

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA

Proposed 2018 State Convention Rules

Preface

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

I. General

1. The business of this Convention shall be as outlined on the Official Agenda for the Convention as proposed by the Rules Committee and as adopted by the Convention.
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 laws of the State of Minnesota, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the Official Call of the Convention, or the rules adopted by this Convention.
3. Article V, Section 4, of the Constitution provides:

Once the temporary organization has been established, the first order of business of a state . . . 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 vote of the Convention.
5. The quorum is a majority of the delegates registered at the Convention as in attendance irrespective of whether some may have departed. Once a quorum number has been established there shall be no further question as to the quorum number.
6. A minority report of any committee may be presented if concurred by two (2) or more of the members of that committee, unless otherwise specified by the Republican Party of Minnesota Constitution.
7. No pages or sergeant –at-arms shall exhibit any outward sign of support for or engage in any activities on behalf candidate or issues.
8. Any and all materials distributed at the Convention will contain the name and physical address of the organization or the name and physical address of the individual paying for said material. The sergeant-at-arms will confiscate any material not having such a disclaimer. Exception is where candidate’s campaign registered with FEC, which does not require by law, address on campaign materials. Campaign

signs and other materials cannot be placed behind, immediately in front of, or beside the convention podium and convention officials/ tables.

9. Pagers and cell phones must be set to either vibrate or 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 by the party State Chair or designee and approved by the Rules Committee Chair.

II. Seating

11. Article V, Section 2, of the Constitution provides:

- 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.

12. Article VI Section 1.b of the Constitution provides:

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

13. 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 shall be the number of seated delegates and alternates present and voting.
 - 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 State Party Constitution and listed in the addendum to the party By-laws**. 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.
14. The Credentials Committee Chair shall report any changes in the delegations prior to an endorsement or when requested by the Chair or when requested by a majority of seated delegates and alternates.

III. Speaking

15. A delegate or seated alternate wishing to speak shall rise, address the Chair from a microphone, state his/her name, BPOU, and the purpose for which he/she rises.
16. Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to two (2) minutes by each speaker except as provided in Rules 15, 19 and 22. 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 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 speakers on one side and the Chair has asked three times for a speaker on the opposing side, if there is no speaker on the opposing side, the debate will be ended.
17. The Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of timing debate and speeches during the Convention.
18. Subject to Rule 28, 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.

IV. Voting

19. There shall be no voting by proxy or under unit rule in this Convention.
20. The vote on all questions shall be by voice vote except:
 - a. If Division of the Assembly, defined as a minimum of 40 delegates or seated alternates, is called for, or at the discretion of the Chair, a rising vote shall be taken.
 - b. A roll call by BPOU shall be taken at the discretion of the Chair, or, upon the request of ten (10) or more BPOU's, each BPOU request to be a majority vote of the delegates present from the BPOU. Such roll call vote shall be taken in alphabetical order followed by numerical order of the BPOU's and the vote of each BPOU announced from the floor by the BPOU leader, or by a person duly designated by the BPOU delegation. If any delegation is not ready to report their vote when called by the Convention Chair, they will be put to the end of the queue and the next delegation will be called to report.
 - c. Contested elections will be voted by secret ballot, as voted by electronic voting device (EVD) and in cases without electronic balloting, by paper ballot, and results reported by the Chief Teller.
 - i. In the case of paper balloting, the only individuals allowed in the teller room, are the duly appointed tellers, Republican Party of Minnesota staff assisting with the counting of ballots and up to two (2) representatives from each campaign on the ballot.
 - ii. Electronic Voting Devices (EVD) that are distributed to each delegation with one (1) device per delegate allotted, irrespective of how many delegates are present.
 - iii. Choices that will be included on each ballot will include:
 1. All eligible candidates as defined by rule 28.a,
 2. No Preference/Undecided,
 3. No Endorsement
 4. OtherNo additional options will be considered unless "Other" exceeds 20%.

- iv. In the case of EVD failure, ballot envelopes to each delegation shall be distributed and will contain one ballot per delegate allotted, irrespective of how many delegates are present.
21. If there is a dispute as to the vote of any BPOU, the Chair shall appoint a Chief Teller and a sufficient number of tellers to canvass the vote of said BPOU and the Chief Teller shall report the same to the Convention.

