

# REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA

## CONSTITUTION

### Preamble

The Republican Party of Minnesota welcomes into its party all Minnesotans who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, responsive government. The party believes in these principles as stated in the Declaration of Independence: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Therefore, it is the party committed to equal representation and opportunity for all and preservation of the rights of each individual. It is the purpose of this constitution to ensure that the party provides equal opportunity for full participation in our civic life for all Minnesota residents who believe in these principles regardless of age, race, sex, religion, social or economic status.

### ARTICLE I

#### Name and Object

**SECTION 1: Name.**

The name of this organization shall be Republican Party of Minnesota.

**SECTION 2: Object.**

The object of the party shall be the maintenance of government by and for the people according to the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota, and the implementation of such principles as may from time to time be adopted by party conventions. To obtain this object it is essential the party shall organize at all levels to elect Republicans to public office.

### ARTICLE II

#### Membership and Dues

**SECTION 1: Membership.**

The membership of the party shall be composed of all citizens of the State of Minnesota who desire to support the objectives of the party.

**SECTION 2: Dues.**

Payment of dues shall not be required as a condition of membership.

**SECTION 3: Rights.**

Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to deny or abridge the rights of any voter to participate in any party caucus, primary or convention, where he/she is entitled by law to participate.

### ARTICLE III

#### Congressional and Legislative Reapportionment Committee

**SECTION 1:**

In the first odd numbered year following reapportionment the State Executive Committee shall establish a standing committee to develop an operating policy and procedure manual for the next reapportionment period.

**SECTION 2:**

The reapportionment committee shall consist of a chair and one person from each Congressional District. It is recommended that the appointee have actual Congressional District and/or Basic Political Organizational Unit (BPOU) leadership reapportionment experience. The state party chair shall appoint the chair of the reapportionment committee. The Congressional District representative shall be appointed by the Congressional District chair(s), or in the event of a dispute between the chairs regarding appointment, by the Congressional District executive committee.

**SECTION 3:**

The reapportionment manual shall be prepared by the reapportionment committee and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Committee shall submit the reapportionment manual to the State Central Committee no later than January 1 of each census year.

**SECTION 4:**

Following the approval of the reapportionment manual by the Executive Committee and the State Central Committee, in all cases concerning reapportionment in which it is not in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the manual shall govern Congressional and Legislative reapportionment matters for the current reapportionment process.

**ARTICLE IV  
Delegation of Power**

**SECTION 1: Basic Unit.**

The party shall be organized into BPOUs, i.e., one of the following:

County, House District, or Senate District except that in any county containing four or more entire House Districts the county must organize as House or Senate Districts.

**SECTION 2: Organization.**

It shall be the responsibility of the BPOU committees to assist all endorsed Republicans seeking public office at least partly within their respective units, to expand the membership of the party within their respective units, and to organize or cause to be organized each ward, precinct, or other voting district in their unit. The form of enrollment shall be prescribed by the State Executive Committee and shall be uniform throughout the state. No qualifications for membership shall be imposed except as provided by this constitution. Opportunity for enrollment shall be open at all times to all voters who are eligible for membership under Article II.

**SECTION 3: Management.**

The management of the affairs of the party within each basic political organizational unit shall be vested in the BPOU committee, subject to the direction of state and Congressional District authorities as to matters within the scope of their respective functions.

**SECTION 4: Territorial Realignment.**

A county committee of a county containing fewer than four entire House Districts may disband the county organization and reorganize itself along either Senate or House District lines, by adding a portion of an adjoining county or allocating part of the county's territory to another BPOU.

The procedure shall be by approval of at least 60% of the county convention of each of the involved counties, provided that notice of such proposal for reorganization was issued in the call of the convention. The county convention shall submit its transitional plans including proposed distribution of funds to accomplish such reorganization to the Congressional District and State Executive Committees for their review. The new organization shall have all of the rights and responsibilities of a BPOU. Such reorganization shall continue until the next state-wide reapportionment or until the county form of organization is restored by a convention of the precinct Delegates within the original county lines called by authority of the Republican Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee or any Republican Party of Minnesota state convention. No BPOU that is organized as a County BPOU can be forced to reorganize as a House District or Senate District.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Conventions and Endorsements - General Provisions**

#### **SECTION 1: Business and Call.**

**A.** Conventions shall transact such business as is specified in the call of the convention, and may transact such other business as a majority of the convention may determine, subject to the provisions of Article VIII, Section 2 of this constitution.

**B.** The call for a convention shall be issued at least ten (10) days prior to the convention, except that for an endorsing convention for a special election or for a post-primary endorsing convention, the call shall be issued at least five (5) days prior to the convention.

#### **SECTION 2: Registration.**

**A.** Notwithstanding Article II, Sections 2 and 3, registration fees may be assessed Delegates and Alternates attending a convention.

**B.** Once a Delegate or a seated Alternate has registered for the convention he/she remains part of the voting strength of the convention even if he/she leaves the convention prior to the convention's official adjournment.

**C.** A convention may close registration of Delegates and Alternates only if the convention call states the time at which registration will close. If the call states a registration closing time the convention may permit a later closing time for registration or may require the convention to remain open regardless of the language in the call.

#### **SECTION 3: Endorsements.**

##### **A. General Rules.**

**1.** It shall first be determined by a majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for an office.

**2.** Voting on a candidate for endorsement for an office shall be by secret ballot. The convention or committee may decide by a two-thirds vote to endorse by a rising vote for any office for which there is only one candidate.

