



S.B. 133

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Stivers, Coughlin

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits the county central committee of a major political party to be comprised of members representing combinations of election precincts, city wards, villages, and townships, as determined by the outgoing committee.
- Requires a township zoning referendum to be voted on at a special election to be held on the day of the next primary or general election that occurs at least 75 days after the referendum petition is filed with the board of township trustees, regardless of whether any election will be held to nominate or elect candidates on that day.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Territory represented by county central committee members

Existing law permits the outgoing county central committee of a major political party to determine the territory that the committee members will represent. As determined by the outgoing committee, a county central committee may consist of either (1) one member from each election precinct in the county or (2) one member from each ward in each city and from each township in the county. (Sec. 3517.03.)

The bill retains the authority for the outgoing committee to determine the territory that committee members will represent, but changes the types of territory that may be represented. Under the bill, the county central committee of a major political party may consist of any of the following, as determined by the outgoing committee (sec. 3517.03):

- One member from each election precinct in the county.

- One member from each ward in each city and from each *village* (added by the bill) or township in the county.
- One member from each combination of election precincts, city wards, villages, and townships in the county (added by the bill).

The bill makes conforming changes throughout the Elections Law to reflect the territory that may be represented by county central committee members under the bill. First, if precinct boundaries are changed in a manner that causes a member of a county central committee to no longer qualify as a representative of the territory that the member was elected to represent, the member must continue to represent the precinct, ward, village, township, or combination of precincts, wards, villages, and townships in question for the remainder of the member's term (sec. 3501.18(A)). Second, a person desiring to become a candidate for the office of member of a county central committee of a political party must obtain the required five petition signatures from qualified electors of the precinct, ward, village, township, or combination of precincts, wards, villages, and townships to be represented (sec. 3513.05). And, if a person who is nominated at a primary election dies, withdraws as a candidate, or is disqualified as a candidate, the vacancy may be filled by a district or subdivision committee consisting of the members of the county central committee or of the county executive committee of the major political party that made the nomination who represent the precincts, wards, villages, townships, or combination of precincts, wards, villages, and townships, within the applicable district or subdivision of a county (sec. 3513.31(D), (E), and (G)).

Township zoning referendum election requirements

Existing law

Under existing law, if a board of township trustees adopts a proposed amendment to the township's zoning resolution, that amendment becomes effective 30 days after its adoption, unless, during that period, a petition that has been signed by a specified number of registered electors residing in the unincorporated area of the township and that requests that the amendment be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection "at a special election to be held on the day of the next primary or general election" is presented to the board. The petition must adhere to a form specified by statute and be accompanied by an appropriate map of the area affected by the zoning proposal. (Sec. 519.12(H).)

A board of township trustees must certify a township zoning referendum petition to the board of elections within two weeks after receiving it. The petition

also must be certified to the board of elections not less than 75 days before the election at which the question is to be voted on. (Sec. 519.12(H).)¹

Changes proposed by the bill

As under existing law, the board of elections must determine the sufficiency and validity of each township zoning referendum petition certified to it by a board of township trustees. Under the bill, however, if the board of elections determines that a petition is sufficient and valid, the question must be voted on at a special election to be held on the day of the next primary or general election *that occurs at least 75 days after the date the petition is filed with the board of township trustees*. The bill requires the question to be voted on at that election regardless of whether an election will be held to nominate or elect candidates on that day. (Sec. 519.12(H).)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	04-26-05	p. 444

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¹ *The bill does not substantively change the requirements described in this paragraph.*

