

The “open primary” causes acne, too | Dick Wadhams

Former Colorado state Rep. Dave Williams speaks during a February debate for the state Republican Party leadership election in Hudson, two weeks before the Colorado GOP elected Williams as its chairman.

the associated press

Colorado Republican “leadership” continues to drive the party toward political impotence and irrelevance with its obsession to ban unaffiliated voters from voting in so-called “open primary” elections.

Stolen election conspiracist Dave Williams, the new state chairman, has announced the Colorado Republican State Central Committee (CRC) will vote on August 5 on whether to cancel the 2024 Republican primary election. And to accomplish this act of political suicide, they want to make a change in the committee’s voting rules that would make the old Soviet Politburo proud.

Voters passed Proposition 108 in 2016 which allows unaffiliated voters to vote in the primary election of their choice.

Unaffiliated voters receive both parties’ primary ballots in the mail and they can choose one. Voting in both primaries nullifies both ballots.

The law also allows a state political party to cancel its primary election with a vote of 75% of the membership of its state central committee. Approximately 400 to 500 county party leaders and state and federal elected officials make up the CRC.

Canceling the primary would confer the sole power to nominate Republican candidates to the caucus-assembly process. There are 931,000 registered Republicans in Colorado who are eligible to vote in a Republican primary election. Only about 10,000 Republican activists attend precinct caucuses with a final 3,000 ending up being delegates to the Colorado Republican State Assembly.

Canceling the primary would essentially disenfranchise more than 900,000 Republicans who do not go to precinct caucuses. Of particular note, military personnel stationed around the world who are Colorado voters, not to mention law enforcement and other first responders who are on duty on caucus night, would have their primary vote taken away.

It would also ban more than 1.8 million unaffiliated voters, 47% of the electorate, from choosing to vote in the Republican primary. Unaffiliated voters would receive only the Democratic primary ballot in the mail but not the Republican ballot.

The CRC attempted to cancel the Republican primary in 2018, 2020 and 2022 and it failed all three times, falling well short of the required 75%.

But allies of Williams are proposing a change in the rules which would be unprecedented in its raw abuse of a voting process. These are the same people who contend the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

It is very difficult to get 75% of the CRC’s membership to ban the primary because only around 50 to 60 % of the members even show up for a CRC meeting.