3. Votes may be cast for any person who by law is eligible for election to the office under consideration and who is eligible under this constitution to seek the endorsement, even though he/she has not been nominated or has withdrawn from nomination. Ballots may also be cast stating 'no preference' or 'undecided', or indicating no endorsement. Blank ballots or abstentions, unintelligible ballots, ballots marked only 'ü' or 'X', or ballots cast for an ineligible person or a fictional character shall not be included in determining the 60% vote needed for endorsement. No preprinted ballot shall be allowed unless options for 'no preference', 'undecided' and 'no endorsement' are included.

4. A motion of no endorsement may be adopted by a majority vote. The rules of a convention may limit how often or when such a motion may be made. However on any round of voting for endorsement, a motion of no endorsement shall be considered adopted if a majority of the ballots (excluding blanks) or a majority of the votes on a voice vote (excluding abstentions) is for 'no', 'none' or 'no endorsement'.

5. Excepting the 60% requirement in this Article, BPOU constitutions may establish different rules of endorsement for conventions relating to legislative districts or other areas entirely within the BPOU.

6. An endorsement may carry with it the commitment of party resources, finances and volunteers only when made at a convention that is representative of the entire electorate for the office. In the case of a proposal for endorsement of a candidate whose constituency is not coterminous with the territory of the convention, only those Delegates residing within such constituency shall vote upon the proposal. An endorsement for public office at a convention below the level of the one that is representative of the entire electorate for the office shall be no more than an expression of the sentiment of the convention.

#### **B. Pre-Primary Endorsement.**

1. If the public office sought by the candidate is legally partisan, the candidate must agree prior to being considered for pre-primary endorsement to seek the office as a Republican if he/she receives the endorsement.

2. Any candidate for any elective public office may be granted pre-primary endorsement by any state, Congressional District, BPOU or other authorized convention if he/she receives a 60% vote of the convention and if the 60% is greater than or equal to at least a majority of the registered Delegates and seated Alternates as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote.

3. Only one candidate may be endorsed per seat for a particular office.

4. When more than one candidate is nominated for endorsement for an office, none of the candidates for that office shall be voted upon separately.

#### **C. Rules for Minnesota Supreme Court and Minnesota Court of Appeals Endorsements.**

1. As to candidates for judicial office, the Republican Party of Minnesota shall at its state convention consider whether to endorse candidates for the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

2. After the report of the judicial election committee, the state convention shall proceed to the vote on whether endorsement should be considered.

3. If the state convention votes affirmative on consideration of endorsement, the Delegates shall vote on endorsement of a person for that particular office of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Endorsement may be conferred upon any person who by law is eligible for election to the office and who is eligible under this Constitution to seek endorsement, even if such candidate has not sought endorsement by the Republican Party of Minnesota or has communicated that such candidate does not desire and/or will not use Republican Party of Minnesota endorsement.

4. Except where they conflict with the special rules stated in this paragraph, the provisions of Article V, Section 3, A. and B. apply to endorsing candidates for the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

**D. Endorsement By State Central Committee.**

If a primary election for any Minnesota statewide office or for United States Senator results in the selection of a nominee other than the Republican-endorsed candidate, a meeting of the State Central Committee shall be called by the State Party Chair or by the State Executive Committee within five (5) days after the certification of the primary election results by the State Canvassing Board. The purpose of this meeting shall be to consider a post primary endorsement of the nominee(s) winning the primary election. Such a meeting may also consider post primary endorsement of a Republican nominee for any other statewide office or United States Senator for which no pre-primary endorsement was made. The State Party Chair or the State Executive Committee may call a meeting of the State Central Committee at any time after the State Convention to consider Republican endorsement by the State Central Committee of any candidate for statewide office or for United States Senator, if (1) the State Convention did not endorse any candidate for that office and such candidate's candidacy for that office had not been announced 5 prior to the State Convention or (2) the endorsed candidate dies, withdraws, or is otherwise ineligible for election to the office sought. Any endorsement by the State Central Committee shall require a 60% vote of the registered Delegates (including seated Alternates) at such State Central Committee meeting and such vote shall be greater than or equal to at least a majority of the registered Delegates and seated Alternates at such meeting as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote.

**E. Vacancies In Nominations.**

In the event of the death or withdrawal of an endorsed nominee for statewide office prior to the primary, or in the event of the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary, but 21 days prior to the general election, the State Central Committee shall consider the endorsement of a substitute nominee or candidate. The call for the meeting shall be issued at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting. In the event the candidate withdraws or dies less than 21 days prior to the general election, the State Executive Committee shall consider endorsement of a substitute candidate. Any endorsement by the State Central Committee shall require a 60% vote of the committee and such vote shall be greater than or equal to at least a majority of the registered Delegates and seated Alternates as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote. Any endorsement by the State Executive Committee shall require a 60% vote

of the committee and such vote must be greater than or equal to at least a majority of the members of the committee.

**F. Legislative District Endorsing Conventions.**

1. A legislative district endorsing convention wholly within a given BPOU may be held subject to the provisions of said BPOU constitution and/or bylaws, provided said provisions are not in conflict with state statutes or the Republican Party of Minnesota State Constitution.
2. Where a legislative district crosses BPOU lines, but lies wholly within a Congressional District, the Congressional District Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
3. Where a legislative district crosses BPOU and Congressional District lines, the State Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
4. In the event that a majority of the precinct chairs from a legislative district which crosses BPOU or Congressional District lines should sign a petition requesting an endorsing convention and specifying the convener, the chair(s) of the Congressional District or state chair, on behalf of the respective executive committee which has jurisdiction as specified in Section 3. F. 2. or 3. F. 3. of this Article, shall issue the call for such convention.
5. In the event that all of the BPOU committees from a legislative district that crosses BPOU or Congressional District lines should request an endorsing convention, then the chairs of the respective BPOUs on behalf of their committees may issue a joint call for such an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
6. Eligible voters at legislative district endorsing conventions shall be the Delegates or their Alternates who reside within the legislative district and who were duly elected at the most recent Republican Party of Minnesota precinct caucus.
7. Should the Delegates and Alternates qualified to vote at a legislative district convention not all be elected based on the same ratio of the Republican vote count, then those Delegates and Alternates elected based on the highest ratio of the vote count shall be counted as one (1) vote and those Delegates and Alternates elected on a lesser ratio of 6 the vote count shall have the percentage of one (1) vote based on their percentage of the highest elected ratio of the vote count.

