

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We have failed in our responsibilities to be scholars and protectors of our precious individual rights and liberty, allowing our governments to erode the very things they were chartered to guard.

Being a self governed people we have consented to relinquish limited powers in order to protect our inalienable individual rights and liberties. The primary function of government is to secure liberty in all its facets. Our belief is that the role of government is limited to only those powers as defined in the state and federal constitutions.

We believe we can reclaim our liberties by embracing the following core principles.

Article I - Principles

Section 1: Rights, Liberties, and Private Property:

Being a self governed people we shall not allow any government, foreign or domestic, to infringe on any of our natural individual rights. Government shall respect privacy, civil and property rights; protect religious, political and economic liberties; and treat every person equally under the law.

Section 2: Role of Government:

Government should be instituted at the most local level possible, with its size and reach being reduced to reflect that which the constitution allows. State and local governments shall not make laws and regulations under threat of coercion from the federal government.

Section 3: Government Spending:

Current spending levels are not sustainable and will not be tolerated. Spending must be substantially cut at all levels. Reductions in proposed increases are not cuts.

Section 4: Free Markets:

Economic markets must be free. The role of government in economic markets is to protect property rights, voluntary trade, contracts, and provide a legal framework to resolve disputes. Capitalism allocates resources in the most efficient manner; therefore most functions currently provided by government should be privatized and bureaucratic regulations eliminated.

Article II - Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Republican Party of Minnesota Senate District 31, the basic political organization unit, hereinafter referred to as "SD 31" or "SD 31 BPOU".

Section 2: The SD 31 BPOU welcomes the participation of all citizens who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, and responsive government. The purpose and objectives of the SD 31 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 SD 31 of the purposes and objectives of the National Republican Party and the Republican Party of Minnesota.

Section 3: The purpose and responsibility of the BPOU is for the election of endorsed Republican candidates for public office. 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”

Section 4: The purposes and duties of the BPOU shall include those imposed by law and custom upon official party committees. In addition the BPOU shall:

- A) Organize or cause to be organized each precinct in SD 31
- B) Encourage the formation of auxiliary Republican groups, and cooperate with and coordinate their activities;
- C) Assist in conducting campaigns for the adoption of laws; and
- D) Administer the affairs of the Party within the BPOU.

Article III - Membership

The membership of this SD 31 BPOU shall be composed of all citizens eligible to vote in SD 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: The management of the SD 31 BPOU shall rest with the SD 31 Executive Board and SD 31 Full Committee, subject to the direction of the State Central Committee, the State Executive Committee, the Congressional District Committees, the SD 31 BPOU Convention, the State Party Constitution, SD 31 Constitution and applicable state statutes of law.

Section 2: The SD 31 Executive Board shall be composed of the BPOU Chair, A-side Deputy Chair, B-side Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) A-side Regional Leaders, and three (3) B-side Regional Leaders.

Regional Leaders may be assigned by the Executive Board to oversee a number of precincts; they may also be assigned additional titles and duties by the Executive Board, such as Database coordinator, communications coordinator, volunteer coordinator, fundraising coordinator, Congressional District Liaisons.

The State Central Committee Delegates and all elected Republican legislators living within the boundaries of SD 31 and not otherwise an elected board member will be non-voting board members.

Section 3: The SD 31 Full Committee shall be composed of the Executive Board, the Precinct Chairs from each precinct and the Precinct Vice Chairs.

Section 4: Duties: The duties of the Executive Board shall:

- A) The BPOU Chair shall conduct BPOU Executive Board meetings. The Chair shall appoint committees and coordinate the activities of the Regional Leaders. The Chair is also ex-officio member of all BPOU committees.
- B) One 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 Board meetings. Since their attendance at these meetings is not required, their position shall not be included in the quorum count unless they are present.
- D) The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings, be responsible for written correspondence with the members of the Executive Board, 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 Board, prepare and submit all reports to the state as required by law and help submit annual budget.
- F) Regional Leaders shall manage the affairs of precincts assigned to them as well as assisting the BPOU at large

Section 5: Duties: The duties of the Full Committee shall be:

- A) Remove members and fill vacancies in the Executive committee according to Article VIII.
- B) Attend Full Committee meetings to stay informed on SD31 activities.
- C) Support SD31 actions.

