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*1965
St. Paul Convention*

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**Constitution
OF THE
Democratic-Farmer-Labor
Party of Minnesota**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED
MAY 10 1966

Joseph A. Olson
Secretary of State

AS AMENDED
IN CONVENTION AT
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
MAY 1 and 2, 1965



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Democratic-Farmer-Labor
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GEORGE FARR, State Chairman
MRS. BETTY KANE, State Chairwoman

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

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DFL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

WE, the members of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, in state convention assembled, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective and responsible party organization in the State of Minnesota, affiliate with, and advance the interests of the Democratic Party nationally, sustain and advance the principles of liberal democracy and uphold civil rights and constitutional government, do establish this constitution.

Article I—NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 2. Membership in this party shall be open to all voters of the State of Minnesota who support the purposes of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

Section 3. 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 at such time of the geographical voting unit he represents, (b) a supporter of the purposes of the party and (c) shall not be a member of any other political party.

Article II—PRECINCT CAUCUSES

Section 1. The basis for the party organization

structure shall be the precinct caucuses held in the spring of every even numbered year upon the Call issued by the State Chairman subject to the determinations of the State Central Committee and the Minnesota Election Laws. The Call shall be issued at least 20 days before the date set for the holding of such caucuses and shall include notice of county, district and state conventions. Any person who attends his precinct caucus of this party shall be entitled to vote at that caucus if he qualifies under the membership articles of this constitution.

Section 2. The duties of the precinct caucuses shall be to elect precinct officers and delegates and alternates to the county convention. Each precinct shall be entitled to send one delegate with one vote for each 50 votes or major fraction thereof cast in that precinct for the leading DFL or Democratic candidate statewide at the last general election or last presidential election, whichever is greater, provided each precinct shall be entitled to at least one vote. Each precinct shall, if possible, elect one alternate for each delegate.

Article III—COUNTY CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. County Conventions, composed of the aforementioned precinct delegates shall be held in each county in even numbered years. It shall be the duty of the county conventions to elect one delegate to the state convention with one vote for each 1,000 votes cast in that county for the leading statewide Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidate or national Democratic candidate at the last general election or

last presidential election, whichever is greater. Provided, however, that each county shall be allocated at least 6 votes. Such delegates shall serve for two years. They shall also serve as delegates to their respective congressional district conventions. Alternates shall be elected in the same manner and number as delegates and shall replace delegates on the basis of the number of votes they received.

County Conventions may provide for the selection of State and District convention delegates by legislative districts, wards, or other subdivisions of the county, and delegates so selected, when elected by the County Convention, shall be deemed to represent such legislative district, ward, or subdivision for the purpose of Article I, Section 3 (a).

Section 2. It shall also be the duty of the county conventions to transact such other party business as may come before the convention.

Section 3. The County Conventions shall elect the usual county party officers: a chairman, a chairwoman, a vice-chairman, a vice-chairwoman, a secretary and a treasurer, and such other officers as the convention deems necessary. The elected officers and not fewer than 5 additional members shall constitute the County Executive Committee.

The County Central Committee shall consist of the County Executive Committee, all members of the State Central Committee residing in that county, and all precinct chairmen; or of the County Executive Committee, all members of the State Central Committee residing in that county, and a number of committee members sufficiently large to insure

equitable representation elected as provided by the county convention.

Section 4. Subordinate ward, legislative district, village, township, women's or other organizations may be recognized and encouraged, provided consent of the county executive committee is obtained and provided, further, that such organizations comply with the provisions of this constitution and the county constitution, and that any person qualifying under Article I, Sections 2 and 3 shall not be refused membership in such subordinate organizations.

Article IV—DISTRICT CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Congressional District Conventions shall be held in each even numbered year at a convenient time and place, under the provisions of the Call issued by the State Chairman. Such conventions shall be composed of all delegates elected to the State Convention within that district. It shall be the function of the conventions to endorse candidates for Congress, elect district officers, including a chairman, chairwoman, a vice-chairman, and a vice-chairwoman, a secretary, a treasurer, and other members of the District Executive Committee, and transact such other business as may come before the convention. The District Central Committee shall consist of the District Executive Committee and all members of the State Central Committee residing within the District.

Section 2. The District Conventions shall recommend to the State Chairman two people who shall be delegates or alternates to serve on each of the

preconvention committees established by the State Executive Committee.

Section 3. In presidential election years it shall also be the function of the District Convention to nominate the delegates and alternates to the National Convention allocated to them in accordance with the rules, regulations and directives of the State Executive Committee and the Democratic National Committee, subject to the ratification of the state convention.

Section 4. Where the boundaries of legislative districts are less than one county or extend over several counties or parts of several counties, legislative district conventions shall be held for the purpose of endorsement of candidates for the legislature. Delegates elected at the last precinct caucuses within the legislative district shall constitute the legislative district convention. Said conventions shall be at the call of the State Chairman, and he shall designate a convener. Delegates to legislative district conventions shall vote for endorsement only for those candidates said delegate may vote for in the election.

