

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Glover  
Vice Chairman Chaney  
Mr. Beyer  
Mrs. Ham  
Mrs. Hayes  
Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Nicholas  
Mr. Prengaman  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Sader

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: William Swackhamer, Secretary of State  
Assemblyman Joe Dini, District #38  
Assemblyman John Vergiels, Majority Leader  
Senator Jean Ford  
Esther Nicholson, League of Women Voters

Chairman Glover called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. in room 200. He directed the committee's attention to AB 541.

AB 541: Requires governor to fill vacancies in certain county offices with person from same political party as most recent officeholder.

Assemblyman Joe Dini, District #38, said that during the interim when Senator Dodge resigned, he discovered in researching NRS that the statutes require the appointment of a legislator must be from the same political party as the most recent officeholder but there is no such law governing county offices. He felt that the law should be consistent and AB 541 accomplishes this.

Mrs. Hayes questioned what would happen if a vacancy occurred in the office of district attorney and there was no attorney of the same party in that county. Mr. Dini said that a district attorney does not have to live in the same county in the smaller counties.

Mr. Chaney suggested amending the bill to read "unless there is no one available from the same political party."

Assemblyman John Vergiels, Majority Leader, said that he strongly supported AB 541.

Following a discussion of the problems of mandating this appointment, non-partisan offices and creation of new offices, he suggested that the bill should be rewritten to define non-partisan and exempt non-partisan and newly created offices.

Mr. William Swackhamer, Secretary of State, noted that the Governor only appoints district judges and county commissioners on the county level, and since this bill exempts district judges, it would only apply to county commissioners.

Since there were people waiting to testify, Chairman Glover said the committee would consider AB 443 next.

AB 443: Reduces age of eligibility for election to state legislature.

Assemblyman John Vergiels, Majority Leader, said that this same bill was introduced two years ago with the philosophy that 18 year olds can vote, serve in the armed services and are considered adults by the court. He noted that two years ago the bill passed the Assembly but was killed in the Senate Government Affairs Committee. He contended that young people can serve and do a good job despite the negative feelings toward youth harbored by the general public. He asked that the committee give this bill positive consideration.

Mrs. Hayes posed the problem of an 18 year old being elected before completion of high school and noted that in Clark County a student would be expelled after the sixth day of absence.

Mr. Chaney wondered what would happen if there was a problem in a casino that required a meeting in such an establishment.

When Mr. Robinson suggested that the bill could be amended to require that a candidate must be a high school graduate, Mr. Sader pointed out that this would create a category which could be applied to anyone no matter what age.

A tape of the prepared statement of Gary Huffman was played for the committee. A verbatim transcript of Mr. Huffman's support for AB 443 is attached to these minutes as EXHIBIT A.

The committee discussed the fact that this bill should include all other offices, and Chairman Glover indicated that when action was taken on this bill, the Chair would entertain amendments.

Mr. Glover closed the hearing on AB 443 and asked Mr. Swackhamer to speak on SB 88.

SB 88: Clarifies requirements for reporting campaign contributions and expenses.

Mr. William Swackhamer, Secretary of State, said that under the present Campaign Practices Act, campaign expenditures must be reported from June 9th up till the primary election. He noted that since the Legislative Commission denied the right to change this date by regulation, SB 88 was introduced to change the beginning date of reporting to January 1 of the election year for both campaign contributions and expenses. He indicated that this bill also provides a reporting period for special and primary elections. 193

Mr. Swackhamer added that Section 8 deletes NRS 293.031 which is the definition that has caused problems.

Mrs. Ham referred to page 1, Section 4 and asked if this would mean that a loan of office furniture has to be reported. Mr. Swackhamer replied affirmatively and indicated that this was present law.

In reference to the same section, Mr. Hickey asked if this would include a relative who erects a sign for a candidate. Mr. Swackhamer said that any service should be reported at the present value of the service rendered; that erecting a sign would probably be computed at the minimum wage.

Mr. Robinson pointed out that this would create confusion in that volunteer labor would be reported as a contribution but would not appear as an expenditure. He also observed that any contributions between now and January 1 of an election year would not have to be reported. He felt that reporting should be continuous from one election to another.

