

## On Appeal by John Steward from the opinion of the State General Counsel

**Background:** During a State Central Committee meeting, the State General Counsel was asked whether the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District would need to hold elections for Chair. The State General Counsel's opinion was that because the current 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Chair still resided in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, it would be improper to hold an election for that position. John Steward, Chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, appealed this matter to the Chair of the Plan of Organization Committee who referred it to the Plan of Organization Committee for consideration. Mr. Steward attended the Plan of Organization Committee meeting via Zoom and argued that since the new districts were not drawn by the legislature, the requirements for district elections do not fall under the Plan of Organization and therefore elections in all 14 districts, including the 8<sup>th</sup> District, should be held.

**Decision:** The Plan of Organization Committee, by a vote of 13-1 affirmed the opinion of the State General Counsel. The Plan of Organization Committee recognizes that its duty during an appeal is to evaluate the question in light of what the Plan of Organization says, not what it might should say. While the Plan of Organization Committee has proposed in the past, and likely will again in the future propose, amendments to address this issue, the Committee believes that the current Plan is clear in its application. Article VII.D.3.f provides in pertinent part: "In the event that a change in residency within a District of a District Officer or member of any District Executive Committee is caused by Congressional District Redistricting, said affected Officer or member shall remain in their respective positions until the next regularly scheduled District Convention which shall elect their successors."

It is therefore the opinion of the Plan of Organization Committee that if a Congressional District Party Officer or member of the District Executive Committee still resides in the same numbered district following redistricting, then that position is not vacant and will not be up for election at the 2022 District Conventions.

The opinion of the State General Counsel is affirmed.