

MINNESOTA



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CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS
of the
Democratic-Farmer-Labor
Party of Minnesota

AS AMENDED
IN CONVENTION AT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA
JUNE 13, 14 AND 15, 1986

RUTH ESALA, DFL State Chair
RICHARD NOLAN, DFL Associate Chair

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**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of the Minnesota
DFL PARTY**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, in the 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 human and civil rights, and constitutional government do establish this Constitution.

Bylaws to the Constitution of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota are intended to further define and explain the operating procedures of the party. They are organized in parallel to the Constitution to make easier reference to the specific words of the Constitution being further defined, but this does not absolutely limit the application of the Bylaw to the specific part of the Constitution noted. The Bylaws can be added to or amended by the State Central Committee or State Convention as provided for in Article XI of the Constitution. Such changes can be made when necessary to improve the operation of the party or to enable the party to conform to state or federal law or to rules of the National Democratic Convention or the Democratic National Committee. It is not intended that changes in the Bylaws shall alter principles of the party as set forth in the Constitution.

ARTICLE I

NAME, MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTY OFFICE

SECTION 1. NAME. The name of this organization is the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP. Membership in this party is open to all Minnesota residents who support the principles of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota. No person may vote on any motion, resolution, nomination or election at any caucus, convention, meeting or conference of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party who is a member of any other political party.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTY OFFICE. Persons who meet the membership requirements of Article I, Section 2, are eligible for election to any party office, except as limited by Article III, Section 7. There shall be no age requirement for party office save where prescribed by law.

**ARTICLE II
SUBORDINATION**

SECTION 1. ELECTION LAWS. Minnesota election laws and United States election laws are part of this Constitution.

SECTION 2. SUBORDINATION. The DFL Constitution and Bylaws are subordinate to the United States Constitution.

All DFL party units other than the precinct shall establish and adopt constitutions and bylaws subordinate to and in compliance with the DFL State Constitution.

ARTICLE III GENERAL RULES AND POLICY

SECTION 1. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. The state party chair and other DFL party officers at every level, shall by affirmative steps encourage young people, the elderly, women, the handicapped and minority groups whether by race, ethnic group, or sexual preference, to attend the precinct caucus and to seek election as delegates, members of party committees and officers; inform all persons how to effectively participate in the selection process; and encourage all Democrats to select affirmatively such individuals when voting, so that such groups shall be represented on such delegations in committees, and in party offices in reasonable proportion to their presence in the state.

Affirmative action as specified in the Bylaws and printed in the Call to Convention shall provide a basis for review and challenge of officers and delegations.

BYLAW Affirmative action shall be explained at the precinct caucuses and any higher level conventions and shall be included in the DFL Call to Convention.

BYLAW Before each ballot of all contested elections the delegates shall be reminded of the affirmative action policy of the DFL Party.

BYLAW All caucuses and conventions shall be conducted in facilities accessible to the handicapped.

SECTION 2. THE ONGOING PLATFORM.

Subsection A. ONGOING PLATFORM. The ongoing DFL state platform is the declaration of basic principles for which the party stands and statements of the specific positions on important state and national public policy issues which the party supports in order to enact these principles. It represents the view and needs of the people who align themselves with the party.

Subsection B. LOWER LEVEL RESOLUTIONS. County unit, senate district, congressional district conventions may pass resolutions to be sent to the next higher level, but they shall not adopt platforms.

Subsection C. ACCOUNTABILITY. The platform is the crucial basis for the party's endorsement of candidates for public office and should serve as the guide for action and accountability for elected officials.

Subsection D. ADOPTION. A platform plank shall be adopted, amended or deleted by a 60% affirmative vote of all ballots cast, including abstentions, but not including spoiled ballots.

SECTION 3. EQUAL GENDER DIVISION. Whenever any caucus, convention, or meeting elects two or more of any of the following: delegates, alternates, directors, committee members,

their alternates, commission members, their alternates and state level presidential electors: they shall elect an equal division by gender to such positions.

SECTION 4. CONVENTION RULES.

Subsection A. GENERAL RULES. At all levels except the State Convention, conventions may be called by the chair or by a majority of the Executive Committee.

BYLAW Reports of all caucus and convention elections of delegates and alternates to higher level conventions or committees shall be submitted within 5 days after said caucus or convention to the succeeding higher jurisdiction authority.

