

# REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA

## 2022 State Convention – May 13 & 14

### PROPOSED RULES

#### Preface

The Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota (the “Constitution”) mandates several Convention rules that can neither be debated nor amended.

#### Section I. General

- 1) The business of this Convention shall be as outlined on the Official Agenda for the Convention, which will be adopted by a majority vote.
- 2) **Article XVII** of the Constitution states:  
**The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised” shall govern the Convention 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, statutes of the State of Minnesota, or any special rules of order the party may adopt.**
- 3) **Article V, Section 4**, of the Constitution provides:  
**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.**
- 4) Once adopted, these Rules shall neither be amended nor suspended except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention.
- 5) The quorum is a majority of the Delegates registered at the Convention and in attendance irrespective of whether some may have departed. Once a quorum has been established there shall be no further question as to the quorum.
- 6) A minority report of any committee may be presented if concurred by one-third (1/3) or more members of that committee.
- 7) No pages or Sergeant at arms shall exhibit any outward sign of support for or engage in any activities on behalf of a candidate or issues.
- 8) Any and all materials distributed at the Convention must contain the name and physical address of the organization or of the individual paying for that material. The Sergeant at arms shall confiscate any material not having such a disclosure.
- 9) Pagers and cell phones must be either set to vibrate or turned off. Any items determined by the Chair to be a disruption of the Convention may be confiscated or removed from the Convention floor.
- 10) Any video presentations broadcast to delegates on the floor of the Convention must be screened and approved by the State Party Chair or designee.
- 11) Any regulations or policies related to access to the Convention venue for anyone who is neither a Delegate, Alternate, nor a registered guest of a Delegate or Alternate is at the discretion of the State Party Chair. Guests must be pre-registered by a Delegate or Alternate by Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 5:00 PM. No same-day guest registrations will be accepted.
- 12) Unless temporarily affixed to the venue in an approved manner, candidate signs must be 2’X4’ and under, and are only allowed to be held in the hands of attendees. No sticks, pipes, handles, or devices may be used to elevate or connect these hand-held signs together in the Convention area or venue space provided by MNGOP.
- 13) Decorum. The Convention Chair at their discretion may remove anyone from the Convention for conduct detrimental to the business of the convention.

#### Section II. Seating

- 14) If a Basic Political Organization Unit (BPOU) or Affiliate organization does not have a procedure for establishing the seating order of Alternates in its constitution, bylaws, or by convention action, the seating order of Alternates shall be determined by the vote of that delegation. In a BPOU or Affiliate organization which does have such a procedure in its constitution, bylaws or as determined by

Convention action, a higher priority Alternate shall be entitled to be seated in the place of a lower priority Alternate.

- a) The voting strength of each BPOU or Affiliate organization equals the number of its registered Delegates and seated Alternates.
  - b) The Credentials Committee Chair shall certify to the Convention Chair those official Affiliate Delegates and Alternates specified in Article VI, Section 1B of the Constitution and listed in the addendum to the Party Bylaws. On any roll call or written vote those Affiliate Delegates shall vote as a separate group and only the vote of those present and voting shall be counted.
- 15)** The Credentials Committee Chair shall report any changes in the delegations prior to an endorsement when requested by the Chair or when requested by a majority of seated Delegates and Alternates.
- 16)** The Credentials Committee may refuse to provide a credential to any Delegate, Alternate, guest, or issue a hospitality credential to anyone who has publicly expressed or directly contacted other Delegates, Alternates, Republican candidates, Party officers, Party staff, or public politicians with threats of violence, repeated harassment, or has documented intentions of disrupting the business of the Convention. The State Party Chair may report any documented occurrences to the Credentials Committee prior to the Convention.
- 17)** All Delegates and Alternates must properly register for the convention and will be required to provide proof of residence in the electing unit and proof of being a legal and qualified voter in the next general election in order to receive their credentials. Accepted proof of residence listed below.
- a) A Photo ID with their name and address matching the electing unit.
    - i) Valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID; or a receipt for any of these, OR
    - ii) Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signature.

