

The Chair recognizes Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Mr. Chairman, "or in the case of Primary Elections, become the nominee for".

THE CHAIRMAN: The whole phrase?

DELEGATE CARDIN: The whole phrase.

THE CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is to strike from lines 32 and 33 "or in the case of Primary Elections, become the nominee for". All of that will be stricken.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Until yesterday, I did not realize fully that this was the only area where the term primary elections is mentioned and that it could cause some confusion in future reading of the meaning of "election".

Nowhere in this article did we anticipate "election" would be considered to include primary elections, but rather that it would refer to the "General Election".

Since section 6 provides that the General Assembly shall by public general law provide for the nomination of candidates, we felt it would be best for the understanding of this entire section to remove the one and only reference to primaries.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

Delegate Bamberger.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: Delegate Cardin, the language in section 8 required only a plurality vote to win a primary election, but by removing that language, the General Assembly in providing for primary elections would be able to require a majority vote and for run-offs in primaries. Is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: I do not know. This is the problem that was raised. Would the nomination, which is the primary, qualify as an election? If, however, it is only a nomination, not a full election, the General Assembly would handle it that way. It was assumed all pluralities would be handled in the same fashion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: Delegate Cardin, is it my understanding that the purpose of this amendment is to take the governing provision relating to primaries completely out of the constitution?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: This is the only reference to primary in the entire constitution. We do not use the phrase in this section at all. We do not allude to primary, and actually we have made no other provisions in the reading of this for primaries.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: Let me put the question to you a little differently.

Will section 8 control or govern primaries if this language is taken out?

DELEGATE CARDIN: I do not believe it would.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Case.

DELEGATE CASE: Is it that the rules and procedures relating to primaries, absent the language that you seek to strike here, would be entirely governed by the legislature?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Yes, it would be.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to observe that Mrs. Cardin stood up to Mr. Case very well, and this can serve as an example to anyone who may be afraid of him.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Will Delegate Cardin yield for a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: You may state the question.

MR. CHABOT: I have gotten a bit confused by your responses to Delegate Bamberger in light of your responses to Delegate Case. Would the removal of this clause change the substance so that now the General Assembly would be permitted to provide for run-off primaries?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: If that is the way I answered, that is not what I intended. It seems that in view of the present Constitution and the present laws governing elections that, although primaries are held according to the same general laws and are controlled by the General Assembly for the purpose of elections, they are not