**G. County and County District Endorsing Conventions.**

1. For a county containing four or more entire House Districts a county convention may be held solely for the purpose of endorsement for county offices elected on a countywide basis. A county district convention may be held solely for the purpose of endorsements for county offices such as County Commissioner if elected by districts.
2. If a county or county district office lies wholly within a BPOU, a county convention shall be called by the BPOU committee.

3. If a county or county district office crosses BPOU lines, but lies wholly within a Congressional District the convention may be called by the Congressional District Executive Committee unless otherwise provided for in the Congressional District constitution.
4. If a county office crosses BPOU and Congressional District lines, the convention may be called by the State Executive Committee.
5. Should a county or county district consist of more than one (1) BPOU, a request for a county convention must be submitted by the committees of a majority of the BPOUs to:
  - a. Congressional District Executive Committee, unless otherwise provided for in the Congressional District constitution, if a county lies wholly within a Congressional District; or
  - b. State Executive Committee, if the county office crosses Congressional District lines.
6. In the event that all of the BPOU committees from a county or county district office that crosses BPOU or Congressional District lines should request an endorsing convention, then the chairs of the respective BPOUs on behalf of their committees may issue a joint call for such an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
7. Eligible voters at a county or county district convention shall consist of those Delegates and Alternates who reside within a county or county district and who were duly elected at the most recent Republican Party precinct caucus held within the county or county district.
8. Should the Delegates and Alternates qualified to vote at the county or county district convention not all be elected based on the same ratio of the Republican vote count, then those Delegates and Alternates elected based on the highest ratio of the vote count shall be counted as one (1) vote and those Delegates and Alternates elected on a lesser ratio of the vote count shall have the percentage of one (1) vote based on their percentage of the highest elected ratio of the vote count.
9. For Hennepin County the Hennepin County subcommittee shall allocate the number of Delegates and Alternates for a county or county district convention based on the Republican Party vote in the last general election for President or Governor. For Ramsey County the Congressional District committee shall allocate the number of Delegates and Alternates for a county or county district convention based on the Republican Party vote in the last general election for President or Governor.

#### **H. Judicial District Endorsing Conventions.**

1. A Judicial District endorsing convention may be held to consider endorsement of a candidate for Judge to a Judicial District Court in the district.
2. If a Judicial District lies entirely within a Congressional District, the Congressional District Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

3. If a Judicial District lies entirely within a County, the County Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
4. If a Judicial District crosses Congressional District lines, the State Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
5. If a Judicial District lies entirely within a Congressional District, and a majority of the BPOUs lying in whole or in part within the Judicial District petition in writing requesting an endorsing convention, the chair(s) of the Congressional District shall issue the call for the convention.
6. If a Judicial District crosses Congressional District lines and if a majority of the BPOUs that lie in whole or in part within the Judicial District petition the State Party Chair in writing requesting an endorsing convention, the State Party Chair shall issue the call for the convention.
7. In the event that all of the BPOUs lying in whole or in part within a Judicial District should request a Judicial Endorsing Convention, then the BPOUs may issue a joint call for such an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
8. Eligible voters at Judicial District Endorsing Conventions shall be those who serve as Delegates or their Alternates to their Congressional District Convention who reside within the Judicial District.

**I. City, Ward, Township and School Board Endorsing Conventions.**

1. For cities and townships not included in Article X, Section 4, a city, ward, township or school board endorsing convention may be held for the purpose of endorsing candidates for city offices, township offices and school board, and the provisions in Article V, Section 3, I., 1-9 shall only apply to such cities, townships and school districts.
2. An endorsing convention for such a city, ward, township or school district wholly within a given BPOU may be held subject to the provisions of said BPOU constitution and/or bylaws, provided said provisions are not in conflict with state statutes or the Republican Party of Minnesota State Constitution.
3. An endorsing convention for such a city, ward, township or school district wholly within a given Congressional District may be held subject to the provisions of said Congressional District constitution and/or bylaws, provided said provisions are not in conflict with state statutes or the Republican Party of Minnesota State Constitution.
4. Where such a city, ward, township or school district crosses BPOU lines, but lies wholly within a Congressional District, the Congressional District Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.
5. Where such a city, ward, township or school district crosses BPOU and Congressional District lines, the State Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

6. In the event that a majority of the precinct chairs from such a city, ward, township or school district which crosses BPOU or Congressional District lines should sign a petition requesting an endorsing convention and specifying the convener, the chair(s) of the Congressional District or state chair, on behalf of the respective executive committee which has jurisdiction as specified in Section 3. I. 4. or 3. I. 5. of this Article, shall issue the call for such convention.

7. In the event that all of the BPOU committees from such a city, ward, township or school district that crosses BPOU or Congressional District lines should request an endorsing convention, then the chairs of the respective BPOUs on behalf of their committees may issue a joint call for such an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

8. Eligible voters at such city, ward, township or school district endorsing conventions shall be the Delegates or their Alternates who reside within the city, ward, township or school district and who were duly elected at the most recent Republican Party of Minnesota precinct caucus held within the political boundaries of the legislative district.