OR

- b) A Photo ID with their name, from (i), PLUS a document, from (ii), with their address
    - i) Approved photo IDs, which can be expired. Choose one.
      - (1) Driver's license, state ID or learner's permit issued by any state
      - (2) U.S. Passport
      - (3) U.S. Military or Veteran ID
      - (4) Tribal ID with name, signature and photo
      - (5) Minnesota university, college or technical college ID
      - (6) Minnesota high school ID
    - ii) Approved documents can be shown on electronic device. Choose one.
      - (1) Bill, account or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the Convention for:
        - (a) Phone, TV, or internet
        - (b) Solid waste, sewer, electric, gas or water
        - (c) Banking or credit card
        - (d) Rent or mortgage
      - (2) Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Convention day
      - (3) Current student fee statement to present
- 18)** The Credentials report shall reflect the Delegates and Alternates that have received their credentials and been properly checked in by registration. There is no requirement to be re-checked in each day.
- 19)** Registration will close at 11:59 AM on Saturday May 14, 2022.
- 20)** Certain areas of the venue will be limited access. All attendees will be issued credentials that must be kept on the attendee's person at all times and displayed upon request of Party staff, Convention officials, or venue staff. Anyone found in an area, for which they are not credentialed, shall be removed immediately by staff or a Sergeant at arms. Repeated offenses will be considered a violation of the decorum clause and shall be ejected from the Convention.
- 21)** A Voting Card will be distributed by BPOU Chairs to Delegates and Alternates according to rankings provided or the method determined by the BPOU Constitution. The Voting Card will be required for Delegates and Alternates to occupy the floor during business and voting. The Voting Card must match the BPOU designation of the credential. A Delegate may enter the floor without a voting card but may not participate in any business or votes until they retrieve a voting card from their BPOU Chair or an Alternate in their BPOU.
- 22)** Supplemental Access Passes to the Convention are available for campaigns seeking endorsement.
- a) Arena access is limited only to campaigns seeking endorsement prior to rounds of voting in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot. Once a candidate is removed from consideration, access to the Arena Main and Upper will be revoked.

- b) War Room Passes are candidate specific and only provide access to the Arena Main prior to rounds of voting in that race in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot but they can still access their War Room after removal from the ballot.
- c) Arena Passes are candidate specific and only provide access to the Arena Main prior to rounds of voting in a race in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

### **Section III. Speaking**

- 23) A Delegate or seated Alternate wishing to speak shall rise, wait for recognition, address the Chair from a microphone, state their name, BPOU, and the purpose for which they rise.
- 24) Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to one (1) minute by each speaker except as provided in the Rules of Articles VII, VIII, and IX. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice upon the same subject. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time until all those desiring to speak have had a first opportunity to do so. Total time for debate of each motion shall not exceed ten (10) minutes with equal opportunity afforded to affirmative and the negative speakers. Each speaker must identify whether they speak in the affirmative or the negative before being allowed to speak on a motion or subject. At least two (2) speakers on each side of a question shall be afforded the opportunity to speak to an issue before a motion to move the previous question shall be in order. After there have been two (2) speakers on one side and the Chair has asked three (3) times for a speaker on the opposing side, if there is no speaker on the opposing side, the debate will be ended.
- 25) The Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of timing debate and speeches during the Convention.
- 26) The Chair at any time may invite any office holder or distinguished guest to address the Convention from the podium for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. Endorsed non-incumbent Republican Congressional candidates shall address the floor for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes. Speakers indicated on the official agenda shall not exceed ten (10) minutes, except at the discretion of the Chair.

### **Section IV. Voting**

- 27) There shall be no voting by proxy or under unit rule in this Convention.
- 28) The vote on all questions shall be by voice vote except:
  - a) If Division of the Assembly is called, supported by thirty (30) Delegates or seated Alternates, or at the discretion of the Chair, a rising vote shall be taken, unless the Convention Chair requests a vote by electronic device as provided by the State Party Chair.
  - b) Electronic voting devices will be assigned to a BPOU. Devices shall be collected and placed in a secured area when not in use on the floor of the Convention or at the discretion of the Convention Chair. If a device is not returned, by the BPOU, the BPOU shall be responsible for any penalty or fee charged.
  - c) The minimum voting period when using electronic devices shall be at least two (2) minutes.
  - d) If there is a dispute as to a rising or voice vote, the Chair shall appoint a Chief Teller and enough Tellers to canvass the vote and the Chief Teller shall report the same to the Convention.
  - e) Contested endorsement will be by secret ballot, as described in the endorsing procedures in these rules.
  - f) A vote for 'other' is considered to be a valid ballot.

### **Section V. Endorsement Procedures**

#### **29) Nominating**

- a) Prior to the Nominating Committee report, it shall first be determined by a majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for each office.
- b) To be eligible to be considered for endorsement, a candidate for statewide endorsement must meet all legal requirements to run for and hold the office, submit a nominating petition form to the Nominating Committee having the names and signatures of a minimum of forty-five (45) State Convention Delegates from at least two (2) Congressional Districts and appear before the Nominating Committee.
- c) Each Delegate may sign only one candidate's nominating petition for each race. If a Delegate signs more than one candidate's nominating petition in the same race (e.g. two gubernatorial candidates), their signature will be voided on each nominating petition and not count towards any candidate's required signature total in that race. Alternates' signatures do not qualify for this procedure, since they are not seated prior to the Convention.