Mr. Swackhamer indicated that a bill has been introduced that will do this and that the January 1 date came from the Legislative Commission.

Mr. Hickey commented that reporting donations of services from members of the family was silly, and that he felt the thrust of this bill was to control extraordinary influence of industry or special interest groups. He asked if there was some way to write this bill to indicate this thrust.

Mr. Swackhamer said that the only way would be to exclude everything but monetary contributions, but there would be many ways to evade what is trying to be accomplished.

Mr. Glover suggested making another category for declaration of personal services on the reporting form.

Mr. Swackhamer pointed out that the matter in italics in the first section is present law, and that this bill is only trying to do two things: 1) establish the date of January 1 for the commencing of reporting expenses and contributions, and 2) removal of the three reporting periods for special and recall elections.

Mr. Sader indicated that the wording of this bill differs slightly from present law in that present law does not include the words "or anything of value." He noted that Mr. Swackhamer said that volunteer labor should be considered as in-kind contributions, and after reading the present law as shown in NRS. 294A, he asked Mr. Swackhamer if it was true that before a candidate did not have to report volunteer labor, but if this law passed he would be required to do so. Mr. Swackhamer said this was true.

Mr. Sader asked Mr. Swackhamer for his interpretation of Section 3, page 1 dealing with campaign expenses, whether this would mean only the expenditures contracted by the candidate himself or would it include someone contracting on his behalf. Mr. Swackhamer felt that this would mean by the candidate. Mr. Sader pointed out that this would be a way for a supporter to spend a great deal of money on a candidate that would not have to be reported.

Mr. Robinson mentioned the difficulty in establishing a value for donations of time and materials which in turn makes it more difficult to run for office. He noted that what the public is really interested in is where the money is coming from.

Mr. Swackhamer said that there were two bills introduced that would change the period of time for reporting, AB 164 and SB 124.

Mrs. Hayes commented that when she voted on the original campaign practices bill, it was not her understanding that volunteer labor should be reported.

Before taking further testimony, Chairman Glover informed the committee that AB 545, amending the charter of the City of Las Vegas, holds the record for moving faster than any other bill through the legislature.

Senator Jean Ford asked the committee if there were any questions on SB 88.

Mr. Sader asked if it was her understanding that volunteer labor was included in the definition of contributions. Senator Ford indicated that this was not her understanding and that the only change was the addition of "or anything of value." Mr. Sader said that it was somewhat of a surprise to the committee that Mr. Swackhamer interpreted the language as including volunteer labor.

When Mr. Malone commented that this was in the rules and regulations set out by the Secretary of State's office, Senator Ford said that Mr. Swackhamer has not ruled that way in the past; that this was not discussed either in committee or on the floor of the Senate.

When Mrs. Ham indicated that this reporting was included on the forms for the last election, Senator Ford said that she did not run in the last election and this was not included on any forms that she had previously filled out.

When Mr. Hickey informed Senator Ford that Mr. Swackhamer had indicated that if a relative or friend walks a precinct or puts up a sign, this must be computed at minimum wage and reported, she indicated that this was not the intent of the Senate.

Senator Ford said that the Senate would certainly concur if the Assembly wished to rewrite the section to exclude volunteer help, but that the thrust of the bill is to change the date of reporting which is definitely needed. She added that the other changes in the bill are to remove special and recall elections because there is never a primary for these elections. She said that Section 8 repeals the section of the law which says that expenditures do not have to be reported until a certificate of candidacy has been filed which could be as late as the third Wednesday in July; that this is the section that has caused so much controversy.

Mr. Robinson stated that both he and Mr. Hickey felt this was a waste of time as it was not accomplishing what was intended; that if contributions are to be reported, they should be reported from election to election.

Senator Ford indicated that the present law requires reporting of expenditures from January 1st and that this bill would bring the reporting of contributions parallel to that. She noted that the Senate Government Affairs Committee had passed a bill to require reporting from election to election and also to change the \$500 limit so that it was not cumulative, but this lost on the Senate floor.

Mr. Prengaman noted that if there was ever a question of the source of campaign contributions during legislative service, that record is available and has a lasting effect.

Chairman Glover then asked Senator Ford if she could explain the reason for SB 353.