9. Should the Delegates and Alternates qualified to vote at such a city, ward, township or school district convention not all be elected based on the same ratio of the Republican vote count, then those Delegates and Alternates elected based on the highest ratio of the vote count shall be counted as one (1) vote and those Delegates and Alternates elected on a lesser ratio of the vote count shall have the percentage of one (1) vote based on their percentage of the highest elected ratio of the vote count.

**SECTION 4: Seating of Alternates.**

Once the temporary organization has been established, the first order of business of a state or Congressional District convention shall be the seating of Alternates. The permanent voting roll of the convention shall be composed of the Delegates of each BPOU who actually are present, and in the absence of any Delegate to the convention, an Alternate shall be seated in his/her stead during his/her absence according to the procedure established by the constitution or bylaws of the BPOU. When a Delegate returns to the floor of the convention, he or she will be seated immediately.

**SECTION 5: Election and Terms of Delegates.**

**A.** All state, Congressional District, BPOU, and Delegates and Alternates shall be elected in general election years and shall hold office for a term of two years or until their successors are elected, or upon adoption in their respective BPOU constitution, they may elect Delegates and Alternates to the Congressional District and state conventions annually in the same manner as provided in the general election year, and these Delegates and Alternates elected under this option shall hold office for a term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected.

**B.** All affiliate Delegates and Alternates shall serve a two year term or until their successors are elected. Affiliate Delegates and Alternates shall not hold the same office for consecutive terms. An affiliate Delegate or Alternate may not be a regular party Delegate or Alternate to the same convention. Affiliate Delegates and Alternates to Congressional District conventions must reside in the Congressional District and must be elected by the affiliate members who reside in the Congressional District and will be legally qualified voters in the next general election.

C. In compliance with the rules of the Republican National Convention, no Delegate or Alternate may be an automatic Delegate or Alternate. Each Delegate or Alternate must be elected by his/her respective convention. No Delegate to the Republican National Convention shall be bound by party rules or by state law to cast his/her vote for a particular candidate on any ballot at the convention except that the state convention may bind the Delegates whom it elects to the National Convention of the Republican Party on the first ballot to vote for a candidate for the office of President of the United States, unless they be released by said candidate.

**SECTION 6: Vacancies.**

At all levels within the party a vacancy shall occur in a Delegates position upon his/her death, resignation or removal from the geographical area from which he/she was elected, or upon the failure of the body having the power of election to fill such position, if no duly elected Alternate is available to fill the vacancy. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original Delegate or Alternate was elected.

**SECTION 7:**

Nothing in this Article is intended to affect the right of the convention to authorize, by rule, the Delegates present to vote the entire voting strength of the BPOU.

**ARTICLE VI  
State Convention**

**SECTION 1: Composition.**

State conventions shall be composed of the following:

**A.** Delegates from various BPOUs of the state who are elected at their conventions. The number of Delegates from the various BPOUs shall be apportioned among the BPOUs upon such basis as the State Executive Committee or the State Central Committee may determine, provided that the basis of apportionment shall be uniform throughout the state, and shall be based upon the vote for the Republican candidate for Governor in the last preceding statewide general election; or, if such election were a presidential election, the vote cast for the Republican candidate for President. If the number of Delegates apportioned to a BPOU is less than two, the total number of Delegates shall be increased to a minimum of two Delegates for each BPOU.

**B.** Subject to Article V, Section 5, B., two Delegates and two Alternates elected by each of the statewide Republican Party affiliate organizations as listed in the party bylaws, provided that the affiliate has at least twenty-five (25) eligible members.

**SECTION 2: Committees.**

State convention committees consisting of a platform committee, a rules committee, a credentials committee, a judicial election committee, a nominating committee and such other state convention committees as may be necessary or desirable shall be organized. Members in each committee shall be appointed as follows:

**A.** An equal number of members from each Congressional District to be appointed by the district chair(s) of the respective Congressional District, except as provided by Section 5A below with respect to the judicial elections committee.

**B.** Members at large to be appointed by the state party chair, the number of which is not to exceed 15% of the total membership of any committee.

**C.** A chair to be appointed by the state party chair.

**SECTION 3: Nominations Committee.**

**A.** To be eligible to be considered for endorsement or election, candidates for statewide non judicial endorsement and candidates for National Delegate or Alternate must meet all legal requirements and submit nominating petitions to the Nominating Committee containing the printed names and signatures of a minimum of 2% of the State Convention Delegates.

**B.** The Nominations Committee shall report to the convention those candidates who have met the petition and legal requirements at Section 3A and whether the Nominating Committee deems the candidates to be qualified or unqualified to receive endorsement or be elected.

**SECTION 4: Rules Committee.**

The Rules Committee report shall be mailed at least seven (7) days in advance of the convention.

**SECTION 5: Platform Committee.**

**A.** The function of the platform committee shall be to maintain a permanent platform for the Republican Party of Minnesota based upon the platform adopted at the previous regular Republican State Convention. The permanent platform may only be amended as provided in this constitution and the rules of the state convention. The committee will be responsible for performing the work described in subsection C. below.

**B.** The platform committee shall meet in even numbered years at the call of its chair or the state party chair. The final committee report shall be presented to the state party chair and be mailed to convention Delegates and Alternates at least seven (7) days prior to the state convention. The committee shall then present the final committee report to the state convention to be voted on in the manner prescribed by this constitution and the rules of the convention.

**C.** In even numbered years the platform committee shall review the permanent platform and all of the resolutions passed at Congressional District conventions for Congressional Districts that have a representative on the platform committee and any additional resolutions brought to the committee in the manner prescribed by the state convention rules. The committee shall determine which resolutions are new resolutions (i.e., address issues that are not addressed in the current permanent platform). The committee will recommend to the state convention the following changes:

1. Adoption of the new resolutions identified by the committee;
2. Elimination of those resolutions that are no longer germane;
3. Combining those resolutions that are similar;
4. Clarifying those resolutions that are confusing;
5. Reconsideration of those resolutions that are in conflict with other resolutions; and

6. Any resolution submitted by a majority of Congressional Districts shall be included in the platform committee final report.