Article V - BPOU Elections

Section 1: The BPOU Executive Board shall be elected to up to a two-year term by the delegates to the odd-year BPOU Convention.

- A) Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other district wide officer shall be elected at large
- B) Deputy Chairs and Regional Leaders shall be elected by their respective house district delegates. Only persons from the respective house districts are eligible candidates.
- C) State Central Committee Delegates and ranked alternates, Congressional District Representatives and alternates shall be elected by a caucus of their respective Congressional Districts.

Section 2: Officers of each precinct may consist of two Chairs 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, the BPOU Executive Board may appoint individuals to fill the vacancy in that precinct.

Section 3: A nominating committee may be appointed by the BPOU Executive Board in advance of the odd-year BPOU convention, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various Committee positions. This does not prohibit nominations from the floor.

Section 4: Delegates to Congressional or State Conventions shall be elected by a caucus of their respective Congressional Districts. Alternates shall be ranked for seating purposes at these conventions.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1: Requirements:

- A) The Executive Board or Full Committee shall meet at least once every 3 months.
- B) Full Committee and Special Executive Board Meetings: The Full Committee or Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair, at the request of any three (3) members of the Board, or at the request of 25% of the BPOU Convention delegates. Three (3) days notice shall be provided to members.

Quorums:

- a. A quorum for the Full Committee shall be 40% of the Executive Committee.
- b. A quorum for the Executive Board shall be 40% of the seated members.
- C) Unless otherwise noted in this Constitution, “notices” may be by email to previously verified addresses.

Section 2: "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of the Executive Board.

Article VII - BPOU Conventions

Section 1: 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. Special BPOU Conventions shall be held at the call of the aforementioned groups, or at the discretion of the majority of the BPOU Executive Board, provided that a minimum of ten (10) days notice, in writing, be sent to each delegate and alternate.

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

Section 2: At all BPOU Conventions, the first (1st) order of business shall be the temporary election of convention officers. The second (2nd) order of business shall be the first (1st) credentials report. The convention shall then proceed to the seating of the delegates, as outlined in Article VII, Section three (3). A precinct shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each delegate present or alternate properly seated.

Section 3: The BPOU Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternate selected at Republican Party Precinct Caucus within SD 31. The credentials committee shall seat all duly elected and accredited delegates of each precinct who are present. Vacancies shall be filled according to the following procedures:

- A) After the first Credentials report, if no Delegates are present, 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 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.

Section 4: Delegates and alternates to the State and Congressional Republican District Conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, as well as the State Republican Constitution, and shall continue as such until their successors are elected.

Section 5: A motion to endorse will be in order at any BPOU Convention in the years when these elections occur. This motion must carry by a majority vote.

- A) The BPOU Convention may endorse a candidate for office of State Senator. Endorsement shall be by sixty (60) percent of the voting strength of the convention. The last credentials report prior to each ballot shall govern the voting strength.
- B) A Sub-Caucus of a BPOU Convention or a separate convention of the delegates from State House Districts _A or _B may each endorse a candidate for State Representative, however, if endorsement is by a separate convention, agenda of said convention shall be limited to the endorsement of these candidates only. Endorsement shall be by sixty (60) percent of the voting strength of the sub-caucus or convention. The last credentials report prior to each ballot shall govern the voting strength.

Article VIII - Vacancies and Removals

Section 1: Vacancies in precinct offices may be filled by appointment of the Full Committee or, if so directed, by a caucus of Republicans in the affected precinct. Should vacancies occur in the Executive Board, replacements may be elected by the Full Committee or at the next BPOU Convention.

Section 2: An officer of the Executive Board or Full Committee may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any meeting of the seated Board members provided that the member in question be furnished with a ten (10) day notice, in writing, of the charges that may warrant removal. Further, the officer in question shall be entitled to respond to these charges in person or in writing prior to the vote to remove.

Section 3: It is the duty of all Executive Board and Full Committee members to support Republican endorsed candidates. Should any member actively and publicly campaign against any Republican endorsed candidate, that member may be removed from the Executive Board or Full Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section 2.

Section 4: Any elected member of the Executive Board who announces their 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 position on the Executive Board.

Article IX - Dissolution

In the event the State Legislative lines are redrawn, the Executive Board shall have the power to dissolve this SD31 BPOU by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Article X - 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.