SB 353: Requires issuance of certificate of appointment to person selected to fill vacancy in office of senator or assemblyman.

Senator Ford said that this was a request of the Secretary of State and only requires that he be officially notified of the name of an appointee. She noted there was no opposition in the Senate.

Senator Ford reported that the subcommittee appointed to clean up the contest section of the election laws has introduced a bill which will be heard on Wednesday in the Senate Government Affairs Committee. She added that there is a one house resolution in the Senate to establish rules for the Senate in the event there is another contest and suggested that the Assembly might want to do the same. Mr. Glover asked that she send copies of this resolution to the committee.

Esther Nicholson, representing the League of Women Voters of Nevada, quoted from a newsletter, "What worries many people about the cost of political campaigns are the ethical problems posed by the relationship of the candidate to his big money

contributors. The traditional way of regulating this relationship has been through legal controls on spending and contributions coupled with disclosure requirements that let the public know who a candidate's financial backers are."

Mrs. Nicholson said that the League's position is both philosophical and ethical; that she realized that there is no law in the United States that is an ideal solution. She felt that one could not wait for an ideal solution that would solve all the problems, but that one must take a little bit at a time; that additions and amendments should be made a little at a time that will slowly improve the law that someday might become ideal. She added that the League agrees with Mr. Swackhamer in that it would be a mistake not to pass SB 88 because it, at least, makes a little improvement.

When Mr. Beyer asked if her organization gets involved in campaigns, Mrs. Nicholson replied that their by-laws prohibit involvement in individual campaigns; they only take positions on issues that they reach a consensus on. When Mr. Beyer then asked if the League had any interest in the reporting of volunteer labor, Mrs. Nicholson responded that the League's main concern is financial contributions. She indicated that if there was some simple way of reporting volunteer help on the disclosure statement, she felt this might be of interest to the voters because it shows public appreciation.

Mrs. Nicholson then quoted again from a newsletter, "Further, it is held by some that disclosure not only provides information to the public but deters individuals and groups from attempting to wield undue influence over public officials."

Since there was no further testimony, Chairman Glover said the committee would take action on a few bills.

AB 443: Reduces age of eligibility for election to state legislature.

Mr. Hickey moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE AB 443, seconded by Mr. Malone and carried by a vote of 7 to 4 with Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Prengaman and Mr. Sader voting no.

SB 353: Requires issuance of certificate of appointment to person selected to fill vacancy in office of senator or assemblyman.

Mr. Prengaman moved DO PASS on SB 353, seconded by Mr. Hickey and carried unanimously.

AB 541: Requires governor to fill vacancies in certain county offices with persons from same political party as most recent officeholder.

Mr. Robinson commented that after testimony it seemed that this would only apply to county commissioners, but if the bill passed, 197

it could be construed as meaning all county offices that are now appointed by the county commissioners rather than the governor.

Mr. Hickey moved to amend AB 541 by deleting on line 6, "County office, except the office of district judge," and inserting "Office of county commissioners," seconded by Mr. Chaney and carried unanimously.

Mr. Hickey moved DO PASS AS AMENDED on AB 541, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and carried by a vote of 10 to 1 with Mr. Nicholas voting no.

AB 517: Extends time for filing in election when time expires on Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

In discussion it was pointed out that this would apply to any papers mentioned in this Title which would include reporting of contributions and expenditures as well as filing for candidacy.

Mr. Hickey moved DO PASS on AB 517, seconded by Mr. Sader and carried unanimously by the committee

AB 138: Abolishes presidential preference primary elections.

Dr. Robinson reviewed for the committee the memorandum from J. Kenneth Creighton, Research Analyst, regarding dates of other states' presidential preference primaries which is attached to these minutes as EXHIBIT B pages 1 through 3.

The committee discussed the advantages of a regional primary and the advantages of being among the first.

Mr. Robinson moved to amend AB 138 to hold the next presidential preference primary in Nevada on the same day in February as New Hampshire, seconded by Mr. Nicholas and carried unanimously.

Mr. Robinson moved DO PASS AS AMENDED, seconded by Mr. Malone and carried unanimously by the committee.

