

THE COLUMBIAN.



BLOOMSBURG, PA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1884.

RULES OF NOMINATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNA.

A new set of rules for the government of the Democratic Party in Columbia county were adopted by the Convention on the 26th day of December, 1870.

The Convention of 1874 ordered that a committee be appointed to revise the rules. J. G. Freese, M. E. Jackson, C. R. Buckalew, J. B. Knittle and D. Lowenberg were appointed as said committee.

That in their opinion several amendments of the rules can be made with advantage to the general scheme of order and regulation which the rules were enacted to establish.

It is believed that the classification and arrangement of the rules according to natural or convenient divisions of subject matter will render them more convenient for use and to some extent more easily understood.

The rules do not provide for cases of tie votes, in electing delegates or upon instructions nor fully define the powers and duties of the Standing Committee.

Several of the rules may be more clearly expressed and some of them be shortened and condensed.

The whole are now presented by us in a revised form with some matter added and with some omissions of unnecessary clauses, but most of them are left substantially unchanged.

A code of good laws or rules must be a matter of growth and of time, the result of experience and trial.

We are fully convinced that our rules in general will compare favorably with those of other counties of the State and that they are much better calculated to secure those capital objects—purity and fairness in nominations.

We have fortunately avoided the heavy expenses and certain corruption of the Crawford county system which has elsewhere worked so badly upon trial and been abandoned in Northumberland and other counties.

Prudent amendments occasionally made to the rules of nomination will no doubt be advantageous in promoting good feeling and securing fair play in party action, but extreme or very extensive changes of the rules do not seem to be now required.

The following are the revised rules as reported:

DEMOCRATIC RULES.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES.

I. The annual County Conventions shall be held at the Court House in Bloomsburg, on the second Tuesday of August, at one o'clock P. M., and the Delegate Elections shall be held on the Saturday before, at the places of holding the general elections in the several election districts, between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the afternoon.

II. The representation of districts in County Convention shall be in proportion to the Democratic vote of each as cast at the most recent election for Governor, but the whole number of delegates shall not exceed seventy nor be less than fifty-four, and no district shall be allowed less than two nor more than four delegates.

III. Until the next election for Governor delegates shall be allowed to districts upon a ratio of sixty voters for a delegate, allowance being made for the largest fractions of a ratio.

IV. The delegate elections shall be by ballot and shall be held and conducted by a Judge and clerk, to be selected by the Democrats in attendance, and the said officers shall determine all questions of the right to vote, keep a list of voters and tally of votes counted, to be sent by them to the Convention with their certificate of the result of the election, which certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the persons therein named having a right to seats in the Convention.

V. All delegates must reside in the districts they represent, and in case any delegate shall be unable to attend he shall be allowed to deputize another citizen of the district. But no other deputation or representation shall be allowed.

VI. It shall be a good cause of challenge against any person offering to vote at any delegate election that he has voted against Democratic candidates at Federal or State elections within two years, or has opposed the Democratic ticket at the last preceding election, or has taken or agreed to take money or other valuable thing, or any pecuniary advantage, as a consideration for his vote at such delegate election, or corrupted or attempted to corrupt any voter of the district with reference to the same; but this rule shall apply only to causes of challenge arising subsequent to its adoption.

VII. Voters at delegate elections may cast as many votes as there are delegates to be elected and may cast them all for one delegate, or may divide them among the delegates as they see fit. And in the case of a tie vote between delegates, the question shall be decided by drawing lots; a tie upon instruction from a district by dividing the vote.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE CONVENTION.

I. Conventions shall be called to order by the Chairman of the Standing Committee, or in his absence, by some other member thereof, who shall entertain and put to vote motions for the election of a President and two Secretaries for purposes of temporary organization.

II. All cases of disputed seats in Conventions shall be disposed of openly by a vote after hearing the respective claimants and their evidence.

III. The voting in Conventions shall be open, and any two members may require the yeas and nays on any question pending.

IV. In Convention a majority of all the votes given shall be necessary to a nomination, and no person shall be peremptorily struck from the list of candidates until after the second vote, when the lowest name shall be struck off, and so on at each successive vote until a nomination shall be effected.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee be authorized to examine any charges which may be made to them, of violation of law or Democratic rules by any candidate in connection with the delegate election or convention, and if such charges shall be sustained to take all necessary steps to vindicate the law and the rules of the party.

MEMBER OF STATE COMMITTEE.

The County Convention of 1882 adopted the following resolution: Whereas The Democratic State Convention recently held at Harrisburg, adopted new rules for the government of the party, which rules provide that after January 1st 1883, the State Central Committee shall consist of one member from each county, to be elected under the rules of the local organization, therefore,

Resolved, That the said member of the State Central Committee for Columbia County be elected each year at the Democratic County Convention, and the person receiving a majority of all the votes cast shall be declared elected.

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The Assessors shall each receive the same compensation, for the time necessarily spent in performing the duties, as provided by law to Assessors making valuations, to be paid by the County Commissioners. It shall not be lawful for any Assessor to assess a tax against any person within sixty days preceding the annual November election, and any Election Officer, Assessor or Overseer, who shall neglect their duty, shall be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars.

ASSESSORS APPOINTED.

In districts where an Assessor has not been elected, the Court of Common Pleas shall appoint a reputable person to the position.

At the election held on the third Tuesday of February, each district shall elect one Judge, and two Inspectors, and an Assessor.

The respective Assessors, Inspectors, Judges and Overseers shall each have the power to administer oaths to any person claiming the right to be assessed, or the right of suffrage.

WHO CAN BE ELECTION OFFICERS.

No one can be an election officer who holds, or has held within two months of the election, any office, appointment or employment, in or under the Government of the United States, or of this State, or of any municipal board, commission or trust, in any city.

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