- d) The candidate's nominating petition must be received by MNGOP office by 9:00 AM on Friday May 6, 2022. Candidates may submit a physical copy or original of their nominating petition, email a scanned copy or complete a Google document provided by MNGOP.
- e) Candidates must also appear and be interviewed by the Nominating Committee by May 11, 2022. The Nominating Committee shall then report to the Convention all of the candidates who have met the requirements to be nominated.
- f) The Nominating Committee may state whether they deem any candidate to be "qualified," "qualified with reservations" or "unqualified" to receive the endorsement. If a candidate is deemed "qualified with reservations" or "unqualified," then the committee chair shall report the reasoning.
- g) There will be no nominations from the floor.
- h) The candidate presentation order for the duration of the endorsement shall be determined by the Nominating Committee. If candidates are allotted more than one presentation during the rounds of voting, then the surviving campaign that spoke second in the previous round shall present first and the order for the remaining candidates shall be determined by lot.
- i) Campaign staff and supporters may not distribute materials in the arena during another candidate's presentation.

## **Section VI. The Endorsement Process**

### **30) When using electronic voting for endorsement:**

- a) If the race is unopposed, the candidate shall have ten (10) minutes to address the convention. The Convention may decide by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to endorse by a rising vote in place of balloting.
- b) Nominated candidates for contested statewide endorsement that will appear on the first round of balloting, for that office, shall have a total of ten (10) minutes, unless running for Governor where they will have fifteen (15) minutes, of presentation time. This time may be used for nominating and seconding speeches, their speech to the convention, and demonstration on their behalf, prior to the first round of balloting. No presentation time will be allowed before the second round of balloting. A three (3) minute presentation will be allowed prior to the third (3rd) round of electronic balloting and each subsequent round of balloting that day. If the endorsing process for a race begins on Friday and resumes on Saturday, the remaining nominated candidates eligible for endorsement will be given five (5) minutes for a presentation before voting resumes unless running for Governor where they will have ten (10) minutes.
- c) Each round of voting shall be open for five (5) minutes when voting electronically.
- d) When there are multiple candidates, the first round of voting shall take place immediately after candidate presentations. The results will be displayed to the convention. The convention shall then pause for twenty (20) minutes and then immediately move to the second round of voting. In subsequent rounds of balloting, voting shall take place immediately after any candidate presentations. Prior to the results being displayed to the Convention, the candidates for endorsement will be given an opportunity to see the vote totals not to exceed five (5) minutes. The results will then be displayed to the convention. The convention shall then pause for ten (10) minutes before the next round of voting.
- e) During the pause, all motions and business will be out of order, Delegates, seated Alternates, Convention Staff, and anyone with supplemental floor access for the race being considered will be allowed to move freely in the arena to hold signs, distribute materials, or converse with Delegates and seated Alternates. After the pause, the floor will be cleared, and balloting will commence.
- f) Candidates who have withdrawn or have been removed due to drop off rule, may only address the Convention if invited to use the allotted time of another candidate who is still being considered for endorsement.
- g) A drop off rule shall apply to any race that has three (3) or more nominated candidates until there are only two (2) candidates remaining when using electronic voting. Any candidate failing to receive at least 5% of the vote on the first ballot, 10% on the second ballot, 15% on the third ballot, or 20% on any subsequent ballot shall cease to be considered a candidate for endorsement and be removed from all subsequent ballots. On the fourth and subsequent ballots, if multiple candidates are below 20%, only the lowest candidate will be removed.
- h) A motion for "no endorsement" shall be in order during the electronic endorsement process only after the seventh round of balloting and every ballot thereafter. Such a motion need not necessarily be made by a Delegate or seated Alternate who voted with the majority on the original motion to endorse for that office.

