

Dynamic Precinct Organizations: The Key to America's Future

**Election Integrity, Public Campaign Finance
&
A Free Press**

by

**Larry Quick
Executive Director
Quick 'N Clean Foundation**

www.qnc.us

Introduction

The solution to America's most pressing problems can be found in your neighborhood.

The solution has been quietly waiting to be discovered and put to powerful use.

The solution has been available to Americans for generations.

When will America discover its best path to its brightest future?

The Problem

What is preventing all Americans from enjoying good jobs, quality health care, first-class education and a clean environment?

The most powerful obstacles come in the form of insecure election systems, privately funded campaigns and the absence of a responsible free press.

Our nation can and does produce thousands of qualified and ethical candidates for public office. Far too few are elected. Those that are elected face the near impossible task of bringing citizen-focused, government reform, into being.

Until we create a political system that provides honest and accurate elections, public campaign finance and a responsible free press, we will not get the outstanding political leadership that our nation so desperately needs.

It is as simple and as challenging as that!

The Power of Political Parties

Few Americans are aware of the power potential of vibrant political parties. A vibrant and ethical political party can serve as a supportive community, or perhaps for some voters, even an extended family.

Few American's are aware of the key influence that political parties have on the quality of our public leaders. Political parties provide the vast majority of candidates for elected office.

Under staffed, debilitated, unhealthy or nonexistent are terms which accurately describe the condition and/or presence of all major American political parties. Fortunately, there are some powerful local and regional exceptions within each national party. These healthy exceptions are few and far between.

The overall health and presence of all major U.S. political parties is unacceptable.

Without vibrant, competent and ethical political parties, Americans will never have the high quality government that they deserve.

Voters Taking Charge

Voters in Illinois, as well as in other states, have the opportunity to take political and government reform into their own hands, due to the work of two grassroots organizations. These organizations are the Quick 'N Clean Foundation and the Illinois Ballot Integrity Project.

Founded in 2003, The Quick 'N Clean Foundation www.qnc.us was developed under the guidance of former U.S. Senator Paul Simon. QNC has developed and successfully rolled out programs for the development of dynamic precinct organizations and political party election oversight.

Founded in 2003, the Illinois Ballot Integrity Project www.ballot-integrity.org was created by a small group of citizens highly concerned about the impact of computerized voting on election system integrity.

Working with Illinois State Representative Mike Boland, IBIP has drafted two powerful pieces of legislation that if enacted would provide public campaign finance and election audits.

Representative Boland introduced this legislation in the Illinois Assembly in February of 2007. These bills are HB 1640 (Illinois Clean Elections Act) and HB 1642 (Illinois Ballot Integrity Act).

QNC and IBIP have created the grassroots tools and legislation necessary to transform Illinois Politics, Illinois Government and Illinois Election Integrity.

DPOs - Supporting Local and Statewide Initiatives

The precinct is the smallest political district in a state. Precincts are the basic building blocks that comprise ward, township, county and state electoral jurisdictions.

The precinct committee is the smallest official unit of a political party.

Precinct committees constitute the cells of larger political party organisms. These larger political party organisms take the form of ward committees, township committees, county central committees, state central committees and national political committees.

In many states, elected precinct committee persons elect the leadership of township, county and state central party committees.

The entrance of tens of thousands of progressive precinct committee chairpersons makes possible the election of progressive party leaders from the township to the national level.

Dynamic Precinct Organizations (DPOs) are powerful neighborhood organizations that are organized as political party precinct committees.

DPOs are relatively permanent organizations.

DPOs continue year in and year out.

DPOs exist long after Election Day and long after temporary campaign organizations disband.

DPOs typically consist of ten to twenty party members residing in the same precinct.

DPO members spend most of their volunteer time supporting local precinct committee or neighborhood initiatives.

Local precinct committee initiatives include GOTV drives on Election Day, candidate fundraisers, voter registrations drives, poll watching, candidate forums, distributions of candidate literature, candidate canvassing, monthly committee meetings and social events.

The Power Potential of DPOs

The power potential of DPOs is illustrated in “Exhibit A - Illinois Dynamic Precinct Organizations Supporting Local and State Initiatives.”

“Exhibit A” depicts individual DPOs throughout the State of Illinois as well as three statewide initiative committees.

Statewide initiative committees include HB 1640 (passage of the Illinois Clean Elections Act), HB1642 (passage of the Illinois Ballot Integrity Act), and the Campaign Committee of their party’s presidential nominee.

Note that lines of support extend from many DPOs to one or more statewide initiative committees.

A line of support indicates that at least one DPO member, in addition to supporting local precinct committee activities, is also supporting (with hundreds of other DPO members across Illinois) the passage of HB 1640, the passage of HB 1642, or the candidacy of their party’s presidential nominee.

