



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB2068

Introduced 2/22/2011, by Rep. Kay Hatcher

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/7-8

from Ch. 46, par. 7-8

Amends the Election Code. Provides that at the primary in 2012 and at the general primary election every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in cities having a population of 250,000 (instead of 200,000) or more, may vote for one candidate of his or her party in his or her ward for ward committeeman. Further provides that at the primary election in 2014 and at the general primary election every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in counties containing a population of 2,000,000 or more, outside of cities containing a population of 250,000 (instead of 200,000) or more, may vote for one candidate of his or her party for township committeeman and each candidate for township committeeman must be a resident of and in the township or part of a township (which lies outside of a city having a population of 250,000 (instead of 200,000) or more, in counties containing a population of 2,000,000 or more), and in which township or part of a township he seeks to be elected township committeeman. Effective immediately.

LRB097 08064 HLH 48187 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 in 1970 and at the general  
17 primary election held every 4 years thereafter, each primary  
18 elector may vote for one candidate of his party for member of  
19 the State central committee for the congressional district in  
20 which he resides. The candidate receiving the highest number of  
21 votes shall be declared elected State central committeeman from  
22 the district. A political party may, in lieu of the foregoing,  
23 by a majority vote of delegates at any State convention of such

1 party, determine to thereafter elect the State central  
2 committeemen in the manner following:

3 At the county convention held by such political party State  
4 central committeemen shall be elected in the same manner as  
5 provided in this Article for the election of officers of the  
6 county central committee, and such election shall follow the  
7 election of officers of the county central committee. Each  
8 elected ward, township or precinct committeeman shall cast as  
9 his vote one vote for each ballot voted in his ward, township,  
10 part of a township or precinct in the last preceding primary  
11 election of his political party. In the case of a county lying  
12 partially within one congressional district and partially  
13 within another congressional district, each ward, township or  
14 precinct committeeman shall vote only with respect to the  
15 congressional district in which his ward, township, part of a  
16 township or precinct is located. In the case of a congressional  
17 district which encompasses more than one county, each ward,  
18 township or precinct committeeman residing within the  
19 congressional district shall cast as his vote one vote for each  
20 ballot voted in his ward, township, part of a township or  
21 precinct in the last preceding primary election of his  
22 political party for one candidate of his party for member of  
23 the State central committee for the congressional district in  
24 which he resides and the Chairman of the county central  
25 committee shall report the results of the election to the State  
26 Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections shall certify

1 the candidate receiving the highest number of votes elected  
2 State central committeeman for that congressional district.

3 The State central committee shall adopt rules to provide  
4 for and govern the procedures to be followed in the election of  
5 members of the State central committee.

6 After the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st  
7 General Assembly, whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of  
8 Chairman of a State central committee, or at the end of the  
9 term of office of Chairman, the State central committee of each  
10 political party that has selected Alternative A shall elect a  
11 Chairman who shall not be required to be a member of the State  
12 Central Committee. The Chairman shall be a registered voter in  
13 this State and of the same political party as the State central  
14 committee.

15 Alternative B. Each congressional committee shall, within  
16 30 days after the adoption of this alternative, appoint a  
17 person of the sex opposite that of the incumbent member for  
18 that congressional district to serve as an additional member of  
19 the State central committee until his or her successor is  
20 elected at the general primary election in 1986. Each  
21 congressional committee shall make this appointment by voting  
22 on the basis set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section. In  
23 each congressional district at the general primary election  
24 held in 1986 and every 4 years thereafter, the male candidate  
25 receiving the highest number of votes of the party's male  
26 candidates for State central committeeman, and the female

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

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

24 Except as provided for in Alternative A with respect to the  
25 selection of the Chairman of the State central committee, under  
26 both of the foregoing alternatives, the State central committee

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

1 county of 2,000,000 or more inhabitants, the ward and township  
2 committeemen of the political party in that congressional  
3 district shall vote to fill the vacancy. In voting to fill the  
4 vacancy, each chairman of a county central committee and each  
5 ward and township committeeman in counties of 2,000,000 or more  
6 inhabitants shall have one vote for each ballot voted in each  
7 precinct of the congressional district in which the vacancy  
8 exists of his or her county, township, or ward cast by the  
9 primary electors of his or her party at the primary election  
10 immediately preceding the meeting to fill the vacancy in the  
11 State central committee. The person appointed to fill the  
12 vacancy shall be a resident of the congressional district in  
13 which the vacancy occurs, shall be a qualified voter, and, in a  
14 committee composed as provided in Alternative B, shall be of  
15 the same sex as his or her predecessor. A political party may,  
16 by a majority vote of the delegates of any State convention of  
17 such party, determine to return to the election of State  
18 central committeeman and State central committeewoman by the  
19 vote of primary electors. Any action taken by a political party  
20 at a State convention in accordance with this Section shall be  
21 reported to the State Board of Elections by the chairman and  
22 secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.

