

**RESOLUTION OF THE 2008 ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION
CONCERNING DIRECT ELECTIONS OF STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEMEN AND
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEWOMEN**

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

WHEREAS, the Illinois Republican Party used to allow all Republicans to directly elect the members of the State Central Committee in our party primary every four years;

WHEREAS, a tiny group of insiders intent on consolidating power took this right away from regular Republicans two decades ago and substituted a much more closed system for selection with adverse incentives, and one which has left our Party's governing board answerable only to a few, and unaccountable to the Republican rank-and-file;

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

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 committeeman and State central committeewoman 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 chairman and secretary of such convention within 10 days after such action."*;

WHEREAS, this Convention wishes to proudly stand with President George W. Bush and our presumptive Republican Presidential Nominee John McCain as these outstanding leaders support and encourage pro-democracy reforms around the world;

WHEREAS, this Convention believes our Illinois GOP cannot continue to deny Republicans the same basic right that our brave military men and women are giving their lives to protect for others overseas – the fundamental principle of one person, one vote;

WHEREAS, SB600 was a bill that would have accomplished substantially the same return to direct elections, but by legislation, well in advance of the current Convention;

WHEREAS, SB600 passed the Illinois Senate by a unanimous vote on April 14, 2005, with the support of the following Senate Republicans: Chris Lauzen; Pamela Althoff; Larry Bomke; Bill Brady; Dan Cronin [also currently DuPage County GOP Chairman]; Gary Dahl; Kirk Dillard [also former DuPage County GOP Chairman]; Adeline Geo-Karis; John O. Jones; Wendell Jones; Dave Luechtefeld; Carole Pankau; Bill Peterson [also former member of the State Central Committee]; Christine Radogno; Steve Rauschenberger; Dale Richter; Dale Risinger; Dan Rutherford; Todd Sieben; Dave Sullivan; Dave Syverson [current member of the State Central Committee]; Frank Watson, Richard Winkel, and Kathleen Wojcik;

WHEREAS, SB600 only failed to get to the Governor's desk for signature because the bill was killed in the Illinois House when the GOP's House leadership succumbed to pressure from our own party's entrenched insiders not to advance the reform legislation;

WHEREAS, another opportunity is now afforded to Republicans to return to direct elections without changing the law, as the Illinois Election Code as currently written at 10 ILCS 5/7-8(a) allows our Party to make the change on its own, but only at a State Convention, by a majority vote of the delegates;

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

WHEREAS, this Convention believes it is time to reverse a two decade old decision forced on Republicans by only a few, which made our Illinois Republican Party less competitive, less inclusive, and less democratic;

WHEREAS, this Convention believes all Illinois Republicans are worthy of at least the same level of democracy, and deserve at least the same level of respect, that all Illinois Democrats currently enjoy within their State Party;

WHEREAS, every Republican candidate in 2008 and 2010 will benefit from a more participatory Party and from State Central Committeemen and State Central Committeewomen who will have greater incentive to engage and recruit Republican rank-and-file voters, and to build our Party;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 2008 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 Committeemen and State Central Committeewomen for the Illinois Republican Party, as authorized in *10 ILCS 5/7-8(a)*.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION, having been presented at the 2008 Illinois Republican State Convention on the 7th day of June 2008, is hereby approved by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance

SO ORDERED

As Chairman of the 2008 Illinois Republican State Convention, I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution has been duly adopted as the official position of the Illinois Republican Party, as of this 7th day of June 2008.

Chairman

As Secretary of the 2008 Illinois Republican State Convention, I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution has been duly adopted as the official position of the Illinois Republican Party, as of this 7th day of June 2008.

Secretary

RESOLUTION
OF THE ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN PARTY
REGARDING THE DIRECT ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF
THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS5/7-8(a)) provides that the State Central Committee shall be composed of one member from each congressional district in the state, and;

WHEREAS, a political party may by a majority vote of delegates at any state convention of such party, determine to thereafter elect the State Central at county conventions held by such political party, and;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Republican Party has chosen to elect members to the State Central Committee by ward, township, and precinct committeemen voting at county conventions, and;

WHEREAS, in 2005 Senate Bill 600 was introduced in the Illinois General Assembly to provide for the direct election of the State Central Committee by primary voters, and;

WHEREAS, the Convention Committee on Platform and Resolutions has conducted an extensive hearing on the question of whether the State Central Committee should be directly elected or elected by Republican ward, township, and precinct committeemen, and;

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Convention Committee on Platform and Resolutions to oppose the direct election of the State Central Committee due to the added expense of conducting such an election, and because it undermines the rights and powers of duly elected Republican ward, township, and precinct committeemen to participate in the election of the State Central Committee, and it makes leadership of the state party vulnerable to the undue influence of campaign contributions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the official policy of the Illinois Republican Party, adopted this 6th day of June 2008 by the party Convention to oppose the direct election of the State Central Committee.

Andy McKenna,
Chairman of the Illinois Republican Party

Tolbert Chisum,
Secretary of the 2008 Illinois Republican
Party Convention

MINORITY REPORT

RESOLUTION CONCERNING DIRECT ELECTIONS OF STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEMEN AND STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEWOMEN

Be it resolved that this 2008 Illinois Republican State Convention hereby approves a return to direct election by Republican primary electors of all State Central Committeemen and State Central Committeewomen for the Illinois Republican Party.