



Unconsolidated Pennsylvania Statutes

ELECTIONS (Title 25).

THE ELECTION CODE

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§ 2831. Definition of political parties and political bodies.

(a) Any party or political body, one of whose candidates at the general election next preceding the primary polled in each of at least ten counties of the State not less than two per centum of the largest entire vote cast in each of said counties for any elected candidate, and polled a total vote in the State equal to at least two per centum of the largest entire vote cast in the State for any elected candidate, is hereby declared to be a political party within the State, and shall nominate all its candidates for any of the offices provided for in this act, and shall elect its delegates and alternate delegates to the National convention as party rules provide. State committee members, and also such party officers, including members of the National committee, as its rules provide, shall be elected by a vote of the party electors, in accordance with the provisions of this act and party rules.

(b) Any party or political body, one of whose candidates at either the general or municipal election preceding the primary polled at least five per centum of the largest entire vote cast for any elected candidate in any county, is hereby declared to be a political party within said county; and shall nominate all its candidates for office in such county and in all political districts within said county, or of which said county forms a part, and shall elect such party officers as its rules provide shall be elected therein, by a vote of the party electors, in accordance with the provisions of this act.

(c) Any political body which is not a political party, as hereinabove defined, but which has nominated candidates for such general or municipal election by nomination papers in the manner provided by this act, shall be deemed to be a political body within the meaning of this act, but such political body shall not be entitled to nominate its candidates or elect its party officers at primaries held under the provisions of this act.

(d) Provided, however, That the words "political party" and the words "political body", as hereinabove defined, shall not include any political party, political organization or political body composed of a group of electors, whose purposes or aims, or one of whose purposes or aims, is the establishment, control, conduct, seizure or overthrow of the Government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States of America by the use of force, violence, military measures, or threats of one or more of the foregoing.

§ 2832. Only enrolled electors to vote at primaries or hold party offices.

No person who is not registered and enrolled as a member of a political party shall be entitled to vote at any primary of such party or to be elected or serve as a party officer, or a member or officer of any party committee, or delegate or alternate delegate to any party convention.

§ 2834. Organization of State committee; rules.

Each political party shall be directed by a State committee, to be chosen in such a manner and for such a term of office as party rules may provide. The members of the State committee shall meet for organization not later than the sixth Wednesday following their election, at such hour and place as shall be designated by the State chairman of each political party. The State committee of each political party may make such rules for government of the party in the State, not inconsistent with law, as it may deem expedient; and may also revoke, alter or renew, in any manner not inconsistent with law, any present or future rules of such political party. No such rules shall be effective until a certified copy thereof has been filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

§ 2835. Filling of vacancy in State committee.

Vacancies happening at any time in the office of member of the State committee shall be filled according to the rules of the party.

§ 2836. Election of National committeemen.

National committeemen shall be elected, and vacancies happening at any time in said office shall be filled, by the State committee of the proper party, unless the rules of the national party otherwise provide, in which case such committeemen shall be elected and vacancies be filled in the manner provided by the rules of the national party.

§ 2837. County committees; rules; other party officers.

There may be in each county a county committee for each political party within such county, the members of which shall be elected at the spring primary, or appointed, as the rules of the respective parties within the county may provide. The county committee of each party may make such rules for the government of the party in the county, not inconsistent with law or with the State rules of the party, as it may deem expedient, and may also revoke, alter or renew in any manner not inconsistent with law or with such State rules, any present or future county rules of such party. No such rules shall be effective until a certified copy thereof has been filed in the office of the county board of elections. The members of all other party committees, and all other party officers whose election is required by the party rules, shall also be elected at the spring primary, in the manner provided by this act.

§ 2838.1. Selection of delegates to national conventions; forwarding of rules to Secretary of Commonwealth.

Delegates and alternate delegates to a National convention of a political party shall be apportioned, selected or elected in such manner as the rules of the party may provide. The secretary of any political party shall certify and forward to the Secretary of the Commonwealth a copy of the party rules at least thirty days prior to the first day on which nomination petitions may be circulated for the offices which are to be filled at the spring primaries in the years in which candidates for the President of the United States are to be nominated, or at such other times as a political party shall meet in National convention or conference when candidates for the President of the United States are not to be nominated.

§ 2839.1. Delegate and alternate delegate commitments; authorization required; petitions.

[to be inserted.]

§ 2840. Who shall be declared elected members of National or State committee and party offices.

Candidates of the various political parties for the office of member of the State committee, or for the office of member of the National committee, in cases where the rules of the party provide that such office shall be filled by a vote of the party electors, who receive a plurality of the votes of the party electors at a primary, shall be the duly elected members of the State or National committee, as the case may be, of their respective parties. Candidates for other party offices, who receive a plurality of the votes of the party electors at a primary, shall be the party officers of their respective parties.

§ 2841. Party officer elected in case of tie vote.

[to be inserted.]

§ 2842. District committees.

Whenever two or more members of a political party shall be elected or appointed, as the rules of the party may provide, as members of a political committee to represent members of such party in the respective election districts, such members shall constitute a political committee of said political party to function within such election district: Provided, that, When acting in the capacity of a political committee, such duly elected or appointed members shall be subject to the control, direction and supervision of the political committee of which they are members.

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