Chairman Glover informed the committee that there would be a work session on Congressional reapportionment the following day.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hatch  
Secretary

61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE APRIL 27, 1981

SUBJECT AB 443: Reduces age of eligibility for election to state legislature.

MOTION: INDEFINITELY POSTPONE

Do Pass \_\_\_ Amend \_\_\_ Indefinitely Postpone XX Reconsider \_\_\_

Moved By Mr. Hickey Seconded By Mr. Malone

AMENDMENT: [Blank lines for amendment text]

Moved By \_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_

AMENDMENT: [Blank lines for amendment text]

Moved By \_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_

Table with columns: MOTION (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No) and rows for members: BEYER, CHANEY, HAM, HAYES, HICKEY, MALONE, NICHOLAS, PRENGAMAN, ROBINSON, SADER, GLOVER, TALLY: (7/4)

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated \_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 27, 1981



61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE APRIL 27, 1981

SUBJECT SB 353: Requires issuance of certificate of appointment to  
person selected to fill vacancy in office of senator  
or assemblyman.

MOTION: DO PASS

Do Pass XX Amend      Indefinitely Postpone      Reconsider     

Moved By Mr. Prengaman Seconded By Mr. Hickey

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	MOTION		AMEND		AMEND	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
BEYER	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
CHANEY	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HAM	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HAYES	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HICKEY	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
MALONE	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NICHOLAS	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PRENGAMAN	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
ROBINSON	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SADER	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
GLOVER	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TALLY:	<u>11</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated      Withdrawn     

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 27, 1981

61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE APRIL 27, 1981

SUBJECT AB 541: Requires governor to fill vacancies in certain county offices with persons from same political party as most recent officeholder.

MOTION: DO PASS AS AMENDED

Do Pass XX Amend XX Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider

Moved By Mr. Hickey Seconded By Mrs. Hayes

AMENDMENT: delete on line 6, "County office, except the office of district judge," and insert "Office of county commissioners"

Moved By Mr. Hickey Seconded By Mr. Chaney

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

Table with columns: MOTION (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No) and rows for VOTE: BEYER, CHANEY, HAM, HAYES, HICKEY, MALONE, NICHOLAS, PRENGAMAN, ROBINSON, SADER, GLOVER, TALLY: (10/1, 11/0)

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated Withdrawn

AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED

AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED

Attached to Minutes April 27, 1981

61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE APRIL 27, 1981

SUBJECT AB 517: Extends time for filing in election when time expires on Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

MOTION: DO PASS

Do Pass XX Amend Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider

Moved By Mr. Hickey Seconded By Mr. Sader

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

Table with columns: VOTE, MOTION (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No), AMEND (Yes/No). Rows include BEYER, CHANEY, HAM, HAYES, HICKEY, MALONE, NICHOLAS, PRENGAMAN, ROBINSON, SADER, GLOVER, and TALLY (11/0).

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated Withdrawn

AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED

AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED

Attached to Minutes April 27, 1981

61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE APRIL 27, 1981

SUBJECT AB 138: Abolishes presidential preference primary elections

MOTION: DO PASS AS AMENDED

Do Pass XX Amend XX Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider

Moved By Mr. Robinson Seconded By Mr. Malone

AMENDMENT: To hold the next presidential preference primary in Nevada on the same day in February as New Hampshire.

Moved By Mr. Robinson Seconded By Mr. Nicholas

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

Table with columns: MOTION (Yes, No), AMEND (Yes, No), AMEND (Yes, No) and rows for voters: BEYER, CHANEY, HAM, HAYES, HICKEY, MALONE, NICHOLAS, PRENGAMAN, ROBINSON, SADER, GLOVER, TALLY: 11, 0

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated Withdrawn

AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED

Attached to Minutes April 27, 1981

GARY HUFFMAN  
PREPARED TESTIMONY FROM TAPE

My name is Gary Huffman. I am an employee of KKBC-FM in Carson City. Other commitments prevent me from speaking in person.

This concerns AB 443 before you today. It may well be one of the most important signals that you send to the voters this session. The bill reduces the age requirement of legislators from 21 to 18 years of age, and there are many reasons why you should pass this bill. First of all, the 18 to 21 year old people deserve the right to hold office. They are considered adults in almost every other way. They can be drafted and die for their country; they can get married and raise a family; they pay taxes; and they serve other adult roles.

