

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/27/2012
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 1272
AUTHOR: Kehoe, Christine

BILL SUMMARY: Political party organization: county central committees.

This bill would make changes to the timing and process of county central committee elections for the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the state.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it would allow local election officials to reduce county expenditures for county central committee elections.

Existing law:

- Establishes the political party organization of the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California and requires the members of a county central committee political party to be elected in each county at every statewide direct primary election.
Requires newly qualified political parties to operate in accordance with procedures and statutory provisions applicable to other political parties.
Requires a candidate for membership to a political party's county central committee to be affiliated with that political party when the person declares his or her candidacy.
Prohibits a candidate for membership to a political party's county central committee from having been registered with any other political party during the preceding 12 months.

This bill would:

- Delete the requirement that county central committee members of the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California be elected at every statewide direct primary election.
Authorize county central committee members of the the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California to be elected at every presidential primary election.
Authorize county central committee members of the the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California, in accordance with the rules and regulation adopted by the committee, to select its

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Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

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**COMMENTS** (continued)

members at any time by holding a caucus or convention, or by using any other method of selection approved by the committee.

- Authorize county central committee members of the the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California to determine the process of elections.
- Authorize a county central committee to determine the length of time that a candidate for membership on that committee must be affiliated with that political party.
- Authorize a county central committee to determine the length of time that a candidate for membership on that committee must not have been affiliated with any other political party.

The author's office indicates that this bill would allow local elections officials to reduce costs by holding central committee elections every four years instead of every two years. However, political parties would still be allowed to hold elections more frequently as needed by holding elections independently of the state process using internal party means.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code	
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015