To the 2017 Delegates and Alternates for the Feb. 18, 2017 Convention: Please review the proposed changes to this Constitution. (New language is underlined, and changed language has a "strike out" line through it.) If you feel strongly that you would like to propose an additional change, please do so by Thurs. Feb. 16 at 5 pm to TingelstadKathy@gmail.com and call 763-286-7293.

About The SD35 Republicans

DRAFT Senate District 35 Republican Party Constitution

*(**For Consideration at the February 18, 2017 SD35 Convention**…Preface: Beyond the primary reason for opening up the Constitution for changes, a few minor edits were made to improve readability and clarity. Those changes are rarely deemed important enough to create a committee to work on such minor language changes. So, the Constitution Committee chose to address these minor language issues, with the support of the BPOU Chair. All changes are subject to the approval of the convention delegates.)*

Preamble

The Republican Party of Minnesota Senate District 35 welcomes the participation of all citizens of Minnesota Senate District 35 who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, and responsive government. The party believes in the equality of all, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. Therefore, it is the party committed to equal representation and opportunity for all and preservation of the rights of each individual.

Article I - Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Senate District 35 Republican Party of Minnesota, the basic political organization unit, hereinafter referred to here as "the BPOU".

Article II – Purpose

It is the objective and purpose of the BPOU to elect Republicans to public office, to expand the membership of the party within their district, and to organize each precinct within their boundaries. It is also the responsibility of this organization to coordinate party volunteers and resources across the campaigns of all locally Endorsed and Recommended Republican candidates, to ensure their proper use on each candidate's behalf. ~~as well as to coordinate the campaigns of all State and Congressional District activities within this Senate District, so as to ensure the proper use of party volunteers and resources on each candidate's behalf.~~

Article III - Membership

The membership of this BPOU shall be composed of all citizens eligible to vote in Senate District 35 who wish to be affiliated with the Republican Party and who support the purposes and objectives of the Republican Party.

Article IV - Management and Structure

Section 1: Management - The management of the BPOU shall rest with the Senate District 35 Executive Committee, subject to the direction of the State Central Committee, the State Executive Committee, the Congressional District Committees, the BPOU Convention, the State Party Constitution, Congressional District Constitutions, Senate District 35 Constitution and applicable state statutes of law.

Section 2: Structure - The Senate District 35 Executive Committee shall be composed of the BPOU Chair, HD 35A Deputy Chair, HD35B Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Three (3) HD35A Vice Chairs and three (3) HD35B Vice Chairs.

A. Vice Chairs may be assigned by the Executive Committee to oversee a number of precincts; they may also be assigned additional titles and duties by the Executive Committee, such as:
Database Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, Search & Nominations Committee Coordinator, and Congressional District Liaisons, ~~etc~~ as described in Section 3.

B. The State Central Committee Delegates & Alternates and all elected Republican legislators

living within the boundaries of Senate District 35 and not otherwise an elected Executive Committee member will be non-voting members.

Section 3: Executive Committee Duties

A. The BPOU Chair shall conduct BPOU Executive Committee meetings. In consultation with the Executive Committee, the Chair shall appoint committees and coordinate the activities of the Vice Chairs. The Chair is also an ex-officio member of all BPOU committees.
B. One of the BPOU Deputy Chairs shall conduct meetings and represent the chair in the Chair's absence as directed by the Chair.
C. Elected Republican Legislators shall be encouraged to attend Executive Committee meetings. Since their attendance at these meetings is not required, their position shall not be included in the quorum count.
D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings, be responsible for written correspondence with the members of the Executive Committee, and delegates and alternates to BPOU conventions and other correspondence that may be necessary.
E. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all Party moneys, keep financial records, disburse moneys as authorized by the Executive Committee, prepare and submit all reports to the state as required by law and help submit annual budget.
F. Vice Chairs shall manage the ~~affairs~~ BPOU affairs, resources & activities—as appointed by the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee. ~~of precincts assigned to them as well as assisting the BPOU at large~~
G. Database Coordinator shall help maintain the Republican Database.
H. Communications Coordinator shall be responsible for the website and other communications.
I. Volunteer Coordinator shall help coordinate volunteers for BPOU functions as well as for endorsed candidate events.
J. Congressional District Liaisons shall represent the BPOU at Congressional District meetings and help relay messages and information between.
K. Fundraising Coordinator shall coordinate BPOU fundraising efforts.
L. Search & Nominations Committee Coordinator shall coordinate this two-year standing committee of BPOU volunteers from each of the four communities in SD35 by identifying, searching and recruiting candidates in a timely manner for the MN Legislature, local offices and delegates & alternates—as well as reviewing their qualifications and completed questionnaires, and then by possibly placing in nomination those candidate names for consideration by the appropriate convention or BPOU meeting delegation.

