

258

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA
Adopted: June 9, 1979

ARTICLE I.
NAME.

The name of this Party shall be the American Party of Minnesota.

ARTICLE II.
OBJECT.

The object of this Party shall be to encourage and convince adherents of its platform and principles to organize, join and support national, state, district, county, and other local American Party organizations; to advance its platform and principles; and, to elect qualified candidates to public office.

ARTICLE III.
MEMBERS.

The membership of this Party shall be open to each eligible voter of the State of Minnesota who supports the platform and principles of the Party as stated in the Party's constitution.

ARTICLE IV.
PRECINCT CAUCUSES.

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS. Only those persons who are qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the precinct as defined by the Minnesota election law, or who will be qualified to so vote at the time of the next general election, may vote or be elected a delegate or officer at the precinct caucus. Only those persons who are in agreement with the platform and principles of the Party as stated in the Party's constitution, and who either voted or affiliated with the Party at the last general election or intend to vote or affiliate with the Party at the next general election, may vote at the precinct caucus of the American Party.

SECTION 2. DUTIES. The duties of each precinct caucus shall be to elect precinct officers, and the proper number of delegates and/or alternates to the county convention as determined by the Party's call, and to pass resolutions for the county convention. The caucus may also discuss Party policies, candidates, and any other business as may properly come before the caucus.

SECTION 3. TIME, PLACE & NOTICE. On the fourth Tuesday in February in every general election year there shall be held for every election precinct a Party caucus in the manner provided. The precinct caucuses shall be held at the regular polling places for each precinct or other suitable places designated in the call. The chairman of the county shall issue the call for the precinct caucus at least 20 days before the time set for holding the caucus, and shall give at least six days published notice of the holding of the precinct caucus, stating the place, date, and time for holding the caucus. He shall deliver the same information to the county auditor at least 20 days before the precinct caucus.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS. Precinct officers may include a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Precinct officers are not delegates to the county convention unless elected such at the precinct caucus.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL RULES. Special rules for the caucus shall be:

- A. The convenor shall be the temporary chairman of the caucus.
- B. The caucuses shall remain open for at least one hour.
- C. Nominations for the election of permanent officers and delegates shall remain open for at least the first half hour of the caucus.
- D. All voting shall be by secret ballot.
- E. Upon completion of the counting of votes the chairman shall announce the names of persons who are elected, and shall certify the names to the chairman of the county for examination by the county executive committee and to the chairman of the state for examination by the state central committee.
- F. No caucus may be adjourned to any other place or time.

ARTICLE V.
COUNTY CONVENTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS.

SECTION 1. DELEGATES & ALTERNATES. The county convention shall consist of the delegates elected at the precinct caucuses. Each precinct shall be entitled to at least one delegate and to an additional one delegate for each fifty votes or major fraction thereof cast in the last general election for the leading Presidential, U.S. Senate, or other Statewide American Party candidate in that precinct. Each precinct may have up to three alternates for each delegate. The county officers shall serve as delegates-at-large to the county convention.

SECTION 2. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the county conventions to:

- A. Elect delegates and alternates to the state and congressional district conventions and to pass resolutions for the congressional district convention, in even numbered years.
 - B. Elect county officers and up to five members-at-large to the county executive committee and to propose amendments to the Party constitution for the congressional district convention, in odd numbered years.
- The county conventions may also consider any other business as may properly come before the convention.

SECTION 3. TIME & NOTICE. The annual meeting of the county conventions shall be held at least 20 days before the April meeting of the state central committee. At least seven days notice shall be given of each meeting of the county convention to each delegate and alternate of the convention.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS. The county officers may include a chairman, up to three vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. County officers are not necessarily delegates to the state or district conventions unless elected such.

SECTION 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The county executive committee shall consist of the county officers and up to five members-at-large. Any member of the state or district executive committees residing within the county may also serve as ex-officio members of the county executive committee.

SECTION 6. ORGANIZED COUNTY DEFINED. An organized county shall be defined as, a county that has held a precinct caucus, a proper county convention, elected officers and delegates, and delivered the information to the recording secretary or proper designee.

ARTICLE VI.

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS.

The legislative district conventions shall consist of the delegates elected at the precinct caucuses residing within the district boundary. (See ART. V., SEC. 1.) Legislative district conventions may elect district officers and endorse candidates for State Senator and/or State Representative, in even numbered years. Legislative district conventions may also consider any other business as may properly come before the convention. At least seven days notice shall be given of each meeting of the legislative district convention to each delegate and alternate of the convention. Legislative district officers may include a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary-treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary.