V. Platform Resolutions

22. Amendments from the floor are not permitted. Amendments to the Platform Committee Report must be submitted in writing to the Platform Committee no later than Friday, May 18th at 12:00 p.m. noon.
23. The Platform Committee report may be considered at any time throughout the course of the Convention, following adoption of these rules, where any lapse in the agenda or delay for counting votes permits.
24. Consideration of the Platform Committee report will proceed in three stages:
- a. Delegates will be asked if there are any resolutions on which debate is desired. An affirmative vote of 15% of the seated delegates and alternates, as of the final credentials report, is required to pull an item for debate.
 - b. The Convention will proceed, section by section, to vote to approve the recommendations of the committee for all items in the section not pulled for debate. If any section fails to receive 60% approval, the resolutions in that section will be voted one at a time, without debate and without regard for the committee recommendation.
 - c. The Convention will then proceed to debate and vote, without regard for the committee recommendation, on each of the "pulled" resolutions.
25. Debate on any section or amendment to a section shall be limited to a total of four (4) minutes, one (1) minute for each speaker and with equal opportunity afforded to pro and con speakers. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time upon the same section, or amendment, until all others wishing to be recognized on the resolution have been heard. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same section, or amendment, of the proposed platform. Debate shall be limited to delegates and seated alternates.

VI. Endorsement

26. Article V, Section 3, of the Constitution provides:
- a. It shall first be determined by a majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for an office.
 - b. Voting on a candidate for endorsement for an office shall be by a 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.
 - c. 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. No preprinted ballot shall be allowed unless options for 'no preference', 'undecided' and 'no endorsement' are included.

- d. 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 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 endorsements'

27. Article VI Section 3.a of the Constitution provides:

To be eligible to be considered for endorsement or election, candidates for statewide 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.

28. The rules for nomination and endorsement of statewide candidates, except judicial candidates, shall be as follows:

- a. To be eligible to be considered for endorsement, candidates for statewide non-judicial endorsement must meet all legal requirements and submit nomination petitions to the Nominating Committee containing the printed names and signatures of a minimum of 2% of the State Convention Delegates by May 24th 2018. The Nominating Committee may, at its discretion, allow additional time for candidates to submit nominating petitions with valid signatures. The Nominating Committee shall then report to the Convention those candidates who have met the petition and legal requirements to be nominated. The nominating Committee may also state whether they deem the candidates to be qualified or unqualified to receive endorsement.
- b. The Convention shall consider a motion to endorse each office separately, such question to be decided by a majority vote.
- c. There will be no nominations from the floor. A candidate shall be considered nominated once he or she has met with the requirements in rule 28a.
- d. Nominated candidates for Governor and Senate shall have a total twenty (20) minutes for nominating and seconding speeches, his/her speech to the convention, and demonstration on his/her behalf. Nominated candidates for all other statewide offices shall have a total of ten (10) minutes for nominating and seconding speeches, his/her speech to the convention, and demonstrations on his/her behalf. All nominated candidates shall speak prior to balloting and are limited to one appearance before the convention during the endorsement procedure, except as provided in Rules 28 i and 28 j below.
- e. Balloting shall continue until a candidate has been endorsed by receiving 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.
- f. A motion for "no endorsement" shall only be in order during the endorsement process after the *tenth* ballot and every fifth ballot thereafter. Such a motion need not be made by a delegate or seated alternate who voted with the majority on the original motion to endorse for that office.
- g. Any candidate receiving less than 5% of the vote on the first ballot, 20% of the vote on the third ballot, or 30% of the vote on the fifth ballot, or any subsequent ballot, shall cease to be considered a candidate for an endorsement. After the fifth ballot and every second ballot thereafter, the Convention Co-Chairs may allow each remaining candidate five minutes to address the convention in an order determined by drawing of lots.
- h. A motion to recess will not be in order during the endorsement process. The only business to be conducted during the endorsement process is motions pertinent to the endorsement process or Platform Committee Report.

- i. A person seeking the endorsement for any public office to be considered at this Convention shall not be allowed to speak from the podium in any capacity other than as a candidate until after the endorsement is decided for the office he/she is seeking. This rule shall not prevent a candidate from participating as a delegate or seated alternate to this Convention.
- j. Each nominated candidate for Governor and United States Senate seeking the endorsement may have ten (10) floor passes for campaign workers who are not delegates or seated alternates. Any nominated candidate who is not elected a delegate to the convention shall receive a floor pass.
- k. Lot shall determine the order of candidate speeches for each office. Each nominated candidate or his/her designee shall draw a number immediately upon the close of nominations for that office. The Convention Co-Chairs shall ask the Convention Secretary to conduct the drawing.
- l. Following the announcement of each ballot, the chair will allow a minimum of 15 minute pause between any subsequent ballots.
- m. Each candidate's campaign will be afforded the opportunity to review results on any ballot before results are posted to the convention, at a time and location designated by the Convention Chair, before the announcement of ballot results.

VIII. Adjournment

- 29. A motion to adjourn the convention shall be debatable until all items on the agenda have been considered on the convention floor.