

Lake County Democratic Central Committee
Governing Board

A Resolution Regarding the Adoption of a Procedure for Pre-Caucus
Organizational Meetings and Endorsements

Resolution No. 09-04
Date: September 21, 2009
Effective: Upon Passage

PREFATORY STATEMENTS

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Governing Board state that its purpose includes the public discussion of issues that are important to the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws further state that the Governing Board should promote Democratic ideals and to adopt positions on issues that will become the official position of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 3-13-11-1 et seq. governs the statutory provisions for the Caucus Procedure for Filling Vacancies in Certain Local Offices Held by Major Parties; and

WHEREAS, candidates for vacant offices will look to the County Central Committee and City and Town precinct organizations for endorsement and support before a caucus is held; and

WHEREAS, it is sound policy to adopt a uniform and official policy for a pre-caucus recommendation of endorsement of a candidate provided that there is a clear majority to endorse said caucus candidate; and

WHEREAS, any endorsement must be the result of fair and adequate representation from the area affected by the vacancy at any pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee and Chairman McDermott have recommended to the Governing Board to adopt a policy on pre-caucus organizational meetings and endorsements;

NOW THEREFORE, the Governing Board therefore RESOLVES as follows:

1. That the prefatory statements above hereby reincorporated and restated as if fully set out herein.
2. That the Chairman shall set the date for a pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting at least seven (7) but not more than (14) days prior to the date of the caucus date set by the Chairman pursuant to I.C. 3-13-11-3.
3. That there shall be separate procedures adopted for the appointment of members of pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meetings for county wide office vacancies and less than county wide vacancies (“District Vacancies”), as follows:
 - a. County Wide Vacancies: The persons eligible to vote and making up the members of a pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting for a county wide office vacancy shall number thirty (30) and shall be made up as follows:
 1. The Executive Board of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee (4)
 2. The Chairman of the Governing Board Election Committee (1)
 3. All City and Town Chairmen

4. The remaining persons to be appointed by the Chairman from precinct organizations, members of the governing board, labor or other Lake County elected officials.
- b. District Vacancies: The persons eligible to vote and making up the members of a pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting for a less than county wide office vacancy shall number no less than fifteen (15) and no more than thirty (30) and shall be made up as follows:
1. The Executive Board of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee (4);
 2. The Chairman of the Governing Board Election Committee (1);
 3. All City and Town Chairmen of all cities and towns that have precincts within the office that is vacant;
 4. The remaining persons to be appointed by the Chairman from precinct organizations, members of the governing board, labor or other lake county elected officials, all of which must reside within the district of the office where the vacancy exists.
 5. The number of persons to be appointed by the Chairman under this sub-section (District Vacancies) shall be determined by the Executive Committee with the overriding goal to be to ensure a demographically accurate representation of the district affected by the vacancy, which number can be based upon population percentage, percentage of precincts by each city and town in the

affected district or any other fair means to ensure adequate representation by all cities and towns in the affected district;

4. That the purpose of the pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting shall be to issue a recommendation of endorsement to the caucus by the Lake County Democratic Central Committee only if those persons voting on any endorsement come to a super-majority consensus of two-thirds (2/3) in favor of a particular caucus candidate.
5. That if a 2/3 majority is not reached pursuant to the procedures herein, no recommendation of endorsement shall be made by the Lake County Democratic Central Committee.
6. The voting procedure for a recommendation of endorsement at any pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting shall be as follows:

a. Two Candidates for Vacant Office

Where only two candidates are running for a vacant office to be decided at a caucus the following procedure shall be followed to gain a recommendation of endorsement from the Lake County Democratic Central Committee:

- 1) Each person appointed to be a member of the pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- 2) Voting shall be by ballot.
- 3) The Chairman shall at an appropriate time declare that current round of voting to be closed.
- 4) The Chairman, or his designee(s), shall tally the votes in the same room as the voting occurred.
- 5) If a candidate receives equal to or greater than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes counted, that person shall receive a recommendation of endorsement to the caucus by the Lake County Democratic Central Committee.

6) If neither candidate receives the required 2/3, the Chairman shall declare that the Lake County Democratic Central Committee will not be making a recommendation of endorsement to the caucus.

b. More Than Two Candidates for Vacant Office

Where more than two candidates are running for a vacant office to be decided at a caucus the following procedure shall be followed to gain a recommendation of endorsement from the Lake County Democratic Central Committee:

- 1) Each person appointed to be a member of the pre-caucus organizational and endorsement meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- 2) Voting shall be by ballot.
- 3) The Chairman shall at an appropriate time declare that current round of voting to be closed.
- 4) The Chairman, or his designee(s), shall tally the votes in the same room as the voting occurred.
- 5) If a candidate receives equal to or greater than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes counted, that person shall receive a recommendation of endorsement to the caucus by the Lake County Democratic Central Committee.
- 6) If no candidate receives the required 2/3, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in that round shall be dropped from the ballot and voting shall be between those remaining candidates and paragraphs b. 1) through 6) shall be repeated until one of the following occur:
 - a) A candidate receives 2/3 of the counted votes and gains the recommendation of endorsement;
 - b) Only two (2) candidates remain on the ballot for a round of voting and neither receives the requisite 2/3 for the endorsement, at which time the Chairman shall declare that the Lake County Democratic Central Committee will not be making a recommendation of endorsement to the caucus.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Board this 6th day of September, 2009.

LAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
GOVERNING BOARD

BY: _____

THOMAS M. MCDERMOTT, JR., CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____

MANNY MONTALVO, SECRETARY