BYLAW At congressional district conventions and county unit conventions delegates to pre-convention committees at the next highest level shall be elected at the convention or by the delegates and alternates elected to the next highest level.

BYLAW The first order of business for all pre-convention committees shall be the election of permanent committee chair(s) and the adoption of committee rules.

BYLAW A unit may explicitly restrict the power of the chair to call conventions by requiring approval by specific percentage of the unit executive committee.

BYLAW Two copies of the party platform shall be sent to each congressional district, senate district and county unit chair and upon filing for partisan office, the state DFL office shall send a copy of the platform to all DFL candidates.

BYLAW Registration shall remain open at all conventions until adjournment.

BYLAW Delegates must be provided with both the old and new wording of any proposed constitutional change.

BYLAW No Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party caucus, convention, or endorsing commission shall require a mandatory registration fee. A registration fee is always voluntary and must be so stated.

Subsection B. DELEGATE ELECTION GUIDELINES. All delegates to county, district, state and national conventions shall be elected so as to allow for a fair proportion by age, race, sex, candidate and issue preference. All members of county unit executive committees and congressional and State Central and Executive Committees shall be elected so as to allow for the same fair proportions.

BYLAW Challenges may be made to delegations on the basis of the Delegate Election Guidelines of the Constitution if the challenge shows that either affirmative action guidelines or delegate voting system rules were violated in the election of the delegation.

BYLAW A person not in attendance may be elected if the individual submits a letter to the precinct caucus or convention indicating a willingness to serve as a delegate, alternate or party officer.

Subsection C. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. Proportional voting may be used in any election where more than two individuals will be elected to the same office. Whenever enough primary electorate to elect one such officer holder at

any level of the party--from the election precinct delegates and alternates to a national convention or commission, including delegates-at-large to executive, central, or other committees--wish to use a proportional system of voting, proportional voting shall be used. A motion for proportional voting shall be in order any time before voting for delegates begins. The acceptable methods of proportional voting shall be detailed in the Bylaws.

BYLAW The intent of the Proportional Representation rule in the Constitution is to elect delegates and alternates to conventions and committees in a proportional way at every level of the party. It is the basic voting rule which makes the affirmative action and the Delegate Election Guidelines principles of Article III meaningful and possible.

A motion to use a proportional voting system may be made prior to opening nominations for the election of delegates. If such a motion is not made and passed prior to nominations, and if after nominations are over, there are more nominees than delegate positions to be filled, the chair should ask, or it can be moved from the floor, if the body will use a majority voting system or a proportional voting system. A motion for a proportional system passes and proportional voting must be used if the motion is supported by a number equal to or more than the number of voters with enough strength to elect one delegate. The number of voters with enough strength, as a group, to elect their own delegate, shall be determined by dividing the number of delegates a caucus or convention is to elect into the total number of eligible voters at that caucus or convention. For example: if there are 100 voters at a caucus which is to elect 10 delegates to a convention, a group of 10 of those voters is large enough to elect its own delegate or to require that a proportional voting system be used which will allow it to elect its own delegate.

Several voting methods provide the proportionality required by this rule. At precinct caucuses, state law requires that voters be able to vote secretly. At all other levels of the party voting is open, unless a secret ballot is called for and supported by one-third of the voting body.

The DFL Call to Convention as approved by the State Central Committee may outline specific procedures for rules which satisfy the requirement of this Bylaw at the various party levels.

Subsection D. ALTERNATE DELEGATES. For each delegate elected to attend a county unit, congressional district or state convention, or the state central committee, an alternate delegate shall be elected. Alternates shall be seated as delegates in the manner by which they are elected. An alternate may not be seated or removed while a ballot is in progress.

BYLAW Notification shall be made to alternates in the same manner as prescribed for delegates.

BYLAW If possible, a delegate must be replaced by an alternate

of the same candidate and/or issue preference. Alternates will succeed to delegate status according to votes received and (if applicable) within their subcaucus. If there are no alternates available within a subcaucus, alternates will be raised by lot from among the highest ranking alternates within the other subcaucuses. Each subcaucus will be represented in the lot system in proportion to its delegation allocation strength.

Subsection E. INSTRUCTION AND VOTING OF DELEGATES. No delegate to a convention shall be instructed or bound. Each delegate shall cast his/her vote independently of the other members of his/her delegation. No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any convention or meeting of any party organization. At any convention other than the precinct caucus, balloting when called for shall be by delegations and shall be open, and not secret, unless a secret ballot is called for by the chair or moved and then supported by one-third of the voting body.

