

Republican Party of Minnesota  
Platform Committee  
2026 Report

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- Committee Members.....2
- Summary of Actions Taken.....3
- Resolutions Adopted By The Committee.....6
  - Platform Items.....6
  - Legislative Action Agenda.....10
- Platform Reorganization Proposal.....14
- Committee Statement on Future Revisions.....31

## Committee Members

The 2026 Platform Committee consisted of nine members and a Chair. The members are as follows:

Robby Dube – Chair (CD3)

Rob Crowe – Vice-Chair (CD7) (returning member)

Louis Fine – Secretary (CD4)

Kate Snodgrass – Member (CD1)

Maxx Beeler – Member (CD2)

Kim Stiele – Member (CD3)

Karin Miller – Member (CD2) (returning member)

Paul Haik – Member (CD3)

Eric Hofstad – Member (CD8)

## Summary of Actions Taken

The Platform Committee was tasked with evaluating each resolution passed by the Congressional Districts (CDs) for adoption into either the Party Platform or the Party's Legislative Action Agenda.

**In total, 246 resolutions were submitted by delegates through the CDs. Each and every resolution was considered and reviewed by the Committee.**

For each resolution, the Committee first voted on whether the resolution constituted a Platform item or an Legislative Action Agenda item. The Committee determined that resolutions that reflected high level principles or general beliefs were best defined as Platform items. Specific legislative or regulatory proposals were best defined as Legislative Action Agenda items.

As a reminder, the most recent platform for the Party is the 2022 Platform, as the proposed 2024 Platform was not adopted. The Legislative Action Agenda sunsets every two years and is intended as a guide to our legislators and executive branch members for specific policy proposals. As required by the Party Constitution, the Committee voted on whether to renew the 2024 Legislative Action Agenda. **The Committee voted 6-2-1 (6 against, 2 for, 1 abstain) against renewing the 2024 Legislative Action Agenda.**

Once the Committee determined whether a proposed resolution was a Platform item or Legislative Action Agenda item, it next identified any resolutions that were already in the platform or the Legislative Action Agenda. If they were already in the Platform, or significantly similar to language already in the Platform, they resolution was rejected. If they were already in the Legislative Action Agenda, they were reapproved by the Committee. There were a significant number of resolutions proposed that were already in the Platform and the Committee encourages delegates to review the Platform prior to submitting resolutions.

The Committee next determined whether there were any duplicate resolutions, i.e., resolutions submitted by multiple CDs. If there was, the Committee consolidated the resolutions into a single resolution. This sometimes resulted in taking language from several of the resolutions and combining them into a single resolution that captured the various proposals. Further, some duplicate resolutions were proposed for multiple sections of the Platform. For those, the Committee determined which section they best belonged in.

The Committee next determined whether there were any resolutions that were unclear or otherwise could not be understood by the Committee. The Committee attempted to determine what the intent of the resolution was and, if it could be determined, rewrote the resolution to reflect that intent. If it could not be determined, the resolution was rejected.

Finally, the Committee considered whether a resolution would reverse a position held in the current Platform rather than add to the Platform or expand a Platform item. If the resolution reversed a position in the Platform, the Committee determined how many CDs had passed the resolution. If the resolution was not passed by at least three CDs, the resolution was rejected.

Only after those steps were taken, did the Committee then turn to voting on each resolution. ***The vast majority of resolutions were eliminated as Already in the Platform or duplicates.***

The Committee did not see it as its job to weigh on the substantive merits of any particular resolution or to reject a resolution based on the personal views of any Committee member. Rather, the Committee believed it should typically pass through resolutions so long as they had passed the steps outlined above.

However, every single resolution was voted on and a small number were rejected by the Committee. In those instances, the breakdown of the vote was recorded by the Committee. Those votes are not presented in this report, but the Committee encourages any interested delegate to speak to the Committee members about the votes.

For voting, each Committee member had one vote, including the Chair. However, the Chair abstained from every vote unless it was a tie. In the event of a tie, the Chair stated at the beginning of each Committee meetings that he would always vote to break a tie in favor of rejecting a resolution. The Chair's position was that, if a majority of the Committee could not agree to pass a resolution, it should not pass. In line with his stated position, the Chair voted to reject a resolution in the very rare time that a tie occurred.

***In total the Committee voted to pass 73 resolutions. Those resolutions are being presented to the Convention for approval.***

After voting on each and every resolution submitted, the Committee next considered whether to propose a reformation of the Platform. Multiple CDs submitted resolutions suggesting that the Platform should be "streamlined" or otherwise changed to be more "simple."

The guiding principle of these proposals was that the Platform should be easy to read and inform voters of our core principles, without being filled with specific proposals. However,

the Committee was aware that a reform proposal along these lines was proposed in 2024 and rejected by the delegates. Thus, the Committee was hesitant to propose a new Platform that would eliminate the significant work done by delegates over the years. The Committee also considered that the Platform already contains a Statement of Principles.

With those concerns in mind, the Committee determined that it would not propose a new Platform or a “simplified” Platform. However, the Committee did determine that the Platform does contain numerous items that are better contained in the Legislative Action Agenda, as they call for specific legislative or regulatory actions, rather than larger statements of principles.

As such, the Committee went through the Platform and identified items that should be Legislative Action Agenda items instead. **Nothing has been deleted or removed. This proposal is merely a re-organization of all existing content into either Platform items or Legislative Action Agenda items.**

**The Committee is submitting that list of Platform items that should be Legislative Action Agenda items for approval by the Convention.**

# **Resolutions Adopted by the Committee**

## **Platform Items**

The following Platform items were proposed by CDs and approved by the Committee for adoption into the Platform. They are divided by the section of the Platform that they would appear in:

### **Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity**

- Be it resolved that we change the Minnesota property tax process to require taxing jurisdictions to set their final tax levy 30 days prior to the General Election date and to provide full accountability to taxpayers.
- Be it resolved that we add tax benefits for families maintaining a two-parent nuclear family home.
- Be it resolved that we support the repeal of all carbon-free electrical mandates and any other renewable energy mandates enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.