Section 4: Full Committee

The Full Committee shall be comprised of all Executive Committee members, State Central Delegates & Alternates, as well as the Precinct: Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Secretaries. Members of the Full Committee may be selected to perform roles as described in Article IV, Section 3, Letters F, G, H, I, J, K & L. Members of the Full Committee shall assist in the stated "Purpose" of the BPOU. ~~Oversight of the operations of the Executive Committee, along with serving in an advisory capacity, shall be vested with the Full Committee~~. The Full Committee will serve in an oversight- and advisory-capacity, and shall be informed on a timely basis regarding the actions of the Executive Committee. All financial, legal and transactional powers shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

Article V - BPOU Elections

Section 1: BPOU Officers

The BPOU Executive Committee shall be elected to a two-year term by the delegates at the odd-year BPOU Convention, except at the 2012 BPOU Convention the BPOU Executive Committee shall be elected to a one year term. Balloting shall continue until a candidate receives a majority vote as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote.

A. One (1) Chair, one (1) Secretary, one (1) Treasurer shall be elected at large by the BPOU delegation. The House District 35A delegation shall elect one (1) Deputy Chair and three (3) Vice Chairs. The House District 35B delegation shall elect one (1) Deputy Chair and three (3) Vice Chairs. The total number of Executive Committee members is eleven (11).

Section 2: Precinct Officers

Officers of each Precinct may consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and a Secretary, elected to a two-year term at the even-numbered year Precinct Caucus, in compliance with State Statute. In the event a precinct fails to elect any officer at this caucus or a vacancy occurs, the BPOU Executive Committee may appoint acting officer(s) to fill a vacancy in that precinct until a replacement is elected according to State Statute or party rules.

Section 3: Nominations

A nominating committee may be appointed by the BPOU Executive Committee in advance of the ~~odd-year~~ annual BPOU convention, for the purpose of nominating ~~candidates~~ volunteers for the various convention committee positions. This does not prohibit nominations from the floor.

Section 4: Congressional District Convention, State Convention, & State Central Committee Delegates & Alternates

A. Delegates (& Alternates), as allotted to the BPOU by the State Executive Committee or State Central Committee, to the Congressional District and State Conventions shall be elected by a caucus of their applicable Congressional District. Up to two (2) alternates may be elected for each Delegate.

B. Delegates (& Alternates), as allotted to the BPOU by the Congressional Districts, to the State Central Committee Meetings shall be elected by a caucus of their applicable Congressional District. Up to three (3) Alternates may be elected for each Delegate.

C. All Delegates & Alternates to State or Congressional District Conventions or State Central Committee Meetings shall be elected by plurality on a single ballot. They shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, as well as the Sixth or Third District Congressional District & State Constitutions. The top vote recipients equal to the number of Delegates allotted to the BPOU shall be considered elected equal at-large Delegates. All other vote recipients beyond the number allotted to the BPOU shall be placed in ranked order as Alternates for seating purposes. Ties in either the Delegate or Alternate count shall be decided by coin toss.

Article VI – Meetings

Section 1: Requirements

A. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every 3 months.
B. The Full Committee may meet at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
C. Special Committee Meetings: The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair, at the request of any three (3) members of the Executive Committee, or at the request of 25% of the BPOU Convention delegates. Three (3) days notice shall be provided to members of the Executive Committee.
D. Quorums: A quorum shall be ~~40%~~ 50% of seated members of this Executive Committee for the purpose of transacting BPOU business. Executive Committee members can participate in a meeting via electronic means, at the discretion of the Chair.
E. Unless otherwise noted in this Constitution, "notices" may be by email to previously verified addresses.
F. Voting Electronically: In unique circumstances, Executive Committee members can vote via electronic means, at the discretion of the Chair.

