

Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee State Convention Report

First, we would like to thank the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee members for their hard work and countless hours of meetings that went into this draft set of proposed changes. Every two years, we undertake revisions to our party's governing documents to help ensure continued success in meeting the goals of our party. Four cycles ago, we clearly heard that DFLers wanted more opportunity to review and comment on the constitutional proposals that comprise our report to the State Convention.

As a result, the past four cycles, we have sought feedback from the State Central Committee on our draft report. Additionally, there were Q&A sessions at each Congressional District convention and the State Convention.

This State Convention Report only contains the items which were pulled for further consideration and not adopted or rejected by the State Convention as of its adjournment. As the State Convention referred all outstanding business to the State Central Committee meeting on August 13, 2022, those proposed changes are presented here.

Each proposed change listed below includes a description of the change and some background information. These are only *proposed* changes and nothing in this document will take effect unless the State Central Committee chooses to adopt one or more of the proposals.

Respectfully submitted.
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Note: additions are underlined and deletions are in ~~striketrough~~. The vertical ellipsis (:) represents unchanged text that isn't included in the report for brevity. The changes are presented in the order in which they appear in the Constitution and Bylaws. Each change is presented independently. That is to say, if unrelated changes occur in the same section of the Constitution, each revision is shown under only one change heading.

PLEASE NOTE: the proposed changes presented (strikethroughs and underscores) are shown as changes to the Constitution and Bylaws as it existed before the State Convention (i.e., this is identical to what was presented to the delegates at the State Convention). For example, Proposed Change #10 does not include the revisions to Article III, Section 19 which clarified which precinct caucus a Distinguished Party Leader needed to attend (i.e., Proposed Change #9, which was adopted by the State Convention). Adoption of any change will be incorporated accordingly.

Proposed Change #4:

This proposed change serves to improve the Letter of Support process by allowing all relevant Organizing Unit central committee members to meet jointly and consider issuing Letter(s) of Support. The goal is to allow all candidates an equal playing field and to reduce the number of OUs that some candidates need to contact (e.g. some candidates presently need up to 5 different OU letters of support to gain VAN access).

The Congressional District with the most precincts of the electoral jurisdiction will be responsible for calling the Letter of Support meeting.

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ARTICLE III

GENERAL RULES AND POLICY

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Section 4. Convention and Committee Rules.

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Subsection H. Official DFL Endorsements.

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If a candidate who has been endorsed ~~or has been issued letter(s) of support~~ by ~~unit(s) of the~~ DFL Party gives personal endorsement, financial assistance, or other public support or public assistance to any candidate running against a DFL-endorsed or officially supported candidate for any public office, or engages in any other act of malfeasance or nonfeasance, the central committee of the unit that endorsed that candidate may revoke the endorsement ~~or letter(s) of support~~ by a two-thirds vote of the members eligible to vote, following the dismissal for cause procedures.

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Subsection J. Letters of Support.

~~An organizing unit~~ Only a letter of support special committee may send a letter of support to a candidate for their promotional use ~~if the organizing unit contains part or all of the electoral jurisdiction where the race is being held, and~~ if there exists no ~~specific DFL party unit constitution (see Article X)~~ for the race for which they are sending a letter, no special endorsing commission has been called for the race, or the special endorsing commission did not endorse and did not bar ~~other units~~ the letter of support special committee from sending a letters of support. The letter of support ~~central special committee members of an organizing unit residing in the electoral jurisdiction~~ must vote by a 60

percent affirmative vote to issue a letter of support. ~~In order for a letter of support to be valid, the candidate must receive a letter of support from each of the organizing units with at least three central committee members who reside within the electoral jurisdiction. No one may vote to grant or revoke a letter of support unless they are a resident of the electoral jurisdiction.~~ A candidate who receives a valid letter of support may advertise that they have received a letter of support from the DFL Party and may purchase access to the DFL Voter File. A letter of support does not constitute an Official DFL endorsement. No candidate, campaign, or individual elected or appointed to a position within the DFL party may misrepresent a letter of support as an Official DFL endorsement. A letter of support issued before the primary is valid after the primary only if the candidate's name appears on the general election ballot. A letter of support for any candidate shall terminate upon the swearing in for said office. If a candidate who has been issued a letter of support by the DFL Party gives personal endorsement, financial assistance, or other public support or public assistance to any candidate running against a DFL-endorsed or officially supported candidate for any public office, or engages in any other act of malfeasance or nonfeasance, the appropriate letter of support special committee may revoke the letter of support by a two-thirds vote of the members eligible to vote, following the dismissal for cause procedures.

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ARTICLE X

OTHER ELECTORAL JURISDICTIONS WITHOUT APPROVED CONSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Electoral Jurisdictions Not Provided for Elsewhere.

In an electoral jurisdiction for which a Constitution does not otherwise provide a means of endorsement, the central committee of the party having the smallest jurisdiction which includes the electoral jurisdiction shall be responsible for the party's affairs in elections in that electoral jurisdiction.