### **Section 2 – Preserve Civil Rights**

- Require life saving care for babies born alive during abortions and any form of birth
- We uphold the biological distinctions between males and females in all aspects.
- Only United States citizens shall be counted for the U.S. Census and allocating congressional representation.
- We unequivocally condemn antisemitism in all forms, reject any association with antisemitic ideologies or individuals, and define antisemitism in accordance with the working definition set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), as set forth in executive order 13899 on “Combating Anti-Semitism”, and as embraced in the 2023 “U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.”
- We recognize and defend a consumer’s right to repair their purchased items
- We oppose any constitutional amendment that excludes protections for religious liberty and conscientious rights and/or adds in protections for abortion and gender identity.

### Section 3 – Protect Our Healthcare

- We oppose all transgender medical procedures and hormone therapy for the purpose of changing sex of children under 18 years of age.
- Prohibit biological males from participating in female sports or from entering female bathrooms.

### Section 4 – Educate Our Children

- Be it resolved that the Republican Party of Minnesota update school choice language by adding Education Savings Accounts: “Expanding tax credits, deductions, and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), including for students attending religious schools and homeschools.”
- Any school choice program must recognize the distinction between publicly funded homeschoolers with government oversight versus traditional self-funded homeschoolers who operate freely from government oversight.
- All state mandates must include a funding path that does not burden School Districts.
- Schools must not allow students to leave for medical appointments or to participate in protests without parental knowledge and consent.
- Teachers should be hired based on merit and paid based on performance and there should be periodic competency testing for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they teach.

### Section 5 – Strengthen Our Families and Communities

- We support protecting children from addictive or harmful marketing and algorithms, keeping children's online spaces free from unauthorized adults, and supporting requiring parental consent before any minors’ data can be collected.
- Ban minor child removal and/or custody penalties for parents who do not affirm transgender identity in their children. This applies to biological, foster, and adoptive parents.
- We must protect the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and physical & mental health of their minor child up until the age of 18, including informed parental consent. All parental rights are reserved without obstruction or interference unless they have been legally waived or terminated in a court of law.
- Laws should recognize only two sexes, male and female.

## Section 6 – Protect Public Safety

- Support the removal of illegal aliens by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), including collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
- We recognize online child sexual exploitation crimes, including sextortion, as a public youth health crisis and commit to protect Minnesota youths from these crimes by taking actions that strengthen, advocate for and provide funding for youth online sexual exploitation prevention strategies

## Section 7 – Strengthen Rule of Law

- None

## Section 8 – Enjoy and Protect Our Natural Resources

- Access to Minnesota State lands must be maintained with no closures to residents
- No public properties may be given to or sold to Tribal Governments unless they remain open to the public and are subject to taxation into the future. All existing easements and agreements currently in effect shall be honored and added to their Reservation Trust documents

## Section 9 – Make Government Smaller and Better

- Be it resolved that we support the elimination of the practice of allowing any registered voter to vouch for any other person(s) being a citizen of the USA and resident of that precinct.
- Delete ‘vouching’ under ‘Advocate for Fair Election Processes,’ second bullet point
- Move “We support the prohibition of the use of Ranked Choice Voting in the State of Minnesota.” from Section 3 to Section 9
- Be it resolved that we support stoppage of all automatic voter registration.
- Minnesota shall annually audit its voter rolls and cooperate with any federal investigation into the same
- We support a complete ban on ballot harvesting

## Section 10 – Defend America at Home and Abroad

- Illegal aliens must be deported
- Prohibit the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) or any other communist-backed group from owning property in Minnesota

- Companies that hire illegals should be heavily fined
- It shall be a top government priority to update and protect the electric grid and water system to protect from attack or sabotage
- We continue to support the right of the Country of Taiwan to exist and defend itself

# **Resolutions Adopted by the Committee**

## **Legislative Action Agenda Items**

### **Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity**

- Be it resolved that we change the Minnesota property tax process to require taxing jurisdictions to set their final tax levy 30 days prior to the General Election date and to provide full accountability to taxpayers.
- Be it resolved that we support expanding the Minnesota child tax credit
- Be it resolved that we repeal unfunded and underfunded mandates in order to restore local control and ensure fiscal stability.
- Be it resolved that we allow the sale and advertising of raw milk.
- Be it resolved that we repeal the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave Program (including the Family Care Leave Act).

### **Section 2 – Preserve Civil Rights**

- We support the right for people to use devices as purchased without having to give up privacy or additional rights with upgrades
- We support the right for people to own a physical copy of items purchased that remains functional if the subscription ends
- Be it resolved that we support the right of minor children (and/or their legal guardians on their behalf) who have been subjected to transgender medical treatments to seek civil redress through lawsuits against medical facilities, physicians, counselors and other individuals or entities responsible for promoting, recommending or performing such treatments.
- Reinstate the Born Alive Infant Protect Act to preserve the life and health of the born-alive infant
- Reinstate the Positive Alternatives Act
- Eliminate the exception for murder from abortion providers in state criminal law.
- Repeal the mandate for health plans to cover “gender affirming care.”
- Removal of ambiguous language in reference to guns from MN statutes
- A ‘Woman’s Right to Know’ law must be adopted ensuring that women considering abortion receive information on health, safety, emotional and physical

repercussions of abortion along with information on the alternatives through a state grant program for pro-life pregnancy resource centers.

