

**2018 SD 35 REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION**  
**March 24, 2018**

**PROPOSED RULES – FINAL**

Delegates should submit proposals that would substantially amend the proposed rules in legible writing or as an editable electronic document to the Rules Committee chair prior to the convention being called to order.

1

**GENERAL**

- 2 1) Several Convention rules are mandated by the Constitutions of the Republican Party of  
3 Minnesota, CDs or SD35. The rules appearing in bold and underlined cannot be amended  
4 by this body.
- 5 2) **Order of business:** The order of business of this convention shall be as listed in the  
6 official Agenda of the convention, subject to the discretion of the presiding chair.
- 7 3) **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the convention shall not be in order until all items  
8 on the Agenda have been addressed on the convention floor excluding agenda item “other  
9 business”.
- 10 4) **Adoption, amendment and suspension of rules:** These Rules shall be adopted by  
11 majority vote and may not be amended or suspended except by a two-thirds vote of the  
12 convention.
- 13 5) **Matters not addressed:** Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the  
14 parliamentary authority on all points not covered by the Constitution of the Republican  
15 Party of Minnesota, the Statutes of the State of Minnesota, the Official Convention Call  
16 of the Convention, or the Rules adopted by this Convention.
- 17 6) **Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the duly elected delegates registered  
18 for the convention as given in the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. Once  
19 a quorum of more than 50% of the delegates seated in this Convention has been  
20 established, there shall be no further question as to the quorum.
- 21 7) **Committee Reports:** No second shall be required to a motion to adopt the majority  
22 report of any committee. A minority report of any committee may be presented if signed  
23 by one third (1/3) of committee members and submitted to that committee’s chair prior to  
24 the report being given.
- 25 8) **Campaign and other materials:** All campaign literature and other materials  
26 distributed must clearly identify the organization or individual who prepared and paid  
27 for it. The sergeant-at-arms and designees will confiscate any literature and/or material  
28 not having such disclaimers. No campaign signs may be placed next to or behind the  
29 stage, podium, and/or presentation area except during candidate speeches. All campaign  
30 signs must be hung with painter’s tape. No campaign material may be hung on any  
31 painted or glass surface inside or on the exterior surfaces of the venue. Campaigns are  
32 responsible for any damage caused by their campaign materials and must completely  
33 remove their campaign materials from all surfaces, the building and grounds. No  
34 campaign may hang more than 10 signs in the convention hall, and no sign may exceed  
35 eight square feet in area. No taped, freestanding “sign columns” are allowed.

- 36 9) **Those Permitted to Occupy the Floor of the Convention.** “The floor” is defined as  
 37 the seating area where duly elected delegates are gathered when casting votes and the  
 38 stage. Only delegates, seated alternates, and those participating in the voting process  
 39 may be on the floor during voting. All others must leave the floor. Each campaign may  
 40 have up to 2 total workers (other than seated delegates and alternates) identified as  
 41 associated with the campaign, on the floor during non-voting time. Everyone on the floor  
 42 must wear an identity badge stating their name and organization they are associated  
 43 with. Guests are not allowed on the floor except for distinguished guests for purposes of  
 44 addressing the convention and greeting delegates as they enter or exit the stage.
- 45 10) **Conflict of Interest:** No convention staff, including page, sergeant-at-arms, chair,  
 46 secretary, parliamentarian, credentials committee chair, rules committee chair,  
 47 constitution committee chair, search/nominations committee chair, Chief teller, deputy  
 48 tellers while tallying ballots, time keeper or other convention officials - shall exhibit any  
 49 outward sign of support for or engage in any activities on behalf of any SD35 officer or  
 50 candidates for contested SD35 endorsements. This includes standing on stage for  
 51 candidate, holding a sign, or giving nominating speeches and wearing campaign shirts,  
 52 stickers, holding signs, or similar signs of support while performing their convention  
 53 duties or speaking from the podium prior to election or endorsement for that office being  
 54 completed.

