

14435

O.D.

Constitution
OF THE
Democratic-Farmer-Labor
Party of Minnesota

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED
FEB - 8 1960

Joseph R. Holloman
Secretary of State

AS AMENDED
IN CONVENTION AT
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
MAY 25, 1958

RECEIVED

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836

SECRETARY OF STATE

DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
6 East Franklin Avenue • Federal 9-0701 • Minneapolis 4, Minnesota

RAY HEMENWAY
Chairman

MRS. GERI JOSEPH
Chairwoman

January 14, 1960

Honorable Joseph Donovan
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is an official copy of the latest constitution of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota. It is our understanding that we are required to file this constitution with your office.

Sincerely,

Ray Hemenway
Ray Hemenway
Chairman

encl: 1

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RAY HEMENWAY, Chairman
MRS. GERI JOSEPH, Chairwoman

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Article I—NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota.

Section 2. The purpose of the party shall be to (a) sustain and advance the principles of democracy and civil rights, (b) uphold constitutional government, (c) organize and perpetuate a strong, representative and effective party organization in the State of Minnesota, (d) affiliate with and advance the interests of the National Democratic Party, and (e) advocate and further such principles as may from time to time be adopted by its party conventions.

Article II—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the party shall be open to all voters of the State of Minnesota who support the purposes of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

Section 2. Any person to be qualified to vote on any motion, resolution, nomination or election affecting the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party at any meeting, caucus, conference, or convention, in the state, counties, districts, wards and precincts, shall be (a) an eligible voter in the district or area involved, (b) a supporter of the purposes of the party as stated in Article I, Section 2, of this constitution, and (c) shall not be a member of any other political party.

Article III—STATE PARTY ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. General Management. The general management of the affairs of the state party shall in accord with the provisions of this Constitu-

tion be vested in the State Convention and subject thereto in the State Central Committee, and subject to the determinations and directions of the said two bodies in the State Executive Committee.

Section 2. Officers. The State Convention held each general election year shall elect from the membership of the party the state party officers as follows: Chairman, Chairwoman, First, Second and Third Vice-Chairman; First, Second and Third Vice-Chairwoman; Secretary; and Treasurer; who shall serve until their successors are chosen and who shall perform their respective duties as usual and customary in American political organizations. Whenever any state party officer, district or county chairman, or chairwoman, makes an announcement declaring himself a candidate for a statewide elective post, or any national office, subject to the party nomination or party endorsement, the party office held by such announced candidate shall be declared vacant. In case of any vacancy in the Office of State Chairman, the order of succession to that office shall be as follows: State Chairwoman, First Vice-Chairman, First Vice-Chairwoman, Second Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairwoman, Third Vice-Chairman, and Third Vice-Chairwoman.

The Chairman's duties shall be those of a chief executive officer. The Chairman may appoint an Executive Director, or other personnel, to manage the business affairs of the party, and a Finance Director to manage the financial affairs of the party, appointments subject to the confirmation of the State Executive Committee, and may determine their duties and functions in accord-

ance with actions taken by the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, and the State Convention. The Chairman may provide for the employment of any other office personnel necessary.

The Secretary shall be in charge of all the files and records of the party, and it shall be his duty to prepare necessary documents and to preserve such files and records. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to open files and records of the party to examination by any duly elected member of the State Central Committee at convenient and appropriate times at the request of such member.

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Party, and shall render written accounts to each meeting of the State Central Committee and of the State Executive Committee of his receipts and disbursements. He shall also make a full oral report at each State Convention. The Treasurer and any other Party officer or employee who may be responsible for the handling of Party funds shall be under sufficient bond, the amount to be determined by the State Executive Committee. An audit of all financial records and transactions of the Party shall be made at least once a year, and at such other times as may be requested by either the State Central Committee or the State Executive Committee, by a certified public accountant, and copies of his report shall be sent to all members of the State Central Committee.

Section 3. State Central Committee

(a) Composition. The State Central Committee shall consist of:

(1) The state party officers, who shall be

the officers of the Committee.

(2) The National Committeeman and Committeewoman.

