

2023 RESOLUTION NO. IGA-01

TITLE: Filling Vacancies of Political Party Candidates

SPONSOR: Penny Manning, Bonneville County Clerk

STATUTES AFFECTED: 34-703, 34-714, 34-715, 59-906

COUNTY OFFICES or DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED (*Must Affect at least 2*): All Elected Officials

COUNTIES AFFECTED (*Must Affect at least 2*): All Counties

ISSUE/PROBLEM: Currently, the way the code is written, during a 10-day pre-primary and 10-day pre-general election, the Central Committee of a party gets to choose the candidate for a county office to be placed on the ballot in the general election with no input from the commissioners. This is inconsistent with the way the code is written for vacancies during the rest of the year. Also, the time frame to have them put on the ballot is not feasibly possible since ballots are sent out long before the 10-day appointment period prior to a general election.

Also, with the short period of time that the appointed person in office, it causes a disruption in the services of the office which received the appointment. It would also limit the choices since most individuals would not be willing to hold a job for just a few months if they didn't see it continuing for a reasonable length of time.

BACKGROUND & DATA: Unknown

PROPOSED POLICY: If a vacancy occurs during the above-mentioned timeline, the same process for appointment should follow other appointments with candidates put before the commissioners. Also, have the individual appointed should complete the remainder of the term.

Second, it seems desirable to have an appointed officer fill out the term of the position that has been vacated to make sure there is continuity in the offices of elected officials instead of having them stand for election midterm.

ARGUMENTS & ENTITIES IN SUPPORT: A larger pool of candidates willing to be appointed would lead to better leadership in the counties. It distributes the power to

appoint to counties and parties. It gives checks and balances to the process. Parties could choose a candidate to promote their political agenda without taking into account who would be the most qualified candidate.

ARGUMENTS & ENTITIES AGAINST: Unsure

FEASIBILITY: High

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED & NATURE OF IMPACT:

FISCAL IMPACT: In the event, the proposed policy becomes law, address 1) whether there will be a fiscal impact on the state or any local governments; 2) if so, the size of the fiscal impact; and 3) whether there will be any cost-shifting.

No fiscal impact or positive fiscal impact by reducing candidate filings and campaign monitoring.