23 Ward, Township and Precinct Committeemen

24 (b) At the primary in 2012 ~~1972~~ and at the general primary  
25 election every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in  
26 cities having a population of 250,000 ~~200,000~~ or over may vote

1 for one candidate of his or her party in his or her ward for  
2 ward committeeman. Each candidate for ward committeeman must be  
3 a resident of and in the ward where he seeks to be elected ward  
4 committeeman. The one having the highest number of votes shall  
5 be such ward committeeman of such party for such ward. At the  
6 primary election in 2014 ~~1970~~ and at the general primary  
7 election every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in  
8 counties containing a population of 2,000,000 or more, outside  
9 of cities containing a population of 250,000 ~~200,000~~ or more,  
10 may vote for one candidate of his party for township  
11 committeeman. Each candidate for township committeeman must be  
12 a resident of and in the township or part of a township (which  
13 lies outside of a city having a population of 250,000 ~~200,000~~  
14 or more, in counties containing a population of 2,000,000 or  
15 more), and in which township or part of a township he seeks to  
16 be elected township committeeman. The one having the highest  
17 number of votes shall be such township committeeman of such  
18 party for such township or part of a township. At the primary  
19 in 1970 and at the general primary election every 2 years  
20 thereafter, each primary elector, except in counties having a  
21 population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote for one candidate of  
22 his party in his precinct for precinct committeeman. Each  
23 candidate for precinct committeeman must be a bona fide  
24 resident of the precinct where he seeks to be elected precinct  
25 committeeman. The one having the highest number of votes shall  
26 be such precinct committeeman of such party for such precinct.



1 The official returns of the primary shall show the name of the  
2 committeeman of each political party.

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

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

## 1 County Central Committee

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

## 21 Cook County Board of Review Election District Committee

22 (d-1) Each board of review election district committee of  
23 each political party in Cook County shall consist of the  
24 various township committeemen and ward committeemen, if any, of  
25 that party in the portions of the county composing the board of  
26 review election district. In the organization and proceedings

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

13 Congressional Committee

14 (e) The congressional committee of each party in each  
15 congressional district shall be composed of the chairmen of the  
16 county central committees of the counties composing the  
17 congressional district, except that in congressional districts  
18 wholly within the territorial limits of one county, the  
19 precinct committeemen, township committeemen and ward  
20 committeemen, if any, of the party representing the precincts  
21 within the limits of the congressional district, shall compose  
22 the congressional committee. A State central committeeman in  
23 each district shall be a member and the chairman or, when a  
24 district has 2 State central committeemen, a co-chairman of the  
25 congressional committee, but shall not have the right to vote  
26 except in case of a tie.

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

22                                   Judicial District Committee

23           (f) The judicial district committee of each political party  
24 in each judicial district shall be composed of the chairman of  
25 the county central committees of the counties composing the  
26 judicial district.



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

17                                   Municipal Central Committee

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

26           For political parties, other than a statewide political

1 party, established only within a municipality or township, the  
2 municipal or township managing committee shall be composed of  
3 the party officers of the local established party. The party  
4 officers of a local established party shall be as follows: the  
5 chairman and secretary of the caucus for those municipalities  
6 and townships authorized by statute to nominate candidates by  
7 caucus shall serve as party officers for the purpose of filling  
8 vacancies in nomination under Section 7-61; for municipalities  
9 and townships authorized by statute or ordinance to nominate  
10 candidates by petition and primary election, the party officers  
11 shall be the party's candidates who are nominated at the  
12 primary. If no party primary was held because of the provisions  
13 of Section 7-5, vacancies in nomination shall be filled by the  
14 party's remaining candidates who shall serve as the party's  
15 officers.

#### 16 Powers

17 (i) Each committee and its officers shall have the powers  
18 usually exercised by such committees and by the officers  
19 thereof, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.  
20 The several committees herein provided for shall not have power  
21 to delegate any of their powers, or functions to any other  
22 person, officer or committee, but this shall not be construed  
23 to prevent a committee from appointing from its own membership  
24 proper and necessary subcommittees.

25 (j) The State central committee of a political party which  
26 elects its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this

1 Section shall adopt a plan to give effect to the delegate  
2 selection rules of the national political party and file a copy  
3 of such plan with the State Board of Elections when approved by  
4 a national political party.

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



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

8           (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05; 95-6, eff. 6-20-07; 95-699,  
9 eff. 11-9-07.)

10           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.