

April 27, 1972

OPINION LETTER NO. 139
Answer by letter-Wood



Honorable Richard M. Webster
Senator, District 32
Room 434, Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Senator Webster:

This is in response to your opinion request of recent date posing the following questions relating to the organization and composition of legislative district political party committees and the Seventh Congressional District political party committee.

1. Where does the organization of the legislative district committees take place and who is entitled to vote there?

We are enclosing a copy of Attorney General's Opinion No. 256, July 27, 1962, to Senator William Baxter Waters which expressed the view that legislative district committees are to be composed of committeemen and committeewomen elected in the several wards and townships included in whole or in part in such district. The opinion also points out that the statute requires the members of the legislative district committee to elect a chairman and vice-chairman at the same time as the county committee meeting is held, the third Tuesday in August. We see no reason why the legislative district committee should not meet, organize, and elect its officers at the same place as the county committee on that date.

However, since none of the counties in your senatorial district have "more than one

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legislative district," legislative district committees would not be organized in these counties (Section 120.810(1), RSMo 1969).

2. How many members will Jasper, Newton, and Lawrence Counties send to the Seventh Congressional District committee, in view of the fact that Jasper County has one entire legislative district and two partial legislative districts; Newton County has three partial legislative districts; and Lawrence County has three partial legislative districts?

We are enclosing a copy of Attorney General's Opinion No. 83, August 20, 1968, to Representative George W. Parker; Attorney General's Opinion No. 368, August 7, 1969, to Senator Edward Stone; and Attorney General's Opinion No. 83, January 15, 1970, to Representative Harold Dickson, which reflect the view that a congressional district committee is composed of the county committee chairman and vice-chairman of counties wholly within the congressional district; the legislative district committee chairman and vice-chairman of legislative districts in counties with at least two whole legislative districts; and the township committeemen and committeewomen of townships wholly or partially in the congressional districts in counties only partially in the congressional district.

Therefore, we are of the opinion that Jasper County, Newton County, and Lawrence County would each be entitled to only two memberships in the Seventh Congressional District committee (See Section 128.274, RSMo 1969)

Because your letter also suggests a question as to the applicability of the "one-man one-vote" doctrine to the election of political party committee members, we are enclosing a copy of Attorney General's Opinion No. 234, August 18, 1971, to Representatives Les Langsford and J. H. Frappier concluding that the doctrine does not apply.

Yours very truly,

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General

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Enclosures: Op. No. 256
7-27-62, Waters

Op. No. 83
8-20-68, Parker

Op. No. 368
8-7-69, Stone

Op. No. 83
1-15-70, Dickson

Op. No. 234
8-18-71, Langsford and Frappier