At congressional district conventions in the First, Second, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth districts and at the State Convention, delegates from a county unit shall prorate and cast all the votes allotted the county unit. Third, Fourth and Fifth congressional district conventions shall not prorate.

BYLAW No person shall be prevented from voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions for which he/she is entitled to vote.

BYLAW All ballots in electing officers or delegates must be so written by the person voting as to indicate each individual candidate's name. Ballots marked "slate" are invalid.

Subsection F. CONTESTED DELEGATES. All contested or challenged seats shall be decided by the convention at the level the challenge occurs, according to the guidelines recommended by the State Central Committee. No delegate shall vote on a challenge brought to that delegate's seating. Further, no delegation shall vote on a challenge brought to that delegation's seating.

Subsection G. ANNUAL CONVENTIONS. A constitution of a county unit, as defined in Article V and VI, or of a congressional district may allow for annual conventions. If the unit constitution allows for annual conventions, those conventions shall divide the business conducted for biennial conventions as follows: Odd number years--elect the party officers of chair, associate chair, secretary and treasurer, adopt or amend a constitution, adopt resolutions and conduct informational and training workshops; Even numbered years--elect remaining party officers authorized by the constitution with the exception of those listed for odd-numbered year conventions, endorse a candidate for public office if appropriate, adopt or amend a constitution, adopt resolutions, elect delegates and alternates to the next higher unit convention and such other business as may come before it.

Subsection H. ENDORSEMENTS. Endorsement of a candidate for public office requires a 60 percent affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting at the convention, central committee, or commission making the endorsement, and every ballot shall be a test of a quorum. No convention, central committee, or commission representing a geographical area less than the area competent to elect the public official may endorse a candidate. No one may vote on an endorsement unless he/she is a resident of the area in which that election will occur. An endorsement given before the primary is valid after the primary only if the candidate's name appears on the general election ballot.

BYLAW The phrase "60 percent affirmative vote" means that to be endorsed, a candidate must receive 60 percent of the votes cast on that ballot, excluding blanks and abstentions. The phrase "every ballot shall be a test of a quorum" means that if the total ballots cast for, against, no endorsement, and abstaining, fall below the quorum number, no endorsement takes place on that ballot.

BYLAW In the event that non-endorsed candidate is the winner of a DFL primary, a post-primary convention or central committee meeting may be called for the purpose of considering an endorsement. If called, it must be held within eighteen (18) days after the primary.

BYLAW The Minnesota DFL Party at all levels shall not provide support and funds to candidates unless they are duly endorsed.

Subsection I. LIMITATIONS FOR DELEGATE POSITIONS. A party member endorsed and elected on a partisan ballot may be elected only as a delegate or alternate to the State Convention or the State Central or Executive Committees as provided for in Article VIII, Section 2. Elected and endorsed officials not elected under Article VIII, Section 2 shall be entitled to floor privileges without vote at all conventions or meetings.

Subsection J. ALTERNATES AND VISITORS. At all conventions, alternates and visitors must be clearly separated from officially accredited delegates.

SECTION 5. CENTRAL COMMITTEE RULES.

Subsection A. MEETINGS. Central committees shall meet at least semi-annually. Meetings may be called by the chair, or by written petition of a majority of the executive committee.

Subsection B. ENDORSEMENTS. In the absence of any direction to the contrary by a convention or commission, a central committee may endorse candidates between conventions or commissions. Every ballot shall be test of a quorum.

BYLAW The endorsing privilege extended to central committees by the Constitution means that if a convention or endorsing commission fails to make an endorsement, or does not act on a possible endorsement in its jurisdiction, and does not wish an

endorsement to be made, it must, by a simple majority vote, so instruct its central committee before it adjourns.

Subsection C. DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE. A central committee may dismiss a member elected at its governing convention, or her/his successor, for cause only on the grounds of clear malfeasance and nonfeasance in office. For such dismissal a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership is required, but only after the member is given 30 days written notice specifying the cause and is granted a hearing.

