

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Political parties-county central committees.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to elections; specifying that duly elected
2 party officials are members of the county central
3 committees of political parties; and providing for an
4 effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 22-4-101(b) is amended to read:

9

10 **22-4-101. Application; composition, election and**
11 **qualifications of county central committees; certificate of**
12 **election.**

1
2 (b) The county central committee of each political
3 party consists of precinct committeemen and committeewomen
4 elected in the county at the regular biennial primary
5 election and duly elected party officials in accordance
6 with party bylaws. Except as provided in subsection (c) of
7 this section, each political party in each precinct shall
8 elect one (1) committeeman and one (1) committeewoman for
9 each two hundred fifty (250) votes or major fraction
10 thereof cast for the party's candidate for representative
11 in congress in the last general election, but provided that
12 no precinct shall be entitled to less than one (1) precinct
13 committeeman and precinct committeewoman. Precinct
14 committeemen and committeewomen shall be electors
15 registered in the party and resident in the precinct. If a
16 precinct boundary line is changed for any reason, the
17 county commissioners shall determine the number of precinct
18 committeemen and committeewomen to which the affected
19 precinct is entitled.

20

21 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

22

STAFF COMMENT

This bill amends a section dealing with political parties. The Committee separately requested consideration of removing political parties from title 22 of the Wyoming Statutes.

There are numerous references to political parties throughout Title 22.

If the request is to remove the regulation of political parties, that could be accomplished primarily by amending or repealing W.S. 22-4-101 through 120 for major political parties, amending or repealing 22-4-301 through 22-4-307 for minor political parties, and amending or repealing 22-4-401 through 22-4-406 for provisional political parties.

If the request is to remove all references to political parties, that would require amendments to nearly every chapter of title 22 and would require significant direction from the Committee and stakeholders including whether the intent would be to remove references to the partisan primary election.

The provisions of 22-4-101 through 120 related to requirements for major political parties are included below for the Committee's reference and discussion. Additional staff comments are included in **highlight**:

22-4-101. Application; composition, election and qualifications of county central committees; certificate of election.

(a) This article is applicable only to "major political parties".

(b) The county central committee of each political party consists of precinct committeemen and committeewomen elected in the county at the regular biennial primary election. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, each political party in each precinct shall elect one (1) committeeman and one (1) committeewoman for each two hundred fifty (250) votes or major

1 fraction thereof cast for the party's candidate
2 for representative in congress in the last
3 general election, but provided that no precinct
4 shall be entitled to less than one (1) precinct
5 committeeman and precinct committeewoman.
6 Precinct committeemen and committeewomen shall be
7 electors registered in the party and resident in
8 the precinct. If a precinct boundary line is
9 changed for any reason, the county commissioners
10 shall determine the number of precinct
11 committeemen and committeewomen to which the
12 affected precinct is entitled.

13
14 (c) In any general election year in which a
15 new plan of legislative districts is required,
16 the number of precinct committeemen and
17 committeewomen shall be one (1) committeeman and
18 one (1) committeewoman for each two hundred fifty
19 (250) votes or major fraction thereof of voters
20 registered in that political party at the time
21 election districts are adopted by the county
22 commissioners as provided in W.S. 22-7-101,
23 provided that no precinct shall be entitled to
24 less than one (1) precinct committeeman and
25 precinct committeewoman.

26
27 (d) No later than forty-five (45) days
28 after the date of the primary election, the
29 county canvassing board or a canvassing board
30 appointed by the county clerk consisting of two
31 (2) electors and the county clerk, shall provide
32 to each county chairman the certified election
33 results for precinct committeemen and
34 committeewomen and a list of persons who received
35 write-in votes for precinct committeemen or
36 committeewomen.

37
38 (e) The term of office for all precinct
39 committeemen and committeewomen shall be two (2)
40 years and shall begin on the first Monday in
41 January of the year following their election.

42
43 *The county central committee, committeemen, and*
44 *committeewomen are referenced in several other sections,*
45 *particularly in W.S. 22-5-401 and 22-18-111 related to*

1 *vacancies. If this section were to be repealed then*
2 *additional conforming changes may need to be made to delete*
3 *or revise those references.*

4
5 **22-4-103. County central committee**
6 **vacancies.**

7
8 A vacancy in the county central committee shall
9 occur in the case of death, resignation, failure
10 of a qualified candidate to be elected to a
11 precinct committeeman or committeewoman position,
12 or removal of residence from the precinct. A
13 vacancy shall be filled by the county central
14 committee by election of a registered elector
15 resident in the precinct in which the vacancy
16 exists and registered in the party or as provided
17 by the party bylaws.

