

BCDP CC and Vacancy Committee Definitions – December 17, 2011

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Rules from Subordinate Sources (Party Rules & Bylaws, etc.)

References for This Section

BCDP Website – <http://www.bocodems.org/>

CDP Website – <http://www.coloradodems.org/>

BCDP Documents Page - <http://www.bocodems.org/YourParty/Documents.aspx>

Vacancy Committees

BCDP Vacancy Committee

From the BCDP Reorg Meeting:

“The Chair will entertain a motion to make the BCDP Central Committee the Vacancy Committee for the BCDP Central Committee and to make the BCDP officers the officers of the Vacancy Committee for the BCDP Central Committee.”

County Commissioner Vacancy Committee

From the BCDP reorg meeting:

“The Chair will entertain a motion to make the BCDP Central Committee the Vacancy Committee for vacancies in the office of county commissioner and to make the BCDP officers the officers of the Vacancy Committee for vacancies in the office of county commissioner”

District Vacancy Committees

From the BCDP Bylaws, Part III, Article II (revised December 2011)

For Legislative (HD and SD) and Judicial Districts whose boundaries are entirely within Boulder County, the membership of the District’s Vacancy Committee shall be the District’s Central Committee plus the House District Team Leader(s) and Area Coordinators who reside in that District. In addition, any serving Precinct Support Person (PSP) who is filling the role of Precinct Committee Person for a precinct within the district shall be included on the district vacancy committee if the PSP resides within the district.

Vacancies in the Nominating System

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011, Article VII

A. National Convention. An alternate vacancy, if occurring more than five days prior to the beginning of the national convention, shall be filled by the state’s delegation to the national convention with a person of the same presidential preference and from the same political subdivision.

B. Vacancy Committee. Any vacancy in designation or nomination by the party for any elective office shall be filled by a vacancy committee designated by the nominating assembly or otherwise as provided by statute. The assembly may designate the central committee of the district involved as the vacancy committee, and in multi-county districts may also include the precinct committee people of the precincts included in the district. CRS 1-4-601 (2)

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Central Committees

State Representative District Central Committee

From the CDP Bylaws, Revised April 2011

“In a state representative district comprised of a portion of one county, the central committee shall be composed of its officers and the chair, vice chair, and secretary of the county central committee, in addition to the precinct committee persons and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly all of whom reside in the district. CRS 1-3-103 (6) (b)”

Multi-County State Representative District Central Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

In a state representative district that is comprised of two or more whole counties or a part of one county and all or a part of one or more other counties, the central committee shall be comprised of its officers, the chairs, vice chairs and secretaries of the county central committees within the district and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly who reside within the district. If any of the county party officers do not reside in the district, such officers shall designate replacements who live in the district. County chairs shall provide to the chair of the district the name and contact information of the replacement for any county officer. The replacement will be considered permanent until further notice to the district chair by the county chair. One additional member, who lives in the district, shall be allowed from each county in the district for every two thousand (2,000) votes or major fraction thereof cast for the democratic candidate (if any) for the district in the last general election where an election was held for the district. Additional members shall reside within the district and shall be elected by members of the county central committee who reside within the district at its organizational meeting, in a manner provided by the county central committee. CRS 1-3-103 (6) (a)

State Senatorial District Central Committee

From the CDP Bylaws, Revised April 2011

“In a state senatorial district comprised of a portion of one county the central committee shall be composed of its officers, and the chair, vice chair and secretary of the county central committee, in addition to the precinct committee persons and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly all of whom reside in the district. CRS 1-3-103 (5) (b)”

Multi-County State Senatorial District Central Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

In a state senatorial district that is comprised of two or more whole counties or part of one county and all or a part of one or more counties, the central committee shall be composed of its officers, the chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries of the county central committees within the district, and the Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly who reside within the district. If any of the county party officers do not reside in the district, such officers shall designate replacements who live in the district. County chairs shall provide to the chair of the district the name and contact information of the replacement for any county officer. The replacement will be considered permanent until further notice to the district chair by the county chair. One additional member, who lives in the district, shall be allowed from each county in the district for every four thousand (4,000) votes or major fraction thereof cast for the democratic candidate (if any) for the district in the last general election where an election was held for the district. Additional members shall reside within the district and shall be elected by members of the county central committee who reside

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within the district at its organizational meeting, in a manner provided by the county central committee. CRS 1-3-103 (5) (a)

Judicial District Central Committee

From the CDP Bylaws, Revised April 2011

“In districts comprised of one county or a portion of one county, the central committee shall be composed of precinct committee person, the elected Democratic district attorney, and the chair, vice chair, and secretary of the county central committee, all of whom reside within the district. CRS 1-3-103 (4) (d)”

