Opinion No. 553

Elections—Ballots—Precinct Committeen.

HELD: The candidates for precinct committeemen should be separated on the ballot into two groups, namely, "men" and "women," since under Chapter 6, Laws of 1933. each political party must elect two precinct committeemen one of whom shall be a man and one whom shall be a woman.

June 13, 1934.

You direct my attention to Chapter 6 of the Laws of the Twenty-third Legislative Assembly, 1933, amending Section 662, R. C. M., 1921, which provides that in the primary election each political party shall elect in each precinct two committeemen, one of whom shall be a woman.

As this amendment materially changes the former law, it will require certain modifications of the primary ballot. You are now electing two persons where formerly one was elected. One of the persons elected must be a man and the other must be a woman. This requirement prevents the election of two persons from one group on the ballot and it makes necessary the separation of the men candidates from the women candidates. They are both designated in the law as "committeemen."

The clearest method of designating seems to be, after designating the office "Precinct Committeemen," that in brackets thereafter should be contained in one group the word "men" and with the other group the word "women." This modification of the ballots from the system previously used would appear adequate to carry out the provisions of the law, and to be required under the same.