ARTICLE VII.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS.

SECTION 1. DELEGATES & ALTERNATES. The congressional district conventions shall consist of the delegates elected at the county conventions according to the proper number of delegates pro-rated to each district by the state convention. Each county may have up to three alternates for each delegate. The district officers shall serve as delegates-at-large to the district convention.

SECTION 2. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the district conventions to:

- A. Elect two delegates and/or alternates to each special committee each year.
- B. Elect one delegate and up to three alternates to the national committee, endorse candidates for U.S. Representative, and pass resolutions for the state convention, in even numbered years.
- C. Elect district officers, one member and/or alternate to each standing committee, and up to five members-at-large to the district executive committee; and propose amendments to the Party constitution, in odd numbered years.
- D. Elect the proper number of delegates and/or alternates to the national convention, according to the number allotted by the national committee, in presidential election years.

The district conventions may also consider any other business as may properly come before the convention.

SECTION 3. TIME & NOTICE. The annual meeting of the district conventions shall be held at least 42 days before the annual meeting of the state convention. At least seven days notice shall be given of each meeting of the district convention to each delegate and alternate of the convention.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS. The district officers may include a chairman, up to three vice-chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. District officers, excluding the chairman and first vice-chairman, are not necessarily delegates to the state convention unless elected such.

SECTION 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The district executive committee shall consist of the district officers, one member of each of the state standing committees, and up to five members-at-large. Any member of the state executive committee residing within the district may also serve as ex-officio members of the district executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

STATE CONVENTIONS.

SECTION 1. DELEGATES & ALTERNATES. The state convention shall consist of up to seven hundred and fifty two (752) delegates pro-rated to each county and/or district. Each congressional district shall be entitled to forty-seven (47) delegates to be pro-rated to each county in the district on the basis of the population of each county at the last census. Each county shall be entitled to additional delegates for their percentage of the average vote cast in the last general elections for the Party's candidates for President, U.S. Senate, and Statewide offices, times three hundred and seventy six (376). Each county may have up to three alternates for each delegate. Members of the state executive committee shall serve as delegates-at-large to the state convention.

SECTION 2. POWER & AUTHORITY. The state convention shall have full power and final authority over the affairs of the Party, shall receive minutes of the meetings of the state central committee, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in this constitution.

SECTION 3. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the state convention to:

A. Elect the proper number of delegates and alternates to the national committee, endorse candidates for public office and adopt a Party platform, in even numbered years.

B. Elect state officers, standing committee chairman, five members-at-large to the state executive committee, and consider amendments to or revisions of the Party constitution, in odd numbered years.

C. Elect the proper number of delegates and/or alternates to the national convention, according to the number allotted by the national committee, in presidential election years.

The state convention may also consider any other business as may properly come before the convention.

SECTION 4. TIME, SPECIAL MEETINGS & NOTICE. The annual meeting of the state convention shall be held on the second Saturday in June, unless otherwise decided by the state central committee. Special meetings of the state convention may be called by a two-thirds vote of the state central committee and/or state convention. At least 14 days notice by mail shall be given of each meeting of the state convention to each delegate and alternate of the convention.

SECTION 5. QUORUM. Two-thirds of the organized counties represented at the meeting of the state convention shall constitute a quorum of the convention.

ARTICLE IX.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. MEMBERS & ALTERNATES. The state central committee shall consist of:

a. The state executive committee.

b. The chairman and first vice-chairman of each county, or their alternates.

SECTION 2. GENERAL MANAGEMENT. The state central committee shall have general management over the affairs of the Party during the interim between meetings of the state convention, shall receive minutes of the meetings of the state executive committee, and shall perform such duties as are specified in this constitution. The state central committee shall be subject to the actions and policies of the state convention.

SECTION 3. TIME, SPECIAL MEETINGS & NOTICE. Regular meetings of the state central committee shall be held biannually; on the second Saturday in April and September, unless otherwise decided by the state executive committee. Special meetings of the state central committee may be called by a two-thirds vote of the committee. At least ten days notice by mail or three days notice by phone or wire shall be given of each meeting of the state central committee to each member of the committee.

SECTION 4. QUORUM. One-third of the members of the state central committee, registered at the meeting of the committee, shall constitute a quorum of the committee.

ARTICLE X.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. MEMBERS. The state executive committee shall consist of:

a. The state officers.

b. The chairman of each of the standing committees.

c. Five members-at-large.

d. The chairman and first vice-chairman of each district.

e. The nation committee delegates.

f. The former state chairman.

g. American Party endorsed candidates for U.S. Senator, or Statewide office, (for no more than six months before the election).

SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION. The state executive committee shall have charge of the administration of the affairs of the Party during the interim between meetings of the state central committee and/or state convention, and shall perform such duties as are specified in this constitution. The state executive committee shall be subject to the actions and policies of the state central committee and state convention. None of the acts of the state executive committee shall conflict with or modify action taken by the state central committee or state convention. The state executive committee may credential temporary alternates to serve for a single meeting of the national committee in the event of the absence or anticipated absence of the national committee delegates and/or alternates.

SECTION 3. TIME, SPECIAL MEETINGS & NOTICE. Regular meetings of the state executive committee shall be held quarterly; on the second Saturday of the month, unless otherwise decided by the committee. Regular meetings of the state executive committee at stated times and places shall be scheduled by vote of the committee. Special meetings of the state executive committee may be called by a two-thirds vote of the committee. At least ten days notice by mail or three days notice by phone or wire shall be given of each meeting of the state executive committee to each member of the committee.

SECTION 4. QUORUM. Twelve (12) members of the state executive committee, registered at the meeting of the committee, shall constitute a quorum of the committee.

ARTICLE XI.

STATE OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. DEFINED. The state officers shall be a chairman, a first vice-chairman, a second vice-chairman, a third vice-chairman, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer.

SECTION 2. DUTIES. The duties of the various state officers shall be:

A. Chairman. The chairman shall be the presiding officer of the Party and serve as chairman of the agenda & program committee. He shall serve as a member of the national committee.

B. Vice-chairman. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman in order of precedence shall serve in his stead.

C. Recording Secretary. The recording secretary shall keep the minutes and records of all of the proceedings of the Party, and shall make the minutes and records available to members upon request. The recording secretary shall sign all certified copies of acts of the Party. In the absence of the chairman and vice-chairmen, the recording secretary shall call meetings to order and preside until the election of a chairman pro-tem. The recording secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the agenda & program committee.

D. Corresponding Secretary. The corresponding secretary shall keep all the files of the Party. He shall send out to the membership a notice of each meeting, and conduct the general correspondence of the Party. The corresponding secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the membership & organization committee.

E. Treasurer. The treasurer shall be entrusted with the custody of the funds of the Party. He shall be required to make financial reports to each meeting of the state executive and state central committees, and to make a full written financial report to each meeting of the state convention. He shall be sufficiently bonded, according to an amount determined by the state executive committee. An audit of all of the financial records of the Party shall be made by a qualified accountant at least once a year and/or at the end of each term of office. The state treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member of the budget & finance committee.

SECTION 3. NOMINATION & ELECTION. Candidates for state officers, standing committee chairmen, five members-at-large to the state executive committee, and national committee delegates shall be nominated by the nominating committee. Additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted. Each officer shall be elected individually; by ballot by means of a roll call of the counties, unless there is only one nominee for office, in which case the election may be by viva voce (voice vote).

SECTION 4. TERMS OF OFFICE & LIMITATIONS. The state officers, standing committee chairmen, five members-at-large to the state executive committee, and national committee delegates shall be elected for a two year term and/or until their successors are elected; their term of office shall begin immediately following the meeting of their election, except national committee delegates whose term of office shall begin January 1 of odd numbered years. No state officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The retiring state chairman may serve as a member of the state executive committee for one year. No state officer shall hold more than one state office at the same time.

SECTION 5. VACANCIES & ORDER OF SUCCESSION. Vacancies in any state office may be filled temporarily by the state executive committee; except in the case of any vacancy in the office of state chairman, in which the order of succession to that office shall be as follows: first vice-chairman, second vice-chairman, third vice-chairman, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer; until: a special election by the next regular meeting of the state central committee, or the next regular election of state officers.

SECTION 6. OTHER OFFICES. Other state offices may be provided for as the need arises. Notice of a proposal to create another state office must be distributed by mail to each delegate and alternate of the state convention a minimum of 14 days before the convention. The creation of such offices shall require approval by a two-thirds vote of the registered delegates of the state convention, a quorum being present.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES. There shall be five standing committees, agenda & program, candidate search, budget & finance, membership & organization, and public relations & publications. The state convention shall elect a chairman for each of the standing committees, who shall also serve as a member of the state executive committee. The committees shall consist of eight members, one member and/or alternate, elected by each of the district conventions. These committees shall submit a report to each meeting of the state central committee and state convention.

SECTION 2. STANDING COMMITTEES DUTIES. The duties of the various state standing committees shall be:

A. Agenda & Program. The committee shall consist of the chairman of each district who shall be the eight members of the committee. The committee shall plan, prepare, and distribute the order of business and agenda for each meeting of the state executive committee, state central committee, and state convention.