The 18 year olds are treated as adults in court and even receive the death penalty. It seems to me that the state will consider them adults if they are criminals, but will treat them like children if they want to do something constructive. This is unfair and unequal. They can do bad things as adults; they should be allowed to do good things as adults as well.

Secondly, the voters deserve the right to vote for someone 18 years of age. The only argument that I have heard against this bill is whether an 18 year old is mature enough to hold office. Frankly, there are people who are into their 40's and 50's who aren't mature enough to hold office. The point is that the voter is the one who decides whether or not people are mature enough to hold office, and the voter wants the right to make their own decision as to who is mature and who isn't. Maybe they won't vote for an 18 year old but that is their decision as voters.

This law has been passed in other states, twenty three in all. They include California, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and every United States Territory have this law. That is 23 states and U. S. Territories who treat 18 year olds as true adults and we should do the same.

You may think that we will have a rush of 18 year olds running for office when this bill is passed. The fact is that there has never been an 18 year old in a state legislature, even though there are 23 states and territories that allow it. But 18 year olds deserve the right even if they never use it. Just because people don't exercise all of their rights is no reason to deny them those rights.

You can be sure that the young voters of this state are watching this bill, as well as those people in the age brackets over 21. Please pass this bill for Nevada, and thank you.

*Mr. Groveson*  
STATE OF NEVADA

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
CAPITOL COMPLEX  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710



EXHIBIT B page 1  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION (702) 885-5627  
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Arthur J. Palmer, *Director, Secretary*  
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (702) 885-5640  
DONALD R. MELLO, *Assemblyman, Chairman*  
Ronald W. Sparks, *Senate Fiscal Analyst*  
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JOHN R. CROSSLEY, *Legislative Auditor* (702) 885-5620  
ANDREW P. GROSE, *Research Director* (702) 885-5637

April 21, 1981

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Assemblyman Alan Glover  
FROM: J. Kenneth Creighton, Research Analyst *JKC*  
SUBJECT: Dates of Other States' Presidential Preference  
Primaries

STATES WITH PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES  
AND THEIR DATES

In 1980, 35 states held presidential preference primaries. On the following two pages is a list of the states with preference primaries, and their dates, and a graph showing the number of primaries in 1980 by month.

REGIONAL PRIMARIES

In 1980 there were six western states that held presidential preference primaries, including California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon. Nevada, Idaho and Oregon held their primaries in May. The other three states held their primaries in June.

Because Nevada will only have four electoral votes at the time of the next presidential election, the state's primary would be more significant in a regional primary. If Nevada changed its primary to an earlier date it would probably have to convince Oregon and Idaho to change their primaries to an earlier date too. Because Montana and New Mexico are not adjacent states, it might not be helpful to Nevada if they changed their dates. Finally, California would probably not change the date of its primary because if it were held earlier it would not be as significant. Also, it has traditionally held its statewide primary in June.

Nevada could, of course, make the date of its primary earlier than New Hampshire's primary. This would make the state's primary more significant simply by being the first one.

JKC/llp4.1.Primary  
Enc.