If the smallest jurisdiction is the entire state, the chair of the Congressional District which contains the largest number of the electoral jurisdiction's precincts shall be responsible for calling special endorsing commissions and/or letter of support special committee meetings, unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws. The chair of the Congressional District shall call a special endorsing

commission and/or letter of support special committee meeting if demanded by at least one Congressional District central committee that includes a portion of the electoral jurisdiction.

Bylaw The State Central Committee has issued ongoing authorization for the formation of a Hennepin County special endorsing commission in each year there are Hennepin County-wide or commissioner elections. The commission shall be jointly called, organized, and convened by the current chairs of the congressional districts that overlap Hennepin County. No central committee shall have authority to endorse candidates for Hennepin County offices.

Bylaw Commission delegates and alternates for the Hennepin County special endorsing commission shall be elected at precinct caucuses in even-numbered years. Each precinct shall elect one delegate and one alternate to the Hennepin County special endorsing commission for every 20 delegates, or fraction thereof, it elects to its organizing unit convention.

Section 2. Special Endorsing Commission.

Authority. A special endorsing commission for an election in an electoral jurisdiction for which a Constitution does not otherwise provide a means of endorsement may be called by the central committee having jurisdiction.

Membership. For an electoral jurisdiction equivalent to, or smaller than, a senatorial district in population, the delegates and alternates elected at precinct caucuses within that jurisdiction shall be delegates and alternates to the special endorsing commission.

For an electoral jurisdiction larger than a senatorial district in population, excluding cities of the first class, which are included in Section 3 below, the delegates and alternates to the State Convention who reside within the jurisdiction, or the commission delegates and alternates elected at precinct caucuses within that jurisdiction shall be delegates and alternates to the special endorsing commission.

Business. The special endorsing commission may recruit and endorse a candidate for each office open for election within their electoral jurisdiction, and aid in the election of the candidate.

Endorsement involving an election in a subjurisdiction of such an electoral jurisdiction may be made by delegates to the special endorsing commission who reside within the subjurisdiction.

Section 3. Letter of Support Special Committee.

Authority. A letter of support special committee for an election in an electoral jurisdiction for which a Constitution does not otherwise provide a means of endorsement may be called by the central committee having jurisdiction.

Membership. The members and alternates to the Organizing Unit central committee(s) who reside within the electoral jurisdiction shall be members and alternates to the letter of support special committee.

Business. The letter of support special committee shall attempt to solicit all eligible candidates for consideration and consider issuing a letter of support to candidate(s) for each office open for election within their electoral jurisdiction.

Letters of support involving an election in a subjurisdiction of such an electoral jurisdiction may be made by delegates to the letter of support special committee who reside within the subjurisdiction.

<Note: this is a new section 3. Later sections will be renumbered>

Proposed Change #6:

This proposed change establishes the roles and responsibilities of “communications director” and “data and technology director”. These responsibilities may either be assigned by and to existing unit executive committee members, or be established in unit constitutions as named officers (named director(s) and/or named executive committee member(s)).

Note: two different changes include the Bylaw introduction portion of this revision (the part before the description of functions). If both sets of proposed changes were to be adopted, only one copy of the duplicated text would be included in the Constitution and Bylaws.

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ARTICLE III

GENERAL RULES AND POLICY

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Section 7. Party Officer Rules.

Subsection A. Party Officers.

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Except at the state level, following each unit’s regular election of its chair, the first central or executive committee meeting shall elect from among its executive committee members individuals to fulfill the duties of: communications officer; and data and technology officer. Units may, instead, designate named officers in the unit’s constitution to be elected at their convention to serve in these roles.

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Bylaw Except for state party officers, the roles of party officers at all levels shall include the functions described in this

Bylaw. A unit may add additional functions for any of its officers in its constitution and bylaws.

Communications Officer. The Communications Officer shall: (1) manage the digital presence of the unit; (2) be responsible for maintaining and keeping current the content on the unit’s website; (3) update the unit’s social media presences; (4) distribute the unit’s newsletter (if any); (5) email updates to the membership; (6) maintain contact with the State Party’s communications office; (7) be responsible for promulgating the notices and press releases that may be required of the unit as set forth in the Official Call; and (8) at the direction of the unit Chair, notify members of the unit’s central and executive committees of unit meetings.

Data and Technology Officer. The Data and Technology Officer shall: (1) in coordination with the unit’s secretary maintain the unit’s electronic records (upon request, these records must be available to any member of the unit in a read-only format); (2) be responsible for administration of the unit’s website if not hosted by the State Party; (3) attend State Party training on use of the DFL voter file and provide training and technical assistance to their unit on use of the voter file; (4) assist the chair and other officers with the technological platform on which the unit’s virtual and/or hybrid meetings are held (if any); and (5) perform other functions as may be assigned to them from time to time by the unit’s executive or central committee.

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Proposed Change #10:

This proposed change adds State Party Officers and Congressional District chairs and vice chairs as automatic delegates to every convention that includes their residence.

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ARTICLE III

GENERAL RULES AND POLICY

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Section 19. Distinguished Party Leaders.

