



Presidential Delegation Selection Process

Pros & Cons of the existing system and the proposed system

Existing System Summary

The presidential candidates slate Delegates and Alternate Delegates in each Congressional District. 600 valid signatures in each Congressional District are required to get slated on the ballot for each individual Presidential Candidate. This is above and beyond the 3000 valid signatures it takes to get the Presidential Candidate on the ballot for the Head-to-Head race. Petitions are filed with State Board of Elections, and candidates are listed on the ballot in the March Primary Election.

Pros

- The system has always been used in Illinois and is familiar to campaigns and the Republican Party apparatus.
- Candidates are recruited by Presidential campaigns to run on the ballot in the Primary Election.
- Candidates for Delegate are able to campaign for their candidate during the Primary Election.

Cons

- Thousands of petition signatures are required to be placed on the ballot in each Congressional District.
- Democrats can challenge petition signatures. Very often the Delegate petitions are insufficient and vulnerable to a successful challenge. If challenged successfully, Presidential candidates would not have Delegates and Alternate Delegates on the Primary Ballot.
- The Presidential Head-to-Head race is in essence a beauty contest.
- Presidential candidates have traditionally avoided Illinois during the primary season.

Proposed option presented to SCC Summary

Delegates and Alternate Delegates are slated by candidates based upon their performance in the Presidential Head-to-Head race in the March Primary. Winning candidates would select Delegates and Alternate Delegates just like in current system. No petition signatures would be required for Delegates and Alternate Delegates and they would not run on Primary ballot.

Pros

- Delegates and Alternate Delegates would not be susceptible to Democrat petition challenges.
- The Presidential Head-to-Head contest is meaningful in Illinois.
- Concentration for grassroots activists will be on the Presidential Head-to-Head contest.
- Presidential Candidates are far more likely to campaign in Illinois with the knowledge that 50% of vote procures all of the Delegates.

Cons

- No Delegates and Alternate Delegates would appear on the Primary ballot if slated by a Presidential Campaign.
- Changing the existing system could create initial confusion among the campaigns and Republican Party apparatus.