BYLAW Before a central committee member may be discharged, the central committee shall notify that person in writing and state its grounds for the proposed dismissal in reasonable detail together with a statement that the member may make a written request for a hearing before the committee within 30 days after receipt of such notification. If within 30 days after receipt of this notification the member makes a written request for a hearing before the committee it shall be granted before final action is taken. If no hearing is requested within such period, it shall be deemed acquiescence by the member to the committee's proposed action and the termination shall take effect at the end of the 30 day period.

Any hearing held pursuant to this section of the Bylaws and appropriate section of the Constitution shall be upon appropriate and timely notice to the member and shall be private or public at the discretion of the member. At the hearing, the committee and the member may each be represented by counsel at its or his/her own expense, and such counsel may examine and cross examine witnesses and present arguments. The committee shall first present evidence to sustain the grounds for dismissal and then receive evidence presented by the member. Each party may then present rebuttal evidence. Dismissal of the member shall be based upon substantial and competent evidence in the record. All witnesses shall be sworn upon oath administered by the presiding officer of the committee. The secretary of the committee shall issue subpoenas for witnesses or the production of records pertinent to the grounds upon the request of either the member or the committee. If requested, either by the member or the committee, the committee shall record the proceedings at the hearing and either party may obtain a transcript thereof at its own expense.

After the hearing, the committee shall issue a written decision and order. If the committee orders dismissal, its decision shall include the findings of fact based upon competent evidence in the record and shall be served on the member accompanied by an order of dismissal within ten (10) days after conclusion of the hearing. If the decision of the committee is favorable to the member, the proceedings shall be dismissed and the decision entered into the committee's minutes.

Subsection D. FILLING VACANCIES. Each central committee is responsible for declaring vacancies in its membership elected at its governing convention. A vacancy occurs for the

following reasons: resignation, death, change of residence to a jurisdiction other than the one from which he/she was elected, or dismissal for cause.

A majority vote is sufficient to declare a vacancy. The central committee may fill such vacancy only at a meeting properly called with notice of intent to elect. Only those vacancies specified in the meeting notice may be filled at the meeting. Vacancies shall be filled within 60 days of their occurrence.

If a vacancy occurs for delegate to any central committee, then the first alternate is raised to delegate and a new last ranking alternate is elected by the central committee.

Subsection E. VACANCY OF THE CHAIR. In the case of the vacancy of the chair, except at the state party level, the associate chair shall succeed that person to office, and a new associate chair shall be elected by the central committee.

The state Associate Chair may only be a candidate for election as Chair by resigning as Associate Chair effective the date of the Chair election. In that event, the State Central Committee notice shall declare an election for both the Chair and Associate Chair positions. If the Associate Chair does not seek election to the position of Chair, the newly elected Chair shall be of opposite gender to that of the Associate Chair.

SECTION 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULES.

Subsection A. MEETINGS. Executive committees shall meet at least quarterly. Meetings may be called by the chair, or by written petition of one-eighth the membership of the committee.

Subsection B. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. Each executive committee shall be responsible for affirmative action within its jurisdiction. The executive committee shall designate an affirmative action officer.

Subsection C. VACANCIES. Any officer or director of an executive committee who shall have three consecutive unexcused absences from executive committee meetings, if notified after two absences, shall be considered as resigned, and the position shall be declared vacant.

SECTION 7. PARTY OFFICER RULES.

Subsection A. PARTY OFFICERS. Party officers are chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer and any other party officials as may be specified in the constitutions of the county units, house district, senate district, congressional and state party organizations. County unit and congressional district officers shall include at least (1) directors.

Officers and officials take office at the adjournment of the convention or meeting at which they were elected. Party officials are all members and their alternates of all party central and executive committees and all affirmative action officers. All party officers elected at house district, senatorial district, county, congressional and state conventions shall be officers of their respective executive committees and central committees.

The term "chair" shall be construed as equivalent to the term "chairman" in accordance with state law.

Associate chairs shall be of different sex from the chairs.

The order of temporary succession of officers shall be: chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and members of the executive committee in the order listed on the report of the convention or commission electing them.

BYLAW Failure of party officers to perform the duties prescribed by governing constitutions or bylaws shall constitute nonfeasance and shall be cause for removal from office.

BYLAW Personal endorsement, financial assistance or other support or assistance by a party officer to a candidate running in opposition to an endorsed DFL candidate shall constitute malfeasance and shall be cause for removal from office.