Congressional District Central Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

Congressional Districts-Composition. The chair and vice chair of the several party county central committees entirely or partially within each congressional district together with the elected congressperson, the elected state board of education member of the party for the congressional district, the elected board of regents member of the party for the congressional district, the state senators and representatives of the party, the members of the Democratic National Committee, and the officers of the congressional district, all of whom reside within the district, shall constitute the congressional central committee. If the chair or vice chair do not reside within the congressional district, they shall appoint a registered democratic residing within the district to serve in their stead. Two additional members shall be allowed from each county for every 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county for the Democratic candidate for Governor or President of the United States, whichever number is greater, at either of the last two general elections in the county, or the portion of the county within the congressional district. If, due to redistricting and reapportionment, it is impossible to determine the votes cast in the portion of a county within the congressional district for the previous two general elections, the additional members shall be allocated based only upon the immediately preceding election, or on any fair basis approved by the state central committee.

The additional members shall reside within the congressional district and shall be elected by those members of the county central committee who reside within the congressional district at its organizational meeting in a manner provided for by the county central committee. Such additional members shall be as equally divided as possible between male and female. CRS 1-3-103 (3) (a), (b)

State Committees

State Central Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

The state central committee shall be composed of the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the state party; the chair and vice chair of the county committees, together with the Democratic United States Senators, Representatives in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, members of the State Board of Education, members of the Board of Regents, District Attorneys, State Senators, State Representatives, National Committee persons, and Congressional District chairs and vice chairs. In addition, there will be a representative from each of the following organizations: Colorado Young Democrats, African-American Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Latino Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of the Colorado Democratic Party, Democrats with Disabilities, Democratic

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Education Initiative, Labor Initiative, Progressive Democrats and other initiatives sanctioned by the State Central Committee.

Two additional members shall be allowed from each county for every 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county for the Democratic candidate for governor or President, whichever is greater, at either of the last two general elections. The additional members shall be elected by the county central committee at its organizational meeting in a manner provided by the county central committee. CRS 1-3-103 (2) (a)

In order to comply with the Charter of the National Democratic Party, Article IX Section 16, the chair shall appoint such additional members as are necessary to provide for equal division between men and women, which shall not include elected officials. Public elected official members of the state central committee shall not be counted in determining the number of additional members to be appointed. Said appointments shall be made within thirty days of the State Party biennial organizational meeting. In making such appointments the chair shall take into account the affirmative action principles of the Party [See Part One, Article III, section A] and shall promote geographic distribution of these members. Should the Charter of the National Democratic Party change its provisions in this regard, this paragraph shall become invalid.

Executive Committee of the State Central Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

The executive committee shall consist of the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, state treasurer, national committee persons, the congressional districts chairs and vice chairs, and members from counties and groups of counties whose representation shall be based on the vote cast in that county for the party's candidate for president or governor in the last preceding general election. In addition, there will be a representative from each of the following organizations: The Colorado Federation of Democratic Woman, Colorado Young Democrats, the African-American Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, the Latino Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, the Stonewall Democrats of the Colorado Democratic Party, Democrats with Disabilities, the Democratic Education Initiative and other Initiatives sanctioned by the state central committee. CRS 1-3-105 (2)

1. Counties shall be entitled to one vote for each 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast for the Democratic candidate for governor or president at either of the last two general elections, whichever number is greater, except that counties entitled to only one vote shall be allowed two votes and shall be represented by their county chairs and vice chairs or their authorized representatives.
2. A county entitled to more than two votes shall be represented by the chair and vice chair or their authorized representatives, each casting one vote and by additional members who shall be elected by the county's members of the state central committee, excluding elected public officials, at the biennial organizational meeting of the state central committee.
3. Counties which cast fewer than 5,001 votes for the party's candidate for president or governor as determined in Section H.1 of this Article shall be divided into six groups of counties: the southwest region, the southeast region, the central region, the south central region, the northeast region, and the northwest region. Groups of counties shall be entitled to one vote for each 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof using the formula for each county set for in Section H.1 of this Article, except that groups of counties entitled to only one vote shall be allowed two votes. Members and

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alternates of the state executive committee from those counties shall be elected by the members of the state central committee from those counties at the biennial organizational meeting of the state central committee.

4. Apportionment of votes to the counties as well as determination of groupings of counties as set forth in Section H.3 of this Article, with each grouping of counties having 10,000 votes or major portion thereof, shall be acted on by the state central committee at the biennial organizational meeting.

5. Honorary Members. The state chair may appoint honorary, non-voting members to the executive committee with the concurrence of the executive committee.