(3) All congressional district and county chairmen and chairwomen. In the absence of either chairman or chairwoman of the congressional districts or counties the vice-chairman or chairwoman of the districts or counties respectively shall participate and vote.

(4) The State Chairman and Chairwoman of the official DFL Party recognized in Article VIII of the State Constitution.

(5) During the period in each election year between the Primary and General Elections, the successful nominees of the Party at that year's Primary Election for state offices and for Senator and Representative in Congress, or their appointed representatives.

(6) Additional representatives for certain counties as hereinafter stated: Each county shall be entitled to an additional representative with one vote on the State Central Committee for each five thousand votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county at the last general election for the leading statewide DFL candidate for President, U. S. Senator, or Governor, such representatives to be elected by the county convention as the County Chairman is elected.

(7) Two members at large to be elected by the State DFL Convention for a two-year term.

(8) One member each to be appointed and to serve at the discretion of the following bodies:

(a) The DFL state constitutional officers.

- (b) The Minnesota DFL delegation to the United States Congress.
- (c) The liberal members of the Minnesota State Legislature.
- (9) The immediate past State Chairman and Chairwoman.
- (10) If a member of the State Central Committee is a representative from a local district and is also a member by virtue of holding an office, the local district he represents shall by action of its Executive Committee elect a substitute representative.
- (b) The State Central Committee shall meet at least semi-annually. Meetings may be called by the State Chairman, the State Executive Committee, and by any ten members of the State Central Committee; and regular meetings at stated times and places may be scheduled by vote of the Committee itself. At least ten days notice by mail shall be given each member of the State Central Committee for each meeting, regular or special. A quorum shall consist of members representing at least one-third of the counties of the State.
- (c) On specific questions a poll by mail may be taken of the members of the State Central Committee when the taking of such a poll is voted by State Executive Committee. In all such polls, at least fifteen days must elapse between the mailing of the ballots and the date set for the tabulation of returns.
- (d) Duties and Authority. The State Central Committee shall be the supreme governing body of the party between party conventions in accord with action taken at such conventions and the provisions of this Constitution.

- Its members shall receive minutes of the meetings of the State Executive Committee.
- Section 4. State Executive Committee
- (a) Composition. The State Executive Committee shall consist of:
- (1) The state party officers, who shall be the officers of the Committee.
 - (2) The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman.
 - (3) The Chairman and the Chairwoman of each of the Congressional Districts.
 - (4) The State Chairman and Chairwoman of the official YDFL Party organization recognized in Article VIII of the State Constitution to serve as non-voting members.
 - (5) The District Vice-Chairman or Vice-Chairwoman in absence of the District Chairman or Chairwoman.
 - (6) During the period in each election year between the Primary and General Elections, the successful nominees of the party at that year's Primary election for statewide offices and for Senator and Representative in Congress, or their appointed representatives.
 - (7) The two members-at-large elected by the State DFL Convention to the State Central Committee.
 - (8) The members of the State Central Committee appointed by:
 - (a) The DFL state constitutional officers
 - (b) The Minnesota DFL delegation to the U. S. Congress
 - (c) The liberal members of the Minnesota

State Legislature.

(9) The immediate past State Chairman and Chairwoman.

(10) If a member of the State Executive Committee is a representative from a local district and is also a member by virtue of holding an office, the local district he represents shall by action of its executive committee elect a substitute representative.

(b) Meetings. The State Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly. Meeting of the State Executive Committee may be called by the State Chairman or by any five members of the Committee, and regular meetings at stated times and places may be scheduled by vote of the Committee itself. At least five days notice by mail or three days notice by wire shall be given to each member of the State Executive Committee for each meeting, regular or special. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the membership of the committee.

(c) Duties and Authority. The State Executive Committee shall have authority over party affairs between meetings of the State Central Committee, and in accord with the actions of the State Central Committee and the party convention.

Section 5. Permanent Standing Committees.

(a) There shall be the following Permanent Standing Committees: (1) Membership, (2) Organization and Constitution, (3) Finance and Budget, (4) Legislation and Platform, (5) Candidates and (6) Special Activities.