B. Candidate Search. The candidate search committee shall be responsible for locating, contacting, and encouraging potential candidates for Party and public offices.

C. Budget & Finance. The budget & finance committee shall prepare and submit an annual budget and supplements thereto, along with plans for the execution of programs to finance the various activities of the Party.

D. Membership & Organization. The membership & organization committee shall assist in organizing the precinct, county, district, and other political subdivisions of the Party. The committee shall act on all applications by counties and districts for admission to membership.

E. Public Relations & Publications. The public relations & publications committee shall be responsible for all public relations of the Party, (including, books, pamphlets, news releases, speakers, films, tapes, posters, buttons, billboards, etc.).

SECTION 3. SPECIAL COMMITTEES. The special committees shall be credentials, nominating, rules; and resolutions in even numbered years, and constitution in odd numbered years. The state executive committee shall elect a chairman for each elected special committee from among the members of the last committee. The committees shall consist of 16 members, two members and/or alternates, elected by each of the district conventions.

SECTION 4. SPECIAL COMMITTEES DUTIES. The duties of the various state special committees shall be:

A. Constitution. The constitution committee shall consider and/or recommend amendments to the Party constitution. Such amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of the committee for recommendation. A general revision of the constitution may be undertaken by the committee upon request by a two-thirds vote of the state central committee or state convention.

B. Credentials. The credentials committee shall examine all credentials required by this constitution for the state convention and state central committee, and receive questions involving disputed and questioned credentials, and report its findings and recommendations to the convention or committee.

C. Nominating. The nominating committee shall nominate candidates for Party and public offices. The committee shall contact, interview, and screen all prospective nominees. The committee shall nominate the additional state delegates and alternates to the national committee from among the delegates and alternates to the national committee elected by the district conventions.

D. Resolutions. The resolutions committee shall consider and/or recommend resolutions to form the Party platform in even numbered years.

E. Rules. The rules committee shall consider and/or recommend the rules of the state convention and state central committee. Such rules shall require a two-thirds vote of the committee for recommendation.

SECTION 5. TEMPORARY COMMITTEES. Other ad hoc (temporary) committees may be formed by resolution, as may be necessary or desirable, such as an investigating and discipline committee, or an arrangements committee.

SECTION 6. ALTERNATES ON COMMITTEES. Alternate delegates may serve on any standing or special committees.

ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL RULES.

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. All executive committees shall meet quarterly. Meetings of the executive committee may be called by the chairman and/or one-fourth of the members of the committee. Regular meetings at stated times and places should be scheduled by vote of the committee. At least ten days notice by mail or three days notice by phone or wire shall be given of each meeting of the committee to each member of the committee.

SECTION 2. VOTING QUALIFICATIONS. Any person, to be qualified to vote in the American Party at any meeting or convention of any of the political subdivisions of the Party, must be:

A. Eligible to vote at the next general election in the geographical voting unit he represents.

B. A supporter of the platform and principles of the Party.

C. A duly elected delegate where applicable.

SECTION 3. SEATING. Visitors and alternates must be clearly separated from officially accredited delegates, at all meetings of committees and conventions.

SECTION 4. MAJORITY VOTING. All votes or elections shall be decided by at least a majority vote unless otherwise specified.

SECTION 5. VOTING PROCEDURES. No delegate may cast more than one vote. Fractional voting is permissible at the discretion of the meeting or convention. No voting by proxy or unit rule shall be permitted at any meeting or convention of any of the political subdivisions of the Party. No county or district may send an instructed delegation to a convention. No voting by secret ballot shall be permitted, except in the cases of precinct caucuses and elections, or upon request by a majority vote of a meeting or convention.

SECTION 6. CANDIDATES. In order to obtain and/or retain Party endorsement and/or support, candidates must be screened by the nominating committee and agree to support the Party platform and principles. Any action to endorse and/or support candidates for public office shall require at least a two-thirds vote of the registered delegates of the appropriate convention, a quorum being present.

SECTION 7. MINNESOTA ELECTION LAW. The relevant sections of the Minnesota election laws are made a part of this constitution.

SECTION 8. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY. The rules in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases not covered in this constitution; to which they are applicable; and, in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules which the Party may adopt.

SECTION 9. SUBORDINATE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS. All subordinate Party organizations may adopt constitutions and/or permanent rules at any regularly called convention provided such constitution and/or permanent rules are in accord with the provisions of this constitution. Copies of such constitutions and/or rules and of all platforms and resolutions adopted by county or district conventions shall be filed with the corresponding secretary.

