

1985 Assembly Bill 92

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1985 Wisconsin Act 131

AN ACT to repeal 8.17 (8m); and to amend 8.17 (1), (5) (a), (b), (c), (f) and (h) and (6) (d) and 8.17 (7) (a) 2 and 6 and (10) of the statutes, relating to political party committees.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 8.17 (1), (5) (a), (b), (c), (f) and (h) and (6) (d) of the statutes are amended to read:

8.17 (1) (a) Political parties qualifying for a separate ballot under s. 5.62 (1) (b) or (2) shall elect their party committeemen and committeewomen at the September primary. The function of committeemen and committeewomen is to represent their neighborhoods in the structure of a political party. Committeemen and committeewomen shall act as liaison representatives between their parties and the residents

of the election districts in which they serve. Activities of committeemen and committeewomen shall include, but not be limited to, voter identification; assistance in voter registration drives; increasing voter participation in political parties; polling and other methods of passing information from residents to political parties and elected public officials; and dissemination of information from public officials to residents. For assistance in those and other activities of interest to a political party, each committeeman and committeewoman may appoint a captain to engage in these activities in each ward, if the election district served by the committeeman or committeewoman includes

more than one ward. In an election district which includes more than one ward, the committeeman or committeewoman shall coordinate the activities of the ward captains in promoting the interests of his or her party.

(b) Each political party shall elect one committeeman or committeewoman from each election district. In this section, each village, each town and each city is an "election district"; except that in cities having a population of more than 7,500 which are divided into aldermanic districts, each aldermanic district is an "election district"; and in cities having a population of more than 7,500 which are not divided into aldermanic districts and villages or towns having a population of more than 7,500, each ward or group of combined wards under s. 5.15 (6) (b) constituting a polling place on April 1 of the year in which committeemen or committeewomen are elected is an "election district". To be eligible to serve as its committeeman or committeewoman, an individual shall be, at the time of filing nomination papers or at the time of appointment under this section, a resident of the election district which he or she is chosen to represent and shall be at least 18 years of age.

(5) (a) The county committee of each political party shall consist of the duly elected ~~or~~ committeemen and committeewomen and appointed committeeman committeemen and committeewomen residing in the county.

(b) A combined meeting of the county committee and members in good standing of the party in the county shall be held within 30 days, but not less than 7 days, of the completion of the official September primary county canvass. The meeting shall be open to all members in good standing of the party in the county no sooner than 15 days after the September primary and no later than April 1 of the following year. At this meeting, the county committee offices of chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer shall be filled by election by the committeemen, committeewomen and party members present and voting, each of whom is entitled to one vote. At this meeting, the county committee shall elect the members of the congressional district committee members as provided in sub. (6) (b), (c) and (d). The secretary of the county committee shall give at least 7 days' written notice of the meeting to party and committee members at least 7 days in advance of the meeting. Individuals elected as county committee officers or as congressional district committee members may be, but are not required to be, party committeemen or committeewomen. They are required to be party members in good standing. Their terms begin during the meeting immediately upon completion and verification of the voting for each office.

(e) Additional Except as authorized in this paragraph, all county committee meetings may shall be called by the county chairman upon of the county committee. The secretary of the county committee

shall give at least 7 days' written notice of each meeting to the committee members. A majority of committee members may, upon petition to the chairman signed by all of them, demand that the chairman call a meeting. If after 3 days the chairman has failed to do so, the demanding members may designate one of them to call and preside at a meeting, also upon at least 7 days' written notice to all committee members. The member so designated shall provide the notice. Meetings called in either manner have equal standing.

(f) Any of the county committee officers named in par. (b) may be removed from office at any meeting of the committee, ~~provided if~~ at least two-thirds of the committeemen or committeewomen are present and; at least 7 days' advance written notice of the meeting is given to members of the party in the county; the notice discloses that discussion of the removal of one or more officers is on the agenda; and the notice includes and identifies this paragraph. Any such removal, and subsequent filling of a vacancy, shall be by vote of the committeemen, committeewomen and party members present and voting, ~~including committeemen and party members,~~ each of whom is entitled to one vote.

(h) The county committee may appoint a committeeman or committeewoman for any election district in which no one was elected. An appointed committeeman or committeewoman has the same responsibilities and may engage in the same activities as an elected committeeman or committeewoman.

(6) (d) County committees ~~shall~~ may elect alternate members to congressional district committees on the same basis and in the same numbers as they are entitled to elect under pars. (b) and (c).

SECTION 1m. 8.17 (7) (a) 2 and 6 and (10) of the statutes are amended to read:

8.17 (7) (a) 2. The secretary of the congressional district committee shall give at least 5 days' advance written notice of the meeting to all committeemen, committeewomen and party members residing in the area of the new committee.

6. Committeemen and committeewomen who are members of committees organized in any political subdivision or assembly district retain their status as members of the county committee.

(10) Committeemen and committeewomen who are members in good standing of their county parties, by virtue of their ~~office offices,~~ shall be granted credentials for participation in any caucus or convention called by their congressional district ~~committee or~~ committees or the state committee, and those credentials shall be distributed at least ~~30~~ 21 days in advance of the meeting by the secretary of the committee calling the caucus or convention.

SECTION 2. 8.17 (8m) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. **Terminology changes.** (1) Wherever the term "committeeman" appears in the following sections of the statutes, the term "committeeman or committeewoman" is substituted: 7.30 (2) (a), 8.17 (3) (a), (4) and 8.35 (2) (a).

(2) Wherever the term "committeemen" appears in the following sections of the statutes, the term "committeemen or committeewomen" is substituted: 7.30 (4) (b) 1 and 8.17 (3) (b) and (7) (a) 3.

(3) Wherever the term "committeemen" appears in the following section of the statutes, the term "committeemen and committeewomen" is substituted: 8.17 (7) (a) (intro.) and (9) (b).
