

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA

Donald W. Huffman, Chairman

January 16, 1992
(Amended)

Donald W. Huffman, Chairman
Republican Party of Virginia
Richard D. Obenshain Center
115 East Grace Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Don:

RPV has requested an opinion regarding the composition and procedures of congressional district committees (District Committees) after redistricting.

I believe RPV will best be served by having the present District Committees remain in place and continue to administer the affairs of their respective districts until such time as the Justice Department has indicated it will not object to the Commonwealth's redistricting plan as ultimately presented to it, or the time has expired for Justice to object. At that time, when some organizational changes will be required, I think it advisable to distinguish between an old and a new district where there is no formal party organization, i.e., the new Third (see subsequent comments) and Eleventh.

In the case of an old district, the District Committee as presently constituted for that numbered district would continue in office except for those committee members who have (i) been personally redistricted out of the district and can no longer comply with the participation requirements of Art. I, § B of the Party Plan or (ii) who represent whole or part units that are no longer included in the district. New members will, however, have to be added to represent new whole or part units added to the district. Vacancies created by either of these situations should be filled as provided in Art. IV and, in the case of district members of the State Central Committee (SCC), Art. III of the Party Plan.

A vacancy in the office of district chairman or any of the other offices permitted by Art. IV, § A(7), would be filled in accordance with Art. IV, § C. Vacancies in *ex officio* memberships, except SCC district members, would be filled as circumstances may dictate by the constituent units or auxiliaries identified in Art. IV, § A. Vacancies in district memberships on the SCC would be filled by the District Committee in accordance with Art. III, § C(4). The committee as reconstituted would continue to serve until the biennial district convention in 1992.

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Inherent in Art. IV is also a procedure for selecting a committee for a new district, or essentially new district, such as the Third, to serve until the next biennial convention. In the case of the Third District, should any present committee members continue to reside in the new district and meet the qualifications of Art. IV, I believe they should continue in office. Otherwise unit chairmen would automatically become members under Art. IV, § 2. All *other ex officio* members (with the exception of SCC district members) (Art. IV, §§ A 3-5.) would be elected by the constituent auxiliaries.

The District Committee, as constituted in this manner, would elect a district chairman and to the extent desired, additional officers permitted by Art. IV, § A(7). *The Committee (including the Chairman) would then elect district members of the State Central Committee in Accordance with Art. III, § C. The district members of the State Central Committee, however, would not have a right to vote, since this right, if it is to be, must be conferred by the next District Convention (See Art. IV § E.).*

Where there is no Chairman to call a District Committee meeting and a District Committee plan or by-laws does not address the issue, §49 (p. 415) of *Robert's Rules of Order* provides that any two members of the Committee may call a meeting.

While they may not necessarily answer all the questions, it is my opinion the procedures I have outlined will permit each district to administer its affairs with the least amount of disruption until 1992 biennial district conventions, and I commend them to the SCC.

Sincerely,



William A. Forrest, Jr.

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