

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY

Proposed Bylaw Amendment – “One Person, One Vote”

Submitted by Tom Hudson
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Section 2.02.03 (Quorum, Proxies and Voting) of Article II shall be amended as follows, with deletions shown by strikeout and additions shown by bold italic text:

(B) Proxies.

- (1) At any meeting of the Committee, any ~~regular, appointive, or~~ associate delegate may be designated as a proxy for ***any regular or appointive delegate who is not present or registered.*** ~~up to two delegates.~~ ***No individual may carry more than one proxy or cast more than one vote.*** At any meeting of the Committee, any such proxy or proxies shall be submitted to the Chairman or the Chairman of the Proxies and Credentials Committee no later than 12:00 noon on the Saturday preceding the Sunday business session.
- (2) Proxies for any convention or meeting of the Committee shall be in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall be made in writing under penalty of perjury by the person giving the proxy. The use of a photocopy of an approved form shall not be a reason to invalidate the proxy.
- (3) A person who has granted a proxy in the prescribed form may revoke or change a proxy only in writing under penalty of perjury. Where more than one proxy is given by a delegate, the one dated subsequently shall be given effect over the one dated earlier. Any writing ~~which~~ ***that*** revokes or changes a proxy must be received by the Committee not later than the date and time set forth in subsection 2.02.03(B)(1), and shall indicate the name of the person whose proxy is revoked, the date said proxy was given, and the name of any person or agent to whom the proxy form was given.

Explanation: During the 1990s, the State Central Committee often had difficulty achieving quorum, so the number of proxies was increased from one to two so that quorum could be achieved with a smaller number present. Over a decade later, the formula for quorum was revised, eliminating the need to allow delegates to carry more than one proxy in order to attain quorum. (Tom Hudson authored both the proxy amendment and the quorum amendment.)

The controversial two-proxies-per-delegate rule has outlived its only purpose and it should be repealed. Allowing multiple proxies and multiple votes-per-person interferes with the ideal of “one delegate, one vote,” it makes it easier for a small number of people to manipulate the outcome of Conventions, it encourages the illicit trade in proxies by making it cheaper because proxies are free but delegate registrations raise money for the Party, and it discourages Convention attendance because fewer people can form a majority. This amendment will ensure that every delegate on the Convention floor will have exactly one vote.