### Section 3 – Protect our Healthcare

- Support legislation that upholds parental rights and home-state jurisdiction and protects counseling choice.
- Require that before any abortion procedure, an ultrasound shall be performed & presented to the pregnant woman for the purpose of informed consent.

### Section 4 – Educate Our Children

- Repeal \$250 million budget cut to special education cross-subsidy reduction aid scheduled for the 2028-2029 biennium

### Section 5 – Strengthen our Families and Communities

- We support legislation or regulation to protect children from addictive or harmful marketing and algorithms, keep children's online spaces free from unauthorized adults, and support requiring parental consent before any minors' data can be collected.
- Be it resolved that the Republican Party of Minnesota supports the passage of a statute to protect minor children (under 18) from sexual grooming

### Section 6 – Protect Public Safety

- We support legislation prohibiting the construction of schools within 1320 feet of current and former landfills or dumpsites.
- We support legislation requiring cell-cultured meat or produce to be clearly labeled and/or banned.

## Section 7 – Strength Rule of Law

- Be it resolved that we strongly believe driver license tests must be given in English without allowance of a translator and encourage legislation to ensure compliance.
- Repeal the Minnesota “Driver’s Licenses for All” which allows unauthorized immigrants to obtain a driver’s license
- Be it resolved that we support the repeal of the mandatory retirement age of 70 years for judges statewide.
- We support full, thorough and transparent investigations into all alleged fraud, misuse of funds and financial misconduct within state-administered social services programs including childcare assistance, nutrition, housing and behavioral health programs.

## Section 8 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources

- Allow gray wolf hunting and trapping season once the wolves have been taken off the endangered species list.
- Be it resolved that we encourage legislation to restrict use of tillable land for solar panel energy production due to risk of hazardous material when panels are damaged.
- Place hyperscale data centers in industrial zoning and establish a moratorium on the construction of new hyperscale data centers to allow for full transparency and democratic processes with the public and robust environmental and energy reviews.
- Injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of chemicals, chemical compounds, substances, or apparatus within the borders of this state into the atmosphere with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of the sunlight is prohibited

## Section 9 – Make Government Smaller and Better

- County Auditors are to be an elected position
- Establish sunset provisions on entitlement state programs.
- Any legislator who avoids attendance to a legislative session, to deny the establishment of quorum, shall have their compensation withheld at the daily rate for each day they fail to be present for the establishment of quorum. In the event of

any government shut down, legislators in both chambers shall not receive any pay earned during said shut down.

- Be it resolved that we support legislation to require that any vacancy in a federal Senate seat be filled only through a statewide special election rather than allowing the governor the authority to appoint an individual to fill a vacated United States Senate seat.
- Be it resolved that we support stoppage of all automatic voter registration.
- We support the exclusive use of watermarked paper ballots
- We support eliminating and prohibit the use of WIFI networks for electronic poll books and modems for machine tabulators in the voting process
- We oppose the government providing foreign language interpreters at polling locations
- We support passage of the SAVE act

## Section 10 – Defend America at Home and Abroad

- None

## Platform Reorganization Proposal

This Platform Reorganization Proposal is not meant to be a replacement nor a revision of our Minnesota Republican Party Platform. **Nothing has been deleted or removed, only reorganized between the Platform and Legislative Action Agenda. The Statement of Principles has been retained in its entirety.**

All of the content beneath the ten sections has merely been reorganized into two categories: the Platform category, which consists of broad statements principle, and the Legislative Action Agenda category, which consists of specific legislative and regulatory concerns and proposals.

This reorganization of the format is designed to ensure that our Platform remains an effective tool to communicate our values to voters as well as to communicate our concerns to our elected officials. **The new Platform items and Legislative Action Agenda items proposed above would be added to the Proposed Reorganized Platform if approved.**

**If the Proposed Reorganized Platform is rejected, then the new Platform items would, if passed by the Convention, be added to what is currently the 2022 Platform. The Legislative Action Agenda items, if approved, would become a new 2026 Legislative Action Agenda.**

We encourage Delegates to read over this report prior to the convention and to give due consideration to this proposed reorganization of the platform without deleting or removing any of the content.

## **Republican Party of Minnesota ~ Statement of Principles**

**Promote Economic Prosperity** - We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. We support lowering the tax burden, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

**Preserve Civil Rights** - We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.” We support defending the right to life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

**Protect our Health Care** - We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

**Educate our Children** - We believe that parents must have choices for their children’s education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values.

**Strengthen our Families and Communities** - We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities.

**Protect Public Safety** - We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure.

**Strengthen the Rule of Law** - We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

**Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources** - We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

**Make Government Smaller and Better** - We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

**Defend America at Home and Abroad** - We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships.

## **(Proposed Reorganized) Republican Party of Minnesota Platform**

**Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity** - We believe economic prosperity is driven by individuals, not government.

**We support lowering the tax burden on families and businesses**, exercising spending restraint, and creating and maintaining a fair, honest and competitive business environment to promote economic prosperity.

**Republicans support comprehensive tax reform**, abolishing the current tax code and replacing it with a simpler, fairer tax system that favors a national sales tax or flat tax and simplifies the state property tax system.

**Republicans seek to reduce the current burden of taxation and exercise spending restraint.** We favor reducing the size of the national debt by cutting federal spending. We support ending the use of omnibus spending bills. We support dedicating all taxes, fees, and licenses from their revenue streams to their appropriate program funding.

