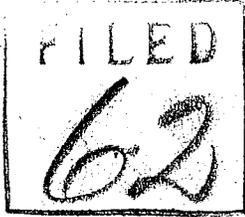


CENTRAL COMMITTEE:
POLITICAL PARTIES:

A vacancy occurring on the county central committee of any political party shall be filled by a majority of said committee.



March 11, 1954

Honorable Forrest Mittendorf
Representative, St. Louis County
2671 Carson Road
St. Louis 21, Missouri

Dear Sir:

You have requested an official opinion:

" * * * regarding the naming of a successor to a retiring or resigning member of the Democratic or Republican Committee from the various townships in St. Louis County.

"What I would like to know is this; Does the surviving member of the committee elected by the people from a township name the successor or does the Central Body of St. Louis County have that authority? * * *"

Specific provision is provided by Section 120.787, RSMo Cumulative Supplement, 1953, (Senate Bill No. 294 of the 67th General Assembly) for filling vacancies on the county central committee of the political parties. That section reads as follows:

"Whenever any vacancy shall occur on the county central committee of any political party, a majority of the committee shall have power to fill such vacancy by electing any qualified voter of such political party who resides in the township or voting district to be represented."

Honorable Forrest Mittendorf

The language of the statute clearly indicates the intent of the legislature to have such vacancies filled by the entire county central committee of the party in question, rather than by the member of the committee remaining in the township wherein the vacancy occurs.

CONCLUSION

It is, therefore, the opinion of this office that a vacancy occurring on the county central committee of any political party shall be filled by a majority of said committee.

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my assistant, Paul McGhee.

Very truly yours,

JOHN M. DALTON
Attorney General

PMcG:vlw