

**Opinion No. 272.****Elections—Precinct Committeemen—  
Women—State Convention.**

HELD: The term "committeemen" clearly includes women duly elected, and duly elected women precinct committeemen are eligible to vote for delegates to the state convention to be held under the provisions of Chapter 126, Laws of 1927.

May 5, 1936.

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You ask upon behalf of the Democratic Central Committee of your county, for an opinion interpreting Section 4 of Chapter 126 of the Laws of 1927. The question involved is whether or not the word "committeeman" in that section would include "committeewoman" and whether precinct committeewomen are eligible to vote for delegates to the state convention.

The same reasoning would govern this question as is set forth in Opinion No. 553, of this office (Volume 15, Opinions of the Attorney General, p. 383.) The statute referred to, enacted in 1927, provides in part: "No person other than a duly elected or appointed precinct committeeman shall be entitled to sit in said convention or participate in its proceedings." Chapter 6 of the Laws of Montana, 1933, a subsequent statute amending Section 662, R. C. M. 1921, provides: "There shall be elected by each political party, subject to the provisions of this law, at said primary nominating election, two committeemen, one of which shall be a man and one of which shall be a woman, for each election precinct who shall be residents of such precincts."

It is to be observed that by the express terms of this statute the woman who is elected as a precinct committeeman is designated as a committeeman as in the case with the man who is to be elected. The term "committeemen" clearly includes the woman so elected, as well as the men: therefore, these women duly elected are members of the County Central Com-

mittee, and duly qualified to vote at  
such convention.