(b) Their duties shall be to make recommenda-

tions to the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee and to Convention Committees.

(c) They shall have 13 members, constituted of one member selected by each Congressional District; three members-at-large, to be appointed by the State Chairman, with the approval of the State Executive Committee; and one state officer, to be designated by the State Executive Committee.

(d) The Standing Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the State Chairman, with the advice and consent of the State Executive Committee.

(e) The Standing Committees shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings may be called by the State Chairman, Committee Chairman, or any five members of the Committee; and regular meetings at stated times and places may be scheduled by vote of the Committee itself. At least ten days notice by mail, or five days notice by wire shall be given to each member of the Committee for each meeting, regular or special. A quorum shall consist of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the membership of the Committee.

Article IV—COUNTY PARTY ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Subject to the determinations and directions of the State Convention, the State Central Committee, and the State Executive Committee, in the order named, the general management of party affairs and the rule making power within each county shall be vested in a County Convention, to be held in accord with

the call issued by the State Chairman, and subject to the County Convention, in a county committee chosen by the regular County Convention in each general election year to serve until their successors are chosen. The regular County Convention shall elect the usual party officers: a Chairman, a Chairwoman, a Vice-Chairman, a Vice-Chairwoman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the members of the County Committee. The county officers shall also serve as officers of the County Committee. The County Committee shall consist of the county officers and at least five additional committee members. If the County Convention should fail to elect the additional committee members of the County Committee they shall be appointed by the county officers. The county conventions may elect such other county-wide officers as the County Convention shall determine.

Section 2. Meetings of the county committee shall be held at least quarterly and may be called by the Chairman, or by any five members thereof, upon two days notice by wire or five days notice by mail to all members of the committee, or by methods prescribed in a County Constitution duly adopted by the County Convention.

Section 3. County party organizations at any regularly called County Convention may adopt constitutions and/or permanent rules provided such constitution and/or permanent rules are in accord with the purposes and other provisions of this constitution. Copies of such constitutions and/or rules and of all platforms and resolutions adopted by County Conventions shall be filed with the State Secretary and shall be approved by the State Executive Committee.

Section 4. The organization of affiliate legislative district, village, town or township and ward clubs be recognized and encouraged, provided consent and approval of the county and state organization is obtained.

Article V—DISTRICT PARTY ORGANIZATION

Section 1. When a Congressional District consists of an entire single county, the County Committee and officers shall serve as the committee and officers of such Congressional District. In all other congressional districts, district officers and a district committee shall be elected at a district convention attended by delegates to the State Convention residing within that district. Such district convention shall be held each General Election year, at a convenient time and place, at the call of the District Chairman or the District Committee, or, in case there is no such Chairman or Committee to issue the call, at the call of the State Chairman, District officers shall consist of Chairman, Chairwoman, Vice-Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman, Secretary and Treasurer. The composition of the District Committee shall be determined by District Conventions.

Section 2. It shall be the function of District Officers, District Committees, and District Conventions to consider party matters applying specifically to Congressional District affairs. Meetings of District Committees may be called by the District Chairman or by any five members of the Committee, upon three days notice by wire or five days notice by mail to all members of the Committee. In each general election year, the District Convention shall recommend to the State Chairman one person to serve on

each of the following pre-convention committees: Rules, Platform, and Credentials, and on such other pre-convention committees as may be established by the State Executive Committee.

Section 3. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention shall be chosen under and pursuant to Minnesota Election Laws.

Article VI—CONVENTIONS

Section 1. Subject to the action of the State Central Committee or the State Executive Committee, the State Chairman shall call a regular state delegate convention each General Election year, and may call such other delegate conventions as may be desirable. The call to a State Convention shall indicate the number of votes to which each county shall be entitled in the convention, such allocation of voting strength having been determined on the basis of the party voting strength of each county. The basis for computing voting strength shall be the total number of votes cast for the leading Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidate at the last general state election or the last presidential election whichever election produced the largest Democratic-Farmer-Labor vote. Each county shall be allocated one vote for each 2,000 Democratic-Farmer-Labor votes cast in the election serving as the basis for computation, provided, however, that each county shall be allocated at least three delegates.

