

RESOLUTION R-99 44

Whereas, partisan politics and political parties polarize around policies that reflect national priorities, occasionally state concerns, but rarely if ever local issues; and

Whereas, the presence of party activity at the local level necessitates a primary election and a general election in each election yearly resulting in two expensive campaigns for political candidates; and

Whereas, since Arkansas law prohibits voting in the primary election of more than one party in each election cycle, voters may be forced to choose between voting for local candidates with artificial and non existent partisan concerns in one party's primary and voting in another party's primary for national or state candidates over issues that truly are partisan in nature; and

Whereas, the elimination of party primaries might actually increase the local voter participation in the general elections where important state votes, initiatives and constitutional amendments as well as national and state offices are voted on; and

Whereas, Arkansas Code Annotated 14-42-206 provides for a procedure whereby cities with a mayor / council form of government may choose by resolution to either request political parties to conduct party primaries for municipal offices or otherwise candidates would qualify as independent candidates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

1. The City of Conway in the event of municipal elections chooses to have municipal candidates qualify as independent candidates as opposed to requiring a party affiliation.
2. Municipal elections in the City of Conway, in accordance with state statutes will continue to be non-partisan until such time as the council deems otherwise.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

PASSED this 12th day of October, 1999.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Mayor Tab Townsell



City Clerk Michael O. Garrett