Subsection B. LIMITATIONS FOR PARTY OFFICE. No individual serving in an office filled by partisan ballot or as an elected salaried official of a city of the first class or of a county containing a city of the first class may serve as a party officer, except as authorized by Article VIII, Section 2. Party officers must be elected according to the gender requirements of this Constitution.

Subsection C. LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES. Salaried officers and employees of the party Executive Committee shall refrain from endorsing or promoting the endorsement of candidates prior to their official endorsement by the appropriate party organization. Nothing in this provision shall be interpreted to prohibit recruitment of candidates. Salaried officers and employees of the Executive Committee shall support only candidates endorsed by the appropriate party organization.

Subsection D. DISPOSITION OF PARTY RECORDS. Upon leaving office, a party officer shall turn over all party records, books and properties to his/her successor or to the convention or central committee charged with electing her/his successor.

BYLAW Party officers at all levels shall be responsible for keeping minutes, transactions, treasury accounts, membership rosters, and other appropriate records of DFL meetings, and such records shall be available for examination to any member of the DFL Party upon request.

SECTION 8. NOTICES.

Subsection A. CONVENTIONS. Written notice of the date, time and place of a convention or special endorsing commission shall be mailed or presented to all delegates and alternates to any convention or endorsing commission other than the State Convention at least ten days before the date of the convention or commission meeting.

The State Chair shall notify the State Convention delegates and alternates of the time, place and date of the

State Convention and any other pertinent information. Such notice shall be mailed to each delegate and alternate at least 20 days before the convention.

Subsection B. EXECUTIVE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEES. Notice of executive and central committee meetings, specifying time and place, and agenda (including specifically notice of intent to elect if a vacancy has been declared) shall be mailed to all delegates and alternates of the committee not less than 15 days in advance of the meeting nor less than 72 hours by telegraph or by special messenger with guaranteed arrival at least 72 hours in advance.

SECTION 9. QUORUMS.

The State Executive Committee quorum shall be a majority.

The State Central Committee quorum shall be a majority of the delegates registered and one-third of the county units represented.

The State Convention quorum shall be the number of delegates sufficient to cast a majority of votes at that convention.

A quorum for all other conventions including endorsing commissions shall be a majority of those registered at the convention. A unit may set a higher quorum in its constitution.

Each level shall adopt quorums for the transaction of business by its central and executive committees.

SECTION 10. DEFINITIONS.

COUNTY UNIT. Whenever the phrase "county unit" occurs in this Constitution, it refers to any senatorial district or fraction thereof which conducts a convention as described in Article V, Section 1, and to any county which conducts a convention as described in Article VI, Section 3.

DFL PARTY CANDIDATES AVERAGE VOTE. The term DFL Party Candidates Average Vote as used in this Constitution refers to a specific formula used in the allocation of delegates and is defined precisely in the Bylaws.

BYLAW The DFL Candidates Average Vote is the sum of votes cast in the two most recent elections for the five highest ranking (as listed below) DFL candidates divided by five. The ranking of the races for this purpose shall be President, U.S. Senator, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and State Auditor.

SECTION 11. INTER-DISTRICT DELEGATE APPORTIONMENT. When a county unit is split geographically between congressional districts, State Convention delegates shall be apportioned between the congressional district geographic units.

SECTION 12. PRORATING. Unless the constitution authorizes prorating in voting at a convention or endorsing commission, no prorating of votes shall be allowed.

SECTION 13. DFL CLUBS. Any club, association or organization using the initials DFL or the name Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party must submit its charter for approval to the DFL Central Committee having jurisdiction. Such a charter must provide that, when there has been an endorsement by the official DFL convention, commission or central committee having jurisdiction, the organization or club may not support or spend money for any candidate running in opposition to an endorsed DFL candidate.

ARTICLE IV PRECINCT PARTY ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. PRECINCT CAUCUSES. The basis of party organization structure shall be the precinct caucuses, held on the date prescribed by Minnesota election laws. The caucus Call shall be prescribed by the State Chair subject to the determination 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 the notice of county, senatorial district, congressional district and State Conventions. The Call to each precinct shall set forth the number of delegates that precinct is entitled to elect to the county unit convention, the number of delegates the county unit is entitled to elect to the State Convention, and other pertinent information.

Only persons eligible to vote at the next general election who attend the caucus of this party for the precinct in which they reside and support the purpose of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party as stated in the preamble shall be entitled to vote at the caucus or be elected a delegate, alternate or a party officer.