ARTICLE XIV. CHALLENGES, DISPUTES & REMOVALS.

SECTION 1. CHALLENGES. In case the right of a person to participate at any meeting or convention is challenged, the question of his right to participate shall be decided by a vote of the whole meeting or convention. A person so challenged may not vote on the question of his right to participate.

SECTION 2. DISPUTES. All contests as to seats at any convention shall be considered by the credentials committee for recommendation to that convention. All other disputes and contests resulting from the holding of county conventions and/or district conventions shall be considered by the state central committee or state executive committee.

SECTION 3. REMOVALS. Officers and delegates may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote, or a majority vote with previous notice (see Art. XII, Sec. 3), of a special convention at the same level at which the removal is to occur, except at the state level in which case the removal shall be by the state central committee, a quorum being present. In the event of any officer being removed, the appropriate committee or convention shall also determine whether that officers shall have the privileges of a past officer.

SECTION 4. CAUSE FOR REMOVAL. Cause for removal shall be:

A. Failure to support the permanent platform and principles of the National American Party as included in Appendix 1 of this constitution.

B. Supporting any candidate of the Party who fails to pledge his support of the permanent platform and principles of the Party.

C. Committing acts of disloyalty to the Party by word or deed.

D. Failure to perform the required duties of the office.

ARTICLE XV.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The state convention shall have the sole right to amend the state constitution. Any amendment to the constitution must be distributed by mail to each delegate and alternate of the state convention a minimum of 14 days before the convention. Such amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of the registered delegates, a quorum being present for passage. All amendments to the constitution shall go into effect immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified in a 'Proviso'. All enacted amendments to the constitution shall be filed with the secretary of state.

ARTICLE XVI.

SUPERCEDURE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

This constitution supercedes any and all other previous constitutions of the American Party of Minnesota.

APPENDIX I. PRINCIPLES.

SECTION 1. GOD IS OUR FOUNDATION. Those authoring this Constitution declare the American Party to have been brought into existence upon the foundation of its organizers' belief in Almighty God and in Jesus Christ, upon their total commitment to the whole counsel of God's Word, and upon their determination that the American Party shall function, so long as it shall endure, in conformity with His Will. The American Party is and shall remain a political entity which is essentially Christian-oriented. It is our fervent hope that God will use the American Party to bless and save our free Republic.

SECTION 2. MAN AND GOVERNMENT.

A. CONSTITUTION. Members of the American Party believe that the original United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights were prepared and adopted by men acting under inspiration from Almighty God; that they are solemn compacts between the people of the states of this nation which all officers of government are under oath to obey; and that the eternal moral laws expressed therein must be adhered to or individual liberty will perish.

B. LIMITED GOVERNMENT. Members of the American Party believe it a violation of the Constitution for government to deprive the individual of his life, liberty or property, except for these purposes: (1) to punish crime and provide for the administration of justice; (2) to provide for the nation's defense; (3) to compel each one who enjoys the protection of government to bear his fair share of the burden of performing the above functions.

SECTION 3. A PERMANENT PLATFORM. In implementation of Sections 1 and 2 of this Appendix I, the American Party declares the following position to constitute its permanent platform.

A. FOREIGN POLICY.

1. SECRET AGREEMENTS. The American Party believes it necessary that our Government be prohibited from conducting secret negotiations or entering into secret treaties or agreements in any way binding on the United States.

2. WORLD GOVERNMENT. The American Party opposes United States membership in any organization which in any way infringes on the sovereignty of the United States and its citizens.

3. FOREIGN AID. The American Party deems it a violation of the right of private property guaranteed under the Constitution for the federal government to deprive the citizens of this nation of their property through taxation or otherwise and make a gift thereof to foreign governments or their citizens.

4. FOREIGN TRADE. The American Party is for cutting off all trade, aid and 'recognition' of any state which denies its citizens the right to leave and take their property with them.

5. MILITARY POSTURE. The American Party holds that the United States must maintain an invincible military position, since it is overwhelming military strength and a ready willingness to use it that has constituted throughout the ages the mightiest deterrent to aggression and the greatest bulwark for peace.

6. WAR. The American Party opposes any U.S. military interference in any other country for more than seventy-two hours without a declaration of war by the Congress.