DPO members spend an average of 2-3 hours per month supporting local precinct initiatives.

One or more DPO members may also spend an additional 2-3 hours per month supporting a statewide initiative committee. These DPO members are known as dual-level participants.

DPOs create the opportunity for widespread grassroots political participation.

The availability of e-mail, web sites, cell phones, pagers and fax machines makes dual-level participation by DPO members possible without ever having to leave their neighborhoods

With affordable high-tech communication devices, dual-level political participation is a real option available for millions of public-minded citizens. These are Americans who love their country and wish desperately to transform its political parties, its government and its direction.

DPOs Supporting National Initiatives

In addition to supporting critical statewide initiative committees, DPO members can also volunteer to support key national initiative committees.

One example would be the creation of a national initiative committee dedicated to the reinstatement of the FCC Fairness Doctrine. The Fairness Doctrine was repealed in 1987 during the Reagan Administration.

Writing in FAIR (2/12/05), journalist Steve Randall summarizes the FCC Fairness Doctrine as follows:

The Fairness Doctrine had two basic elements: It required broadcasters to devote some of their airtime to discussing controversial matters of public interest, and to air contrasting views regarding those matters. Stations were given wide latitude as to how to provide contrasting views: It could be done through news segments, public affairs shows or editorials. Formally adopted as an FCC rule in 1949 and repealed in 1987 by Ronald Reagan's pro-broadcaster FCC, the doctrine can be traced back to the early days of broadcast regulation. Typically, when an individual or citizens group complained to a station about imbalance, the station would set aside time for an on-air response for the omitted perspective: "Reasonable opportunity for presentation of opposing points of view," was the relevant phrase. If a station disagreed with the complaint, feeling that an adequate range of views had already been presented, the decision would be appealed to the FCC for a judgment.

The FCC is comprised of five members responsible for establishing and enforcing public broadcast regulations. Typical membership is comprised of three members appointed from the current President's political party and two members from the opposition party. The establishment, modification or elimination of an FCC regulation requires a simple majority (three members) of the Commission.

As a critical first step toward the establishment of a fair and responsible press, the FCC Fairness Doctrine must be reestablished.

DPO members supporting a national Fairness Doctrine Committee could exert a potentially powerful force to persuade at least three members of the FCC to reestablish the Fairness Doctrine.

Similarly, DPO members could also support a national Clean Elections Committee, to gain passage of a federal clean election law providing public campaign finance. Clean election laws have already been passed in Maine and Arizona.

Finally, DPO members could support a national Ballot Integrity Committee. This committee would support the Passage of a National Ballot Integrity Act, requiring thorough, timely and independent election audits.

Conclusion

DPOs and dual-level political participation provide Americans a powerful, affordable, and convenient means for changing the course of our Nation.

Illinois currently has over 10,120 precincts with very few possessing dynamic precinct organizations. This situation is typical of all 50 states.

