

# SB0600



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB0600

Introduced 2/6/2009, 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.

LRB096 04181 JAM 14223 b

A BILL FOR

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 96th 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 general primary in 2010, and at the  
17 general primary every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector  
18 may vote for one candidate of his or her party for member of  
19 the State central committee for the congressional district in  
20 which he or she resides. The State central committee of the  
21 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

1 of no other person or persons whomever. The members of the  
2 State central committee shall, within 30 days after their  
3 election, meet in the city of Springfield and organize by  
4 electing from among their own number a chairman, and may at  
5 such time elect such officers from among their own number (or  
6 otherwise), as they may deem necessary or expedient. The  
7 outgoing chairman of the State central committee of the party  
8 shall, within 10 days before the meeting, notify each member of  
9 the State central committee elected at the primary of the time  
10 and place of such meeting. In the organization and proceedings  
11 of the State central committee, each State central committeeman  
12 shall have one vote for each ballot voted in his or her  
13 congressional district by the primary electors of his or her  
14 party at the primary at which he or she was elected. Whenever a  
15 vacancy occurs in the State central committee of the political  
16 party, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the  
17 congressional committee of the political party in the  
18 congressional district from which the appointee's predecessor  
19 was elected, and the member so selected to fill the vacancy  
20 shall be a resident of that congressional district. At the  
21 ~~primary in 1970 and at the general primary election held every~~  
22 ~~4 years thereafter, each primary elector may vote for one~~  
23 ~~candidate of his party for member of the State central~~  
24 ~~committee for the congressional district in which he resides.~~  
25 ~~The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be~~  
26 ~~declared elected State central committeeman from the district.~~

1 ~~A political party may, in lieu of the foregoing, by a majority~~  
2 ~~vote of delegates at any State convention of such party,~~  
3 ~~determine to thereafter elect the State central committeemen in~~  
4 ~~the manner following:~~

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

1 ~~committee shall report the results of the election to the State~~  
2 ~~Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections shall certify~~  
3 ~~the candidate receiving the highest number of votes elected~~  
4 ~~State central committeeman for that congressional district.~~

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

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

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

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

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

26 ~~The Except as provided for in Alternative A with respect to~~

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

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



1 secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.

2 Ward, Township and Precinct Committeemen

3 (b) At the primary in 1972 and at the general primary  
4 election every 4 years thereafter, each primary elector in  
5 cities having a population of 200,000 or over may vote for one  
6 candidate of his party in his ward for ward committeeman. Each  
7 candidate for ward committeeman must be a resident of and in  
8 the ward where he seeks to be elected ward committeeman. The  
9 one having the highest number of votes shall be such ward  
10 committeeman of such party for such ward. At the primary  
11 election in 1970 and at the general primary election every 4  
12 years thereafter, each primary elector in counties containing a  
13 population of 2,000,000 or more, outside of cities containing a  
14 population of 200,000 or more, may vote for one candidate of  
15 his party for township committeeman. Each candidate for  
16 township committeeman must be a resident of and in the township  
17 or part of a township (which lies outside of a city having a  
18 population of 200,000 or more, in counties containing a  
19 population of 2,000,000 or more), and in which township or part  
20 of a township he seeks to be elected township committeeman. The  
21 one having the highest number of votes shall be such township  
22 committeeman of such party for such township or part of a  
23 township. At the primary in 1970 and at the general primary  
24 election every 2 years thereafter, each primary elector, except  
25 in counties having a population of 2,000,000 or over, may vote  
26 for one candidate of his party in his precinct for precinct

1     committeeman. Each candidate for precinct committeeman must be  
2     a bona fide resident of the precinct where he seeks to be  
3     elected precinct committeeman. The one having the highest  
4     number of votes shall be such precinct committeeman of such  
5     party for such precinct. The official returns of the primary  
6     shall show the name of the committeeman of each political  
7     party.

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

23           (c) The Multi-Township Central Committee shall consist of  
24    the precinct committeemen of such party, in the multi-township  
25    assessing district formed pursuant to Section 2-10 of the  
26    Property Tax Code and shall be organized for the purposes set

1     forth in Section 45-25 of the Township Code. In the  
2     organization and proceedings of the Multi-Township Central  
3     Committee each precinct committeeman shall have one vote for  
4     each ballot voted in his precinct by the primary electors of  
5     his party at the primary at which he was elected.

6                     County Central Committee

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

26                     Cook County Board of Review Election District Committee

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

18 Congressional Committee

19 (e) The congressional committee of each party in each  
20 congressional district shall be composed of the chairmen of the  
21 county central committees of the counties composing the  
22 congressional district, except that in congressional districts  
23 wholly within the territorial limits of one county, the  
24 precinct committeemen, township committeemen and ward  
25 committeemen, if any, of the party representing the precincts  
26 within the limits of the congressional district, shall compose

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

## 1                   Judicial District Committee

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

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

## 13                   Circuit Court Committee

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

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

## 24                   Judicial Subcircuit Committee

25           (g-1) The judicial subcircuit committee of each political  
26 party in each judicial subcircuit in a judicial circuit divided

1 into subcircuits shall be composed of (i) the ward and township  
2 committeemen of the townships and wards composing the judicial  
3 subcircuit in Cook County and (ii) the precinct committeemen of  
4 the precincts composing the judicial subcircuit in any county  
5 other than Cook County.

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

22 Municipal Central Committee

23 (h) The municipal central committee of each political party  
24 shall be composed of the precinct, township or ward  
25 committeemen, as the case may be, of such party representing  
26 the precincts or wards, embraced in such city, incorporated

1 town or village. The voting strength of each precinct, township  
2 or ward committeeman on the municipal central committee shall  
3 be the same as his voting strength on the county central  
4 committee.

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

21 Powers

22 (i) Each committee and its officers shall have the powers  
23 usually exercised by such committees and by the officers  
24 thereof, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.  
25 The several committees herein provided for shall not have power  
26 to delegate any of their powers, or functions to any other



1 person, officer or committee, but this shall not be construed  
2 to prevent a committee from appointing from its own membership  
3 proper and necessary subcommittees.

4 (j) The State central committee of a political party which  
5 elects its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
6 Section shall adopt a plan to give effect to the delegate  
7 selection rules of the national political party and file a copy  
8 of such plan with the State Board of Elections when approved by  
9 a national political party.

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

1 the primary at which he was elected. However, the absent State  
2 central committeeman or committeewoman may designate a proxy  
3 when permitted by the rules of a political party which elects  
4 its members by Alternative B under paragraph (a) of this  
5 Section.

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

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