D. All motions related to the platform committee report shall be voted upon at the state convention in the manner prescribed in the convention rules and need to be adopted by a minimum of sixty (60) percent of the last credentials report.

E. The creation of a permanent platform for the Republican Party of Minnesota will not limit the authority of any BPOU or Congressional District with respect to adopting their own platform.

**SECTION 6: Judicial Election Committee.**

A. The judicial election committee will consist of two (2) members from each Judicial District appointed by their respective Judicial District chair(s).

B. The judicial election committee will meet for the purpose of reviewing and encouraging possible candidates for endorsement as well as preparing a voters guide on all known judicial candidates and incumbent judges of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

C. At the state convention, the judicial election committee will offer its report before it is determined by majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for each particular office of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals which is subject to the upcoming election.

D. The chair of the judicial election committee (or in the chair's absence, a substitute elected by the members of the committee) shall give the report of the committee for each particular office of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals, which is subject to the upcoming election.

E. Within fourteen (14) days after the close of filing for candidates for the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals, the chair of the judicial election committee will present the voters guide to the State Executive Committee for approval. Once approved, the voters guide may be distributed to the general public.

**SECTION 7: Time and Place of Convention.**

A state convention of the party shall be held in each general election year as required by Minnesota State Statutes, at such time and place as the State Central Committee may determine. Special state conventions may be called at such other times and places and for such purposes as the State Central Committee may determine.

**SECTION 8: Issues Conference.**

In odd-numbered years the State Central Committee may organize a conference of party activists for the purpose of studying issues of topical interest to the Party. The conference shall be open to all interested Republicans and shall not be limited to State Convention Delegates and Alternates.

**SECTION 9: Presidential Electors.**

A. Presidential Electors shall be nominated by the State Convention in the year of each Presidential election as follows: (i) two (2) Presidential Electors shall be nominated at-large by the State Convention Delegates in accordance with the rules of the State Convention; and (ii) each

Congressional District shall place in nomination one (1) Presidential Elector (a Congressional District Elector-Nominee) as provided in Article VII, Section 3, who shall be nominated by the affirmative vote of the State Convention, in accordance with the Rules of the State Convention.

**B.** Each Congressional District shall report to the State Convention the name of that Congressional District's Congressional District Elector-Nominee in the manner provided in the Rules of the State Convention.

**C.** If a Congressional District fails to select a Congressional District Elector-Nominee or a Congressional District Elector-Nominee is unable or unwilling to serve as a Presidential Elector prior to being nominated by the State Convention, a substitute Congressional District Elector-Nominee shall be placed in nomination in accordance with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Congressional District. If no provision exists in the Congressional District's Constitution or Bylaws for a substitute Congressional District Elector-Nominee, the Presidential Elector to be placed in nomination by that Congressional District shall instead be nominated by the State Convention Delegates in the manner provided for an at-large Presidential Elector as set forth above.

**D.** No person shall be nominated a Presidential Elector unless that person has been selected as a Congressional District Elector-Nominee or nominated at-large as provided herein.

**E.** If any Presidential Elector that has been nominated by the State Convention is unable or unwilling to serve after the state convention, the state executive committee shall nominate a replacement from the geographic body that nominated the original Presidential Elector.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Congressional District Conventions**

#### **SECTION 1: Composition.**

Congressional District conventions shall be composed of the following residents of the district:

**A.** Delegates apportioned to and elected at the BPOU convention, in the same manner as Delegates to state conventions.

Any BPOU that crosses Congressional District lines shall allot its apportioned Delegates to the Congressional Districts using the Republican vote cast for either Governor or President in the most recent general election. The manner of election shall be determined by the BPOU constitution, bylaws or by a motion of its convention.

**B.** Subject to Article V, Section 5, B., one Delegate and one Alternate who are residents of the Congressional District elected at a Congressional District caucus held by any of the statewide affiliate organizations as listed in the party bylaws, provided that the affiliate has at least ten eligible members residing in the Congressional District.

#### **SECTION 2: Time and Place of Convention.**

Congressional District conventions shall be held annually within a range of dates established by the State Central Committee and at the call of the State Executive Committee, or the committees of the respective Congressional District, and at such other times and for such other purposes as the

committee calling the conventions may determine. The Congressional District committee shall determine the place of holding Congressional District conventions in each district.

**SECTION 3: Presidential Elector Nominees.**

**A.** In each Presidential election year, each Congressional District shall be entitled to place in nomination one (1) person to be that Congressional District's Congressional District Presidential Elector-Nominee. A Congressional District Presidential Elector-Nominee may be selected by: (a) the affirmative vote of the Congressional District's Delegates at the Congressional District Convention held in a Presidential election year in accordance with the rules of the District Convention; or (b) by that Congressional District's District Convention Delegates in the manner provided in the Congressional District's constitution.

**B.** Each Congressional District Elector-Nominee shall be reported to the State Convention and nominated by the State Convention as provided in Article VI, Section 6 of this Constitution.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Basic Political Organizational Unit Conventions**

**SECTION 1: Composition.**

BPOU conventions shall be composed of the following residents of the BPOU:

Delegates elected at the precinct caucuses that are held in each precinct every general election year as required by Minnesota statutes. The number of Delegates and Alternates at each convention and the basis of their apportionment shall be determined by the BPOU committee, provided that such basis shall be uniform throughout the BPOU and shall be based on the vote cast for the Republican candidate for Governor in the past preceding statewide general election; or if such election were a presidential election, the vote cast for the Republican candidate for President. Special caucuses for one or more precincts may be called by the BPOU committee in the manner prescribed by statute for biennial precinct caucuses for the sole purpose of filling vacancies in precincts where such exist at the time of notice.