1980 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY DATES

STATE

DATE

New Hampshire - *Nevada*

February

26

March

04

Massachusetts

04

Vermont

08

South Carolina

11

Alabama

11

Florida

11

Georgia

18

Illinois

25

Connecticut

25

New York

April

01

Kansas

01

Wisconsin

05

Louisiana

22

Pennsylvania

May

03

Texas

06

Indiana

06

North Carolina

06

Tennessee

13

Maryland

13

Nebraska

20

Oregon

20

Michigan

27

Arkansas

27

Idaho

27

Kentucky

27

NEVADA

27

June

03

California

03

Mississippi

03

Montana

03

New Jersey

03

New Mexico

03

Ohio

03

Rhode Island

03

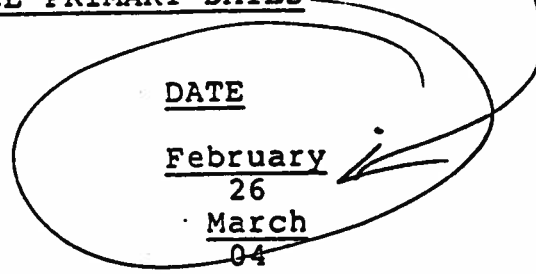
South Dakota

03

West Virginia

03

*10/31*

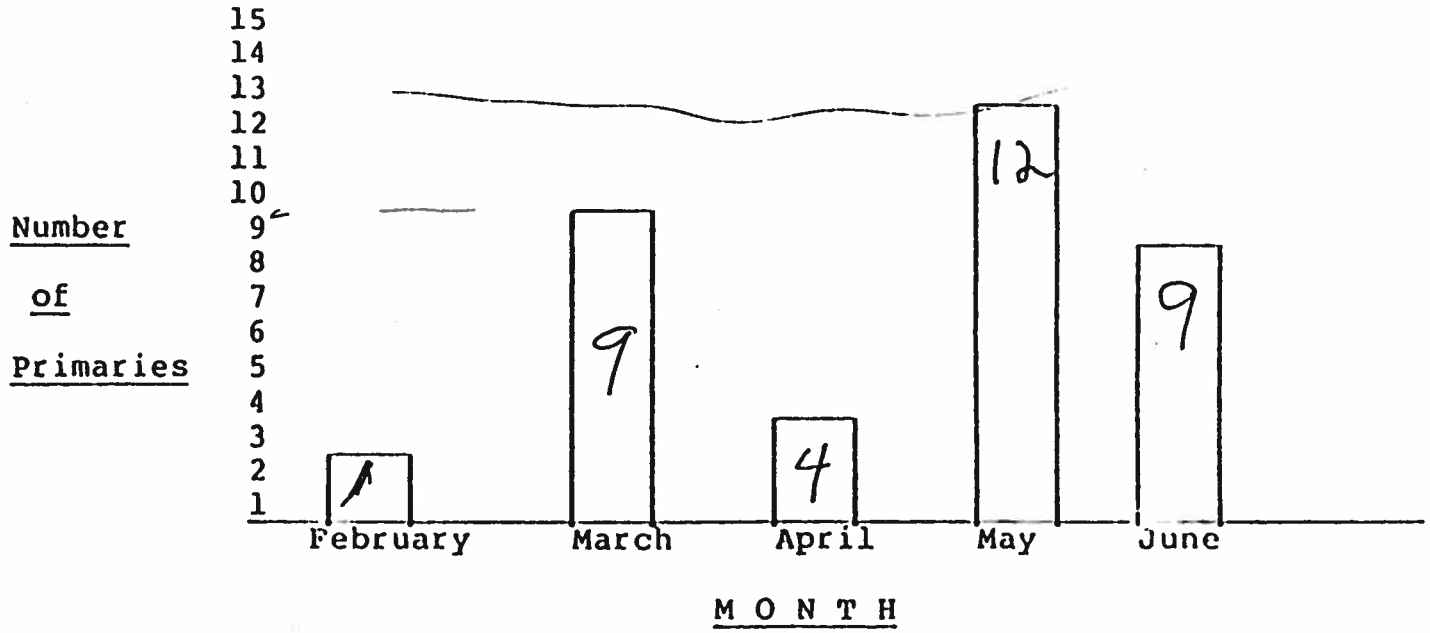


*21*

*25*

*9*

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY DATES, 1980





ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON..... ELECTIONS.....

Date MONDAY, APRIL 27 Time 3:00 P.M. Room 200.....

Bills or Resolutions  
to be considered

Subject

Counsel  
requested\*

THIS CANCELS AND SUPERSEDES THE PREVIOUS AGENDA FOR THIS DATE

- AB 443 Reduces age of eligibility for election to state legislature.
- AB 517 Extends time for filing in election when time expires on Saturday, Sunday or holiday.
- SB 88 Clarifies requirements for reporting campaign contributions and expenses.
- SB 353 Requires issuance of certificate of appointment to person selected to fill vacancy in office of senator or assemblyman.
- AB 541 Requires governor to fill vacancies in certain county offices with persons from same political party as most recent officeholder.