

CONSTITUTION OF THE LE SUEUR COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
MINNESOTA

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the LE SUEUR COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY of MINNESOTA.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Party shall be composed of all voters of Le Sueur County Basic Political Organizational Unit (BPOU) who desire to support the objectives of the Party.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Party within Le Sueur County shall be the advancement of good government through the selection and election of candidates for public office whose principles and objectives agree with the philosophy of the National and Minnesota State Republican Party Platforms as determined by the National Republican Convention, the Minnesota Republican Convention, the First Congressional District Republican Convention, and the Le Sueur County BPOU Republican Convention. The endorsed candidates will promote the principles and objectives of the National and Minnesota State Republican Party Platform to the best of their ability.

Section 2. The management of the affairs of the Party within the BPOU shall be vested in the BPOU Committee, subject to the direction of the State Republican Central Committee, the State Republican Executive Committee, the First Congressional District Republican Committee, the Le Sueur County BPOU Republican Convention, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and the statutes of the State of Minnesota.

Section 3. The duties of the BPOU Committee shall include, but are not limited to the following: establishing effective financial campaigns; organizing each precinct within the BPOU; assisting candidates who promote the principles and objectives of the Republican Party Platforms; coordinating all Republican activities in Le Sueur County BPOU, and cooperating with other BPOU Committees within the same legislative districts in selecting and electing candidates and promoting good government within said districts.

ARTICLE IV

STRUCTURE

The BPOU Committee shall be composed of the following:

1. the elected BPOU Officers,
2. twenty (20) elected At-Large BPOU committee members,
3. any additional delegates to the State Republican Central Committee as may be allotted to the BPOU by the Constitutions of the First Republican Congressional Districts,
4. the immediate past BPOU Chairperson and the Chairperson of each Republican auxiliary group organized in the BPOU,
5. any Republican District or State Party officer residing in the BPOU,
6. any elected legislator or officer from the State or Federal level who is a resident of the BPOU and a member of the Republican Party, and
7. at the discretion of the BPOU Committee, any special subcommittee Chairperson who may be appointed.

ARTICLE V

PARTY ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers of each precinct shall consist of a Chairperson, and such other officers as may be prescribed by the BPOU Committee, elected during the even numbered years for a two-year term by a caucus of Republicans within said precinct, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Minnesota. However, in the event that a precinct shall fail to elect officers at a regular precinct caucus, officers for such precinct may be selected by the BPOU Committee, provided that such selected officers shall reside in that precinct.

Section 2. The officers of the BPOU Committee shall consist of the following:

1. a Chairperson,
2. a Vice Chairperson,
3. a Secretary,
4. a Treasurer
5. Past Chairperson

Each officer shall be elected for a two-year term by the delegates to the BPOU Republican Convention held during each odd numbered year. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for election to any office. Duties assigned to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be by mutual consent of the officers involved subject to approval of the full executive committee.

Section 3. A total of up to twenty (20) At-Large Committee members shall be elected for a two-year term by the delegates to the BPOU Republican Convention held during

each odd numbered year. The twenty (20) candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill said positions. Said committee members shall attend BPOU Committee meetings and perform such other duties as determined by the BPOU Executive Committee from time to time.

Section 4. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the BPOU Committee in advance of the BPOU Convention held in each odd numbered year for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of the BPOU Committee together with said at-large members, and said candidates shall be submitted for the consideration of the BPOU Convention, provided, however, that nominations may also be made from the floor. The Nominating Committee shall consider candidates who are members of the Party who are most qualified to perform the duties of their respective office or position.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. The BPOU Committee shall meet monthly, unless otherwise determined by the BPOU Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by any three (3) members thereof. Written notice shall be sent by U.S. Mail and/or email to all members at least five (5) days in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of the transaction of business by the BPOU Committee.

Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of the above mentioned groups, except as otherwise provided herein.

ARTICLE VII

CONVENTIONS

Section 1. BPOU Conventions of the Party shall be held each year, during the period and for the purpose designated by, the Official Call issued by the Republican State Executive Committee, the State Republican Central Committee, or the First Congressional District Republican Committee. The time and place for each Convention shall be determined by the BPOU Committee, **however, special circumstances may require the Executive Board to schedule such Conventions by electronic means.**

Section 2. Special BPOU Conventions shall be held at the Call of the State Republican Executive Committee, the State Republican Central Committee, the First Congressional District Republican Committee, or at any time deemed necessary by a majority of the members of the BPOU Committee, provided that at least two (2) weeks written notice by U.S. Mail and/or email sent to each delegate and alternate.

Section 3. ~~BPOU Republican Conventions shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall determine.~~ **BPOU Republican Conventions shall be held in person or**

by electronic means at such time and place as the Committee or the Executive Board shall determine. First order of business shall be the preliminary credentials report. The Convention shall then proceed to the seating of the delegates as outlined in Section 4. Section 4. Each seated precinct delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote as provided in this section.

