caucus shall serve as party officers for the purpose of filling  
19 vacancies in nomination under Section 7-61; for municipalities  
20 and townships authorized by statute or ordinance to nominate  
21 candidates by petition and primary election, the party officers  
22 shall be the party's candidates who are nominated at the  
23 primary. If no party primary was held because of the provisions  
24 of Section 7-5, vacancies in nomination shall be filled by the  
25 party's remaining candidates who shall serve as the party's  
26 officers.

27 Powers

28 (i) Each committee and its officers shall have the powers  
29 usually exercised by such committees and by the officers  
30 thereof, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.  
31 The several committees herein provided for shall not have power  
32 to delegate any of their powers, or functions to any other  
33 person, officer or committee, but this shall not be construed  
34 to prevent a committee from appointing from its own membership  
35 proper and necessary subcommittees.

36 (j) The State central committee of a political party which

1 elects its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
2 Section shall adopt a plan to give effect to the delegate  
3 selection rules of the national political party and file a copy  
4 of such plan with the State Board of Elections when approved by  
5 a national political party.

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

28 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person is  
29 ineligible to hold the position of committeeperson in any  
30 committee established pursuant to this Section if he or she is  
31 statutorily ineligible to vote in a general election because of  
32 conviction of a felony. When a committeeperson is convicted of  
33 a felony, the position occupied by that committeeperson shall  
34 automatically become vacant.

35 (Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-574, eff. 8-21-03;  
36 93-847, eff. 7-30-04.)