18
19 **22-4-104. County central committee**
20 **organizational meeting; notice of meetings.**

21
22 The county central committee shall meet and
23 organize under the direction of the county
24 chairman at the time and place determined by the
25 county chairman within thirty (30) days after the
26 term of its members begins. The county chairman
27 shall also publish a notice of all meetings of
28 the county central committee in a newspaper of
29 general county circulation not less than two (2)
30 days prior to a meeting.

31
32 **22-4-105. County central committee odd year**
33 **meeting; notice; election of chairman, state**
34 **committeeman and committeewoman.**

35
36 The county central committee shall meet at the
37 county seat each odd-numbered year at a time and
38 place determined by the county chairman. The
39 county chairman shall publish notice of the
40 meeting in a newspaper of general circulation
41 within the county not less than ten (10) days
42 before this meeting. At the meeting, the county
43 central committee shall elect the chairman of the
44 county central committee, one (1) state
45 committeeman and one (1) state committeewoman and

1 other offices as provided by the party bylaws. A
2 state political party may provide in its rules
3 for the election of additional state committeemen
4 and additional state committeewomen. Neither the
5 chairman, state committeeman or state
6 committeewoman need be members of the county
7 central committee.
8

9 *The county chairman is referenced in a number of*
10 *provisions, including delivery of poll lists under 22-3-*
11 *109, changes in precinct boundaries under W.S. 22-7-102 and*
12 *104, lists of election judges under 22-8-101, and*
13 *certification of poll watchers under 22-15-109. It may be*
14 *advisable to either retain a requirement to elect or*
15 *appoint a county chairman or to revise those provisions to*
16 *remove or revise the references to the county chairman.*

17
18 **22-4-106. County convention.**
19

20 The county convention of each political party
21 shall meet in even-numbered years.
22

23 **22-4-107. County convention delegates.**
24

25 Delegates to the county convention of a political
26 party are the members of the county central
27 committee, unless a political party provides in
28 its rules for an alternate method of selecting
29 such delegates.
30

31 **22-4-108. Delegates and alternates to state**
32 **convention; county platform.**
33

34 The county convention shall elect from electors
35 resident in the county and registered in the
36 party delegates and alternates to the state
37 convention as apportioned by the rules of the
38 party. The county convention may also adopt a
39 county platform.
40

41 **22-4-109. Notice to state chairman of state**
42 **committeeman and committeewoman.**
43

44 The county chairman shall immediately notify the
45 state chairman in writing of the names and

1 addresses of persons elected to the offices of
2 state committeeman and committeewoman.

3
4 **22-4-110. Composition of state central**
5 **committee.**

6
7 The state central committee consists of state
8 committeemen and committeewomen and county
9 chairmen elected at the odd-numbered year meeting
10 of the county central committees, and of any
11 other party officials provided by the bylaws of
12 the party.

13
14 *The state central committee is referenced in several other*
15 *sections, particularly in W.S. 22-5-401, 22-18-106, 22-18-*
16 *111 related to vacancies in office and 22-19-105 for*
17 *presidential electors, and if this section were to be*
18 *repealed, then additional conforming changes may need to be*
19 *made to delete or revise those references. It may be*
20 *advisable to instead amend this section to specify that the*
21 *state central committee shall be determined by the bylaws*
22 *of the state party.*

23
24 **22-4-111. State central committee**
25 **organizational meeting; notice.**

26
27 The state central committee shall hold an
28 organizational meeting in odd-numbered years, at
29 which it shall elect from electors registered in
30 the party a chairman, secretary and other
31 officers as provided in the rules of the party.
32 The state chairman shall mail notice of the time
33 and place of this meeting to each member of the
34 committee not later than ten (10) days before the
35 meeting.

36
37 **22-4-112. State committeeman or**
38 **committeewoman vacancies.**

39
40 A vacancy in the office of state committeeman or
41 committeewoman occurring by death, resignation or
42 removal of residence from the county shall be
43 filled by the county central committee of the
44 county in which the vacancy occurs within thirty
45 (30) days of such vacancy.

