

**RESOLUTION OF THE 2024 ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION
CONCERNING RESTORING THE DIRECT ELECTION OF STATE CENTRAL
COMMITTEEPERSONS BY THE VOTE OF REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS**

WHEREAS, the State Central Committee is the governing board of the Illinois Republican Party, and the members of the State Central Committee have a duty to serve and protect the interests of all Republicans to the best of their ability, and to advance the ideals of our Grand Old Party in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Republican Party formerly allowed all Republican primary voters to directly elect the members of the State Central Committee in the General Primary Election every four years; and

WHEREAS, the right to directly elect the members of the State Central Committee was taken away in the 1980's in Illinois – from Republican voters only – and a more closed system of selection where only lower level Republican party officials have any say in the choice of State Central Committeepersons was substituted for our former direct election system, while the Democratic Party of Illinois has to this day kept the direct election system for all members of its State Central Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Election Code at 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) sets forth a clear method whereby direct elections can be restored to the Illinois Republican Party by returning to a system whereby Republican primary voters once again directly elect all State Central Committeepersons every four years at the General Primary Election from within each U.S. Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) states in relevant part: “*A political party may, by a majority vote of the delegates of any State convention of such party, determine to return to the election of State central committeepersons by the vote of primary electors. Any action taken by a political party at a State convention in accordance with this Section shall be reported to the State Board of Elections by the chair and secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action.*”; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of “*Alternative B*” as also set forth in 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) govern a political party which chooses to return to the election of State Central Committeepersons by the direct vote of Republican primary voters, and such *Alternative B* would double the current size of the Illinois Republican Party’s State Central Committee as *Alternative B* mandates the election of both a man and a woman from each U.S. Congressional District to serve as joint State Central Committeepersons with equal status for their respective U.S. Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, returning to the direct election of State Central Committeepersons by Republican primary voters means the Illinois Republican Party would no longer abide by the provisions of “*Alternative A*” as set forth in 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) whereby only one State Central Committeeperson is selected to represent each U.S. Congressional District and such singularly selected State Central Committeeperson then personally selects a person of the opposite sex to serve in the inferior position of Deputy State Central Committeeperson; and

WHEREAS, this Convention recognizes that ever since Republican primary voters lost their right to directly elect the members of the State Central Committee back in the 1980’s, a large majority

of State Central Committeepersons have been men, with women in a majority of cases thus serving in the inferior Deputy role; and

WHEREAS, this Convention enthusiastically welcomes the greatly expanded role women will have in the Illinois Republican Party when true democracy is finally restored, and an equal number of men and women will be directly elected to serve on the State Central Committee; and

WHEREAS, this Convention also wishes to express its great optimism that restoring direct elections for all State Central Committee members will result in more Black and Hispanic Republicans attaining leadership roles in the Illinois Republican Party by becoming State Central Committeepersons, as Black and Hispanic Republicans have been greatly underrepresented on the State Central Committee ever since the direct vote by all Republican primary voters was taken away; and

WHEREAS, this Convention wishes to proudly stand in the tradition of great Republican leaders from Abraham Lincoln to Donald Trump who have always believed in empowering voters and encouraging greater participation in civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, this Convention believes our Illinois Republican Party cannot continue to deny Republican voters the same basic right that our brave military men and women have given their lives to protect for others overseas – the fundamental American principle of one person, one vote; and

WHEREAS, under existing Illinois law the Illinois Republican Party may choose to immediately return to a system of direct elections with no statutory change needed, as the Illinois Election Code as currently written at 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) allows our Party to return to direct elections on its own by a majority vote of the delegates at a State convention; and

WHEREAS, this Convention desires to endorse the greater openness and accountability, better rank-and-file participation, and enhanced transparency that returning to a system of direct elections would foster and promote; and

WHEREAS, this Convention believes it is time to reverse a change which made our Illinois Republican Party less competitive, less accountable, less inclusive, less transparent, and less participatory; and

WHEREAS, this Convention believes all Illinois Republicans are worthy of at least the same level of participation, and deserve at least the same level of respect, that every Democrat currently enjoys within the Democratic Party of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, this Convention believes Republican voters deserve to have their vote restored in the Illinois Republican Party and their days of serving as second class citizens should come to an end; and

WHEREAS, every Republican candidate for public office in 2024 and beyond will benefit from a more open and participatory Republican Party, and from State Central Committeepersons who will have greater incentive to engage and recruit Republican voters and to build our GOP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 2024 Illinois Republican State Convention hereby approves, by a majority of the delegates in attendance, a return to the direct election by Republican primary electors of all State Central Committeepersons for the Illinois Republican Party, as authorized by the Illinois Election Code at 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a), and that such change in election shall be in effect for the General Primary Election of 2026 in Illinois.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION, having been presented at the 2024 Illinois Republican State Convention on the 25th day of May 2024, is hereby approved by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance, and the Chair and Secretary of this Convention are hereby directed to report this action to the State Board of Elections by no later than June 4, 2024.

SO ORDERED

As Chair and Secretary of the 2024 Illinois Republican State Convention, we hereby certify that the foregoing resolution has been duly adopted as the official position of the Illinois Republican Party, as of this 25th day of May 2024.

Chair

Secretary