6. At-Large Members. The state chair may appoint a maximum of six voting at-large members of the executive committee.

CDP State Platform Committee

From the CDP Rules, April 9, 2011

The chair of the platform committee shall be appointed by the state party chair. Each state representative district central committee and each congressional district central committee at its organizational meeting shall designate and certify to the state chair one member to serve on the platform committee of the state assembly, such designation to be subject to change or ratification at any subsequent central committee meeting or assembly of the particular representative or congressional district held prior to deliberations of the platform committee of the state assembly. In addition, the incumbent Democratic statewide elected officials, state and federal senators and representatives, together with the chair, 1st vice chair, 2nd vice chair, secretary and treasurer of the state central committee, and the national committee persons shall be members of the platform committee.

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Colorado Revised Statutes

References for this Section

Colorado Revised Statutes on the Web

The items below are a snapshot of the actual Colorado Revised Statutes. Please ensure that you check the most current copies on the web at http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/colorado_revised_statutes.htm.

1-3-103 – Party Committees

County PCP elections, County Central Committee

(1) (a) At its own precinct caucus, each political party shall elect two committeepersons for each election precinct as provided in section 1-3-102. Each committeeperson shall hold the position for a term of two years after the date of the election, and each shall serve until a successor is duly elected or appointed and commences the term of office. In case of a vacancy in the office of precinct committeeperson, the members of the county central committee vacancy committee shall select a successor to fill the vacancy. The person selected shall be a resident of the precinct in which the vacancy occurred.

(b) (I) All of the precinct committeepersons of the political party in the county, all of the district captains and co-captains, if any, of the political party in the county, and the county party officers selected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection (1), together with the elected county public officials, the state senators and representatives, the United States senators and representatives, the elected state public officials, and the district attorney, who are members of the party and who reside within the county, shall constitute the membership of the county central committee, but the multiple office shall not entitle a person to more than one vote, excluding proxies.

(II) In counties which have adopted a five-commissioner board or county home rule, such county central committee shall be constituted of all the precinct committeepersons from precincts in the county commissioner district, together with the officers selected pursuant to this subparagraph (II), and the state senators and representatives and the district attorney who are members of the party and who reside within the district. Such county central committee shall meet on the same date and select a chairperson and vice-chairperson in the same manner as the county central committee. Such central committee shall select a vacancy committee for the purpose of filling vacancies in the office of county commissioner held by members of the political party.

(c) Each county central committee shall meet on a date which falls between February 1 and February 15 of the odd-numbered years to organize by selecting a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary and any other officers provided for in the county rules and shall select a vacancy committee authorized to fill vacancies in the county central committee and the offices held by members of the county central committee and shall select a separate vacancy committee to fill vacancies in the office of county commissioner held by members of the political party.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of subsection (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of this section, all other central committees shall meet on a date which falls between February 15 and April 1 of the odd-numbered years to organize by electing a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary and shall select a vacancy committee authorized to fill vacancies in the central committees and in district and state offices held by members of the political party.

(e) Repealed.

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State Central Committee

(2) (a) The state central committee shall consist of the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the several party county central committees, together with the elected United States senators, representatives in congress, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, members of the board of regents, members of the state board of education, state senators, and state representatives, and any additional members as provided for by the state central committee bylaws. Two additional members shall be allowed the political party from each county that polled at least ten thousand votes at the last preceding general election for its candidate for governor or president of the United States. Two additional members shall be allowed for each additional ten thousand votes or major portion thereof so polled in the county. The additional members shall be elected by the county central committee of the political party.

(b) Within ten days after the adjournment of the organizational meeting of the state central committee of any political party, the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee shall file under oath with the secretary of state a full and complete roll of the membership of the state central committee.

Congressional District Central Committee

(3) (a) The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the several party county central committees entirely or partially, who reside within each congressional district, together with the elected congressperson, the elected state board of education member of the party for the congressional district, the elected board of regents member of the party for the congressional district, and the state senators and representatives of the party who reside within the congressional district, shall constitute the party congressional central committee.

(b) If, in any county, or portion thereof, within the congressional district, any political party has polled at least ten thousand votes at the last preceding general election for its candidate for governor or president of the United States, the county shall be entitled to two additional members of the congressional central committee of the political party. Two additional members shall be allowed for each additional ten thousand votes or major portion thereof so polled by the party in the county or portion thereof within the congressional district. The additional members shall reside within the congressional district and shall be elected by those members of the county central committee of the political party who reside within the congressional district. The additional members shall be as equally divided as possible between male and female.

(c) Other members of the congressional central committees may be provided for by the state central committee bylaws.

