

Kootenai County Republican Party Resolution in Support of Private Party Structures of County Precincts

Whereas, it is the desire and duty of all political parties to encourage and promote grassroots involvement, expansion of representation, solicit free-will donations and any other volunteer actions within their party's influence for its proliferation, and

Whereas, it is the desire of any political party to maximize its potential through grassroots efforts in reaching out to and representing the greatest number of volunteer participants, and

Whereas, each party has a central committee comprised of volunteers throughout the county who have stepped up from among their own neighborhoods and have been duly elected by their neighbors to represent their community within each party of choice, and

Whereas, the precinct committeemen's position in each party is the first line of representation between the voters and the elected officials that were promoted through such affiliation, and

Whereas, the precinct committeemen's position is also the first line of accountability between the voters and the elected officials, and

Whereas, the central committee is comprised of a publically elected group of volunteering individuals to represent voters, and

Whereas, reducing this group of volunteers hinders the whole in accomplishing their duties. Just some of the duties are as follows:

1. Represents the citizens of each precinct on the County Central Committee
2. Represents the citizens of each precinct on various Legislative Committees
3. Conducts voter registration drives.
4. Chooses County Committee leadership and State Committee Party Representatives
5. The committeeperson elected by their peers is elected to leadership and becomes the State Central Committee who can fill vacancies within the state committee offices should a vacancy arise. Chooses the delegates to the State Convention, votes on resolutions and votes on which candidates to endorse during the primary.
6. Chooses State Delegates from our County for the State Conventions.
7. Fills vacancies in any elected County position (office of county prosecuting attorney, treasurer, sheriff, coroner, assessor, or auditor/clerk of the district court)
8. Upon the death, resignation or disqualification the precinct committee person chooses the slate of candidates for a vacancy in the County Commissioners seat to be submitted to the Governor of the State.

9. Upon the death, resignation or disqualification of any Republican member of the Idaho Senate or House of Representatives, it is the duty of the Precinct leaders within that legislator's home district to nominate a slate of three individuals to fill the vacant seat.
10. The most important issue is that each committee person represents the voter on a grassroots level.

Whereas, consolidating power as described above is never healthy in maintaining a free society and places an undue balance of power within the hands of a small few, and

Whereas, Kootenai County is the 3rd largest County in the State of Idaho and the only County that is considering reducing the number of precincts in deference to an increase in population, and

Therefore be it resolved, That, the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee strongly urges the County Commissioners to uphold the rights of private political parties and not consolidate nor reduce the number of precincts, since reducing them reduces the number of people who may vote within the party structure, thereby hampering representation of the people within the political parties and stifling the rights of the people in a free society.

Kootenai County Republican Party Resolution in Support of Volunteer Neighborhood Participation within Party Structures of County Precincts

Whereas, it is the desire and duty of all political parties to encourage and promote grassroots involvement, expansion of representation, solicit free-will donations and any other volunteer actions within their party's influence for its proliferation, and

Whereas, it is the desire of any political party to maximize its potential through grassroots efforts in reaching out to and representing the greatest number of volunteer participants, and

Whereas, each party has a central committee comprised of volunteers throughout the county who have stepped up from among their own neighborhoods and have been duly elected by their neighbors to represent their community within each party of choice, and

Whereas, the precinct committeemen's position in each party is the first line of representation between the voters and the elected officials that were promoted through such affiliation, and

Whereas, the precinct committeemen's position is also the first line of accountability between the voters and the elected officials, and

Whereas, while fiscal responsibility and cost savings in all areas are the responsibility of the elected officials to disenfranchisement the volunteer support and representation of accountability is not. That is retained solely by each party, and

Whereas, there is no stated cost savings for the election budget concerning the number of precincts that represent the volunteered support in a party organization and that the only such cost saving that *may* exist in the number of polling places and poll workers; and

Whereas, the cost savings stated by the County Commissioners are only shown in the elimination of polling places thus eliminating some poll workers within precincts and not the precincts themselves; relying on the voting public into an absentee system of voting eliminates a voting choice for the public, and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the County Commissioners to establish the precincts before January 15th, 2012, it is not mandated that they reduce, eliminate or consolidate them, and

Whereas, the proper form of government has with it a duty to protect the voting rights of the citizens, it is not a mandate to disenfranchise the very voters and volunteers they represent by eliminating such positions in a private party structure, and

Whereas, reducing the amount of precincts and polling places to reduce the potential for human error at the polling places is being addressed by interviewing poll workers and training them in the voting process, and

Whereas, historical data exists that during the 2008 Presidential election 35% voted absentee and during off Presidential year it was 25% does not guarantee this trend will continue, and

Whereas, there is no historical data as to voter traffic pattern in each polling location as to “crunch” times and parking issues, and

Whereas, in the 2012 primary election ***only*** each voter will need to fill out a political party affiliation form at each polling location before they are handed a political party ballot that will create an additional step for the poll workers and possibly increase voting time at each location, and

Whereas, that the risk of disenfranchising voter participation by reducing the precincts and familiar polling places will add confusion that will frustrate the voting public at a minimal cost savings to the County, and

Therefore be it resolved, the Kootenai County Republican Party urge the County Commissioners to weigh the minimal cost savings potential with losing grassroots participation and assistance to the voting public and with the increase of population of 27.9% in the County, increase the number of precincts to reflect the population growth, and

Further be it resolved That, the Kootenai County Republican Party urges the County Commissioners to maintain the same number of precincts or increase the number of precincts to reflect the population growth while considering the average number of voters in each precinct to properly serve the voting public thus maintain support of volunteer grassroots participation within party structure of county precincts.