**No mandate can be imposed by any branch of government** on any other unless it includes the funds necessary to support that mandate. We support the abolition of the Federal Reserve System. Until then we support open and transparent annual audits in strict compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

**Create and Maintain a Fair, Honest and Competitive Business Environment** - We support a fair, honest and competitive business environment. We oppose corporate welfare, we support reducing all corporate tax rates, we reject the Keynesian model of economics in federal policy, and seek to maintain a sound and stable, backed currency.

**Section 2 – Restore and Defend Civil Rights** - We believe we are “endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.”

We support defending the Right to Life, protecting religious and political liberties, and expect that government treats all of its citizens equally under the law. We support respecting personal privacy and property, protecting the right to bear arms, and giving workers the right to decide whether to join a union.

**Defend the Right to Life** - Republicans believe that every innocent human being, born and unborn, has an inalienable right to life from conception to natural death. We recognize personhood at conception. We believe the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions should be

amended to restore legal protection to the lives of innocent human beings from conception to natural death.

**Protect Religious & Political Liberties** - We support protecting the right to religious freedom, religious expression and the rights of conscience for all peoples. Everyone should have the right to form organizations based on their set of religious beliefs or principles including places of worship, charities, schools and hospitals.

**We believe we are all Americans**, not divided into subcategories. We reject any form of set-asides or quotas for employment, student admissions, faculty hiring, or the awarding of government contracts. We call for the Civil Rights statutes to apply equally to all citizens and prohibit any government agency from collecting data for the purpose of discriminating among Americans. We oppose a national identification system.

**Respect the Right to Personal Privacy and Property** - As Republicans, we respect personal privacy, personal property, and the 4th Amendment. We require probable cause and constitutionally compliant warrants to search a citizen's personal affairs or finances.

**We disapprove of federal, state and local governments taking private property** by eminent domain except for the general public good. It should NOT be taken for: Commercial or recreational use, increasing tax revenues, or benefitting one private owner over another. We support compensating homeowners for property devaluation resulting from governmental action.

**We believe interference by the federal government in private contracts should be prohibited.** We require government to follow the same personal information breach notification laws it mandates for private businesses.

**We fully support the Second Amendment to the Constitution** and believe that it protects an individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms. We believe all law-abiding citizens have the right to purchase and possess firearms, free from any gun registration system, without needing a government-issued permit.

**We believe self-defense and defense of others is a fundamental human right**, and support removing restrictions on and liability for self-defense including the use of deadly force any place one has the legal right to be without having the duty to flee.

**We support the right to privacy** and the right to not share bathrooms and locker rooms with the biologically opposite sex.

**All workers in Minnesota have the right to work** without being forced to join a union and to organize through secret ballot to join a union or other association.

### **Section 3 – Protect Our Health Care**

We recognize that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, leading in innovation and new technology development. Through genuine market competition and granting people choices, we can make health care more affordable, of higher quality and available to more Americans, while protecting privacy.

**Restoring Competition** - As Republicans, we support programs that introduce genuine market competition to our health care system, minimize or eliminate government interference in health care or mandate the purchase of health insurance. We support medical freedom.

**Improve Quality** - To improve quality of care, we should leave the choice of treatment to the doctor and informed patient, not government regulation. We oppose vaccine mandates, mask mandates and vaccine passports. We oppose the sale and use of fetal tissue or body parts obtained through abortion, or of embryos or embryonic stem cells, for experimentation or research.

**Medical Data Privacy** - Parents (or legal guardians) should have access to all of their minor child's health records and all patient records must be the sole property of the patient or legal guardian. We believe parents must provide informed opt-in consent before newborn genetic testing and before the Minnesota Department of Health can retain their children's DNA. Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Health should be required to destroy all DNA and genetic information collected without express parental consent.

### **Section 4 – Educate Our Children**

We believe that parents must have choices for their children's education so that we can better educate, with more effective administration, while emphasizing traditional American values. We want to foster a more competitive and accountable public school system.

**Protect Parental Choice** - As Republicans, we seek to improve the quality of education by maximizing parental choice, including empowering Parents through school choice to control the education of their children by selecting the school (public, charter, private or home) that will provide the best education or curricula with the values of the family. Public education funds should follow the student to the school of the parents' choice. We recognize parental rights to observe their child in the classroom.

**Eliminate Federal and Reduce State Bureaucracy Control** – We oppose universal pre-school programs in Minnesota and universal health screening of students in K-12 schools, pre-schools and in early infancy. We oppose the use of federal waivers to coerce states into imposing Common Core or Race to the Top federal curricula.

**Better Educate** -Minnesota should have a well-rounded knowledge-based curriculum to prepare our students to be good citizens, with an emphasis on hard work, honesty, home

and family, as well as a respect for America's religious and civic heritage, along with teaching the benefits of free market capitalism vs. socialism.

We support statewide testing of basic academic skills, rigorous standards for core curricula determined by the local school district, and the requirement of English as the primary language in all public schools, along with programs that help master English as a second language.

**We oppose Comprehensive Sexual Education** in public and/or charter schools. K-12 public school teachers should not discuss or teach about alternative sexual lifestyles. K-12 public school teachers should teach about sexual abstinence, that premarital sex and extramarital sex is wrong, and that using contraceptives is not safe sex. We oppose the dispensing of or referral for birth control drugs and devices in schools. We oppose dispensing any prescription drugs in schools without parental consent.

**Ensure Effective School Administration** - All public schools, including colleges and universities, should be held accountable for all funds received and spent in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

**Education funding formulas should be simplified** and funding categories eliminated, allowing local school boards to use state aid effectively. Teachers should be paid based on performance and there should be periodic competency testing for public school teachers in both the academic curriculum and the subjects they teach.

**Emphasize Traditional American Values** - We believe that every classroom should be required to display the United States flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily. In keeping with our heritage, all history classes should include information about the important role religion played in our Nation's founding, including study of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other original sources.

