

Senate District 31 Republican Party Constitution

Preamble

The Republican Party of Minnesota Senate District 31 welcomes the participation of all citizens of Minnesota Senate District 31 who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, and responsive government. The Republican Party believes in the equality of all, as stated in the United State of America 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 31 Republican Party of Minnesota, the basic political organization unit, hereinafter referred to here as "the BPOU".

Article II – Purpose

The purpose and objectives of the BPOU shall be the maintenance and advancement of good government according to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota through the promotion within of the purposes and objectives of the National Republican Party and the Republican Party of Minnesota.

The BPOU will work 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 provide support for the campaigns of all locally endorsed Republican candidates, as well as to provide support for the campaigns of all State and Congressional District Republican candidates within this Senate District.

Article III - Membership

The membership of this BPOU shall be comprised of all citizens eligible to vote in Senate District 31 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 31 Executive Committee, subject to the direction of the State Central Committee, the State Executive Committee, the Congressional District Committee, the BPOU Convention, the State Party Constitution, Congressional District Constitutions, Senate District 31 Constitution and applicable state statutes.

Section 2: Structure - The Senate District 31 Executive Committee shall be comprised of the BPOU Chair, HD 31A Deputy Chair, HD 31B Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, three (3) HD 31A Vice Chairs and three (3) HD 31B 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, Congressional District Liaisons, etc. as described in Section 3.

B. The State Central Committee Delegates and all elected Republican legislators living within the boundaries of Senate District 31 and not otherwise an elected SD31 Executive Committee member will be non-voting members.

Section 3: Executive Committee Duties

A. The BPOU Chair shall conduct BPOU Executive Committee meetings. The Chair shall appoint committees and coordinate the activities of the overall executive committee. The Chair is also an ex-officio member of all BPOU committees.

B. The deputy chairs will coordinate the activities of the vice chairs in their respective house districts. The Executive Committee shall select one deputy chair as a primary to act in the executive chair's absence, should the need arise. The other deputy chair will operate as a secondary to fill any leadership roles required, should the Executive Chair or primary deputy chair not be available. 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 an annual budget.

F. Vice Chairs shall manage the affairs of precincts assigned to them by the deputy chairs as well as assisting the BPOU at large. Vice chairs shall also be assigned an order of succession to act in place of the executive chair or deputy chairs, wherever the need shall arise. Such assignments shall be assigned by the executive chair or, if the Executive Chair is unavailable, decided by the voting members of the executive committee 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.

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, and K. 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. 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. 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 31A delegation shall elect one (1) Deputy Chair and three (3) Vice Chairs. The House District 31B delegation shall elect one (1) Deputy Chair and three (3) Vice Chairs. The total number of Executive Committee members is thirteen (13). If the BPOU is unable to fill all positions, then the executive committee may appoint a candidate from the other house delegation to fill vacancies as necessary.

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 annual BPOU convention, for the purpose of nominating volunteers for the various convention committee positions as well as for the executive committee. 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 in even years to a two- year term.

B. Delegates (& Alternates), as allotted to the BPOU by the Congressional Districts, to the State Central Committee Meetings shall be elected in odd years to a two-year term. 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 and Third Congressional Districts & 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.

D. Precinct delegates eligible under this Constitution to the relevant convention wishing to be included on the ballot for CD or State Delegate elections may submit their candidacy to the nominations committee in writing on a form provided by the BPOU within 30 minutes after the adoption of the convention rules.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri, Underline color: Light Blue, Font color: Black

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 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, the Congressional District Committee, or the SD31 Republican Committee. County, Municipal, and School District Endorsing/Recommending 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 31 Republicans" would apply only to those precincts located within the boundaries of SD31. (See Article VIII, Section 2 for details.)

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 comprised of delegates and alternates selected at Republican Party Precinct Caucus within Senate District 31. 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 per the criteria in section G of this article.

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.

G. Seated delegates will retain the option to temporarily surrender their seat during the convention. In such a case, the highest ranked alternate will be allowed to fill that delegate's role until the delegate returns. The Precinct Chair will keep a written record of any delegates that need to be replaced on a temporary or permanent basis, including the name of the delegate being replaced, the time the delegate was replaced as well as the name of the alternate replacing the delegate.

H. The Precinct Chair may assign a liaison within the precinct's pool of alternates to act in a manner to coordinate the unseated alternates. This liaison will coordinate alternates so that alternates are available for seating if and when the need should arise. This liaison may also be used by the precinct chair to facilitate informational, material or logistical needs in support of the seated delegates. Communication may be conducted by use of electronic devices, or if this is not possible by an appointed messenger within the seated delegates.

Article VIII – Congressional District and State Conventions

The SD31 delegation shall be chaired at Congressional District and State conventions as such:

The SD31 Executive Chair shall hold the default position of Chair for the convention's delegation, provided the Executive Chair has been voted as a delegate for the convention in question. If the Executive Chair is not present, the position shall fall to the first executive committee member that has been elected as a delegate to the convention available by the time of the first credentialing report in the following order:

1. Primary Deputy Chair, as defined in Section 3.
2. Secondary Deputy Chair, as defined in Section 3.
3. Vice Chair in order of succession as defined in section 3.

If none of the above is available for the delegation by the time of the first credentials report, a chair will be elected among the delegates present. For the purposes of consistency, the person acting as delegation chair shall remain as acting chair for the duration of the convention unless the acting chair must for unseen circumstances unseat himself/herself. In this situation, a replacement chair shall be selected based on the criteria listed above in this section.