Article V—STATE CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. The State Convention is the supreme governing body of this party. 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 even numbered year and may call such other delegate conventions as may be desirable.

Section 2. It shall be the function of the State Convention to endorse candidates for office, adopt a party platform, elect state party officers, adopt resolutions, and determine all other matters of party concern.

In presidential election years the State Convention shall elect delegates to the National Convention and elect the national committeeman and committeewoman.

Section 3. Prior to each convention, the State Chairman, under the direction of the State Executive Committee, shall issue a Call to the convention setting forth the number of votes to which each county is entitled in that convention, the applicable provisions of this constitution concerning county, district, and state conventions, and legislative district conventions, the time and place of the state convention being called, and all other information and forms necessary for the conduct of such conventions. Such Call shall be mailed to all State Central Committee members plus all state convention delegates and alternates.

Section 4. 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 or two-thirds of the counties represented at the 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 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 IV, 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. (1) The DFL elected state officials and DFL United States Senators and Congressmen, and the members of the DFL caucuses of the State Legislature shall be entitled to be non-voting delegates of the State Convention. (2) State party officers, as defined in Article VI, Section 2, and the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman shall be Delegates-at-Large of the State Convention. (3) Eligibility under this section shall be determined as of the date of the official Convention Call.

Article VI—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 Constitution, 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. State party officers shall be as follows: Chairman, Chairwoman, First, Second, and Third Vice-Chairmen; First, Second, and Third Vice-Chairwomen; 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.

Section 3. 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. The State Central Committee shall consist of:

1. The State Executive Committee
2. All county chairmen and chairwomen
3. 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 for the leading statewide candidate of the party at the last general election, or the last presidential election, whichever is larger, such representatives to be elected by the county convention as the County Chairman is elected.

4. The Chairman and Chairwoman of the YDFL.

Section 5. The quorum for meetings of the State Central Committee shall be one-third of the counties.

Section 6. 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 7. 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. 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.
5. Four members-at-large elected by the State DFL Convention.

6. Members of the State Central Committee elected by each of the following groups:

- a. One member from the DFL state constitutional officers.
 - b. One member from the Minnesota DFL delegation to the U.S. Congress.
 - c. Two members from the DFL members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as certified by the signature of the leader of the DFL House caucus.
 - d. One member from the DFL members of the Minnesota Senate, as certified by the signature of the leader of the DFL Senate caucus.
7. The immediate past State Chairman and Chairwoman.

Section 8. A quorum for the State Executive Committee shall be one-half of the members.

Article VII—GENERAL RULES

Section 1. In case of any vacancy in the Office of State Chairman, the order of succession to that office shall temporarily be as follows: State Chairwoman, First Vice-Chairman, First Vice-Chairwoman, Second Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairwoman, Third Vice-Chairman, and Third Vice-Chairwoman.

Section 2. The Chairman's duties shall be those of a chief executive officer. The State Chairman may appoint an Executive Director, or other personnel, to manage the business affairs of the party, and a Financial Director to manage the financial affairs of the party, appointments subject to the confirma-

tion of the State Executive Committee and may determine their duties and functions in accordance with the 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 appropriate 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 Central Committee and of the Executive Committee of his receipts and disbursements. He shall also make a full local report at each Convention. The State 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. In the absence of either county or district chairman or chairwoman at meetings of the State Central Committee or State Executive Com-

mittee, the vice-chairman or chairwoman from that county or district may participate and vote.

Section 4. If a member of any 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.

Section 5. Central Committees shall meet at least semi-annually. Meetings may be called by the Chairman, the Executive Committee, or by any ten members of the 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.

Section 6. Executive Committees shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the 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.

Section 7. 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.

Section 8. County, district and all subordinate party organizations at any regularly called 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 Chairman and shall be approved by the State Executive Committee.

Section 9. The relevant sections of the Minnesota Election Laws are made a part of this Constitution.

Section 10. At all Conventions, visitors and alternates must be clearly separated from officially accredited delegates. Alternate delegates may serve on state, district, or county committees.

Section 11. No voting by proxy or unit rule 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 elected state, district, or county party officer may be made for cause after due notice and hearing, including the listing of specific charges, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members of the state, district, or county central committee in which the office is held.

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

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. The Chairmen and Chairwomen shall be voting members of the State DFL Central Committee.

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.

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
MEMBERS—DFL CONVENTION**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 1 and 2, 1965

WARREN EUSTIS, *Chairman*
LEROY BENSHOOF
LAWRENCE BERGEMANN
WILLIAM BROOKS
ARDEN DAHL
MARVIN EVENSON
MRS. STANLEY FEMRITE
MRS. MARILYN GORLIN
MRS. MAXINE GUNDERSON
MRS. LYNN KANNE
DR. HARRY LEASE
DAVE LEONARD
ROBERT RUNCHEY
TOM RYAN
JOSEPH SUMMERS
RUTH WALSH