B. DOMESTIC POLICY.

1. **LIMITATION OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY.** The United States Government and agencies thereof are specifically prohibited from exercising any power or authority whatsoever, excepting as such power is expressly delegated by the Constitution. Thereof, excepting in furtherance of functions specifically named in the Constitution, the position of the American Party is that said government; (a) shall not engage in or subsidize any activity to produce, sell, transport or distribute any goods or perform any services not authorized by the Constitution; (b) shall not finance, subsidize or legislate with respect to charity, welfare, public works or education, excepting that it may maintain academies in conjunction with the defense of the United States of America; (c) shall not incur a budget deficit except in time of declared war; (d) shall not legislate respecting state laws which prescribe districts and establishing qualifications of voters for state and local office.

2. **GUN CONTROL.** The American Party supports the Constitutional right of an individual citizen to keep and bear arms. The American Party opposes, in any form, registration and/or regulation of guns, ammunition or their owners.

3. **DEATH PENALTY.** The American Party asserts its belief that the death penalty, a recognized criminal deterrent since the commencement of recorded history, and Biblically enjoined as an appropriate deterrent and penalty, be imposed upon the conviction of murder in the first degree, treason, forceable rape or other infamous crime.

4. **LAW ENFORCEMENT.** (a) The American Party believes that the responsibility for crime control, including capital punishment, is the legal and financial responsibility of state and local government. We therefore oppose a national police force or any attempt by the federal government to control and/or finance local or state police. (b) Treason, as defined in the U.S. Constitution, is a federal crime and is punishable by the death penalty.

5. **TERMINATION OF LIFE.** Since God and His nature's law prohibits any man from taking the life of another, excepting in defense of self, another, his country, or under the direction of law as a penalty for treason or infamous crime, obviously no one can take the life of another on the grounds that such other is either too young, too old or too ill to be permitted to continue to live. Accordingly, the American Party asserts its eternal opposition to both abortion and euthanasia, and labels them for what they are: murder.

6. **MONETARY POLICY.** The American Party believes: the inalienable right of individuals to exchange their services, goods, and real property voluntarily, using any items mutually agreed upon as their media of exchange, and to mine, own, use and trade precious metals shall not be abridged by governments; nor shall governments declare anything legal tender excepting as provided by the United States Constitution.

7. **PRINCIPLES FOR A FISCAL POLICY.** (a) The Federal Government is a limited agency of the several states and its expenditures are limited to those purposes specifically delegated to it by the Constitution. (b) Congress shall annually adopt a Federal budget for the following year and regulate expenditures and revenues so that no interest bearing debt is incurred, except in time of war declared by Congress.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Appendix I shall require for its amendment the same procedures as Article XV, except that it shall require 80 per cent vote in place of the two-thirds vote required for amendments to other parts of the American Party Constitution.

APPENDIX II. MINNESOTA ELECTION LAWS. CHAPTER 200.

SECTION 200.02. DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 17. **CONVENTION.** The word 'convention' means an organized body of delegates representing a political party assembled for the purpose of transacting such business as lawfully comes before it.

Subdivision 27. **POLITICAL PARTY MEMBER.** The words 'member of a political party' mean a person who: (a) supports the general principles of a political party as stated in that party's constitution, (b) voted for a majority of that party's candidates in the last general election, or (c) intends to vote for a majority of a party's candidates in the next general election.

CHAPTER 202A.

SECTION 202A.11. PARTY NAME.

Subdivision 1. **CHANGE.** Any political party as defined in the Minnesota election law may change its name by complying with the following conditions:

The state central committee of the party may call a convention, and shall state in its call that a convention is called for a certain time and place, for the purpose of changing the name of the party to some specific name given in the call. The convention shall be held before the termination of the time for filing for nomination for primary elections preceding the state general election, and the change shall be agreed upon by resolution of a majority of the convention. A copy of the resolution determining the change of the name, certified by the chairman and secretary of the convention, shall be filed with the secretary of state within five days after the holding of the convention. Thereafter the political party shall be known by the new name called for by the resolution, and the party under its new name shall have all the rights that it had under its former name.

Subdivision 2. **RIGHT TO USE.** A political party, as defined in the Minnesota election law, which has adopted a party name, is entitled to the exclusive use of the name for the designation of its candidates on all ballots, and no candidate of any other political party is entitled to have printed on a ballot as a party designation any part of that name.

SECTION 202A.12. STATE CONVENTION, AUTHORITY OF.

Subdivision 1. **TIME OF CONVENTION.** The final authority over the affairs of each political party is vested in the party's state convention to be held at least once every general election year at the call of the state central committee.

Subdivision 2. **STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.** Subject to the control of the state convention the general management of the affairs of the state party is vested in the party's state central committee.