**We encourage and respect the voluntary expression of religious beliefs** and traditions. Restore academic and intellectual freedom for professors and students. We support a student's right to privacy, safety and free speech without retribution.

**We oppose any element of Critical Race Theory (CRT)** or associated curricula and programs such as Social Emotional Learning, Ethnic Studies and Culturally Responsive Teaching. We support the prohibition on teaching or advocating of sectarian religious or political viewpoints in public schools. We oppose emotional outcomes being incorporated into the school curricula.

## **Section 5– Strengthen Our Families and Communities**

We recognize the blessings that God has bestowed on this great Nation. We also recognize the central role of the traditional family in our society and the necessity of traditional values for strengthening our families and communities. We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman.

**People in need** should be assisted primarily through private charity, including faith-based programs instead of government welfare programs. We encourage private charity through federal and state tax credits. We believe in real welfare reform that requires proof of citizenship, mandatory drug tests, and requires all able-bodied recipients to work or get training in order to receive benefits beyond some time limit.

**We must protect the fundamental right of a parent** to direct the upbringing, education, and physical & mental health of their minor child up until the age of 18. All parental rights are reserved without obstruction or interference unless they have been legally waived or terminated in a court of law.

**We recognize pornography as a public health hazard** with multiple societal harms, including links to sex trafficking. We support restricting the promotion and sale of vulgar and obscene material to children and support the use of pornography- blocking software in publicly-financed institutions.

## **Section 6– Protect Public Safety –**

We believe that the most fundamental function of government is to keep citizens and our property secure. We support our law enforcement and the work they do to protect and serve our communities. We believe that prisons are meant for punishment, not recreation.

**We believe public safety is better served** if we eliminate “hate crimes” against specific “protected classes” and all equal crimes are punished equally, require police check the immigration status of non-citizens, secure and punish criminals, and carefully monitor institutions providing care for vulnerable populations.

## **Section 7 - Strengthen the Rule of Law**

We support limiting frivolous lawsuits, preserving judicial elections, holding judges accountable, and respecting the rule of law.

**Limit Frivolous Lawsuits** - We believe that the legal system has been subject to abuse and want tort reform, including the following: reduce frivolous lawsuits, excessive numbers of lawsuits, and lawsuits intended primarily to advance a political aim.

**Protect Judicial Elections and Holding Judges Accountable** - We support contested, not “retention,” election of judges as provided by the Minnesota Constitution and oppose any

proposals to eliminate or limit these elections. We would limit the authority of the Governor to make judicial appointments for the purpose of avoiding a contested election. A code of judicial ethics, enforced by a legislative Board on Judicial Standards, should be established by statute as a check on judicial power.

**Respecting the Rule of Law** - We support the nullification of unconstitutional federal law in accordance with state sovereignty, restoring states' rights under the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution, reinstating the Constitutional separation of powers, and the election or appointment of strict constructionist judges who adhere to the principles of the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions.

**We oppose the implementation of foreign law on American soil.** We recognize that “sanctuary cities” or “sanctuary states” are a violation of federal law and support withdrawal of all state and federal funding for those cities. We oppose legislation by executive order, judicial rulings, or unelected regulatory agencies.

### **Section 8 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

We believe that proper stewardship of our natural resources and agricultural lands is best achieved through sound science and adherence to constitutionally guaranteed property rights.

**We believe that economic development of natural resources** can be balanced with environmental stewardship and should not be obstructed by radical environmentalist concerns. We oppose policies and mandates based on the Theory of Man-Made Global Warming, as well as any energy policies arising from it.

**We support a free market for all energy**, and oppose government mandates, subsidies or monopolies. We support responsible natural resource extraction and critical new precious metals mining opportunities that will create jobs in our state.

**Those that cause pollution should bear the cost of environmental clean-up.** We should follow commonsense practices in forest, wetlands and wildlife management, and promote multiple uses of natural resources in most cases.

**We encourage free enterprise in the agricultural economy**, and support technological advances in the creation, processing and use of agricultural products and natural resources. The Republican Party of Minnesota opposes efforts to put all land or water under the control of the government.

### **Section 9 – Make Government Smaller and Better**

We support keeping government functions in state, local or private hands, electing honest and responsive legislative bodies, advocating for fair election processes, and generally making government smaller and better.

**Keep Government Functions in State and Local Hands** - We believe government functions should return to the hands of state and local governments where they will be carried out more efficiently and with greater accountability than at the federal level. We reject Congress' practice of coercing state and local governments by withholding funds if states do not give the federal government jurisdiction.

We believe that we should abolish the U.S. Department of Education and oppose centralized educational authority at the expense of local school boards.

We believe that cities should not be allowed to annex townships without approval of the affected residents. Also, townships and counties should decide on where to place feedlots and logging roads.

**We elect honest and responsive Legislative Bodies.** We hold our elected officials accountable by supporting codes of conduct for all Minnesota elected officials requiring resignation and loss of pension and benefits upon conviction of a felony. We support term limits for all elected officials. We require state and federal lawmakers to live by the same laws they pass.

We firmly believe that emergency powers exercised by a Governor are meant to be short in duration. The powers require authorization from both chambers of the legislature for renewal or any extension. If that approval is not given, the powers must expire.

#### **Advocate for Fair Election Processes**

We support the current Electoral College system and oppose electing our president based on the national popular vote. We promote a change in the way Minnesota casts its votes in the Electoral College, so that the votes from the individual Congressional districts go to the winner of that Congressional District and the Presidential Candidate that wins the majority of votes cast in the State receives two extra votes. We support fair redistricting without gerrymandering and with Senate districts that do not cross Congressional district boundaries. We must improve polling place procedures, specifically voter registration practices.