- a. A BPOU Republican Convention shall be composed of delegates elected by members of the Party in the respective election precincts of Le Sueur County. Each precinct may also elect alternates to their delegates in such number as they deem necessary to insure representation at the BPOU Convention. The number of delegates and the basis of their apportionment shall be uniform throughout the BPOU. The Credentials Committee shall seat all duly-elected delegates of each precinct who are in attendance and present their credentials prior to the time stated in the Call for convening of the Convention. In the event no delegates are present from a precinct, the Credentials Committee shall seat accredited alternates from that precinct, indicating which delegates they replace. In the event there are both delegates and alternates present, the Credentials Committee shall seat only the delegates and the delegate vacancies shall be filled as provided below.
- b. Each precinct shall caucus after the Chairperson accepts the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. If the Chairperson of the precinct is not present, the seated delegates shall first elect a Chairperson and then shall proceed to fill the vacancies as provided herein. The precincts may also fill vacancies that occur later by informal caucus on the floor in like manner.
- c. If the alternates were ranked when elected at precinct caucuses, they should be seated in that order. If not, the seated delegates of each precinct shall fill all vacancies by a simple majority vote of the seated delegates, and shall fill vacancies only from the accredited alternates present from that precinct. In case of a tie, the precinct Chairperson shall appoint one of those who are tied to fill that particular vacancy. Alternates shall be elected to fill vacancies one at a time to replace specific delegates and then the alternate elected to fill the vacancy shall be eligible to vote in the election to fill any subsequent delegate vacancy.
- d. If such specific delegate shall later arrive, the delegate shall assume his seat and replace the alternate who was seated in his stead. Alternates who arrive later shall not replace any person seated, except they will be eligible to fill vacancies from the precinct.
- e. If there are not sufficient delegates or alternates present at the convention to fill the allotted number of delegate seats for any given precinct, those seats shall be filled in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Rules Committee for the Convention.

Section 5. A BPOU Convention may endorse candidates for public office, provided the constituency for such office is contained entirely within said BPOU and such candidate receives sixty percent (60%) of the voting strength of the convention as reported in the last report of the Credentials Committee preceding such vote, and further provided that such convention, by a simple majority vote has determined to endorse or consider endorsement for an office. No candidate for public office shall be voted upon separately but all candidates for each such office shall be submitted on one ballot. If no candidate receives the required sixty percent (60%) vote, then subsequent balloting may eliminate all but the top two candidates. The determination of endorsement for an office in which the constituency is not coterminous with the territory of the convention, shall be made only by those delegates residing within such constituency. Where the constituency of an office comprises an area where more than one BPOU is involved, then endorsement can be given only by a joint convention that includes all areas of such constituency.

Section 6. A BPOU Convention may provide an advisory endorsement to candidates for District, State or National office, provided that such advisory endorsement is not binding upon delegates to District and State Conventions. The procedure for advisory endorsement shall be limited to one ballot with all nominated candidates for the same office to be submitted on the same ballot. A sixty percent (60%) vote as outlined in Section 5 shall be necessary to be considered an advisory endorsement as provided for in this section.

Section 7. Delegates and alternates to the Republican BPOU, District and State Conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, and shall continue as such until their successors are elected, provided that they continue to be entitled to vote in the area from which they were elected.

Section 8. If an elected delegate is not present at the commencement of the District or State Convention to which he was elected, the vacancy shall be filled by an alternate in the order ranked at the BPOU convention. If not ranked, the vacancy should be filled by a caucus of the delegates present. If alternates are not ranked and it is determined in advance of such a convention that one or more delegates will not be in attendance, then the BPOU Chairperson may call for a pre-convention caucus of the delegates provided that adequate advance notice be given all delegates. Such caucus shall determine the method or order of seating alternate delegates as vacancies occur. Certification of such action taken shall be made to the convention Credentials Committee in advance of the convention.

ARTICLE VIII

VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Vacancies in precinct offices may be filled by appointment of the BPOU Committee, or if so directed by said body, by a meeting of Republicans residing within the precinct in which the vacancy occurs.

Section 2. Should a vacancy occur in one or more offices of the BPOU Committee, the BPOU Committee may appoint a replacement to fill each such vacancy until the next regular election of BPOU Officers.

Section 3. An officer of the BPOU committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any meeting of the BPOU committee, provided that the officer whose removal is under consideration shall have been furnished with a detailed written statement of the reasons for removal at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and provided further that said officer shall be entitled to answer the allegations against him before the entire committee, if he so desires, before the question regarding removal is voted upon.

Section 4. An appointed member of the BPOU Committee may be removed by the appointing authority.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The BPOU Republican Party organization is affiliated with the Republican Party of Minnesota, and its activities shall be consistent with the objectives, platforms, and principles of the official state organization. The provisions of the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota shall govern if any part of this Constitution is not consistent therewith.

Section 2. No member of the BPOU organization shall be authorized to express the views or otherwise speak on behalf of any group within the Party on any matters of policy unless the group has first considered and taken action on such matter. This shall not be construed to prevent any official of the BPOU organization from freely expressing his opinions, provided ~~he~~ **the official** makes **it** clear that ~~his~~ **such** statements **and opinions** are solely ~~his own personal views~~ **those of the official**.

Section 3. The provisions of this Constitution shall be presumed to be incorporated as a part of the rules of each BPOU Republican Convention.

Section 4. Emergency Authority: In the event of a declared Federal or State Emergency, all meetings and conventions for the Le Sueur County Republican Party of Minnesota and its committees may be conducted via electronic means in which all participants can simultaneously hear each other and have the opportunity for recognition analogous to a regular in-person meeting. Any requirements for ballot votes may be waived, votes may be conducted via mail vote or other electronic means as determined by the meeting or convention. Other allowances for electronic meetings may be allowed elsewhere in party documents. Any conflicting language shall defer to this rule. This rule shall be retroactive to cover any and all conventions and meetings held in the year 2020.

Section 5. 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 in which he is entitled by law to participate.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates present at any BPOU Republican Convention, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been first referred to a duly appointed Constitution Committee.

Revised ~~January, 21, 2017~~: **January 30, 2021**