## 55 SEATING OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

- 56 11) **Permanent Roll:** The permanent roll of the convention shall be constituted as follows:
- 57 a) The duly elected delegates of each precinct who are actually present and have  
 58 properly registered with the Credentials Committee.
- 59 b) Properly registering shall be defined as arriving to the convention and registering  
 60 with credentials prior to closing. Prepaying for the convention does not constitute  
 61 properly registering for the convention. If a duly elected delegate or alternate is  
 62 not properly registered then they shall not be allowed to be seated at the  
 63 convention.
- 64 c) If any duly elected delegate to this Convention is absent, then a duly elected  
 65 alternate from that precinct shall be seated in their stead.
- 66 d) If no duly elected delegates or alternates from a precinct are present, that  
 67 precinct shall have no representation.
- 68 e) Pursuant to the Republican party of Minnesota Constitution (Article V, Section 6  
 69 - Vacancies) If a delegate or alternate has moved out of the precinct they were  
 70 elected in, they are no longer a delegate or alternate in that or any other precinct,  
 71 even if they still live in the BPOU boundaries.
- 72 f) When a registered delegate returns to the floor of the convention, they shall be  
 73 immediately seated.
- 74 g) The order of seating of alternates shall be as follows:
- 75 1) The Precincts shall caucus after acceptance of the first credentials  
 76 committee report. If the Precinct Chair or Vice Chair is not present, the  
 77 seated delegates shall elect a chair, and then proceed to fill the vacancies.

- 78                    2) Vacancies shall be filled by the alternates in the order in which they were  
79                    ranked by the Precinct Caucus. If not ranked, then by vote of the seated  
80                    delegates. If a tie vote arises, the chair shall appoint, by coin toss, one of  
81                    the alternates who participated in the tie to be seated.
- 82                    3) A registered delegate may be seated at any time and that delegate shall  
83                    assume the seat of the lowest ranked alternate
- 84                    4) If a precinct has any vacancies which can't be filled by an alternate from  
85                    the same precinct, the vacancy will remain. No cross seating is allowed.
- 86                    5) No Alternates may be seated prior to the first Credentials report.
- 87                    12) **Precinct voting strength:** The voting strength of each precinct shall be the number of  
88                    delegates and seated alternates present on the floor.
- 89                    13) **Additional credentials reports:** The Credentials Committee shall report any changes  
90                    in the delegations prior to endorsement, elections, other votes, or when requested by the  
91                    Chair.
- 92                    14) **Closing of registration:** Registration for the convention shall be declared closed after  
93                    the final Credentials Committee report is adopted provided it has been open until at  
94                    least 9:30AM as stated in the official Call to this Convention.

## 95                    **SPEAKING**

- 96                    15) **Etiquette:** A delegate, or seated alternate, wishing to speak from the floor shall rise,  
97                    address the Chair, and state his/her name and precinct, and the purpose for which he/she  
98                    rises. This speaker has no more than one (1) minute to make a motion and may not  
99                    debate their motion prior to a second.
- 100                    16) **Limits on debate:** Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to one (1) minute by  
101                    each speaker. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice upon the same  
102                    subject. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time until all those desiring to  
103                    speak have had a first opportunity to do so. Debate on any one motion or subject may  
104                    have up to four (4) pro and four (4) con speakers, except by request of the majority of the  
105                    convention.
- 106                    17) **Visiting speakers:** Visiting speakers not on the official Agenda of the Convention shall  
107                    be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Convention Chair. Said speakers shall be  
108                    limited to the following time periods:
- 109                    a) Elected U.S. Representative - 10 minutes.
- 110                    b) U.S. Representative's surrogate - 5 minutes.
- 111                    c) Elected SD35 State Senator – 5 minutes.
- 112                    d) Elected Legislators representing the House or Senate Caucuses. – 5 minutes.
- 113                    e) State Party Officers – 5 minutes.

114 f) Candidates for State/CD officer, statewide, congressional, or county office - 5  
115 minutes

116 g) Surrogates for candidates for State/CD officer, President, statewide,  
117 congressional, or county office – 3 minutes

118 h) Other speakers - 2 minutes.

119 18) **Timekeeper:** The Convention Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of  
120 timing discussion, debate and speeches during the Convention.

## 121 VOTING

122 19) **No unit rule:** There shall be no voting under the unit rule at this Convention.

