

By-Laws Amendment Proposal (jalp. 2022-07-13, v2a+final for SMM 08-13) Make Special-Caucus Calling Authority Automatic

In the past few months we have been faced with two short-notice calls for special elections. The first call was received with barely enough time for SCC to pass an expedited resolution specifically authorizing a nominating caucus. The second did not even give us enough time to notify the state ten days in advance, hold the caucus, and have the day after the caucus to file nominating paperwork.

I believe GPMI should always be able to nominate candidates for any partisan elective office, whether or not we find someone we decide to nominate. This proposal would amend Article VIII (Nominations), Section 3 (Special-election nominating caucuses) of the by-laws to make it clear that the authorization to hold a special caucus is automatic whenever a special election is called, so we do not need to adopt a separate proposal first.

On July 7, I offered an earlier draft of the proposal to the SCC list and to the By-Laws Committee through its chair Jim Becklund. Discussion on the list led to a friendly amendment and support from Sherry A. Wells and Robin Laurain, so that is the version I am offering to the SMM and asking to have put in the initial packet sent out with or linked to in the SMM announcement due out by tomorrow (July 14, 30 days before the August 13 SMM date). I hope that the By-Laws Committee will add its support by the SMM.

(One point in SCC's discussion was that including the word "Whenever" at the start implies that the authorization to hold a special caucus is automatic, and so the word "automatically" need not also be included. I mention this as part of my proposal to make it an explicit part of our "legislative intent", as attorneys say.)

current text:

Section 3 – Special-election nominating caucuses: The SCC may, in consultation with GP-MI members in the area involved, hold a special-election nominating caucus in accordance with party rules and state law to nominate a candidate for any partisan special election called. If a special-election nominating caucus is held, GP-MI shall provide the best possible notice of the caucus to all GP-MI members in the area involved in the special election.

proposed text (version 2a+final):

Section 3 – Special-election nominating caucuses: Whenever a special election is called to elect someone to a partisan office, the EC (in consultation with with GP-MI members in the area involved) is authorized to call and hold a special caucus to nominate someone for that office, in accordance with party rules and state law. If a special caucus is called, the EC (working with other officers as appropriate) shall provide the best possible notice of the caucus to all GP-MI members in the area involved in the special election.