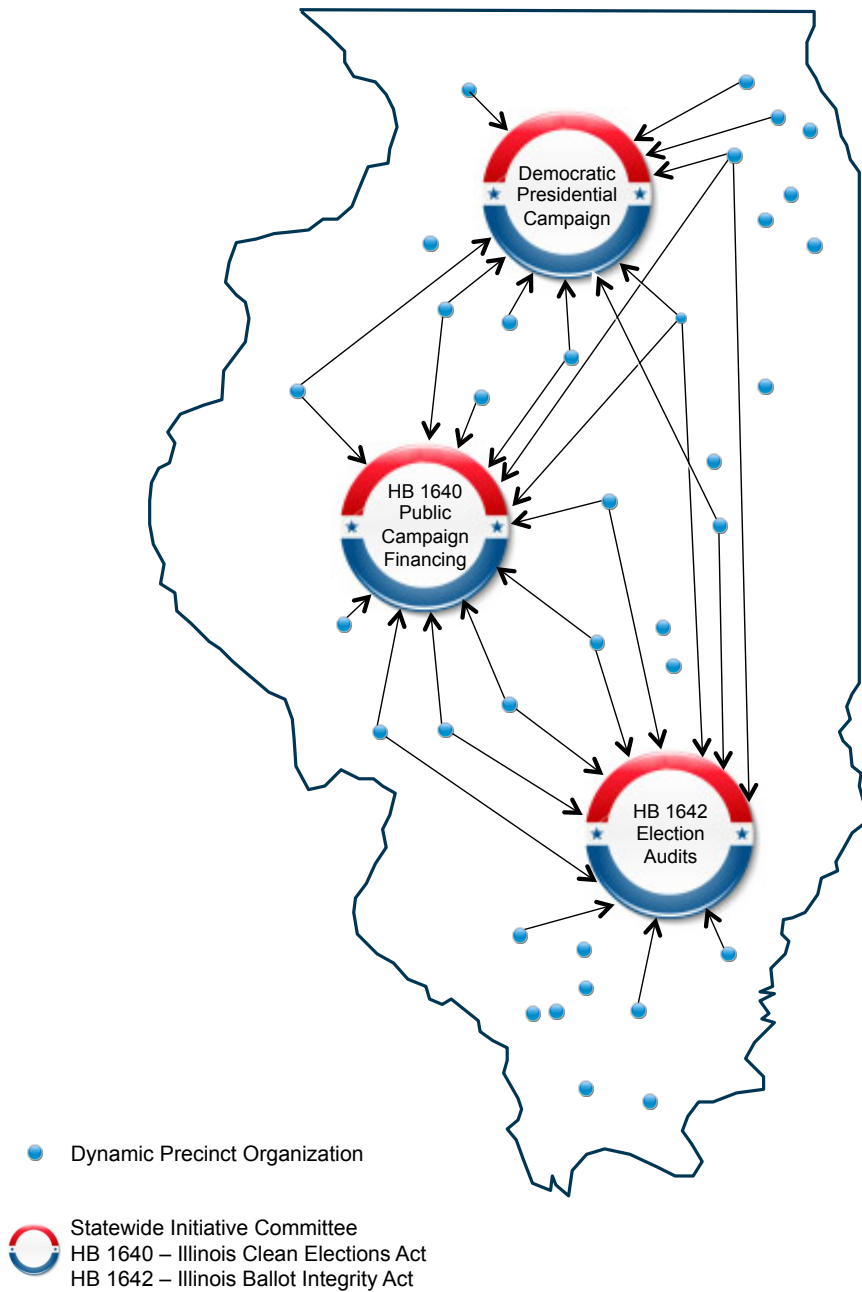
The power potential of DPOs linked to, and supporting, key statewide or nationwide initiatives is staggering. Affordable, sophisticated and widely available communication technology makes national transformation within the grasp of working-class voters.

All our national political parties are in need of transformation from the ground up and from the top down.

DPOs supporting local and statewide initiatives provide the best path to our best and brightest future.

Exhibit A

Illinois Dynamic Precinct Organizations Supporting Local and Statewide Initiatives



© 2018 Quick 'N Clean Foundation



Illinois House of Representatives Bill 1642

The Act, if adopted, will amend the [Illinois Election Code \(10 ILCS 5/\)](#) and require that each election authority in Illinois:

- (i) Conduct an election day audit of a random sample of 10% of votes cast and
- (ii) Provide for the performance by one or more independent auditors of post-election parallel tabulations and audits; and it provides for the scope of the audits and the resulting reports.

It would also require that optical scan technology and direct recording electronic voting systems meet certain federal and independent testing standards.

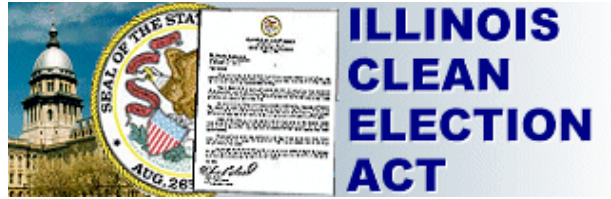
With respect to early voting, the Act requires that an election authority using only direct recording electronic voting systems have paper ballots available for all voters wishing to use them.

The bill also provides for strengthening the pre-election Logic and Accuracy Testing (LAT) of electronic voting machines by requiring that these public tests be performed prior to the beginning of actual voting.

In addition, the bill's provisions include a requirement that only human-readable voter-verifiable paper records produced by touch-screen voting devices be used in post-election counts and audits and prohibits the use of bar codes that voters can't read.

HB1642 has been initially assigned to the Rules Committee but is expected to be further assigned to the Election and Campaign Reform Committee.

Illinois Ballot Integrity Project also urges concerned citizens to write to their Illinois State Representative to support of HB 1642.



Illinois House of Representatives Bill 1640

The **Illinois Clean Election Act** is believed to be the first introduction in several years of a bill to require:

- **Public** financing of Constitutional State Officers, State Senators and Representatives.

The Act as introduced would establish:

- A voluntary method of public financing of the campaigns of candidates for Governor, State Senator, and State Representative

(An amendment will be offered to include Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Comptroller.)

The bill amends the State Finance Act to create:

- The Illinois Clean Election Fund as a special fund in the State treasury, administered by the State Board of Elections.

The Act would amend the Illinois Income Tax Act to create:

- An individual tax return checkoff in support of the Fund as well as setting campaign expenditure limits for the primary and general elections.

Illinois Ballot Integrity Project also urges concerned citizens to write to their Illinois State Representative to support of HB 1640.