**31) If Paper Ballots are used for an endorsement:**

- a) The process for each endorsement must come to conclusion with an endorsement or a vote for 'no endorsement', before the convention can begin any other endorsement due to the tellers being off the floor and unable to participate.
- b) Each nominated candidate will have ten (10) minutes, total, for presentation time for nominating and seconding speeches, their speech to the convention, and demonstration on their behalf prior to the first round of balloting.
- c) Continuation procedures.
  - i) If there are 3 candidates at the beginning of the endorsement process, the candidate with the lowest vote count on the first round of balloting shall no longer be eligible for endorsement.
  - ii) If there are 4 or more candidates at the beginning of the endorsement process, any candidate receiving less than 10% on the first round of balloting shall no longer be eligible for endorsement, or, if that doesn't eliminate any candidates, then the candidate with the lowest vote count shall no longer be eligible for endorsement. For all subsequent ballots the candidate with the lowest vote count shall no longer be eligible for endorsement until there are only 2 candidates remaining. If paper ballots are used, there will be no additional time provided between ballots for candidates to address the Convention.
- d) A motion for 'no endorsement' will be out of order until after the fifth ballot in each race, when using paper ballots.
- e) **Tellers**
  - i) A Chief Teller and up to eight (8) Deputy Chief Tellers will be appointed by the Convention Chair.
  - ii) Only the Chief Teller and Deputy Chief Tellers shall have the authority to handle any disputes, balloting determinations, or declare a ballot valid or invalid based on their use of the Rules and Constitution. If there is a question on any ballot, the Teller shall inform a Chief or Deputy Chief Teller and wait for instruction.
  - iii) All ballots will be hand counted by registered Delegates and Alternates to the convention only. A person counting ballots (Tellers), including Chief and Deputy Tellers, may NOT: have appeared in a candidate-for-endorsement's presentation for that race being counted, be wearing any campaign materials of a candidate seeking statewide endorsement; or been a member of a candidate's campaign for endorsement in that race being counted.
  - iv) The Chief Teller may excuse a Teller at their discretion.
  - v) Each CD shall provide at least four (4) Tellers to help count the ballots. A Delegate or Alternate who is a Teller will have to give their voting card to the BPOU Chair or designee when off the floor to count ballots.
  - vi) Tellers may not count the ballots of their own BPOU.
  - vii) Tellers must work in pairs with each being from different BPOUs.
  - viii) No preprinted ballots or optical scanning devices may be used.
- f) **Balloting Counting Process:**
  - i) A secure Teller room shall be used for the verification and counting of all ballots.
  - ii) Tellers will not be released until the results are reported to the campaigns and the next round of ballots are prepared.
  - iii) Observers will not be released until the results are reported to the campaigns.
  - iv) No recording or communication devices will be allowed in the balloting room except for designated convention staff at the Chief Teller's discretion.
  - v) Ten (10) minutes prior to the results being displayed to the Convention, the candidates for endorsement will be given opportunity to see the vote totals. During this time the Convention shall have a pause in proceedings.
  - vi) Anyone interfering with the balloting process will be in violation of the rules and removed from the venue.
  - vii) The campaign of each candidate on the round of voting being counted is allowed three (3) observers to oversee the counting. Observers will not be allowed to enter the Teller room without wearing an Observer Pass or after Ballot counting has begun.
- g) **Ballot Distribution:**
  - i) After each candidate has spoken in the race, the floor shall be cleared and secured before any ballots can be distributed.
  - ii) Each BPOU that is split between Congressional Districts shall have a Deputy Chair or Designee manage the balloting in the segment the BPOU Chair is not a resident of.
  - iii) The Chief Teller shall instruct the Deputy Chief Tellers to distribute the ballots to each BPOU segment Chair or designee. Each BPOU Chair or designee may select one member of the delegation to assist them with the balloting process.