The following Distinguished Party Leader Delegates shall be delegates at-large to all DFL conventions and endorsing commissions whose boundaries include their residence: DFL members of the State Senate and State House of Representatives, DFL State Constitutional Officers, DFL members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota, any current or former U.S. Presidents or Vice Presidents who are Minnesota residents, public officials elected at a convocation per Article VII, Section 2, state party officers, congressional district chairs and vice chairs, any former DFL State Party Chairs, any DFL Chair Emeriti designated by previous State Conventions (see State Convention delegate list in the Official Call for designated Chair Emeriti), and the tribal chair of each Native American tribe whose tribal government headquarters is located in Minnesota

(provided the chair is a resident of Minnesota). To be eligible, Distinguished Party Leaders must have participated in the DFL precinct caucus in the year the Convention occurs. However, the tribal chair of such a tribe may designate another elected member of the tribal council who is a resident of Minnesota and who attended the DFL precinct caucuses in the year the Convention occurs to act as the Distinguished Party Leader Delegate representing the tribe at one or more conventions during that year; provided the tribal chair gives written notice of such designation to the State DFL Chair at least 10 days prior to the convention at which the designation is to take effect.

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Proposed Change #12:

This proposed change makes explicit the emergency powers provided to the State Executive Committee and State Central Committee. If a state of emergency is declared by an appropriate government jurisdiction, it allows the suspension of specific provisions of our party’s governing documents. It also provides a process, with a 90% vote threshold, for the declaration of an emergency by the party itself.

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ARTICLE VII

STATE PARTY ORGANIZATION

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Section 5. State Executive Committee.

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Emergency Powers. A declared emergency, under this paragraph, occurs when a federal, state, or local authority with jurisdiction in the State of Minnesota declares an emergency within that jurisdiction or when the State Central Committee or State Executive Committee, by a 90 percent vote, declares an emergency.

When the State Executive Committee or State Central Committee declares an emergency, the emergency shall be in effect from the adjournment of the meeting where it is declared and shall expire 60 days later. The State Central Committee may, by a 90 percent vote, extend an emergency up to six months after the adjournment of the meeting where it is extended. An emergency may be terminated sooner than six months after its declaration or extension (1) on an earlier date specified in the declaration or extension, or (2) by a majority vote of the State Executive or Central Committee.

During a declared emergency, the State Executive Committee shall have the authority to, by a two-thirds vote, suspend specific provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws and the Official Call, as well as provisions of any DFL organization’s governing documents to the extent necessary to comply with the health and safety recommendations and/or mandates of federal, state, or local authorities. When the State Executive Committee suspends provisions of the party governing documents, it shall issue supplementary rules and guidance. Any suspension of party documents and any supplementary rules or guidance enacted during a declared emergency shall terminate in effect when the declared emergency ends.

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ADDENDUM A: RULE BOOK OF THE MINNESOTA DFL PARTY

GENERAL RULES

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Interpretations of Party Documents. Any member or group of members of the party may offer their advice on the interpretation of party rules and documents. However, no such advice has binding authority. No Standing Committee, subordinate unit, or other committee of the DFL has binding authority to interpret party governing documents. That authority is vested solely with the Minnesota DFL Party’s highest governing body, which is the State Convention; and between State Conventions, the State Central Committee; and between State Central Committee meetings, the State Executive Committee, as prescribed by the State DFL Constitution and Bylaws. Only these bodies can offer official interpretations of party governing documents. No official interpretation of party governing documents may serve to suspend or amend the plain meaning of the text of those documents, except when an interpretation is required to resolve a conflict within the documents.

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Proposed Change #16:

This proposed change would require local units to notify the State Party of meetings and to submit copies of their unit’s minutes.

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ADDENDUM A: RULE BOOK OF THE MINNESOTA DFL PARTY

GENERAL RULES

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Unit Records. Party officers at all levels shall be responsible for keeping minutes, transactions, treasury accounts, membership rosters, and other appropriate records of DFL meetings, and such records shall be available for examination to

any member of the DFL Party upon request at a reasonable time after reasonable notice. When the law requires that any financial or other information must be publicly reported, then compliance with the law satisfies this rule, and the responsible officer need not compile or disclose the publicly reported information any earlier or in any other manner than the law requires.

Unit Records—Notices and Minutes. All units shall include the state party when sending out meeting notice and copies of minutes (which can be included as part of the notice for their next meeting). They should be sent to partyaffairs@dfll.org.

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Revision history:

- Revision 001: Initial report
- Revision 002: Updated to number the proposed changes.
- Revision 003: Internal version, not released
- Revision 004: Internal version, not released
- Revision 005: Updated per December 8, 2021 State Executive Committee to remove Proposed Change #11 from SCC request for feedback.
- Revision 006: Internal version, not released
- Revision 006: Internal version, not released
- Revision 007: Internal version, not released
- Revision 008: Internal version, not released
- Revision 009: Updated with feedback from SCC, added additional changes from January CBRC meeting, added non-substantive changes, and added any additional items missing from Revision 005.
- Revision 010: Updated with changes from April 2022 CBRC meeting.
- Revision 011: Corrected cover letter heading
- Revision 012: Corrected “grey box” typos for Proposed Change #14 and #15
- Revision 013: Removed proposals adopted by the State Convention on May 20, 2022; updated cover letter.