1
2 **22-4-113. Delegation of functions to**
3 **subcommittees.**

4
5 The state and county central committees may
6 delegate any lawful function to a subcommittee by
7 majority resolution consistent with party rules,
8 except election of its officers.
9

10 **22-4-114. Representation by proxy;**
11 **qualifications.**

12
13 A member of a political committee or subcommittee
14 may be represented at any meeting of the
15 committee or subcommittee by written proxy. A
16 person holding a proxy must be a resident of the
17 same political subdivision as the member he
18 represents. No person shall be allowed to vote
19 more than two (2) proxies.
20

21 **22-4-115. Date of party state convention.**

22
23 Each political party shall hold a state
24 convention in even-numbered years.
25

26 *This section and the following sections deal with*
27 *requirements for the state party convention. The state*
28 *convention is referenced in W.S. 22-19-102 dealing with the*
29 *appointment of presidential electors.*
30

31 **22-4-116. Calling of state convention;**
32 **contents of notice.**

33
34 The state chairman shall call a state convention
35 by filing notice in the office of the secretary
36 of state and of each county clerk not later than
37 twenty (20) days before the convention. The
38 notice shall state the total number of delegates
39 and alternates, and the number of delegates to
40 which each county is entitled.
41

42 **22-4-117. State convention members.**

43
44 Members of the state convention are the delegates
45 or their alternates chosen by the county

1 conventions, and the delegates or their
2 alternates chosen at large by the youth
3 organizations of the political parties in
4 accordance with rules of their respective party.

5
6 **22-4-118. State convention powers and**
7 **duties.**
8

9 (a) The state convention has the following
10 powers and duties:

11 (i) To nominate electors of president
12 and vice-president of the United States;

13 (ii) To elect national committeemen
14 and committeewomen;

15 (iii) To adopt a platform;

16 (iv) To select delegates and
17 alternates to national nominating conventions;

18 (v) To formulate or change the rules
19 governing the internal organizations of the party
20 which rules must include:

21 (A) The time, place, manner of
22 election and terms of office of party officers
23 not provided by statute;

24 (B) The method of apportioning
25 delegates and alternates to the state convention
26 to each county;

27 (C) The method of selecting
28 delegates and alternates to the national
29 convention;

30 (D) The name, powers and duties
31 of any standing committee of the state central
32 committee and the state convention;

33 (E) Rules of conduct for county
34 and state conventions;

35 (F) Powers and duties delegated
36 to county and state committees.

37 (vi) To conduct such other business as
38 it deems necessary or proper.

39
40 *As noted above, the requirement to nominate presidential*
41 *electors in this section is referenced in W.S. 22-19-102.*
42

43 **22-4-119. Certification and filing of rules**
44 **and bylaws.**
45

1 (a) The county party chairman and party
2 secretary shall certify all rules and bylaws
3 promulgated, revoked or amended by the county
4 central committee and file them with the county
5 clerk within thirty (30) days after the
6 adjournment of the county central committee
7 meeting.

8
9 (b) The state party chairman and party
10 secretary shall certify all rules and bylaws
11 promulgated, revoked or amended by the state
12 convention and file them with the secretary of
13 state within thirty (30) days after the
14 adjournment of the state convention.

15
16 *If the other sections are amended or repealed, it may be*
17 *appropriate to continue to require the bylaws of the party*
18 *to be filed with the county clerks and the secretary of*
19 *state.*

20
21 **22-4-120. Certification of presidential**
22 **elector nominees and party officers.**

23
24 The state party chairman and party secretary
25 shall certify the names of nominees for
26 presidential electors and the names of the state
27 and county party officers elected or appointed to
28 the secretary of state immediately after their
29 selection.

30
31 **Additional provisions for consideration by the Committee:**

32
33 **22-5-101. How candidates nominated.**

34
35 Nominations of candidates for all offices filled
36 at a general election, except school and
37 community college district offices and special
38 district offices, may be made by primary
39 election, by petition for nomination as an
40 independent candidate as provided in W.S. 22-5-
41 301 through 22-5-308 or by convention as provided
42 in W.S. 22-4-303 and 22-4-406.

43
44 *If the provisions related to minor political parties and*
45 *provisional political parties were repealed, the references*

1 to 22-4-303 and 22-4-406 above would need to be removed and
2 this section would need to clarify that minor political
3 parties and provisional political parties shall nominate
4 candidates only by party convention and not by primary
5 election.

6 *****
7 *****
8 *****
9 *****

10 (END)