123 20) **Eligible voters:** Only delegates and seated alternates registered and present at this  
124 Convention shall be permitted to vote.

125 21) **Printed ballots:** The convention shall use printed ballots, when applicable, as provided  
126 by the Tellers.

127 22) **Manner of voting:** The vote on all questions shall be by acclamation subject to the  
128 following restrictions:

129 a) A rising vote shall be taken if requested by any delegate, or at the discretion of  
130 the Chair.

131 b) A roll call vote by precinct shall be taken if requested by a majority in five or  
132 more precincts.

133 c) Voting for Delegates and Alternates shall be done by secret ballot.

134 d) Voting for any contested elections and endorsements shall be done by secret  
135 ballot.

136 23) **Motion to lay on the table:** A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote  
137 of those voting on the question to be adopted.

138 24) **Elections and endorsements:** The procedure for voting on endorsement and elections  
139 is defined in the proper section for each in these rules, SD35 GOP Constitution, or as  
140 prescribed the superior Republican Party of Minnesota CD or State Constitution or by-  
141 laws.

## 142 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

143 25) **Nominating/Search Committee:** Each person seeking election as a basic political  
144 organization unit officer must appear in person before the Nominating/Search  
145 Committee. Each person seeking an office shall understand the duties of that position  
146 and be willing to fulfill them. The Nominating/Search Committee shall remain in session  
147 for at least 10 minutes after adoption of these rules. The Nominating/Search Committee  
148 shall report the names of all qualified persons who appear before them.

- 149 26) **Candidate addresses:** Candidates shall be allowed to speak for up to three (3) minutes  
150 before a vote is taken.
- 151 27) **Nominations:** Nominations may be made from the floor providing that the nominee has  
152 made an appearance before the Nominating/Search Committee. Any candidate not  
153 elected to a higher office may be nominated to a lower office or from the floor without  
154 reappearing before the Nominating/Search Committee.
- 155 28) **Election:** Any candidate who receives a majority vote shall be considered elected. If no  
156 candidate receives a majority vote, balloting will continue until a candidate is elected by  
157 a majority vote.
- 158 29) **Elimination of candidates:** If there are more than two candidates running for an office  
159 and no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the lowest vote total on the  
160 previous round of balloting, shall be eliminated from the ensuing ballots
- 161 30) **Division by House Districts:** The Convention shall divide into House Districts before  
162 balloting to elect any candidate for offices elected by House District. Only those delegates  
163 and seated alternates residing in the Candidate's House District may vote in his/her  
164 election.
- 165 31) **Vacancy:** Pursuant to Article IX; Section 2 of the SD35 Constitution, the BPOU  
166 Convention shall fill any SD35 officer position as described in Article IV; Section 2, that  
167 is either vacant or being temporarily filled by an Executive Board appointee.

168

## ENDORSEMENT

- 169 32) **Search/Nominating Committee:** The Search/Nominating Committee shall meet for a  
170 least one-half hour prior to the time that endorsement begins. Candidates wishing to be  
171 considered for endorsement must appear in person before the Search/Nominating  
172 Committee.
- 173 33) **Motion to endorse or not endorse: It shall first be determined by a majority**  
174 **vote whether endorsement shall be considered for an office.** *[State Party*  
175 *Constitution Article V, Section 2, Part A, #1]*
- 176 34) **Consistent with Republican party constitutions:** The endorsement procedure shall  
177 be in accordance with Article V, Section 3(A & B) of the Constitution of the Republic  
178 Party of Minnesota and Article VIII of the SD35 Republican Constitution.
- 179 35) **Search/Nominating Report:** The Nominating Committee shall then report to the  
180 Convention the names of ALL candidates who have met with the committee and who  
181 have not withdrawn. The report may include whether each candidate is recommended  
182 without reservation, with reservation, or not recommended to receive endorsement with  
183 explanation for each.
- 184 36) **No preprinted ballot shall be allowed unless options for 'no preference',**  
185 **'undecided' and 'no endorsement' are included.** *[State Constitution: Article V,*  
186 *Section 3, Part A, #3]*
- 187 37) **Candidate addresses:** Nominees or their guests may speak prior to balloting. All  
188 nominees are allotted ten (10) minutes. The order of speaking will be determined by lot.  
189 This time is to include any nominating speech, seconding speech, question/answer period,

190 or address by the nominee. After the third ballot and every second ballot thereafter, the  
191 Convention Chairs may allow each remaining nominee three minutes to address the  
192 convention in an order determined by drawing of lots.

