

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6356

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Governmental Operations, February 6, 2014

**Title:** An act relating to naming the chair and vice chair of state and county political committees.

**Brief Description:** Naming the chair and vice chair of state and county political committees.

**Sponsors:** Senator Angel.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Governmental Operations: 2/03/14, 2/06/14 [DPS, w/oRec].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6356 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Benton, Vice Chair; Dandel and Rivers.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Conway and McCoy.

**Staff:** Samuel Brown (786-7470)

**Background:** There are several regulations on the activities and structure of the state and county central committees of major political parties. A major political party is a party whose nominees for president and vice president received at least 5 percent of the votes at the last election.

State committees consist of one committeeman and one committeewoman from each county elected by the county central committee, and must elect a chair and vice chair of opposite sexes. State committees must meet during January of each odd-numbered year for organizational purposes. State committees may:

- call conventions for purposes that the committee designates;
- elect delegates to national conventions;
- nominate presidential electors; and
- perform any other necessary functions.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

County central committees must hold an organizational meeting no later than the second Saturday in January each odd-numbered year for the purposes of electing a chair and vice chair. The chair and vice chair must be of opposite sexes.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute):** The chair and vice chair of the state major political party committee and each county major political party central committee are not required to be of opposite sexes.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Times have changed, and this would make everything gender-neutral. It allows the choice of that jurisdiction for those positions. In some cases, people want to run for these positions but cannot, and often the parties cannot find a person of the other gender for those positions. If we do not impose these quotas for elected officials, we certainly do not need them for political parties. The substitute is a vast improvement over current law, which imposes an archaic and problematic restraint.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Angel, prime sponsor; Tom Jamieson, King County Republican Party.