

UCRP Delegate Vacancies and Absences (Bylaw 2)



- A.** A vacancy occurs when a delegate dies, moves from the Voting Precinct, resigns, no longer qualifies under the Party Constitution, or is otherwise removed from office.
- B.** A delegate vacancy in a Voting Precinct allocation shall be filled by the highest ranked alternate delegate available from that Voting Precinct. If no alternate delegate is available, the Voting Precinct Chair may appoint a qualified member of the Voting Precinct to fill the vacancy. The appointed delegate shall serve an interim appointment with all the authority and responsibility of that office until the nomination is approved by both the Executive Committee and the Central Committee, or the nomination is rejected by either.
- C.** An absence occurs when a delegate provides written notice of intent to not attend the convention, or has not registered by the start of the convention.
- D.** A delegate absence in a Voting Precinct allocation shall be filled the same as a vacancy, with the exception of the approval and rejection provision. Delegates filling absences serve only until the end of the convention.
- E.** An ex-officio delegate vacancy is automatically filled by the individual entering the qualifying position. **An ex-officio delegate absence may not be filled.**

During a convention, everyone is attending as delegates. There are 3 types. Please note the following comments for clarification on how to properly provide an alternate for vacancies and absences per the above bylaw:

- 1) elected delegates. See A - D above
- 2) precinct leaders that also have a delegate spot. See A - D above
- 3) ex-officio delegates - See E above: "An ex-officio delegate absence may not be filled."

("Ex-officio" delegates are Executive Committee Members, Legislative District Leadership, All Republican Elected Officials living in Utah County, and all past County Chairs. If someone serves in more than one of these positions, they cannot "give away" their ex-officio delegate spot to someone else. They may only serve as one ex-officio delegate and allow someone else from their precinct to fill any allocated elected precinct delegate spots)

Some confusion has risen in regards to Central Committee members and how this bylaw is applied to their voting position on the Central Committee. Simply put, it does not. Proxies are not permitted to vote on behalf of Precinct Chairs and Precinct Vice-Chairs in Central Committee meetings.

The only way an absence can be filled on the Central Committee is to resign the Precinct Chair or Vice-Chair position so someone that would be willing to fulfill the role can attend and represent the precinct. Because convention days include both a Central Committee meeting and a convention, it is feasible that some precincts may choose to replace a PC or VC through resignation rather than have an absence at the quarterly Central Committee meeting and an alternate delegate at the County Convention. This is a choice of the Precinct Chair and Vice Chair, but it must be understood how to properly do that.

This is also the only way to replace a Legislative District leader as they cannot have someone to take their position unless they resign. This method has been used in the past with a "gentleman's agreement" where the person taking the position of the resigning person agrees to resign after the meeting, thus allowing the original person who was going to be absent to be reinstated.

All changes prior to Conventions or Central Committee meetings need to be communicated to the county secretary secretary@ucrp.org. The best way to do this is to have the resigning or absent delegate send an email to the Precinct Chair explaining their resignation or absence. The Precinct Chair should then forward that email to the party secretary (and CC their Legislative District Chair) naming the alternate who will be filling in. Make sure the following is included:

- Name of the delegate who is being replaced
- State or County delegate position (some delegates are both but may only need to be replaced for one convention)
- Statement of the reason (e.g. "moved" or "will be out of town" or "asked to resign")
- Name, address, phone and email of the person filling the position

Remember: If alternates were elected at the precinct caucus, they have priority as replacements. They should have been elected in order, so the 1st alternate fills the first vacancy, 2nd alternate fills the second, and so on.

Precinct Chairs should identify to the secretary any replacements for vacancies or absences as soon as possible; however, a pre-identified alternate is eligible to be credentialed up and through the day of convention should an absence or vacancy occur. Precinct Chairs are thus strongly encouraged to appoint additional eligible alternates as needed so that the secretary can have them listed on the public master list. Precinct Chairs may also consider appointing alternate county delegates from among the other state delegates or officers elected at caucus.

Just remember ~ the best practice is to keep in contact with your Precinct Officers and delegates regularly so the delegate lists are always accurate and kept up-to-date!