193 **38) Endorsement by House District:** The Convention shall be divided into House Districts  
194 before balloting to endorse any candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives.  
195 Only those delegates and seated alternates residing in the candidate’s House District  
196 may vote on his/her endorsement.

197 **39) Elimination of candidates:** When there are more than two candidates running for an  
198 office, any candidate failing to receive less than 5% of the vote on the first ballot, 10% of  
199 the vote on the third ballot, or 20% of the vote on the fifth ballot, or any subsequent  
200 ballot, shall cease to be considered a candidate for an endorsement.

201 **40) Determining Results:** A candidate has been endorsed by receiving a **60% vote of the**  
202 **Convention and if the 60% is greater than or equal to at least a majority of the**  
203 **registered Delegates and seated alternates as established by the last report of**  
204 **the credentials committee preceding such vote.** *[State Party Constitution Article V,*  
205 *Section 3, Part B, #2]*  
206 **However, on any round of voting for endorsement, a motion of no endorsement**  
207 **shall be considered adopted if a majority of the ballots (excluding blanks) is for**  
208 **‘no’, ‘none’ or ‘no endorsement’.** *[State Party Constitution Article V, Section 3, Part B,*  
209 *#3]*

210 **41) Additional ballots:** Once the endorsement process has begun, a motion from the floor  
211 not to endorse is out of order. In the event a candidate fails to reach 60% of the voting  
212 strength after three rounds of balloting the Chair shall ask the convention if it is their  
213 will to continue the balloting. If a majority of the delegates and duly seated alternates  
214 vote in the affirmative then an additional ballot shall be conducted. This process shall  
215 repeat until a candidate attains 60% of the voting strength, or, the convention votes to  
216 cease balloting without endorsement.

## 217 RESOLUTIONS

218 **42) Congressional District Tracking:** Resolutions to be considered for the State Party  
219 Platform and Action Agenda, shall be voted on by Congressional District sub-caucus only.

220 **43) Resolutions Debate:** Prior to actual debate, all resolutions will be acted upon for the  
221 purpose of a decision to debate. Debate on any resolution shall be at the request of a  
222 minimum of ten (10) seated delegates from three (3) different precincts.

223 a) For the purpose of this section, a point of order or clarification shall be  
224 considered debate. The questioner shall not be considered one of the pro or con  
225 speakers. The replier must declare either pro or con.

226 b) No grammatical amendments will be considered in debate since resolutions are  
227 being passed – not laws.

228 c) All resolutions and/or amendments (except as provided under Rule 23 herein)  
229 will be passed by a simple majority vote.

230 **44) Resolutions Presented Outside of Precinct Caucus Process:** Any new resolutions  
231 not coming from the precinct caucus process must be presented to the chair of

232 Resolutions Committee in writing within one-half hour after acceptance of the Rules  
233 Committee report. Such Resolutions must have a two-thirds favorable vote to be  
234 adopted.

235 **ELECTION OF STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL**  
236 **DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

237 **45) Search/Nominating Committee:** Each person seeking election as a delegate or  
238 alternate must appear before the Search/Nominating Committee. This is accomplished  
239 by having their names affixed to the Search/Nominating Committee form(s) set forth for  
240 that purpose. The Search/Nominating Committee shall report only the names of all  
241 persons who appear before them and who meet the stipulations in Rule #49. Nominations  
242 for delegates and alternates shall remain open for one half-hour after adoption of these  
243 rules.

244 **46) Election by Congressional District sub-caucuses:** The Convention shall divide into  
245 sub-caucuses by Congressional District before balloting for the election of delegates and  
246 alternates. The voting for delegates and alternates shall be conducted by the delegates  
247 and seated alternates in each Congressional District, with thirty-six (36) delegates  
248 elected in the Sixth Congressional District and five (5) delegates elected in the Third  
249 Congressional District. Each Congressional District sub-caucus can elect up to twice as  
250 many alternates as its number of allotted delegates. Delegates and alternates elected will  
251 serve as delegates or alternates to the State and Congressional District conventions.