(d) Each party congressional district central committee shall elect its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary and shall adopt its own bylaws concerning its conduct, which shall include but need not be limited to requirements for eligibility to vote in the congressional district assembly.

(e) The chairperson of each party congressional district central committee shall fix the time and place of each meeting of the committee, shall fix the time and place of its congressional district assembly, and shall preside over each meeting and the congressional district assembly.

Judicial District Central Committee

(4) (a) The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the several party county central committees, who reside within each judicial district, together with the elected district attorney of the party for the judicial district, shall constitute the judicial district central committee.

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(b) If, in any county within the judicial district, any political party has polled at least ten thousand votes at the last preceding general election for its candidate for governor or president of the United States, the county shall be entitled to two additional members of the judicial district central committee of the political party. Two additional members shall be allowed for each additional ten thousand votes or major portion thereof polled in the county. The additional members shall be elected by those members of the county central committee of the political party who reside within the judicial district. The additional members shall be as equally divided as possible between male and female.

(c) Other members of the judicial district central committee may be provided for by the state central committee bylaws.

(d) When a judicial district is comprised of one county or a portion of one county, the judicial district central committee shall consist of all elected precinct committeepersons, the elected district attorney, and the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, and the secretary of the county central committee, all of whom are of the party and reside in that judicial district. The committee shall meet on the same date and select a chairperson and vice-chairperson in the same manner as a party county central committee.

(e) Each party judicial district central committee shall elect its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary and shall adopt its own bylaws concerning its conduct, which shall include but need not be limited to requirements for eligibility to vote in the judicial district assembly.

(f) The chairperson of each party judicial district central committee shall fix the time and place of each meeting of the committee, shall fix the time and place of its district assembly, and shall preside over each meeting and the judicial district assembly.

State Senatorial District Central Committee

(5) (a) When a state senatorial district is comprised of one or more whole counties or of a part of one county and all or a part of one or more other counties, a state senatorial central committee shall consist of the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and secretary of the several party county central committees, who reside within the state senatorial district. If any of those officers do not reside in the state senatorial district, replacements shall be provided who do reside in the district. The state senatorial central committee shall also include the elected state senator of the party for the state senatorial district, the state representatives of the party who reside within the state senatorial district, and a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state senatorial central committee, who may or may not be elected from among, but shall be elected by, the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and secretary, the state senator, and the state representatives.

(b) When a state senatorial district is comprised of a portion of one county, a state senatorial central committee shall consist of the elected precinct committeepersons, the elected state senator, the elected state representatives, and a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state senatorial central committee, all of whom are of the party and reside in that senatorial district. In addition, the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the party county central committee shall be members of each state senatorial central committee, who reside within the senatorial district. The chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state senatorial central committee may or may not be elected from among, but shall be elected by, the state senatorial central committee. The committee shall meet on the same date and select a chairperson and vice-chairperson in the same manner as the party county central committee.

State Representative District Central Committee

(6) (a) When a state representative district is comprised of one or more whole counties or of a part of one county and all or a part of one or more other counties, a state representative central committee shall consist of the chairpersons,

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vice-chairpersons, and secretary of the several party county central committees, who reside within the state representative district. If any of those officers do not reside in the state representative district, replacements shall be provided who do reside in the district. The state representative central committee shall also include the elected state representative of the party for the state representative district, each state senator of the party who resides within that representative district, and a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state representative central committee, who may or may not be elected from among, but shall be elected by, the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and secretary, the state representative, and the state senators.

(b) When a state representative district is comprised of a portion of one county, a state representative central committee shall consist of the elected precinct committeepersons, the elected state representative, the elected state senators, and a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state representative central committee, all of whom are of the party and reside in that state representative district. In addition, the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the party county central committee, who reside within the state representative district, shall be members of the state representative central committee. The chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary of the state representative district central committee may or may not be elected from among, but shall be elected by, the state representative central committee. The committee shall meet on the same date and select a chairperson and vice-chairperson in the same manner as the party county central committee.

Requirement to File with Secretary of State

(7) No later than thirty days after the organizational meetings authorized by this section, the secretary of each party central committee prescribed by this section shall file with the secretary of state a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each of the officers elected, together with a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the vacancy committee selected.

References to Elected Public Officials Includes Appointees

(8) All references to elected public officials in this article shall include those public officials appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices.

