Proposed DPNM Rule Changes
Article IV, Section 1 and Article IV, Section 5
November 2019

The State Rules Committee is proposing four (4) Rules changes for this electronic SCC vote:

1. Article IV, Rule 5.2 – Filling a Vacancy in a Ward or Precinct Chair
2. Article IV, Rule 5.3 – Filling Vacancies in Other Ward or Precinct Offices
3. Article IV, Section 1 – Requirement to Organize by Wards as Well as Precincts
4. Article IV, Rule 5.4 – Appointing Officers for New Wards/Precincts

Proposed change #1: Article IV, Rule 5.2 – Filling a Vacancy in a Ward or Precinct Chair

This is an easy fix that simply corrects some omissions and loopholes regarding a vacancy in a Ward or Precinct Chair.

Original Rule: The current rule states that a vacancy in a Ward or Precinct Chair position will be filled by the corresponding Vice Chair. It does not address the situation where a Ward or Precinct Vice Chair position could also be vacant (for example, in a precinct where no officers were elected at the initial precinct meeting).

Proposed Rule: The proposed new Rule 5.2 addresses this missing Vice Chair situation by:

1. authorizing the County Chair to fill vacant Ward Chair positions, and
2. authorizing the Ward Chair to fill vacant Precinct Chair positions

The new Rule 5.2 also clarifies term lengths and residency requirements for these appointed Chairs.

The State Rules Committee recommends a YES vote on the new Article IV, Rule 5.2.

Proposed change #2: Article IV, Rule 5.3 – Filling Vacancies in Other Ward or Precinct Offices

This is an easy fix that simply corrects some omissions and loopholes regarding a vacancy in a Ward or Precinct Chair.

Original Rule: The current rule states that a vacancy in any other ward or precinct office will be filled by the Ward Chair. It does not address the situation where there might not be a Ward Chair.

Proposed Rule: The proposed new Rule 5.3 addresses this missing Ward Chair situation by additionally authorizing the County Chair to fill vacant ward and precinct offices if there is no Ward Chair to make those appointments.

The State Rules Committee recommends a YES vote on the new Article IV, Rule 5.3.
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Proposed change #3: Article IV, Section 1 – Requirement to Organize by Wards as Well as Precincts

This addresses some party organizational issues that make the original Rules difficult to understand, manage, and administer.

**Original Rule:** Currently, there are two different organization structures for county parties.

1. County party / wards / precincts
2. County part/wards (without precincts)

In the current Rules, actions are to be performed “in wards (or precincts where wards do not exist)” and meetings or individuals are identified by “ward (or precinct)”. These varying structures make certain rules, such as those around selecting Delegates to state conventions, difficult to interpret and can lead to organization struggles or inequities.

**Proposed Rule:** The new Section 1 specifies that all counties are required to establish a ward structure that will be approved by the DPNM Chair. (A ward is simply a collection of neighboring precincts.) The rule takes into account variance among counties in many ways

1. Small-population counties have the option of establishing a one-ward structure, where all the precincts in the county belong to a single ward.
2. Medium- and large-population counties will be required to divide their precincts into two or more wards.
3. The new Section 1 provides suggestions for possible ward division concepts, but ultimately allows county parties to choose a concept that works best for their county organization.
4. County parties will still be able to incorporate other administrative layers, such as Districts, in their county structure.

When all counties establish a ward structure, all counties will then follow one uniform, easy-to-understand, and easy-to-implement process for apportioning and electing Delegates to state conventions.

*The State Rules Committee recommends a YES vote on the new Article IV, Section 1.*
Proposed change #4: Article IV, Rule 5.4 – Appointing Officers for New Wards/Precincts

This change addresses problems that arise from the creation of new precincts and wards within each county. New precinct boundaries will go into effect in early 2020, as mandated by state law (in preparation for the 2020 national census and 2021 redistricting). New wards will be created in some counties if the proposed rule change #3 is approved, or any time when county party executives decide to establish new ward boundaries.

**Original Rule:** When new precincts or wards are created, the current rule does not adequately deal with

1. Appointing new Precinct and Ward Chairs
2. Apportioning and electing Delegates for state conventions
3. Apportioning and electing additional County Central Committee (CCC) members

When new precincts are created, the standard formulas used to apportion CCC members and Delegates don’t work, because the population data used in those formulas is not available for new precincts. The required data comes from General Elections that occurred before the new precincts were created.

**Proposed Rule:** The proposed new Rule 5.4 provides a short-term, alternate process for calculating the apportionment of Delegates and CCC members for approximately two (2) years after new precincts are created.

This alternate process uses data from the precincts as they existed before their boundaries were adjusted to create new precincts. This process would also apply to newly created wards.

Once the new precincts have “aged” enough that the standard required data is available, the processes for apportioning and electing Delegates and CCC members revert back to the processes described in Article III, Rule 2.3.3 and Article III, Rule 5.1.

*The State Rules Committee recommends a YES vote on the new Article IV, Rule 5.4.*