252 **47) Delegate Elections:** Each Congressional District sub-caucus shall elect State  
253 Convention Delegates and Alternates on one pre-printed ballot AND Congressional  
254 District Delegates and Alternates on a separate pre-printed single ballot. These ballots  
255 may be on a single form, only if that form clearly indicates whether a nominee is eligible  
256 in just one or both elections, and contains safeguards to prevent erroneous votes by  
257 blocking out the appropriate voting areas as needed. All Alternates shall be ranked with  
258 descending order priority by the number of votes received. All ties shall be broken by  
259 Tellers using coin toss or drawing names if more than two (2) candidates are tied.

260 **48) Candidate addresses:** Nominees for delegate or alternate may address the Convention  
261 for the purpose of stating their qualifications and views on issues or candidates for a  
262 period not to exceed thirty (30) seconds.

263 **49) Candidate qualifications:** Any person seeking to be elected as Delegate or  
264 Alternate must be an eligible voter in the Congressional District. [State Party  
265 *Constitution Article VIII, Section 3*]

266 **50) Invalid ballots:** Each ballot cast shall vote for exactly thirty-six (36) different  
267 candidates (for delegates in the Sixth Congressional District) or five (5) different  
268 candidates (for delegates in the Third Congressional District) or it shall be declared an  
269 invalid ballot. Any ballot casting a vote for a candidate who did not appear before the  
270 Search/Nominating Committee shall be declared an invalid ballot.

271 **ELECTION OF STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DELEGATES AND**  
272 **ALTERNATES**

273 **51) Search/Nominating Committee:** Each person seeking election as a delegate or  
274 alternate to the State Central Committee must appear before the Search/Nominating  
275 Committee. This is accomplished by having their name affixed to a Search/Nominating  
276 Committee Form set forth for that purpose. The Search/Nominating Committee shall  
277 report the names of all persons who appear before them and who meet the stipulations in  
278 Rule #54. Nominations for delegates and alternates shall remain open for one half-hour  
279 after adoption of these rules.

280 **52) Election by Congressional District sub-caucuses:** The Convention shall divide into  
281 sub-caucuses by Congressional District before balloting for the election of delegates and  
282 alternates to the State Central Committee. The voting for delegates and alternates shall  
283 be conducted by the delegates and seated alternates in each Congressional District, with  
284 **[allotted number]** delegates elected in the Sixth Congressional District and **[allotted**  
285 **number]** delegate elected in the Third Congressional District. Each Congressional  
286 District sub-caucus can elect up to three alternates for each Delegate.

287 **53) Election on a single ballot:** Each Congressional District sub-caucus shall elect State  
288 Central Committee delegates and alternates on one ballot with descending order priority  
289 to establish ranking of alternates. In the event of a tie, a coin toss, in the presence of the  
290 Chief Teller and two witnesses, shall decide the rank.

291 **54) Candidate qualifications:** Any person seeking to be elected as State Central Delegate  
292 or Alternate must be an eligible voter in the Congressional District. *[State Party*  
293 *Constitution Article IX, Section 4]*

294 **55) Candidate addresses:** Nominees for delegate or alternate to the State Central  
295 Committee may address the Convention for the purpose of stating their qualifications  
296 and views on issues or candidates for a period not to exceed one minute.

297 **56) Invalid ballots:** Each ballot cast shall vote for exactly **[allotted number]** different  
298 candidates (for delegates in the Sixth Congressional District) or **[allotted number]**  
299 candidate (for delegates in the Third Congressional District) or it shall be declared an  
300 invalid ballot. Any ballot casting a vote for a candidate who did not appear before the  
301 Search/Nominating Committee shall be declared an invalid ballot.

302 **57) Vacancy:** Pursuant to Article IV; Section 2 of the SD35 Constitution, State Central  
303 Committee Delegates are members of the Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy  
304 occurring prior to an even year convention, the Convention may elect a Delegate but only  
305 for that specific vacancy. No alternate positions may be refilled.