**SECTION 2: Time and Place of Convention.**

BPOU conventions shall be held annually within a range of dates established by the State Central Committee and at the call of the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, the Congressional District committee or the BPOU committee. The conventions shall precede Congressional District and state conventions. Special BPOU conventions may be held at the call of the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, the Congressional District committee, or the BPOU committee at such time and for such purpose as the committee calling the same may determine. BPOU conventions shall be held at a place determined by the respective committee issuing the call.

**SECTION 3: Delegates and Alternates to State, Congressional District and Judicial District Conventions.**

Delegates and Alternates to the Congressional and Judicial Districts and to state conventions shall be elected at the BPOU conventions in even numbered years; or if provided in the BPOU constitution may be elected annually. A BPOU may elect up to twice as many Alternates as the number of Delegates allotted, provided that the BPOU convention or constitution specifies a method for the orderly seating of said Alternates to fill vacancies in the delegation. The qualifications to be elected a Delegate or Alternate are residence in the electing unit and being a legal and qualified voter in the next general election. All disputes concerning the seating of

Alternates shall be settled according to that BPOUs constitution or bylaws. If seating of Alternates is not addressed in the BPOUs constitution or bylaws, then a caucus of the Delegates from that BPOU will meet to settle the issue.

## **ARTICLE IX State Party Administration**

### **SECTION 1: State Central Committee.**

#### **A. General Management.**

The general management of the affairs of the party in the state shall be vested in the State Central Committee, subject to the control of the state convention and this constitution.

#### **B. Composition.**

The State Central Committee shall consist of the following:

##### **1. The Members of the State Executive Committee and the Congressional District Chairs.**

Where the Congressional District constitution provides for one chair and one deputy chair instead of two chairs, the chair and the deputy chair will be members of the State Central Committee. The Congressional District chairs and Congressional District representatives to the State Executive Committee may appoint a designee to serve in their absence provided that the designee is either a State Central Committee Alternate or Congressional District officer from his/her Congressional District. The state party officers, the national committeeman and committeewoman, and the state finance chair may appoint a designee to serve in their absence provided that the designee is a State Central Committee Alternate or Congressional District officer.

##### **2. One Delegate-at-large from each Congressional District.**

If a Congressional District constitution provides for a Congressional District representative to the State Executive Committee other than a Congressional District chair, then this person will be the Congressional District Delegate-at-large. If a Congressional District constitution provides that a chair will represent the Congressional District on the State Executive Committee, then the Congressional District shall elect in accordance with its constitution a Delegate-at-large and an Alternate in odd numbered years from within the Congressional District.

**3. One Delegate and one Alternate, elected from each of the statewide Republican Party affiliate organizations as listed in the party bylaws, provided that the affiliate has at least twenty-five (25) eligible members.**

**4. 300 Delegates and up to three times as many Alternates apportioned among the Congressional Districts, determined by the ratio of each Congressional District's Republican vote in the last general election for President or Governor. Congressional Districts shall further apportion all of their Delegates to their BPOUs, and no BPOU or portion thereof may be disenfranchised. The Congressional District shall determine the method for ensuring enfranchisement. Nothing herein shall be construed to require that every BPOU fragment qualify for its own Delegate or Alternate.**

The Delegates and Alternates shall be elected in odd numbered years from within the Congressional District in accordance with the provisions of the Congressional District

constitution. A Congressional District Delegate or Alternate elected pursuant to this section shall serve a two year term commencing on the date of his/her election and terminating on the date his/her successor is elected. Such Delegates and Alternates must reside in the Congressional District and be eligible to be a legally qualified voter in the next general election.

In the event that any Congressional District Delegate and one of his or her Alternates are unable to attend a meeting of the State Central Committee, the Congressional District constitution shall provide for a procedure for appointment of a replacement from among the other Alternates elected in that Congressional District.

A vacancy in a Congressional District Delegate position shall be filled for the unexpired term by one of his or her Alternates if any, otherwise a vacancy in a Delegate or Alternate position may be filled for the unexpired term by the respective body of officers having power of appointment or election.

5. Each Republican state constitutional officer and each Republican member from Minnesota of the United States Senate or the House of Representatives, or his/her appointee, shall be a member of the State Central Committee for the duration of his/her term of office.

6. The Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, if a member of the Republican Caucus or his/her appointee (otherwise the leader of the House Republican Caucus or his/her appointee) and the leader of the Republican Caucus in the Minnesota State Senate or his/her appointee.

**SECTION 2: State Executive Committee.**

**A. Composition.**

The State Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

1. The state chair, deputy chair, and secretary-treasurer;
2. The national committeeman and committeewoman;
3. One district chair from each Congressional District or a Congressional District representative as provided for in the Congressional District constitution or bylaws who shall serve until a successor is elected;
4. The state finance chair.