Subdivision 3. **STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The state executive committee of the party shall have charge of the administration of the party's affairs, subject to the direction and control of the state convention and the state central committee.

Subdivision 4. **CONSTITUTION, FILING.** The chairman of the state central committee of each party shall file with the secretary of state a copy of the party's constitution and all amendments to the constitution as they are enacted.

SECTION 202A.13. COMMITTEES, CONVENTIONS. The rules of each political party shall provide that for each congressional district and each county or legislative district a convention shall be held at least once every general election year. Each political party shall also provide for each congressional district and county or legislative district an executive committee consisting of a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary. The party rules may provide for only one executive committee and one convention where any county and congressional district have the same territorial limits.

SECTION 202A.14. PRECINCT CAUCUS.

Subdivision 1. **TIME AND MANNER OF HOLDING.** At 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday in February in every general election year there shall be held for every election precinct a party caucus in the manner provided in section 202A.14 to 202A.19.

Subdivision 2. **CAUCUS CALL.** The chairman of the county or legislative district executive committee, whichever is provided for by the party rules, shall issue the call for the precinct caucus at least 20 days before the time set for holding the caucus, and the call shall contain the following:

- (a) Name of party;
- (b) Precinct number;
- (c) Date caucus is to be held;
- (d) Place caucus is to be held;
- (e) Hours during which caucus shall be held;
- (f) Statutory rules governing the caucus;
- (g) A statement of business to be conducted including the election of a chairman and such other officers as may be provided by the party rules, and the election of delegates to county or district conventions;
- (h) Number of delegates to be elected;
- (i) Name of the county or legislative district chairman issuing the call;
- (j) Name of the present precinct chairman or other person who will be the convener of the caucus;
- (k) A space for entering the names of the officers and delegates elected by the caucus.

Subdivision 3. **NOTICE.** The county or legislative district chairman shall give at least six days' published notice of the holding of the precinct caucus, stating the place, date, and time for holding the caucus. He shall deliver the same information to the county auditor at least 20 days before the precinct caucus. The county auditor shall make this information available to persons who request it.

SECTION 202A.15. TIME AND PLACE OF CAUCUS.

Subdivision 1. Precinct caucuses within a county shall be held on the day provided by law and the caucuses shall remain open for at least one hour.

Subdivision 2. The precinct caucuses shall be held at the regular polling places for each precinct or other suitable places designated in the call, and no caucus may be adjourned to any other place or time.

In the event ... report is filed.

SECTION 202A.16. CAUCUS, WHO MAY PARTICIPATE AND VOTE.

Subdivision 1. Only those persons who are qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the precinct as defined by the Minnesota election law ..., or who will be qualified to so vote at the time of the next general election, may vote or be elected a delegate or officer at the precinct caucus.

Subdivision 2. Only those persons who are in agreement with the principles of the party as stated in the party's constitution, and who either voted or affiliated with the party at the last general election or intend to vote or affiliate with the party at the next general election, may vote at the precinct caucus.

Subdivision 3. In case the right of a person to participate at the caucus is challenged, the question of his right to participate shall be decided by a vote of the whole caucus. A person so challenged may not vote on the question of his right to participate.

Subdivision 4. No person may vote or participate at more than one party's caucuses in any one year.

SECTION 202A.17. CAUCUS, BUSINESS. Each precinct caucus shall elect a chairman and such other officers as may be provided by party rules, and the proper number of delegates to congressional district, county, or legislative district conventions as determined by the party's call. The caucus may also discuss party policies, candidates, and any other business as prescribed by party rules.

SECTION 202A.18 CAUCUS PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. The convener shall be the temporary chairman of the caucus.

Subdivision 2. Nominations for the election of permanent officers and delegates shall remain open for at least the first half hour of the caucus.

- Subdivision 3. All voting shall be by secret ballot.
- Subdivision 4. Upon completion of the counting of votes the chairman shall announce the names of persons who are elected, and he shall certify the names to the chairman of the county or legislative district executive committee and to the chairman of the state central committee.
- Subdivision 5. All questions concerning the manner in which a caucus is conducted or called that are not covered by statute shall be determined by Robert's Rules of Order (revised) unless otherwise specified by party rules.
- CHAPTER 204A.

SECTION 204A.17. JUDGES OF ELECTION.

Subdivision 1. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATION. At least 65 days before any election for a partisan political office, the county or legislative district chairman, whichever is designated by the state party, of each political party ..., shall furnish a list of qualified voters in each election precinct in the county or legislative district, whichever applies, to act as election judges, to the auditor of the county in which the precinct is located. At least 55 ... qualification of judges.