The primary purpose of the delegation chair will be to coordinate the formation of the delegation in a timely manner using the available delegates and alternates to fill the BPOU's voting

allocation based solely on the voting rankings of the BPOU for the related convention. The delegation chair is required to make reasonable efforts to locate any delegates and alternates who may yet arrive up until the completion and delivery of the second credentialing report to the delegation chair. Following the formation of the delegation, the delegation chair will continue to coordinate the delegation as well as assist seated delegates to the best of his abilities in their material, logistical and informational needs. If fifty percent of those voted as delegates by the BPOU who were present on the floor prior to the second credentials report deem the delegation chair to be acting outside of his duties as defined here, they are authorized to convene a vote among delegates present at that time. A vote in favor of removal by 60% or more of the seated delegates will result in the removal of the delegation chair as well as unseat the him/her for the duration of the convention.

A. The delegation chair may assign a liaison within the delegation's pool of alternates to act in a manner to coordinate the unseated alternates. This liaison will coordinate alternates so that alternates are available for seating if and when the need should arise. This liaison may also be used by the delegation chair to facilitate informational, material or logistical needs in support of the seated delegates. Communication may be conducted by use of electronic devices, or if this is not possible by an appointed messenger within the seated delegates.

B. The delegation shall caucus after acceptance of the first credentials committee report 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 BPOU Convention. If not ranked, then fill 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 after the delivery of the second credentials report to the delegation chair, the delegate will be treated as prescribed in Robert's Rules with delegation vacancies filled per subsection B and C above. Seated alternates at this juncture in the convention will act as a delegate for the duration of the convention and fulfill all duties required of the delegates as well as be entrusted with all voting powers of a dually elected delegate. However, if a delegate has arrived at the convention in a timely manner and is delayed by the registration process of the convention from arriving on the floor, said delegate will be seated upon arrival and the lowest ranking alternate will be returned to the pool of alternates. Under all circumstances, it is incumbent upon the delegates to communicate with the delegation chair in advance of the first credentials report.

E. No Alternates may be seated prior to the first Credentials report.

F. Seated delegates will retain the option to temporarily surrender their seat during the convention. In such a case, the highest ranked alternate will be allowed to fill that delegate's role until the delegate returns. The Delegation Chair will keep a written record of any delegates that need to be replaced on a temporary or permanent basis, including the name of the delegate being replaced, the time the delegate was replaced as well as the name of the alternate replacing the delegate.

1. A delegate who volunteers to perform other functions at the convention (for example, assist with registration or credentials) that may prevent them from joining their BPOU delegation on the floor until after the credentialing process is treated as

temporarily surrendering their seat as in Section F. Upon completion of other functions, the delegate may choose to return to the floor to reclaim their seat.

2. A delegate who volunteers to perform convention governance functions (for example, Chair, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Sergeant at Arms) that require they be located elsewhere than with their delegation throughout the convention, are able to vote with their BPOU. Therefore, they are able to fulfill their primary responsibility as delegate and no alternate need be seated to replace them.

G. Delegates are expected to communicate their whereabouts at all times to the delegation chair. Upon arrival on the floor, delegates must remain on the floor during the credentialing process so as to ensure the formation of the delegation. Any delegate who is missing without explanation for any vote on the floor, or who is missing through the formation process of the delegation during the credentialing process can be subject to replacement by an available alternate as prescribed in subsection C of this article above.

H. The delegates' primary responsibilities are to be in attendance on the floor of a convention for acts of voting related to the convention agenda and to represent the BPOU's interest as evidenced by the BPOU's voting records. Any delegate who acts outside of this interest and is deemed by the executive committee to have acted in a willful manner to disrupt the delegation or to alter the delegation's votes by using circumstances to delay the arrival of delegates or alternates may be brought to the BPOU as a whole where a vote will be taken to strip said delegate(s) of their position(s) as delegates for the duration of their term.

Article IX – Endorsements Process Section

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 and otherwise disqualified ballots as noted above) 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.

Section 2: County, Municipal, School Board, & Judicial Recommendations Process- 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 may be held at the discretion of the Executive Committee for a candidate for a non-partisan County, Municipal, School District or Judicial race. Candidates for offices eligible for Recommendation must submit applications to the BPOU no later than 30 days after the public filing deadline. A Recommendation vote will be held at a scheduled or called BPOU meeting, and must include a 10-day electronic and/or written notice to the voting body. More than one recommendation vote can occur for any given election cycle based on multiple requests or differences in municipal filing periods. Applicants for Recommendation shall submit an application and completed questionnaire, and at the discretion of the Executive Committee be subject to an interview. Voting body shall be defined as Full Committee members and SD31 Delegates present at the Recommendation meeting.

A candidate will be considered 'Recommended by SD 31 Republicans 'once he/she receives a 60% vote of the Voting Body.

A similar process can be used to revoke a Recommendation.

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: Resignation - If a member of the Executive Committee chooses to resign, said official shall provide written notice to the Executive Committee, a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the effective date of intended resignation.

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 X, Section 3.

Section 6: Conflict of Interest - Any elected member of the Executive Committee who announces 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 his/her position on the Executive Committee.

Section 7: Dereliction of Duty - If a member of the Executive Committee is absent without cause or without communication regarding the absence from more than three (3) consecutive executive committee meetings, this person shall be removed from office unless granted an exception by 2/3 vote of the executive committee.

Article X - Dissolution

In the event the State Legislative lines are redrawn, the Executive Committee shall have the power to dissolve this Senate District 31 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 no later than seven days prior to the convention, and that the Official Convention Call will indicate that constitutional amendments will be considered.

Updated: March 1, 2025.

Deleted: rch 11, 2023