



ILLINOIS GREEN PARTY

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ILGP FACT SHEET 2008-012

Guide for Slating State Legislative Candidates

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This guide is intended to help candidates, committeepersons, and others understand the process for slating Green Party candidates for Illinois Senate and Illinois House. Separate Fact Sheets detail the processes for slating candidates for other offices.

In simplest terms, where there is a Green Party ballot line for an Illinois Senate seat without a Green Party candidate on it, a candidate can be "slated" onto the ballot line by a body called the Legislative Committee; and where there is a Green Party ballot line for an Illinois House seat without a Green Party candidate on it, a candidate can be "slated" onto the ballot line by a body called the Representative Committee. This guide explains what the Legislative Committee and Representative Committee are and how it conducts business as relates to slating.

1. Formation of Legislative and Representative Committees

The Legislative Committee and Representative Committee are defined in Section 8-5 of the Election Code. The rules are the same for the formation of each type of committee. There are four different methods for the formation of the Legislative/Representative Committee.

1a. Districts Entirely Within Cook County

When the district lies entirely within Cook County, the Legislative/Representative Committee consists of the duly appointed or elected Ward and/or Township Committeepersons whose wards/townships are entirely or partially within the territory of the relevant district.

1b. Districts Overlapping Multiple Counties, Including Cook County

When the district spans parts of multiple counties including Cook County, the Legislative/Representative Committee consists of the duly appointed or elected Ward and/or Township Committeepersons within Cook County whose wards/townships are entirely or partially within the territory of the relevant district, and also the County Central Committee Chairpersons of those counties besides Cook County which are partially within the territory of the relevant district.

1c. Districts Overlapping Multiple Counties, Not Including Cook County

When the district spans parts of multiple counties outside of Cook County, the Legislative/Representative Committee consists of the County Central Committee Chairpersons of those counties which are partially or entirely within the territory of the relevant district.

1d. Districts Entirely Within A County Other Than Cook County

When the district lies entirely within a single county other than Cook County, the Legislative/Representative Committee consists of the County Central Committee Chairperson of the relevant county, plus two additional Committeepersons, selected by the County Central Committee, who must be Precinct Committeepersons representing precincts which are entirely or partially within the relevant district. If there are not two Precinct Committeepersons residing within relevant precincts, the County Central Committee should seek to appoint two persons who can fill such roles so as to meet the statutory requirements for creating the Legislative/Representative Committee. Note that the names of any such Legislative/Representative Committeepersons must be sent to the State Board of Elections.

2. Weighted Votes

The voting members of a Legislative/Representative Committee have weighted votes, where the weight of the vote is equal to the number of Green Party ballots taken at the preceding primary election by voters within the county, ward, or township represented by the committee members, by voters who were residents of the relevant district; except in the case of districts entirely within a county other than Cook County, in which case each member shall equally hold one vote.

3. Powers

Legislative/Representative Committees are only explicitly given the power to slate, or fill a vacancy in nomination, for the party's ballot line in the relevant district; and to elect their own officers.

4. Meetings

Section 8-5 of the Election Code directs that Legislative and Representative Committees "shall" meet within 180 days following a general primary election, but since most committees will have no business to conduct, the meeting can not be regarded as mandatory, except inasmuch that failure to meet will likely mean loss of ability to slate candidates as might be necessary. If and when the Legislative/Representative Committee does meet, the members are to elect a Chairperson from among their number, and are to report the names of the Chairperson and any other officers which might be elected to the State Board of Elections. When meetings are necessary, they should be called by the Chairperson, or if there is no Chairperson, by other members of the committee, and all members of the committee must be given five days written notice of the meeting.

5. Vacancies in Nomination

In general, there are two ways in which there can be a vacancy in nomination. The first is if no candidate ran in the primary for the office, resulting in no candidate being nominated by primary vote. The second is if a candidate was previously nominated – by primary or by a previous act of slating – and the candidate withdraws, dies, or is otherwise unable to continue being the nominee.

6. Time Frames for Slating

The statutory rules governing slating can be found in Section 7-61 of the Election Code. If the vacancy in nomination occurs because no candidate won nomination in the primary, then slating must occur within 60 days after the primary election. If the vacancy in nomination occurs for any other reason, and occurs prior to the date of certification of ballots for the general election, then slating must occur prior to the certification date. If the vacancy in nomination occurs for any other reason, and occurs after the date of certification but at least 16 days before the general election, then the vacancy must be filled within 8 days of the event causing the vacancy, and must be reported no more than 3 days after the action of the committee to fill the vacancy.

7. Paperwork

See Section 7-61 of the Election Code for the legal requirements. In general, in addition to any papers the new nominee must file, the Committee must submit a resolution which must a) be notarized; b) identify the name of the original nominee if applicable; c) specify the office in question; d) identify the date on which the vacancy occurred (this is often the date of the primary election); and e) the name and address of the candidate selected to fill the vacancy. This resolution should be delivered alongside the candidate's paperwork.

8. Bylaws

Generally speaking, the Committee does not need bylaws, given the limited tasks that the Committee performs and the statutory imperatives underlying those tasks. Since it is unlikely that the Committee would meet unless it were meeting to consider a vacancy in nomination, it is unlikely that it would need to pre-approve bylaws.

9. ILGP Assistance

The Illinois Green Party, primarily through its Government and Elections Committee, can often provide logistic and technical assistance through any of these processes, including but not limited to samples of forms, pre-drafting of forms, lists of relevant Committeepersons and/or County Central Committee Chairpersons who would constitute the Legislative/Representative Committee, and contact information for such persons.

10. Will of Green Party Members

The Illinois Green Party strongly urges any Legislative/Representative Committee which might convene for the purpose of considering a candidate who might fill a vacancy in nomination to make some attempt to ascertain the will of those members of the Illinois Green Party residing within the relevant district, either directly through a mail-in ballot or other communication, or by way of the affiliated Illinois Green Party locals which include territory overlapping with the geography of the relevant district. It is strongly advised that any candidate meet the criteria of an endorsed candidate as delineated in the Illinois Green Party Bylaws, Article 10, Section D.