**We the people support the voting rights of duly authorized citizens** through valid registration, proof of citizenship, vouching, photo identification, custodial authentication, and auditing procedures to ensure that our election systems and processes provide secure, fair, and honest results.

**We support election integrity including secure chain of custody,** and elimination of drop boxes. We support requiring that party-balanced election judges be present at the polls, in all early voting centers and on absentee ballot boards. No ballot received after election day shall be counted. We support no early voting except military and absentees with sufficient

cause. We oppose any voting schemes that violate the principle of “one man, one vote” including “Instant Runoff Voting.”

**We oppose public financing of campaigns and political parties.** We support prohibiting local governments from accepting or using any non-governmental, third-party, or private money, grants, or gifts from outside sources to assist in the administration of an election.

### **Streamlined Government**

All new federal regulations must have a positive cost-benefit analysis and be approved by Congress. We support limiting new biennium State spending to no more than the previous biennium’s revenue.

Any new government program must include the program’s purpose, cost and estimated completion date, with measures of performance and termination procedures if found ineffective. All proposed legislation must include either a specific reference from the U.S. or Minnesota Constitution authorizing it, or a credible reason why none is needed.

Public worker compensation packages (including salaries, pensions and medical benefits) should be no better than those of private sector workers.

### **Section 10 – Defend America at Home and Abroad**

We believe that we can maintain peace by having a strong national defense, securing our borders and by seeking principled international relationships.

**Strong National Defense** - We believe America’s military must be well prepared, well-armed and ready to protect our national security interest. We reaffirm our support for our troops, including active-duty members, Reserves, National Guard, veterans and their mission.

Thus we will deploy American troops overseas only to further American interests or to defend a faithful ally, and under the command of American officers. We will only commit to overseas actions when victory is clearly defined.

### **Protect Our Borders**

We support immigration reform that first strengthens our borders against criminals, terrorism and illegal immigrants, but see no need to offer amnesty or a pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens to get it.

We support completion of the border fence and increased support for boarder patrol. We support protecting our electrical grid from EMP attack.

We support limiting access of illegal immigrants to employment, public benefits, scholarships, subsidies of any kind, driver’s licenses, permits, identification cards or

taxpayer identification numbers. We oppose any program allowing illegal aliens to remain in the United States.

### **Support International Relations**

We reaffirm our commitment to free market economics, including free and fair international trade.

We seek to maintain commercial, cultural and diplomatic ties with many nations while also promoting American industry and commerce. We believe foreign aid should, in most cases, be in the form of American goods, commodities and services.

We should maintain trade policies that encourage other nations to seek democracy, capitalism and individual freedom for their citizens. We should continue our efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil, including the development and conservation of all fuel sources, including nuclear power.

We oppose any surrender of U.S. sovereignty or liberty through the United Nations or its initiatives. We oppose all United States participation in the United Nations.

We continue to support the right of the State of Israel to exist and to defend itself.

## **(Proposed Reorganized) Republican Party of Minnesota Action Agenda**

### **Section 1 – Promote Economic Prosperity**

- Require a supermajority vote in Congress or the Minnesota Legislature to raise taxes.
- Support a state constitutional amendment limiting state spending growth to inflation plus population growth.
- Returning surpluses to the taxpayers in proportion to the taxes paid.
- Cutting or eliminating capital gains taxes, business taxes, wheelage taxes, taxes on marriage, sickness, death, inheritance, Social Security and veterans' benefits and pensions.
- Eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- Make purchases by local government exempt from Minnesota state sales tax.
- Not increasing state sales taxes on transportation fuel.
- Cutting property taxes on agricultural land.
- Support phasing out Social Security by allowing younger Americans to invest part of their FICA taxes in personal accounts while continuing to fulfill our obligations to older Americans.
- Eliminate all "off budget" practices and accurately report all liabilities.

- Adopting a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.
- Replacing baseline budgeting with Zero-based budgeting for state and federal budgets.
- Setting State budgets within the first 30 days of each Legislative session and being the first order of business.
- Gas and motor vehicle taxes should not fund rail transit construction and operation.
- Road and bridge safety should take precedence over new light rail construction.
- Programs such as public broadcasting, sports stadiums and the arts, should be funded by users and voluntary donors.
- The use of ‘earmarks’ in appropriations bills should be ended.
- Public employee retirement fund deficits should not be bailed out by taxpayers.
- Let private enterprise expand high-speed Internet access.

## **Section 2 – Restore and Defend Civil Rights**

- We support legislation that establishes ‘personhood’ at the time of conception.
- Oppose partial birth abortions.
- Eliminate taxpayer funding of abortion or abortion providers, particularly Planned Parenthood, and fund Women's health care.
- Oppose abortions performed on minors without parental consent.
- Advocate prohibiting U.S. promotion or funding of abortion in any nation.
- Protect a father’s right to object to a unilateral decision to terminate his unborn child’s life.
- We call for overturning the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Gomez decisions.
- Support public display of the Ten Commandments or other religious displays.
- Support prayer at government events in the name of a specific deity.
- Accommodate for individuals’ religious liberties if they refuse to solemnize, celebrate, or assist in a same sex marriage.
- Persons should not lose their tax-exempt status for supporting specific principles or political candidates.
- Exempt health care workers from performing procedures or dispensing medications contrary to their conscience.
- We support campaign finance reform, allowing unlimited donations but requiring immediate, full disclosure of all sources.
- Support repeal of McCain-Feingold.
- Oppose reinstatement of the so-called “Fairness Doctrine.”
- Support legislation prohibiting any release of personal information without express consent.
- Prohibit the use of Social Security numbers for any purpose other than Social Security identification.

