

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. HB 2241

Establishing new major political parties  
Brief title

Public Arg: 3/5/97

Rep. Dave Schmidt \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor

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**BACKGROUND:**

A major political party is defined as a party that had at least one nominee for president, United States senator or a state-wide office who received at least 5 percent of the total vote cast for office at the last preceding state general election.

Each county central committee of a major political party consists of precinct committee officers of the party. By no later than the second Saturday in January following a biennial even-numbered general election a county central committee meets for the purpose of organizing and electing a chair and vice chair.

The state central committee of each major political party consists of one committee man and one committee woman from each county who are elected by the county committee at its organizational meeting. The state central committee meets in January of each odd-numbered year to organize and elect its chair and other officers.

**SUMMARY:**

The definition of a major political party is corrected to clarify that the even-year state general election when the percentage of votes is used to determine whether a political party is a major political party is the last general election at which either the president, a U.S. Senator or a statewide elected officer was elected, rather than the last general election.

A political party that initially meets the definition of a major political party may not exercise the powers of major political party until it has organized as follows:

- o A convention held in each county at which precinct committee officers are elected and the elected precinct committee officers elect a county central committee.

Continued

- o The state central committee holds an organizational meeting on or before July 31st of the year after the new major political party becomes a major political party which takes the place of the state central committee meeting that otherwise would occur in January of each odd-numbered year.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not Requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.