Section 2: Rules of Order

"Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised" shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of the BPOU.

Article VII - BPOU Conventions

Section 1: Timing & Purpose

BPOU Conventions shall be held each year during the period and for the purpose designated by the Official Call issued by: the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, ~~or~~ the Congressional District Committee, or the SD35 Republican Committee. County, Municipal, and School District Endorsing Conventions shall be held at the call of the aforementioned groups, or at the discretion of the majority of the BPOU Executive Committee, as provided by Article V of the State Party Constitution, provided that a minimum of ten (10) days notice, in writing, be sent to each delegate and alternate.

Note: A Republican Local Recommendation process can be held for non-partisan County, Municipal and School District races. The "Recommendation of the Senate District 35 Republicans" would apply only to those precincts located within the boundaries of SD 35. (See Article VIII, Section 2 for details.)

A. If events warrant a Special Election or for a post-primary endorsement to public office, an emergency Endorsing Convention may be held at the call of the BPOU Chair or at the discretion of the majority of the BPOU Executive Committee. A written notice of not less than five (5) days shall be given to delegates and alternates. Such convention shall be held for the sole purpose of endorsing a candidate for office.

Section 2: Composition & Seating of Alternates

The BPOU Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates selected at Republican Party Precinct Caucus within Senate District 35. A precinct shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each delegate present or alternate properly seated. The credentials committee shall seat all duly elected and accredited delegates of each precinct who are present. Vacancies in each Precinct shall be filled according to the following procedures:

A. After the first Credentials report, if no Delegates are present in a Precinct, the Credentials Committee shall seat accredited Alternates in rank order to fill the allotted Delegate seats.
B. The Precincts shall caucus after acceptance of the first credentials committee report. If the Precinct Chair or Vice Chair is not present, the seated delegates shall elect a chair, and then proceed to fill the vacancies.
C. Vacancies shall be filled by the alternates in the order in which they were ranked by the Precinct Caucus. If not ranked, then by vote of the seated delegates. If a tie vote arises, the chair shall appoint, by coin toss, one of the alternates who participated in the tie to be seated.
D. If a delegate should arrive late, the delegate shall assume the seat of the lowest ranked alternate. A delegate may be seated at any time.
E. If a precinct has any vacancies which can't be filled by an alternate from the same precinct, the vacancy will remain. No cross seating is allowed.
F. No Alternates may be seated prior to the first Credentials report.

Article VIII – Endorsements ~~s~~ Process

Section 1: General Rules

A. It shall first be determined by a majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for an office. Eligible voters shall be Delegates or the seated alternates who reside within the legislative district and are duly elected at the most recent Republican Party of Minnesota Precinct Caucuses.
B. Any candidate for any elective public office may be granted pre-primary endorsement if he/she receives a 60% vote of the convention as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote.
C. If the public office sought by the candidate is legally partisan, (such as the MN House of Representatives and the MN Senate), the candidate must agree prior to being considered for pre-primary endorsement to seek the office as a Republican if he/she receives the endorsement.
D. Only one candidate may be endorsed per seat for a particular office.

E. When more than one candidate is nominated for endorsement for an office, none of the candidates for that office shall be voted upon separately.

F. Voting on a candidate for endorsement for an office shall be by secret ballot. The convention or committee may decide by a two-thirds vote to endorse by a rising vote for any office for which there is only one candidate.

G. Votes may be cast for any person who by law is eligible for election to the office under consideration and who is eligible under this constitution to seek the endorsement, even though he/she has not been nominated or has withdrawn from nomination. Ballots may also be cast stating 'no preference' or 'undecided', or indicating no endorsement. Blank ballots or abstentions, unintelligible ballots, ballots marked only 'X', or ballots cast for an ineligible person or a fictional character shall not be included in determining the 60% vote needed for endorsement. No preprinted ballot shall be allowed unless options for 'no preference', 'undecided' and 'no endorsement' are included.

H. A motion of no endorsement may be adopted by a majority vote. The rules of a convention may limit how often or when such a motion may be made. However on any round of voting for endorsement, a motion of no endorsement shall be considered adopted if a majority of the ballots (excluding blanks) or a majority of the votes on a voice vote (excluding abstentions) is for 'no', 'none' or 'no endorsement'.