- Support electronic health records, but believe disclosure laws should require informed, written and voluntary consent.
- Reject Internet anti-piracy laws that violate online privacy.
- Support abolishing the TSA and privatizing airport security.
- Oppose warrantless NSA data collection on electronic communications.
- Oppose the warrantless use of government surveillance drones over private property.
- Oppose a government backdoor into personal electronics.
- Permit all property owners to govern the legal consumption of tobacco within their properties.
- Urge all state lawmakers to pass a “Constitutional Carry” law.
- Urge passage of a Concealed Carry Reciprocity law.
- Union members have the right to withhold dues used for political purposes without their consent.
- We oppose the deduction of union dues from government employees’ paychecks.
- Repeal state and federal legislation that imposes mandated wage rates on government and school district projects.

### **Section 3 – Protect Our Health Care**

- Allow insurance sales across state lines.
- Reward patients who take greater responsibility for their own care and wellness.
- Repeal all state and federal programs that ration health care, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its health care exchanges.
- Stop the unlawful bailouts of insurance companies and state exchanges.
- Abolish government-mandated employee benefits.
- Allow small businesses to join together in group employee health plans.
- Expand health savings accounts.
- Make all health insurance premiums tax exempt.
- Make all health care expenses fully tax deductible.
- Enact medical malpractice reform.
- Provide greater transparency on the performance and costs of all health care providers.
- Do not determine Medicare reimbursement by the provider's location.
- Place all federal and state health care programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, under states’ control while continuing to receive federal funding.
- Streamline the approval process for new drugs and medical devices.
- Protect women’s health by banning dangerous “web-cam” abortions and by instituting basic regulations and inspections of abortion facilities.
- Prohibit any medical procedure or therapy that would deliberately cause or hasten death including physician-assisted suicide and deprivation of food and water.

- Oppose government mandated vaccinations.
- Provide our nation's veterans' proper medical, emergency and psychological care during and after their service.
- Allow veterans to access their benefits locally.
- Recognize a right to voluntary reparative therapy.
- Supporting a ban on "morning after pill" until long-term effects can be studied.

#### **Section 4 – Educate our Children**

- Expand tax credits, deductions, and voucher programs, including for religious schools.
- Require parental permission for collection of personal student data for any non-educational purpose.
- Oppose state and federal support of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.
- Require parental permission for collection of personal student data for any non-educational purpose.
- Repeal the bureaucratic anti-bullying law.
- Require schools to provide parents with full details before administering non-academic tests.
- Require all public/charter schools to make all teaching materials readily available to parents/guardians.
- Remove students with chronic behavior problems from public schools.
- Require the same amount of effort to educating gifted and talented students as it currently devotes to special education.
- The Legislature should not delay payment of allocated school funds.
- Funding based on the number of children who receive free or reduced meals should be eliminated.
- College education should be paid for by students and not taxpayers.
- Reform tenure.
- Limit public school teachers' right to strike.
- Do not penalize School Districts for being unable to reach union contract agreements.
- Retain Minnesota's current system of Independent School Districts rather than aligning school district boundaries with county boundaries.
- Educators who discuss creation science should be protected from disciplinary action.
- Science standards should recognize the controversy over the theory of evolution.
- Prohibit imposing fees that support student organizations without consent.

## **Section 5 – Strengthen our Families and Communities**

- Call on the Minnesota State Legislature to repeal its new laws to the contrary to the recognition that marriage is between one man and one woman.
- Believe the U.S. and Minnesota Constitutions should be amended to this effect.
- Believe domestic partner benefits should not be publicly funded.
- Stop cash incentives for unmarried recipients to bear children.
- Eliminate all state-sponsored gambling and oppose any expansion of gambling in Minnesota.
- Prohibit commercial surrogacy contracts.

## **Section 6 – Protect Public Safety**

- Mandatory minimum prison sentences.
- Establish substantially higher sentences for repeat offenders.
- End probation for violent criminals.
- Establish life sentences without parole for the most dangerous sex offenders.
- Deny parental rights of convicted rapists to the children conceived by rape.
- Enforce capital punishment for the most serious crimes.
- Requiring restitution to victims and the state for crimes committed, holding offenders personally responsible, including juveniles.
- Stricter penalties for assaults on police.
- Do not legalize recreational marijuana.

## **Section 7 – Strengthen the Rule of Law**

- Limit attorneys' fees in class action lawsuits where the plaintiffs receive small payouts.
- Limit any party's liability to its fair share of the damages.
- Judges should review and, when necessary, limit excessive awards of damages and attorneys' fees.
- A prisoner should have limited ability to file frivolous lawsuits.
- Juries should have the power to find a suit without merit and require the plaintiff and his attorney to pay the defendant's legal costs.
- The word "incumbent" should be removed after judicial candidates' names on the ballots.
- Judicial vacancies should be appointed only until the next general election.
- Voters in judicial elections must be residents of the district where the judge will preside.
- Voters should have the ability to remove any judge from office, even when the election is uncontested.
- Voters must have access to a transparent public judge evaluation process.

- Establish a judicial code of ethics including:
  - A judge’s signature on all rulings, orders, and opinions.
  - A documented finding of fact for each order.
  - Making transcripts available from the appellate court.
  - A limit on gifts.
  - Having all administrative documents open and available to the public.
  - Establishing a legislative appeals process for the Judicial Standards Board.
- Abolish asset forfeiture except upon criminal conviction and where the asset is directly related to the crime.

