

# Senate District 58 Constitution

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Senate District 58 Republican Party of Minnesota. This basic political organization unit is hereinafter referred to as “the BPOU”.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the BPOU shall be comprised of all citizens eligible to vote in Senate District 58 who wish to be affiliated with the Republican Party and who support the purposes and objectives of the Republican Party.

## ARTICLE III - PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

**Section 1.** This document contains the guidelines and rules governing the operation of the Republican Party in Senate District 58 as defined by the Minnesota statutes and state and federal court orders.

**Section 2.** The affairs of the BPOU shall be under the governance of a Full District Committee as provided in this constitution. The duties of the committee shall be to:

1. Organize, or cause to be organized, the BPOU and each voting precinct or other voting unit within the Senate District.
2. Coordinate the campaigns of and seek election of party endorsed candidates from within the Senate District to the State Senate and House of Representatives.
3. Assist in the election of all other Republican endorsed candidates for public office whose constituencies, when elected, will include residents of the Senate District.
4. Coordinate precinct caucuses in accordance with state and local laws.

## ARTICLE IV - THE FULL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Full District Committee shall be to provide information and instruction to precinct members on such party activities as fund raising, voter identification, and getting out the vote.

**Section 2.** The full district committee shall be composed of;

1. Executive Committee (See Article V Section 3)
2. The Officers of each precinct within the BPOU (See Article VIII Section 5)
3. Ex Officio members of the BPOU Committee (See Article V Section 4)

**Section 3.** The Full District Committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year and three times in an election year.

**Section 4.** A quorum shall be a total of five members. At least three members of the Executive Committee and at least one representative from each house district side (58A/58B) must be present to take formal actions.

**Section 5.** Calling of Meetings. Any meeting of the Full District committee shall require at least five days notice and may utilize in-person, telephone, e-mail or written notice. A meeting may be called by the BPOU Chair or any five members that make up the voting members of the Executive Committee.

**Section 6.** At the beginning of each Full Executive Committee meeting the Executive Committee can by majority vote of the Executive Committee open voting at the meeting to all individuals in attendance at the meeting. This decision must be announced at the beginning of each meeting so that those in attendance are aware of the change in the voting rules. At any time during the meeting, the Executive Committee can vote to return voting rules to be in accordance with Section 2 of Article IV.

## **ARTICLE V - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall have ultimate responsibility for carrying out the activities and programs of the party within the district; including finance, candidate search, and voter identification.

**Section 2.** Their duties shall be those usually associated with the titles given their respective offices plus any additional duties conferred from time to time by the Executive Committee, the Full District Committee, or a convention. If a member of the Executive Committee misses three consecutive Executive and/or Full Committee meetings, without prior approval from the Chair, they shall be considered resigned and a replacement may be appointed in accordance with Article V Section 5.

**Section 3.** The voting members of the committee shall be these district officers:

1. The Senate District 58 Chair
2. The Senate District First Vice Chair
3. The Senate District Second Vice Chair
4. The Senate District Secretary
5. The Senate District Treasurer
6. The Chair of House District 58A
7. The First Vice Chair of House District 58A
8. The Second Vice Chair of House District 58A
9. The Chair of House District 58B
10. The First Vice Chair of House District 58B
11. The Second Vice Chair of House District 58B

**Section 4.** Ex-officio members, without vote, shall be:

1. Any Republican member of the legislature residing within the district, and who is not a district officer, or their representative.

2. Any member of the Republican state central committee residing within the district and who is not a district officer.
3. Any member of a congressional district committee residing within district 58 and who is not a district 58 officer.
4. Any member of a County Republican executive committee residing within the district and who is not a district officer.
5. If no other resident of Goodhue County qualifies as a District Officer or ex-officio member under the above requirements, a resident of the county residing within District 58 appointed by the chair of the Goodhue County Republican committee.

**Section 5.** A vacancy in an office may be filled until the next convention by a majority vote of the Full District Committee.

**Section 6.** Executive Committee shall meet at least three times a year and at such other times as may seem advisable and these meeting may coincide with Full Committee meeting.

**Section 7.** A quorum shall be a total of five voting members with at least one representative from each House District side (58A/58B).

**Section 8.** Calling of Meetings. Any meeting of the Executive Committee shall require at least **48 hour** notice and may utilize in-person, telephone, e-mail or written notice. A meeting may be called by the BPOU Chair or any five members that make up the voting members of the Executive Committee.

**Section 9.** The following are convention committees. The terms of their members shall end with the adjournment of the conventions they serve.

1. **Arrangements** – This committee shall arrange for a location, food and facilities for a convention.
2. **Registration and Credentials** – This committee shall handle registration of delegates and alternates, keeping record and reporting to the Convention the registration totals.
3. **Rules** – This committee shall propose rules to govern the operation of each convention.
4. **Resolutions/Platform** – This committee shall be appointed only in even numbered years and shall consider resolutions for changes to the State Party platform. The committee shall report these resolutions to the Convention for debate and voting. The committee will prepare the report of approved resolutions for the Congressional District Convention’s consideration.
5. **Search/Nominations** – This Committee is charged with nominating one or more candidates for each of the BPOU officer positions.

**Section 10.** The following committees are voluntary and serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Chairs of these committees are appointed by the BPOU chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee but are not necessarily members of the Executive or Full committees. The following list is neither required nor limiting:

1. **Political Activities** – effectively communicate Republican ideals and issue positions while exposing the opposition.
2. **Get out the Vote** – phone calls, direct mail, literature drops and door knocking.
3. **Website and Webmaster.**
4. **Community Events** – promote a positive image of the Republican Party in the community.
5. **Welcome** – seek out new activists and invite their participation.
6. **Caucus** – organize and arrange for successful precinct caucuses.
7. Fundraising.