Each county, at its County Convention, shall elect delegates to the State Convention not to exceed a number equal to twice the number of votes to which the county is entitled.

Section 2. It shall be the function of the State Convention to elect officers, adopt a party platform, endorse candidates for office, and determine all other matters of party concern. Each Presidential Election year the delegates to the State Convention shall nominate Presidential electors, elect a National Committeeman and a National Committeewoman to the Democratic National Committee, and elect delegates to the National Democratic Convention, pursuant to Minnesota Election Laws.

Section 3. A quorum for the conduct of any business by the State Convention shall consist of one-half of the duly elected and accredited delegates to such convention. Whenever there is any division in the voting on any matter of the State Convention, the record vote shall be taken by counties, with each County Chairman, or in his absence another delegate acting in his behalf, reporting the vote of his county. In taking the vote within each county, the number of votes to which such county is entitled shall be pro-rated among the delegates present from that county, and each delegate shall cast his own vote independently of the other delegates from that county, and with a secret ballot provided whenever requested by any delegate. No county shall send to the State Convention an instructed delegation. Any action to endorse or support any candidate for any public office shall require at least a two-thirds vote of the State Convention.

Section 4. The relevant sections of the Minnesota Election Laws are made a part of this Constitution. Under the direction of the State Central Committee or the State Executive Committee, the State Chairman may vary the conditions

and requirements of the holding of Primary caucuses, but the holding of such caucuses shall in no case be less than 20 days after the receipt of the call of the convention from the State Chairman. Notice shall be given of the holding of Precinct Caucuses or Primaries, County Conventions, and of the State Convention, which notice shall be given at least 20 days prior to the holding of the Precinct Caucuses. Additional notice shall be given by the widest practicable publicity through the news channels of the daily press, and on the newscasts of the leading radio stations of the State. As much publicity as possible shall be given in the period prior to Precinct Caucuses in the rural press of Minnesota.

Section 5. The State Chairman shall, subject to the advice and consent of the State Executive Committee, appoint a Credentials Committee, a Rules Committee, a Platform Committee, and such other pre-convention committees as may be necessary or desirable, at least fifteen days prior to the State Convention. All such appointments shall be made after consideration of recommendations made by the District Convention as provided in Article 5, Section 2. Such committees shall perform their respective duties before the Convention opens, and shall be subject to the confirmation of the State Convention.

Section 6. The Liberal members of the State Legislature may be certified by the Credentials Committee as non-voting members of the State Convention.

Section 7. At all Conventions, visitors must be clearly separated from officially accredited delegates.

Article IV—YOUNG DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-

No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any convention or meeting of the state, county or district organizations or any other affiliated DFL organizations.

Article VIII—REMOVALS, VACANCIES AND DISPUTES

Section 1. All contests as to seats at a State Convention shall be considered by the Credentials Committee for recommendation to the State Convention, and shall be decided by the State Convention. All other disputes and contests resulting from the holding of County Conventions and District Conventions shall be decided by the State Executive Committee.

Section 2. Removal of any State Party Officer may be made for cause, after due notice and hearing, including the listing of specific charges, by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the State Central Committee. Any County Officer may be removed for cause, after due notice and hearing, including the listing of specific charges, by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the County Committee.

Section 3. Vacancies in any State Party Office, except as provided in Article III, Section 2 herein, may be filled by the State Central Committee, provided the person chosen to fill the vacancy receives the vote of a majority of the entire membership of the Central Committee. Vacancies in County and District offices shall be filled within 30 days by the Central Committee of the County or District in which the vacancy occurs, provided the person chosen receives the vote of a majority of its entire membership.

**Article IX—YOUNG DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-
LABOR CLUB**

The State Executive Committee is authorized to provide for the official organization of a Young DFL Party organization to be affiliated with the Minnesota DFL Party and to establish rules and procedures for the coordination of its activities with those of the party.

Article X—AMENDMENT

This Constitution may be amended by majority vote at any State Convention.

Article XI

This Constitution supersedes any and all other previous constitutions of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

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Joseph H. Hennings
Secretary of State