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Brown County Paper

"Tis the gift to be simple, Tis the gift to be free"

Brown County Indiana * September 1, 2023

The Precinct System Versus a Vote Center

The Electoral Precinct System

The smallest election administrative unit is the precinct.

Brown County has 11 precincts and 9 voting locations. Precincts and voting locations are listed at the county website: www.browncounty-in.gov.

Brown County currently has 12,173 voting age residents and our 11 precincts are comprised of less than 2,000 people each. Small manageable units that are designed for citizen participation.

Not only is the precinct system small, but it is also familiar and friendly to community members, manageable for election workers to administer free and fair elections and encourages local action in the election process.

Precincts are the impetus for community members to be directly involved in their local elections and ultimately determine political party structure – the structure which runs the country.

When the precinct system functions as designed, and votes are properly counted, each vote at the local level becomes the foundation of our nation's government (Figures 1 and 2).

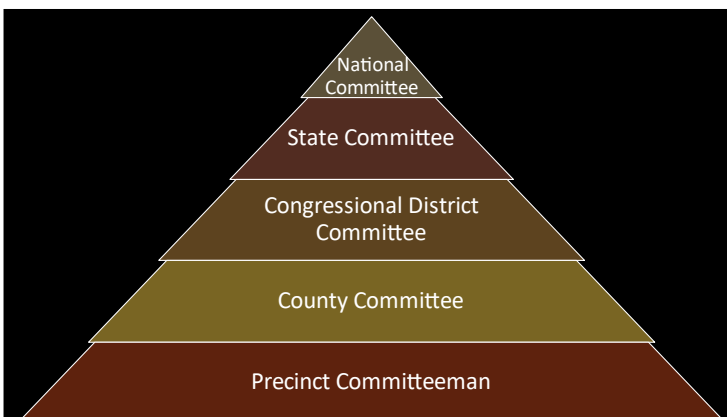
Today we are faced with the possible elimination of our long-standing precinct system. The Brown County Election Board is proposing to implement a Vote Center which is designed to eliminate precincts. See Page 2 for more information about a Vote Center.

The way things are looking, we might have to get the band back together...



America The Beautiful:

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control
Thy liberty in law



Local Resources

Indiana First Action:

<https://youcountindiana.com/indiana-first/>

Brown County Government:

www.browncounty-in.gov

Don't Tread on Indiana:

www.donttreadonindiana.org

Figure 1. The most important elected positions are not the national, state, congressional district or even county committees, it is the Precinct Committeeman positions.



A Vote Center

The Vote Center concept allows any voter to vote at any polling location in the county. These polling places would be required to use Electronic-pollbooks which would be connected to the internet. A Vote Center is ultimately designed to eliminate precincts and the local voice and local accountability. Protections for fair elections provided by the work of citizens within their local precinct are largely lost when a Vote Center is used.

Because a Vote Center requires an internet connection, the security system used by the state could be breached. Precincts can avoid this by running their own elections with paper ballots if the County Clerk chooses.

Counties that have chosen to use a Vote Center have received funds from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL). These monies are tied to large conglomerates, such as The Knight Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Facebook, Rock the Vote, and Google that are known to influence voting outcomes.

For a deeper dive into these two topics visit Indiana First Action at <https://youcountindiana.com/indiana-first/> and the Brown County Paper at www.browncountypaper.com.

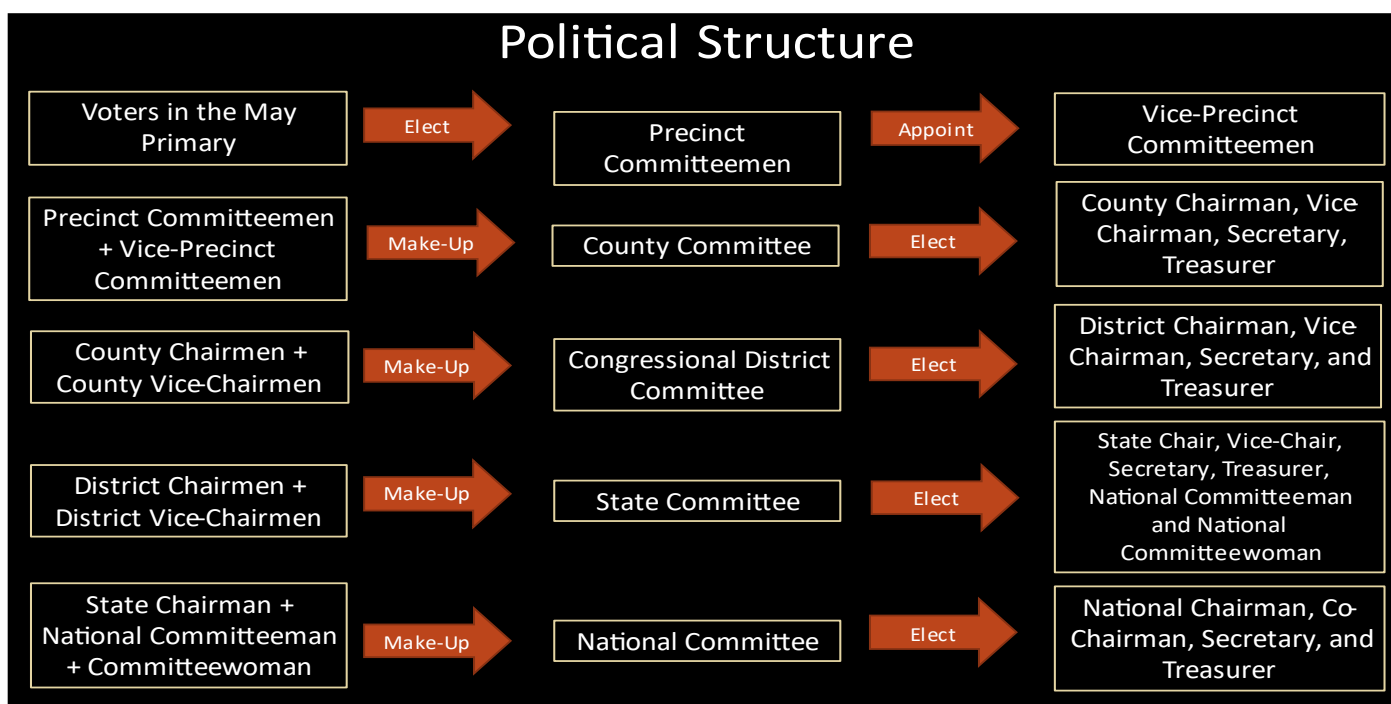
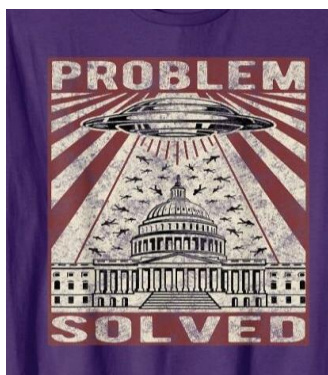


Figure 2. Indiana Party Structure. It all begins with the elected Precinct Committeemen.