**Section 11.** If a member of the Executive Committee misses three consecutive Executive and/or Full Committee meetings, without prior approval from the Chair, they shall be considered resigned and a replacement may be appointed in accordance with Article V Section 5

## **ARTICLE VI - PRECINCT ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1.** In accordance with state law and party procedure a caucus shall be held in each precinct within the district in each general election year.

**Section 2.** At each said caucus a precinct chair, and such other precinct officers as may seem desirable, shall be elected for a two-year term or until the next caucus.

**Section 3.** If a vacancy occurs in any precinct chairmanship the BPOU Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, may fill the vacancy by appointment. If a vacancy exists in other precinct positions the House District Chair may fill the vacancy by appointment, with the consent of the Precinct Chair.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the precinct chair and officers to:

1. Develop the organization of the precinct.
2. Recruit and direct area and block workers.
3. Conduct training sessions.
4. Complete voter surveys.
5. Work on authorized finance drives.
6. Get out the party vote on election days.
7. Complete other tasks as may be assigned them in cooperation with the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII – CONVENTIONS**

**Section 1.** In accordance with the rules of the Minnesota Republican Party a convention of Senate District 58 shall be held annually.

**Section 2.** The convention shall be composed of all registered delegates and registered seated alternates elected at the most recent precinct caucuses who still reside in the precinct from which elected.

- Section 3.** Seating of Alternates to fill in for absent delegates shall be in the manner designated by the precinct caucuses electing them. If no such provision has been made by a caucus, a majority of the seated delegates of a precinct shall elect from among the alternates from that precinct present, one to fill a vacant seat. There shall be no cross-seating of alternates filling in for a precinct from which they have not been elected.
- Section 4.** No elected and registered delegate or alternate shall be denied his/her right to be seated at any time during a senate or house convention.
- Section 5.** A quorum at any convention shall consist of 20% of the total number of delegates elected at the precinct caucuses within the district. Once established it shall prevail until adjournment of the convention.
- Section 6.** Congressional District, State Convention, and State Central shall be divided equally between the House Districts.
- Section 7.** Election of Congressional District and State Convention Delegates and an equal number of alternates shall take place in even numbered years at the convention. If the boundaries of the districts are known, only those delegates and seated alternates residing within a Congressional District may vote on election of delegates and alternates to that congressional district convention.
- Section 8.** In odd numbered years state central committee delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the state party constitution.
- Section 9.** At the request of at least 35% of the precinct chairs within a given jurisdiction, the BPOU Chair, and/or the Executive Committee, may call a convention of delegates within said jurisdiction for the purpose of considering endorsement of a candidate for an office encompassing that jurisdiction if entirely within Senate District 58.
- Section 10.** Any endorsement of a candidate for state senate shall be done at a Senate District Convention. A candidate for the state senate may be endorsed at a Senate District Convention in a year during which senators are elected, or to fill a vacancy.
- Section 11.** A Sub-Caucus of the BPOU or a separate convention of delegates from House District 58A or 58B may each endorse a candidate for State Representative. If endorsement is by separate convention, an agenda of said convention shall be limited to the endorsement of the candidate only.
- Section 12.** Precedence of parliamentary procedure shall be the State Republican constitution and by-laws, the applicable Congressional District Republican constitution and by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- Section 13.** Any convention shall require at least 10 days written notice.

## **ARTICLE VIII - HOUSE DISTRICTS**

- Section 1.** For such certain purposes as outlined herein the senate district shall be divided into two House Districts, 58A and 58B.
- Section 2.** The geographic jurisdiction of the house districts shall be the areas defined in the legal 2012 redistricting as from which representatives in the legislature from districts 58A and 58B shall be elected.
- Section 3.** A convention of the House Districts shall be called and conducted in conjunction with a Senate District Convention. At such a convention there may be endorsement of a candidate for the State House of Representatives. There shall be election of officers to fill vacancies for any reason, including expired terms.
- Section 4.** Officers shall be elected by these conventions in odd numbered years, and in even numbered years to fill vacancies.
- Section 5.** The officers of each House District shall be:
1. House District Chair
  2. House District First Vice Chair
  3. House District Second Vice Chair
  4. Any other officers a convention may deem advisable.
- Section 6.** Their duties shall be those usually associated with the titles given their respective offices plus any additional duties conferred from time to time by the Executive Committee, the Full District Committee, or a convention.
- Section 7.** The term of office of each officer shall end with the adjournment of the regular district conventions of the respective districts of the officers held in odd numbered years.
- Section 8.** A vacancy in an office may be filled until the next convention by the Full District Committee.

## **ARTICLE IX - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RELATIONSHIP**

- Section 1.** As any congressional district in which the senate district or a portion thereof is located may provide, representation from the district or portion thereof on the congressional district committee shall be in the following order of those district officers residing in a particular congressional district:
1. The Senate District chair
  2. The House District chairs
  3. If there is position for only one but both are eligible by residence, lots shall be drawn as to which shall serve for a period of one year. Then the other shall serve for a year or until the expiration of his/her term, which ever comes sooner:
    - a. The Senate District First Vice Chair

- b. The Senate District Treasurer
- c. The Senate District Second Vice Chair
- d. The Senate District Secretary
- e. The House District Vice Chairs

4. The same provision as to the House District Chairs shall apply.

**Section 2.** If needed, alternates shall be chosen from the same group and in the same order. Should more alternates be required the District Executive Committee shall appoint them.

## **ARTICLE X - CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS**

**Section 1.** This constitution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by a majority vote of the BPOU convention.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall constitute a standing constitution and by-laws committee. By-laws may be adopted and amended by a majority vote of the Full District Committee.

**Section 3.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates voting at any BPOU Convention if the notice of the proposed changes has been included in the Call.