

How to Process Resolutions at the OU Level

While the DFL Constitution and the DFL Call have some explicit instructions, each organizing unit has great flexibility in creating their Resolution Report for their local convention.

Fundamental Principles

- 1) The Action Agenda is renewed every cycle
- 2) Since the Action Agenda is renewed every cycle, every submitted resolution should be included in your Organizing Unit's Platform report.
- 3) A resolution cannot contradict the Ongoing Platform. Dismiss those that do.
- 4) The only exception is when they specifically call to change the Ongoing Platform. Then add this note: "This resolution calls to change the Ongoing Platform" or similar wording.
- 5) You may have resolutions with opposing ideas. Include both, as long as they do not contradict the Ongoing Platform.
- 6) Local Platform issues are not forwarded to the State Platform committee.

First Tasks

- 7) The first primary task is to sort the resolutions into their possible 20 categories.
 - a. Appendix A provides a list of key phrases that can assist you with placing resolutions into correct categories.
 - b. The "Resolution Title" can help with sorting and combining similar resolutions.
- 8) What if you have a resolution with two or more separate ideas?
 - a. Break it up into as many as necessary resolutions in order that each resolution has a single idea and can be placed in its proper category. (We had an example of one resolution with ten separate ideas. That committee split it into ten.)
 - b. The resolution form declares there should be one idea. Multiple ideas violates that instruction. So your committee could choose to discard that resolution.

Best Practices for First Tasks

- 9) It is probably a good idea to make at least one scan copy of all of the resolutions.
- 10) If your organizing unit is large enough and has many resolutions, then consider giving each resolution a unique identifying number, so you can trace resolutions to the one originally submitted at caucus. It can be as simple as the following:

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| 2024 MINNESOTA DFL RESOLUTION FORM <i>(Submit one resolution per form and one subject per resolution)</i> |  |
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The State DFL Ongoing Platform embodies the principles of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. The State DFL Action Agenda is a set of recommended public policy positions which the party supports and will promote during the next

- 11) You will probably want to transfer the text of the resolutions into an Excel spreadsheet.
 - a. There are a variety of dictation-to-text software packages that can be used.
 - b. Below is an example of the use of a spreadsheet:

| Ward | Precinct | Category | Unique # Identifier | Resolution Title | The Resolution | Reasoning |
|------|----------|----------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 3 | Labor | 11 | Deterrents & Enforcement of Wage Theft | We support strengthening | Reasoning: Man |
| 2 | 10 | Labor | 69 | Guaranteed Livable Wages | A livable wage shall be | Ensuring fair con |

- 12) Although not required, some organizing units include the reasoning as part of their ballot. This improves the education process. If your OU's report is electronic, this is encouraged. An example from 2016 is given below:

MPCA Citizens Advisory Board

supports legislation that will restore the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizens Board to its full capacity and authority.

[Background] - The MPCA's Citizen Advisory Board was eliminated by the Minnesota legislature at the end of the 2015 session, with no public hearing or little legislative debate. The board of eight unpaid citizens, appointed by the governor and chaired by MPCA commissioner John Linc Stine, had veto power over the agency's decisions. That unusual power was cited earlier this year by House Speaker Kurt Daudt as the reason for its demise (<http://www.startribune.com/protesters-decry-death-of-citizens-board-at-minnesota-pollution-control-agency/309317141/>).

General recommendation regarding the EDITING of resolutions:

After sorting them into categories:

- 1) The ideal goal is to edit resolutions to keep their primary idea and thus try to edit them to 35-50 words. You want the delegate to read the resolution and understand it.
- 2) Be aware that resolutions of the report to the State Convention come from many organizing units. In 2022, the top 40 resolutions of the report had submissions from at least 23 organizing units. The next 30 had submissions from at least 10 organizing units. And the rest had submissions from at least 7 organizing units.
- 3) The point is that each resolution is ultimately edited from many submissions. For that is the process used by the State Platform committee.
- 4) The resolution's meaning cannot be changed.
- 5) Only ideas given in the original resolution can be presented.
- 6) Ideas that were not there cannot be added.
- 7) Again, there can be resolutions with opposing ideas. Include both. As stated before, they cannot contradict the Ongoing Platform, unless explicitly stating this.
- 8) Resolutions should not include specific bill numbers or name legislators. Keep the original idea, but rewrite the resolution to describe the bill.
- 9) Resolutions are not legislation. If a resolution details a legislative process to implement, preserve the idea and the desired goal of the resolution.
- 10) Appendix B shows a couple examples of combining resolutions.
 - a. One example has 7 resolutions with the same fundamental idea, but with 3 separate minor nuances.
 - b. The 2nd example shows a more complicated set of 5, how the essence of each was determined, and how they were ultimately combined.
 - c. Combining of resolutions is encouraged for a couple reasons.
 - i. The State Platform's report to the State Convention will combine many.
 - ii. Imagine that 5 similar resolutions were presented separately. Delegates tend to vote for 1 of them, maybe 2, rarely more.

The DFL State Platform Committee