APPENDIX III.

STANDING RULES OF THE STATE CONVENTION.

RULE I. VOTING MEMBERS. The official roll of the voting members of the convention shall consist of:

- A. The duly elected delegates of the county conventions who are actually present, whose credentials have been properly presented.
- B. The members of the state executive committee.
- C. Upon the report of the credentials committee and adoption of a motion to seat:
 1. Duly elected alternates transferred to delegates.
 2. Contested delegations.

RULE II. ALTERNATES & VISITORS SEATING. Unseated alternates and visitors shall be seated in the designated area of the convention.

RULE III. SPEAKING PRIVILEGES.

- A. Only the voting members of the convention shall be allowed speaking privileges.
- B. A person wishing to speak shall arise and address the chairman; when recognized, the person shall state his name and county, and the purpose for which he has arisen.
- C. Debate on any motion or question shall be limited to 3 minutes per speaker the first time, no person shall be allowed to speak more than 2 times on the same question, and shall be limited to 2 minutes the second time.

RULE IV. VOTING.

- A. Voting shall be by voice vote with the results announced by the chairman.
- B. Anyone may request and get a standing vote.
- C. No voting by secret ballot shall be permitted except where specified.
- D. All questions shall be decided by at least a majority vote of the convention.
- E. No voting by proxy or unit rule shall be permitted.

RULE V. NOMINATIONS, ENDORSEMENTS & ELECTIONS.

- A. Nominations shall be open to the floor.
- B. Voting for endorsement or support shall be by secret ballot, by means of a roll call of the counties.*
- C. Endorsement or support for a candidate shall require at least a two-thirds vote of the convention.*
- D. Officers shall be elected individually by secret ballot, by means of a roll call of counties; unless there is only one nominee for office, in which case voting shall be by voice vote.

RULE VI. RESOLUTIONS.

- A. Resolutions for the Party platform shall be presented by the resolutions committee.**
- B. Additional resolutions from the floor may be considered by a two-thirds vote of the convention, when in writing and submitted in advance to the chairman of the resolutions committee.**

RULE VII. RULES.

- A. These rules may be temporarily suspended or amended by a two-thirds vote of the convention.
- B. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases not covered by the rules of the convention or by the Party Constitution.

RULE VIII. QUORUM. A quorum shall be a majority of the voting members registered at the convention.

RULE IX. SMOKING. There shall be no smoking in the convention.

* - Endorsing convention.
 ** - In even numbered years.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 FILED
 OCT - 4 1979
John Anderson Howe
 Secretary of State
 432440
 O.D.

APPENDIX IV ALLOTTED DELEGATES

DISTRICT I

Dakota	15
Dodge	3
Fillmore	4
Goodhue	7
Houston	4
Olmsted	15
Rice	7
Steele	5
Wabasha	4
Washington	16
Winona	10
	90

DISTRICT II

Blue Earth	9
Brown	8
Carver	7
Dakota	10
Faribault	4
Freeborn	6
Hennepin	6
LeSueur	4
Martin	6
McLeod	6
Mower	8
Nicollet	4
Scott	7
Sibley	4
Waseca	4
Watsonwon	2
	95

DISTRICT III

Hennepin	76
----------------	----

DISTRICT IV

Ramsey	77
--------------	----

DISTRICT V

Anoka	8
Hennepin	66
Ramsey	2
	76

DISTRICT VI

Benton	6
Big Stone	2
Chippewa	3
Cottonwood	4
Hennepin	6
Jackson	2
Kandiyohi	7
LacQua Parle	3
Lincoln	2
Lyon	5
Meeker	4
Mille Lacs	4
Murray	2
Nobles	4
Pipestone	2
Redwood	4
Renville	4
Rock	2
Sherburne	5
Stearns	28
Wright	9
Yellow Medicine	3
	111

DISTRICT VII

Aitkin	3
Becker	4
Beltrami	8
Cass	8
Clay	8
Clearwater	3
Crow Wing	12
Douglas	7
Grant	2
Hubbard	5
Kittson	2
Lake of Woods	2
Mahnomen	2
Marshall	2
Morrison	8
Norman	2
Otter Tail	11
Pennington	3
Polk	6
Pope	3
Red Lake	2
Roseau	2
Stevens	2
Swift	2
Todd	7
Traverse	2
Wadena	4
Wilkin	2
	124

DISTRICT VIII

Anoka	19
Carlton	6
Chisago	5
Cook	2
Isanti	3
Itasca	9
Kanabec	3
Koochiching	4
Lake	4
Pine	5
St. Louis	43
	103

3244