I. Excepting the 60% requirement in this Article, BPOU constitutions may establish different rules of endorsement for conventions relating to legislative districts or other areas entirely within the BPOU.

J. An Endorsement may carry with it the commitment of party resources, finances and volunteers only when made in a way consistent with the processes described by the Endorsement section of this Constitution. ~~at a convention that is representative of the entire electorate for the office. In the case of a proposal for endorsement of a candidate whose constituency is not coterminous with the territory of the convention, only those Delegates residing within such constituency shall vote upon the proposal. An endorsement for public office at a convention below the level of the one that is representative of the entire electorate for the office shall be no more than an expression of the sentiment of the convention.~~

Section 2: County, Municipal, School Board, & Judicial Recommendations Process

~~These endorsements shall be called and governed by following the Republican Party of Minnesota Constitution, Article V.~~ A Recommendation may carry with it the commitment of party resources, finances and volunteers only when made in a way consistent with the processes described by this Recommendations section of this Constitution.

A Republican Local Recommendation process can be held at the discretion of the Executive Committee for non-partisan County, Municipal, School District and Judicial races. It will be held at a regularly scheduled monthly BPOU meeting (near the time of "filing for office"), and must include a 10-day written notice to the Full Committee.

The County, Municipal, School District and Judicial candidates shall follow a similar Search & Nominations Committee process (with a questionnaire & interviews)—similar to what's done for Legislative candidates. The members of the Full Committee shall each have a vote—but need to reside in the community/area of the candidate race. (For example, Ramsey Precinct Officers are eligible to vote for the Ramsey Mayor candidate.)

A candidate will be considered 'Recommended by SD 35 Republicans' once: a.) he/she receives a 60% vote of the attending Full Committee numbers as determined for that meeting/area AND b.) the Executive Committee votes to Affirm that recommendation; however, the Executive Committee may vote to Reject that recommendation. Note: The Executive Committee cannot Affirm a candidate who has NOT received the 60% threshold vote.

Section 3: Primary Loss by Endorsed Candidate

If an endorsed candidate should lose in a primary election, then the only candidate for post primary endorsement shall be the winner of the primary election, per MN State Law 204D.10 Primary results; nominees.

> "Subdivision 1 **Partisan offices; nominees.** The candidate for nomination of a major political party for a partisan office on the state partisan primary ballot who receives the highest number of votes shall be the nominee of that political party for that office."

Article IX - Vacancies and Removals

Section 1: Precinct Officers
Vacancies in precinct offices may be filled by appointment of an acting officer by the Executive Committee or, if so directed, by a caucus of Republicans in the affected precinct.

Section 2: Executive Committee/ BPOU Officers
Should vacancies occur in the Executive Committee, temporary replacements may be appointed by the Executive Committee until a replacement is elected at the next BPOU Convention.

Section 3: Removals
An officer of the Executive Committee may be removed from office by a two- thirds (2/3) vote of all current members of the Executive Committee. The officer in question must be furnished with a ten (10) day notice, in writing, of the charges that may warrant removal and shall be entitled to respond to these charges in person or in writing prior to the vote to remove.

Section 4: Leave of absence/Resignation
If a member of the Executive Committee is absent without cause from more than four (4) consecutive meetings, this person shall be subject to the removal provisions outlined in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 5: Working Against Endorsed Candidate
It is the duty of all Executive Board members to support Republican endorsed candidates. Should any member of this body actively and publicly campaign against any Republican endorsed candidate, that member may be removed from the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 3.

Section 6: Conflict of Interest
Any elected member of the Executive Committee who announces ~~their~~ his/her candidacy for Federal or State elected public office shall be placed on immediate leave of absence and if he/she receives endorsement or runs in the Primary Election he/she shall resign ~~their~~ his/her position on the Executive Committee.

Article X - Dissolution

In the event the State Legislative lines are redrawn, (such as in 2022) the Executive Committee shall have the power to dissolve this Senate District 35 BPOU by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Article XI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at any BPOU Convention, provided that the proposed amendments be first referred to a duly appointed Constitution Committee, and that the Official Convention Call will indicate that constitutional amendments will be considered.

Revised by the SD 35 Republican Constitution Committee on Feb. 6, 2017:
Kathy Tingelstad, Brad Sunderland, Sheri Bukkila, Mike Jensen, Matt Look and Ben Riechers.