### **Section 8 – Enjoy and Protect our Natural Resources**

- Repeal of Minnesota’s Next Generation Energy Act of 2007.
- Research and development of alternative forms of energy by private initiatives.
- Support the building of clean coal-fired and nuclear power plants.
- Require the federal government to meet its obligation to store or recycle nuclear waste.
- Repeal the “Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- Oil pipelines over rail transport as a matter of public safety.
- Reducing or restricting government ownership of our land to no more than 40%.
- No net gain of land by the federal government, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or nonprofit land trusts.
- All conservation easements must have a sunset.
- Prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources and Soil and Water Conservation Districts from purchasing land using bonding.
- We support the Trump administration’s reversal of last-minute Obama admin executive orders to block responsible natural resource extraction and critical new precious metals mining opportunities that will create jobs in our state.

### **Section 9 – Make Government Smaller and Better**

- Reject the federal government offering “bailouts” to the states.
- Would eliminate the Metropolitan Council.
- Would eliminate Local Government Aid.
- Maintain and preserve the current caucus-primary system.
- Reinstating a citizen legislature in Minnesota to hold regular legislative sessions only in alternate years.
- Deny legislators additional pay and per diem during special sessions.
- Support Federal and State Constitutional amendments for an effective recall procedure for all elected officials.
- Limit all elected officials’ compensation to salary during service, with no retirement benefit beyond Social Security.

- Adopt an initiative and referendum law in Minnesota.
- Voters must be registered at least 30 days prior to an election.
- Require an individual to present a government issued photo identification in Minnesota for local, city, state, and national elections. A free option paid for by the state should be available.
- Voting machines must provide a printed receipt.
- All school district elections to be held on General election days.
- All ballots from U.S. military and citizens abroad be counted and included before being reported.
- We support a State employee hiring freeze and contracting out of services as much as possible.

### **Section 10 – Defend America at Home and Abroad**

- Active duty members' military income should be State income tax exempt.
- Retired and disabled veterans' benefits should be protected.
- Minnesota law should recognize retired military personnel as veterans.
- Deny foreign aid to any country that protects or supports terrorists.
- Support continued development and deployment of defense systems and Strategic Missile Defense.
- Try enemy combatants and non-U.S. citizen terrorists in military tribunals and not granting them U.S. Constitutional rights.
- Protect our electrical grid from EMP attack.
- Increase border patrol funding and completion of the border fence.
- Limits on chain migration and an end to the visa lottery.
- Oppose any program allowing illegal aliens to remain in the United States.
- Require all employers to use E-verify to ensure jobs go to legal residents.
- Continued deportation.
- End birthright citizenship.
- Require more extensive background checks before issuing visas.
- Make English the official language in Minnesota and the United States.
- Printing all government forms in English only.
- Stop un-vetted refugees from entering the country.
- Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other domestic sources.
- Oppose the Law of the Seas Treaty (L.O.S.T.).
- Oppose Agenda 21.
- Oppose the UN Rights of the Child Treaty.
- Oppose the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
- Oppose all United States participation in the United Nations.

## Committee Statement on Future Revisions

The Committee has agreed on the following statement regarding future revisions to the Party Platform and Legislative Action Agenda:

The Committee thanks the dedicated and tireless delegates who spent significant time and effort proposing resolutions and reforms to the Platform and Legislative Action Agenda. The spirit and drive within the party demonstrates the best of us, and we were thankful to be trusted with shepherding the well-reasoned, crafted, and deliberated resolutions to the State Convention.

With that said, the Committee finds that it is not given sufficient time to consider the resolutions proposed and how they would impact the Platform as a whole. The timeframe the Committee has to review each resolution, go through the procedural steps outlined above, and then vote, was effectively less than two weeks. This is due to a combination of the CD Conventions not finishing until shortly before the State Convention, the resolutions passed by the CDs taking significant time to be relayed to the Committee, and the understandable need to get the resolutions to the State delegates with sufficient time for their consideration.

However, this effectively resulted in the Committee having less than two weeks to review all resolutions, vote on them, and prepare this report. Given the volume of resolutions proposed and the request from multiple CDs to “streamline” the Platform, the Committee feels it could have produced more effective work given a larger timeframe.

The Committee further believes that significant time could be saved if delegates, Senate Districts, and Congressional Districts would first determine whether proposals are already in the Platform. In many instances, resolutions were proposed that were *verbatim* already in the Platform. If a resolution is already in the Platform, it should not be proposed for adoption to this Committee.

Finally, for many years now there has been a large contingent of delegates and CDs who have proposed a “simplified” platform limited to a page or two and containing only high level principals. The Committee questions whether such a proposal, regardless of the merits, is within the power of the Committee under the Constitution. Clarification of the Constitution to establish whether the Committee has such power would aid the Committee going forward. If the Committee does have such power, the Committee believes that the time frame granted to it is simply insufficient to accomplish such a large undertaking.

If a revision of the platform into a “simplified” platform is desired by the majority of delegates, the Committee urges consideration of a standing or ad hoc committee authorized to substantively inform Republicans about the meaning and effect of resolutions, prepare for platform proceedings, and revise timing and submission procedures. These three steps would be intended to facilitate and advance proceedings at caucuses, and district and state meetings conventions.

This would allow the Committee to dedicate time to evaluating the Platform and considering larger reform efforts in an intentional manner. Thus, when the next Convention comes, the Committee will already have done the leg work for Platform revisions if permitted. With the short time frame currently given to the Committee to complete its work, large-scale reforms to the Platform are simply not viable.

Informed citizenry and debate merit opportunity to learn, reflect, and choose, built upon thoroughly advised and reported resolutions. Republican values and insights expect and desire platforms that advance citizen governance. They are tools to persuade and coalesce citizen governance now and in the future. We look forward to continued robust debate and advocacy for the winning ideas Republicans propose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robby Dube". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robby Dube,  
Chair