- iv) The BPOU Chairs or designees shall first count the ballots in their envelope to verify the number matches the number on the envelope. If they have too many or too few ballots they shall immediately inform the Chief or Deputy Chief Tellers.
  - v) After the number of ballots has been verified, one ballot will be handed to each Delegate or Alternate presenting a voting card matching that BPOU segment. If a BPOU segment has more people request a ballot than they have ballots they shall inform the Convention Chair who will dispatch a Chief Teller to investigate.
  - vi) The BPOU Chair or designee shall record on the reporting sheet how many blank ballots they have left over and return them to the envelope with all other ballots submitted by voters of the BPOU segment.
  - vii) The BPOU Chairs or designees must return the envelopes to the Tellers as soon as they have verified the count or have been instructed to by the Convention Chair.
- h) Voting:**
- i) Delegates and seated Alternates with voting cards will have five (5) minutes to cast their ballot and return it to their BPOU Chair or designee unless instructed otherwise by the Chief Teller or Convention Chair. All balloting must be done on the Convention floor.
  - ii) A Delegate or Alternate with a voting pass may leave the floor but may not enter the floor when ballots are distributed on the floor.
  - iii) Although it is recommended that the candidate's full name be written, **all ballots must include the candidate's LAST name.** PRINTING IN CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS IS PREFERRED. The name does not have to be spelled correctly but must be legible to the Tellers.
  - iv) A ballot will be spoiled if the Tellers are unable to determine what last name is written on the ballot or the intent of the voter's choice.
  - v) **Article V. Section 3 of the Constitution states:**  
**"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 '✓' 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."**
  - vi) In the event that a voting Delegate or Alternate spoils their ballot before voting ends, they shall inform their BPOU Chair or designee and bring their ballot to the Chief Teller to receive a provisional ballot. The Chief Teller will exchange a provisional ballot for the spoiled ballot authenticated by the Voter's name and signature. The Teller shall mark the BPOU segment that the spoiled ballot came from and place it back in the provisional envelope.
  - vii) The Chief Teller or Convention Chair shall determine when to close voting.
  - viii) The Chief Teller shall have the discretion to spoil a BPOU segment's ballots and provide them five (5) minutes and new ballots to vote again.
- i) Collection:**
- i) No ballots may be taken off the floor unless in the possession of the Tellers.
  - ii) All ballots must be returned to the BPOU Chair or Designee before a voting Delegate or Alternate leaves the floor.
  - iii) Before the voting period ends, each BPOU Chair or Designee shall count the number of cast and blank ballots and verify that it does not exceed the number marked on the envelope. All ballots, including blank ballots shall be placed in the envelope.
  - iv) If a BPOU Chair or Designee has collected too many ballots they shall immediately report to the Chief Teller and wait for instructions.
  - v) The Chief Deputy Chief Tellers shall collect the envelopes from the BPOU Chairs or Designees as instructed by the Chief Teller or Convention Chair.
  - vi) After all ballots are collected, all Tellers shall report to the Teller room.
- j) Verifying:**
- i) At any point of the counting process if a Teller discovers more ballots or votes in a BPOU segment they shall recount twice and if still unable to validate the quantities match the number on the envelope they shall cease counting and inform Chief or Deputy Teller and wait for instructions.
  - ii) Each pair will be given an envelope by a Deputy Chief Teller to verify. They shall remove all the ballots from the envelope including the blank ones, place them face down, count the number of ballots, and compare that to the number of the envelope and reporting sheet.
  - iii) If there are the appropriate number of ballots for each BPOU segment as indicated on the reporting sheet, they shall put the ballots back into the envelope, mark it verified, and give it

to a Chief or Deputy Chief Teller. They shall repeat the verification process until all the envelopes have been verified.

- iv) If the number of ballots turned in by a BPOU is more than that BPOU is allowed, the BPOU segment will have five (5) minutes to submit new ballots after the BPOU Chair is provided a new set of ballots. A BPOU segment may only revote once in each race. If a BPOU segment submits more ballots than allotted again, that shall spoil that round of balloting for that BPOU.
- k) Counting:**
- i) A pair of Tellers may only count ballots after they combine the ballots from at least three (3) BPOU segments. One Teller shall record the votes on a Recording Sheet and another shall read the ballots aloud. They shall confirm the number of votes tallied matches the number of ballots.
  - ii) After every envelope is counted the Deputy Tellers shall tally the results and report them to the Chief Teller.
  - iii) A BPOU segment may turn in less ballots than their envelope indicates and still be counted.
  - iv) The Tellers shall prepare another round of ballots using a different color of paper used for the previous round of ballots before they return to the Convention.

## **Section VII. Constitution**

- 32) Article XV of the Constitution provides for amendments to the Constitution. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall present its report of proposed amendments to the Convention for its consideration. Any member of the Committee shall have the privilege of addressing the Convention when its report is being considered. No new amendments shall be considered from the floor. No debate shall be in order as to whether to consider new amendments to the Committee report. Debate over any amendment proposed by the Committee shall be allowed subject to the Rules in Article III.
- 33) The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Convention, provided that any proposal for amendment shall be referred to and reported out of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

## **Section VIII. Platform Report**

- 34) The committee shall present a proposed platform to the Convention based on guidelines set forth in the State Party Constitution.
- 35) Any resolutions required to be included in the report by the State Party Constitution, but not recommended for inclusion in the platform by the committee shall be indicated in the report as to why. If the report is adopted by the Convention, these items will not be included in the final platform document.
- 36) Amendments and resolutions from the floor are not permitted.
- 37) Debate on the platform report shall be limited to a total of thirty (30) minutes, one (1) minute for each speaker. Equal opportunity will be afforded to pro and con speakers in alternating order. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time until all others wishing to be recognized on the report have been heard. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice. Debate shall be limited to Delegates and seated Alternates.
- 38) The report shall be voted on as a single ballot requiring 60% of the last credentials report.

## **Section IX. Adjournment**

- 39) A motion to adjourn the Convention shall be out of order until all items on the agenda have been considered on the Convention floor.
- 40) The Convention shall adjourn no later than 6:00 PM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regardless of what remains on the agenda.