**SECTION 3: State Party Officers.**

**A. Composition.**

The state party officers shall consist of the following:

1. Chair
2. Deputy chair
3. Secretary-treasurer.

**B. Elections, Terms and Removals**

1. The party officers shall be elected at large by the State Central Committee in accordance with the bylaws or upon the occurrence of a vacancy, as provided in clause 4 below.
2. State party officers shall not serve more than four (4) consecutive full terms in the same office. Unless otherwise provided, each party officer shall serve a two year term in accordance with the procedures established in the bylaws.
3. Any state party officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting of the State Central Committee.
4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of state chair, the deputy chair shall carry out the duties of the chair until a new state chair is elected and the State Central Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days thereafter to elect a new state chair. In the event of a vacancy in the office of deputy chair or secretary-treasurer, the state chair may appoint an acting deputy chair or secretary-treasurer subject to ratification by the State Executive Committee within thirty days after the appointment, to carry out the duties of the vacant office until a new officer is elected. The State Central Committee shall elect a new deputy chair or secretary-treasurer at its next regularly scheduled meeting or, if such meeting is scheduled within thirty days after the vacancy occurs, at the second regularly scheduled meeting after the vacancy occurs.

**SECTION 4: General Provisions Relating to State Party Administration.**

**A. Terms of Appointees.**

Unless otherwise provided, persons appointed by a state party officer under this constitution shall have terms of office expiring with the expiration of the term of the appointing officer. Each such person may be removed at the discretion of the appointing officer. In the case of the death, removal from office or geographical area, or resignation of the appointing officer the persons appointed by such state party officer shall have terms expiring with the election by the State Central Committee of the new state party officer.

**B.** No state party officer shall hold his or her office and at the same time receive monetary or inkind payment from any candidate or its campaign.

**C.** The state chair and deputy chair shall meet with the Congressional District chairs as a group at least once every three months.

**ARTICLE X**

**Congressional District Party Administration**

**SECTION 1: Congressional District Committee.**

**A. Duties and Responsibilities.**

The management of the affairs of the party pertaining to each Congressional District shall be vested in the Congressional District committee of such Congressional Districts, subject to the direction of the State Central Committee, the State Executive Committee, and the Congressional District convention, provided that the Congressional District committee shall have no jurisdiction over local affairs within the respective BPOUs in the Congressional District.

**B. Composition.**

The composition of each Congressional District committee shall be provided in their respective Congressional District constitution and/or bylaws.

**C. Officers.**

The officers of each Congressional District committee shall be at least one chair, a treasurer and such additional officers as may be determined by each Congressional District constitution and/or bylaws.

**D. Election of Officers.**

The Delegates to each Congressional District convention held in odd numbered years shall elect the officers of the Congressional District committee from any members of the party residing within the district.

**SECTION 2: Congressional District Executive Committee.**

The Congressional District Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Congressional District committee and such additional members as provided by the respective Congressional District constitution and/or bylaws.

**SECTION 3: Removals.**

Unless a Congressional District constitution or bylaws provide otherwise, any officer of a Congressional District committee, or any member of the Congressional District Executive Committee, may be removed by a two-thirds vote of those committee members present at the Congressional District or Congressional District Executive Committee meeting, as applicable.

**SECTION 4: City Committees.**

For cities of the first class (and for cities located wholly within Hennepin County having a population of 75,000 or more), it shall be responsibility of the respective Congressional District committee to organize or cause to be organized such cities and wards thereof, located within their Congressional District, for city elections. The Congressional District committee may determine the number of Delegates and Alternates for such a city or ward convention and the basis of their apportionment, provided that such basis shall be uniform throughout the city and the wards thereof, and if such Delegates and Alternates are elected at the precinct caucuses held in even numbered years the apportionment shall be based on the Republican Party vote in the last general election for President or Governor. The constitution and/or bylaws of the respective Congressional District shall provide for the establishment of a city committee for such a city. A Congressional District may also give power and responsibilities to such a city committee, including the authority to elect officers and to call endorsing conventions for city office, subject to the provisions of the Congressional District constitution and/or bylaws.

**ARTICLE XI**

**Basic Political Organizational Unit Administration**

**SECTION 1: BPOU Committee.**

**A. Composition.**

The BPOU committee shall consist of the BPOU party officers and such other members as the BPOU constitution, bylaws, or convention may prescribe.

**B. Officers.**

The officers of each BPOU shall be at least one chair and such additional officers as may be determined by each BPOU constitution and/or bylaws.

**C. Election of Officers.**

The officers and other members of the BPOU committee shall be elected at each BPOU convention held in odd numbered years.

**D. Management and Fundraising.**

The management of the affairs of the party within the BPOU shall be as set forth in Article IV. Organizers or other representatives of state or Congressional District authorities shall not solicit membership or funds at an event held within any BPOU without at least 14 days written prior notice to the BPOU chair(s). (See Article IV, Section 2.)

**SECTION 2: BPOU Executive Committee.**

The BPOU convention may provide for a BPOU executive committee of such size as it deems proper, which shall be members of the BPOU committee.

**SECTION 3: Removals.**

Unless a BPOU constitution or bylaws provide otherwise, any BPOU representative on a Congressional District committee, or officer of a BPOU executive committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of those members present at a BPOU committee meeting.

**SECTION 4: Vacancies in Precinct Offices.**

The BPOU chairman or chair with the approval of the BPOU committee may call a special caucus, for one or more precincts, in the manner prescribed by statute for biennial precinct caucuses for the sole purpose of filling vacancies where such exist at the time of notice, or may provide for the appointment of an acting officer until an officer is duly elected.

**ARTICLE XII**

**Judicial District Organization and Administration**

**SECTION 1:**

A Judicial District convention may create and organize a Judicial District Committee. A notice of intent to consider forming a Judicial District Committee shall be included in the call of the convention along with the proposal to consider endorsement. If such committee is created and organized, it shall be strictly auxiliary to the Republican Party of Minnesota and shall have no other powers except as provided herein. If a Judicial District Committee is formed, it shall search for candidates for judicial office and it may call conventions of its Judicial District. If a convention endorses for a judicial office, the Committee shall be responsible to secure the election of the endorsed candidate.