State Central Committee Rules or Bylaws

(9) (a) No later than ninety days after the organization of the state central committees of the two major political parties in each odd-numbered year, each committee shall adopt in its bylaws or rules its general guidelines and regulations for all county party matters. Such bylaws or rules shall establish a procedure for the selection of delegates to any party assembly that is consistent with party practice. Any method under such procedure for choosing or allocating delegates in a county based on the number of votes cast at an election for a particular candidate shall be uniform among the counties so that all types of ballots are counted or not counted for purposes of determining the number of votes cast. Any county central committee may adopt its own rules and regulations in conformance with those of the state central committee. In the absence of county rules pertaining to specific items, the party's state central committee's guidelines, rules, and regulations shall apply. Each state central committee shall file its party's bylaws or rules with the secretary of state no later than the first Monday in February in each even-numbered year and, if filed prior to that date, the bylaws or rules may be amended until that date. No bylaw or rule may be filed or amended after the first Monday in February in each even-numbered year. Where the bylaws or rules are not filed in accordance with this section, the party's state central committee, as well as the party's county central committee, shall be subject to the code through the general election of the same year.

(b) Repealed.

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District Committee Bylaws

(10) (a) Each party state senatorial central committee and each party state representative central committee shall elect its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary and adopt its own bylaws concerning its conduct, which shall include, but not be limited to, the listing of requirements for eligibility to vote in the state senatorial or state representative district assembly.

(b) The chairperson of each party state senatorial central committee and each party state representative central committee shall fix the time and place of meetings of the central committee, shall fix the time and place of its district assembly, and shall preside over the meetings and district assembly.

Source: L. 80: Entire article R&RE, pp. 316, 421, §§ 1, 1, effective January 1, 1981. L. 81: (1)(a), (1)(b), (4)(d), (5)(b), and (6)(b) amended, p. 305, § 2, effective January 1, 1982. L. 82: (1)(e) added, p. 218, § 1, effective April 2. L. 83: (1)(b)(II), (1)(c), (1)(d), and (7) amended, p. 360, § 1, effective May 20. L. 85: (3)(b) and (4)(b) amended and (3)(d), (3)(e), (4)(e), and (4)(f) added, pp. 255, 256, §§ 5, 6, effective May 31. L. 87: (5) and (6) amended, p. 284, § 5, effective June 26. L. 89: (9) amended, p. 313, § 1, effective April 12; (3)(a), (4)(a), (5), and (6) amended, p. 301, § 5, effective May 9. L. 91: (5)(a), (6)(a), and (9) amended, p. 619, § 30, effective May 1. L. 92: (9) amended, p. 591, § 2, effective April 10; entire article amended, p. 666, § 3, effective January 1, 1993. L. 93: (2)(b) amended, p. 1765, § 2, effective June 6. L. 96: (9) amended, p. 1738, § 19, effective July 1. L. 98: (9) amended, p. 814, § 1, effective August 5. L. 99: (7) and (9) amended, p. 761, § 17, effective May 20. L. 2002: (9) amended, p. 132, § 3, effective March 27.

Editor's note: (1) This section is similar to former § 1-14-108 as it existed prior to 1980.

(2) Subsection (1)(e) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(e), effective January 5, 1985. (See L. 82, p. 218.)

(3) Amendments to subsection (9) by Senate Bill 92-194 were harmonized with House Bill 92-1333.

(4) Subsection (9)(b)(III) provided for the repeal of subsection (9)(b), effective July 1, 2002. (See L. 2002, p. 132.)

Cross references: For state senatorial districts, see § 2-2-102; for state representative districts, see § 2-2-202.

ANNOTATION

Annotator's note. The following annotations include cases decided under former provisions similar to this section.

It is the duty of the state central committee of a political party to recognize a county chairman as one of its members. *People ex rel. Vick Roy v. Republican State Cent. Comm.*, 75 Colo. 312, 226 P. 656 (1924).

Filing roll of members not condition precedent to determine factional disputes. The filing of a roll of members of the state central committee of a political party with the secretary of state, as required by this section, is not a condition precedent to the exercise by the committee of the power to determine factional disputes in subordinate divisions of the party. *People ex rel. Lowry v. Dist. Court*, 32 Colo. 15, 74 P. 896 (1903).

Faction estopped to deny authority. Where it appears that a faction challenging the power of the committee upon that ground has heretofore invoked the jurisdiction of the committee to act upon the controversy, it is estopped to deny the committee's authority. *People ex rel. Lowry v. Dist. Court*, 32 Colo. 15, 74 P. 896 (1903).

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1-3-104 Political Party Vacancy Committees

All vacancies in state, congressional, judicial, senatorial, representative, or county commissioner party central committees shall be filled by the respective party county central committees pursuant to section 1-3-103.

1-4-601 Designation of Candidates for Primary Election

(2) ... The assembly shall select a vacancy committee for vacancies in designation or nomination only.