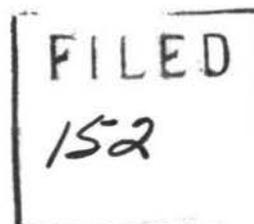


June 13, 1975

OPINION LETTER NO. 152
Answer by Letter - Klaffenbach

Honorable John T. Russell
State Representative, District 150
c/o House Post Office
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



Dear Representative Russell:

This letter is in response to your question asking:

"Does a committeeperson forfeit or vacate their position with a county political committee if the person changes residence to another township?"

You also state that:

"A member of one of the political central committees in Laclede County was elected and serving on the central committee however, the question about their continued service on the committee because of change in residence did come before the central committee. It's my understanding that the person in question did move to another township within the county."

Section 120.770, RSMo, requires that a candidate for the office of committeeman or committeewoman be a qualified voter of the voting precinct or district for which he or she seeks office. Under Section 120.800, RSMo, the county committee is composed of the committeemen and committeewomen elected in the several townships or voting districts.

Honorable John T. Russell

Section 120.760, RSMo, provides in part as follows:

". . . the word 'precinct' and the words 'election districts' shall include and refer to wards or townships as the case may require, but shall not apply to any subdivision less than a ward within any city subdivided into wards or to any subdivision less than a township in any county."

It is our view that the opinions of this office, which we enclose and which are listed below, are applicable and that the residency requirement is a continuous one. See also, State v. Bohannan, 421 P.2d 877, 882 (Ariz. 1966); State ex rel. Repay v. Fodeman, 300 A.2d 729, 730 (Conn. 1972), and authorities cited therein.

Thus, a committeeman or committeewoman who changes his or her place of residence from the township or ward in which he or she was elected vacates his or her office.

Very truly yours,

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General

Enclosures: Op. Ltr. No. 54
2/28/69, Mittendorf

Op. Ltr. No. 447
9/11/70, Howe

Op. No. 81
8/2/72, Gant