

FEB 24 2003  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 279  
BY JOCHUM

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to membership on election boards.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 279

1 Section 1. Section 49.13, subsection 2, Code 2003, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. ~~Each-election-board-member~~ To the extent necessary,  
4 election boards shall be-a-member include members of one of  
5 the two political parties whose candidates for president of  
6 the United States or for governor, as the case may be,  
7 received the largest and next largest number of votes in the  
8 precinct at the last general election,~~-except-that-persons-not~~  
9 ~~members-of-either-of-these-parties-may-be-appointed-to-serve~~  
10 ~~for-any-election-in-which-no-candidates-appear-on-the-ballot~~  
11 ~~under-the-heading-of-either-of-these-political-parties.~~  
12 Election boards may also include persons not members of either  
13 of these parties.

14 Sec. 2. Section 49.15, Code 2003, is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 49.15 COMMISSIONER TO DRAW UP ELECTION BOARD PANEL.

17 Not less than twenty days before each primary election, the  
18 commissioner shall draw up for each precinct an election board  
19 panel from which members of the precinct election board shall  
20 be appointed for each election held in the precinct during the  
21 ensuing two years. Each panel shall include members of each  
22 of the political parties referred to in section 49.13, whose  
23 names may be designated by the county chairpersons of each of  
24 these political parties not less than thirty days prior to  
25 each primary election. The commissioner may place on the  
26 election board panel names of persons known by the  
27 commissioner to be members of these political parties, if the  
28 respective county chairpersons fail to designate a sufficient  
29 number of names, and may also add names of persons, whether or  
30 not they are members of either of these political parties, who  
31 have advised the commissioner they are willing to serve on the  
32 election board ~~for-elections-in-which-no-candidates-appear-on~~  
33 ~~the-ballot-under-the-heading-of-either-of-these-political~~  
34 ~~parties,-or.~~ The commissioner may also place on the election  
35 board panel names of persons whom either the city council of a

1 city of three thousand five hundred or less population or a  
2 school board has advised the commissioner at least thirty days  
3 before each primary election are willing to serve without pay  
4 at elections conducted for that school district or city, as  
5 the case may be, during the tenure of the election board panel  
6 on which these names are included.

7 Sec. 3. Section 51.2, Code 2003, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 51.2 APPOINTMENT.

10 The members of the election counting board shall be  
11 appointed by the commissioner from the election board panel  
12 drawn up as provided by section 49.15. The requirements of  
13 section 49.13, relative to political party affiliation of  
14 members of the election board ~~appointed-to-serve-for-partisan~~  
15 ~~elections~~ shall apply to the membership of the election  
16 counting board.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill allows the commissioner of elections to include  
19 on election board panels, and thus on election boards, names  
20 of persons who are not members of the two political parties  
21 receiving the largest and next largest number of votes for  
22 president or governor at the last general election. Precinct  
23 election officials are chosen from election boards.

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