**ARTICLE XIII**

**National Committeeman and Committeewoman**

**SECTION 1: Selection of National Committeeman and National Committeewoman.**

In the year of each presidential election, immediately before or immediately after the state convention that precedes the Republican National Convention, the State Central Committee shall meet and select a national committeeman and a national committeewoman.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Affiliates**

**SECTION 1: Purpose and Organization.**

The right of special organizations having Republican affiliations to exist and carry on their activities as they see fit, consistent with the object, platforms, and principles of the party shall be recognized. The organization of permanent local clubs and organizations of party members for the purpose of holding meetings and carrying on other activities in furtherance of party and public welfare shall be permitted and encouraged. The activities of all such organizations during the election campaigns shall be coordinated with authorized party activities and subject to the direction of the regularly constituted party organizations.

**SECTION 2: Procedures for Determining Affiliate Status.**

**A. Organizational Requirements for Affiliate Status.**

Each Organization applying to be recognized as an Affiliate Organization of the Republican Party of Minnesota shall submit to the State Party Chair a copy of its constitution, bylaws, any other governing documents and an Executive Officer roster of the organization. The organization shall hold a convention at least bi-annually to elect officers and delegates/alternates as applicable. Unless otherwise provided in the organization's constitution and/or bylaws, such convention shall be subject to the requirements in Article V.

**B. Procedures for Determining Affiliate Standing.**

The State Executive Committee shall review all affiliates' standing on a yearly basis. Written notice must be sent to the presiding officer of the affiliate no later than twenty (20) days prior to a State Executive Committee meeting at which the affiliate's standing will be reviewed. The State Executive Committee shall annually forward its recommendation of affiliates in good standing to the State Central Committee to be certified by the State Central Committee.

**SECTION 3: Representation at State and Congressional District Conventions**

Authorized statewide Affiliates shall be entitled to voting representation at Republican State Conventions in accordance with Article VI, Section 1, B. Authorized statewide Affiliates may be entitled to voting representation at Congressional District Conventions, subject to qualification, in accordance with Article VII, Section 1, B.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Constitution and Bylaws, Committee and Amendments**

**SECTION 1: Constitution and Bylaws Committee.**

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall consist of a chair, and two persons from each Congressional District. The state party chair shall appoint the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Congressional District representatives shall be appointed by the Congressional District chair(s), or in the event of a dispute between the chairs regarding the appointment, by the Congressional District Executive Committee.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall give consideration to and may propose appropriate amendments and/or revisions of the Constitution to the state convention. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall also give consideration to and propose appropriate amendments of the

bylaws to the State Central Committee. One third of the committee members shall constitute a quorum.

Any member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall have the privilege of addressing the state convention or the State Central Committee when any report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is being considered.

**SECTION 2: Amendments to the Constitution.**

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote at any state convention, provided that any proposal for amendment shall be referred to the state Constitution and Bylaws Committee and reported out of said committee. Any minority report shall be signed by at least one-third (1/3) of committee members before it shall be submitted to the convention.

**SECTION 3: Bylaws.**

The State Central Committee and State Executive Committee shall operate under such bylaws as are deemed necessary for the transaction of the business of the party. The bylaws shall contain the specific delegation and division of responsibilities and duties among the various departments of the state organization and may specify whatever rules and administrative procedures the State Central Committee deems necessary.

**SECTION 4: Amendments to the Bylaws.**

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any State Central Committee meeting after written notice of any proposal for amendment has been submitted with the notice of the meeting. Any proposal for amendment shall be referred to the state Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Any minority report shall be signed by at least one-third (1/3) of committee members before it shall be submitted to the State Central Committee Meeting.

**ARTICLE XVI  
General Provisions**

**SECTION 1: Other Constitutions and Bylaws.**

Any body within the party organization may adopt and amend a constitution and/or bylaws for its own government not inconsistent with this constitution.

**SECTION 2: Removals.**

Notice of every proposal for removal by any committee or other body of the party shall be included in the notice of the meeting, and the individual concerned shall be served with a detailed statement of the charges against him/her at least ten days prior to such meeting.

**SECTION 3: Vacancies.**

**A.** All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the respective bodies or officers having power of election or appointment, except officers or members of the Congressional District or BPOU committees that shall be filled by such committees.

**B.** A vacancy shall occur upon the death or resignation of an officer or committee member or upon his/her removal from the geographical area from which he/she was elected.

**SECTION 4: Financial Data/Congressional District/Basic Political Organizational Unit, and Legislative District Budgets.**

**A.** Upon request by the state party secretary-treasurer, the financial officer of any organization recognized under this constitution including but not limited to each Congressional District, each BPOU/Legislative District organization and affiliate shall prepare biennial budgets or submit financial data pertaining to the organization for review and shall submit financial data to the state party secretary-treasurer.

**B.** The party secretary-treasurer shall report at least semiannually on the financial status of the state party to members of the State Central Committee.

**C.** All money received in the name of the Republican Party of Minnesota shall be deposited in its account. All money received shall be reported by the state party secretary-treasurer along with copies of any reports required by state or federal law.

**D.** No contribution shall be accepted and a unit of the party shall make no expenditure at a time when the office of treasurer of the respective unit is vacant.

**SECTION 5: Improper Use of Party Funds.**

No loan, in any form, may be made to any individual or party officer. In the event that any party officer, at any level of the Republican Party of Minnesota, converts to his/her own use any Republican Party funds, other party officers shall report such occurrence to the Chair of the Republican Party of Minnesota, diligently encourage and assist all law enforcement personnel in prosecuting the violator to the full extent of the law and shall work diligently to recover the misappropriated party funds.

**ARTICLE XVII**

**Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the statutes of the State of Minnesota, or any special rules of order the party may adopt.

Amended May 1, 2010