Voting for delegates to the County unit convention shall be accordance with Article III, Section 4.

SECTION 2. PRECINCT ORGANIZATION. The precinct caucus shall elect a caucus chair and judges of elections and shall elect a precinct chair who need not be chair of the precinct caucus. Each precinct shall elect delegates and alternates to the county and senatorial district conventions. One delegate and one alternate shall be elected for each 25 Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Candidates Average Vote (defined in Article III, Section 10) and for a remaining fraction thereof. The caucus report shall indicate order of succession of alternates in accordance with the Bylaws. Persons eligible to be elected by the caucus may be elected delegates or alternates or to precinct office only if they have indicated in writing their willingness to serve.

The formulation of official party positions on major issues should begin at the precinct level. The caucus session may adopt resolutions and conduct such other business as may come before it. All resolutions passed at precinct caucuses and all higher bodies should be forwarded promptly to the next higher body for further consideration.

BYLAW The precinct caucus may elect vice chairs to assist and aid in the organization of the precinct for the party in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. These vice-chairs should be listed in the caucus report to higher levels of the party and may be the alternate for the precinct chair on the county unit central committee.

SECTION 3. PRECINCT CHAIR. The responsibility of the precinct chair shall be organization of the precinct for the party. The precinct chair may convene regular meetings of the DFL members in her/his precinct to consider the business of the party. The precinct chair's duties shall include the following: a canvass of residents to ascertain their party affiliation, with a record thereof; distribution of campaign literature; registration of all voters who can be expected to support the party; and organization of committees to get the party vote to the polls.

ARTICLE V
PARTY ORGANIZATION IN ANOKA, DAKOTA,
HENNEPIN, RAMSEY, STEARNS, ST. LOUIS
AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

SECTION 1. SENATE DISTRICTS.

Subsection A. SENATE DISTRICTS. (Senate districts or fractions of a senate district in these counties are included in the broad category of county units, like counties covered in the following Article VI.)

Subsection B. CONVENTIONS. In districts electing a member of the State Senate, a convention shall be held each even numbered year. Such conventions may be held concurrently with house district conventions. In years in which the district does not elect a senator, the house district conventions may become sessions of the senate district convention. A senate district constitution may allow for annual conventions.

AUTHORITY. The senate district convention shall be the governing body of the senate district party.

MEMBERSHIP. Senate district conventions shall be composed of precinct delegates and alternates seated as delegates residing within the district.

BUSINESS. The senate district convention shall elect district party officers and officials, and (in accordance with Article III, Section 4) elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention to serve until the next statewide precinct caucuses, ratify party officers elections held at precinct caucuses; it may endorse a candidate for the State Senate, adopt resolutions, amend the senate district constitution and conduct such other business as may come before it. (Annual conventions see Article III, Section 4, Subsection G.)

Subsection C. OFFICERS. The senate district officers shall consist of chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and eleven directors.

Subsection D. CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The senate district central committee shall be the governing body of the district between conventions.

MEMBERSHIP. The senate district central committee shall include the executive committee, the precinct chairs, and each member of the congressional district central committee residing in the senate district.

Subsection E. SENATE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The senate district executive committee is the governing body of the district between meetings of the central committee.

MEMBERSHIP. The senate district executive committee shall include the senate district officers and each member of the congressional district executive committee residing within the senate district.

SECTION 2. HOUSE DISTRICTS.

Subsection A. CONVENTIONS. In districts electing a member of the State House of Representatives, a convention may be held each even numbered year. Such conventions may be held concurrently with the convention of the senate district.

AUTHORITY. The house district convention shall be the governing body of the house district party.

BUSINESS. The house district convention may elect officers and officials, recruit and endorse a candidate for the State House of Representatives and aid in the election of the candidate. The convention may adopt a constitution, elect additional party officers, establish executive and/or central committees, and conduct such other business as may come before it.

Subsection B. OFFICERS. The house district officers, if elected, shall be chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be specified in the house district constitution.

SECTION 3. PRECINCT EXCEPTIONS. Any precinct(s) in the counties covered by this article but without enough DFL Candidates Average Vote to be allotted a vote, may elect delegate(s) to the State Convention and the State Central Committee. The vote and method of electing to be determined by the State Central Committee.

ARTICLE VI
PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN COUNTIES
NOT COVERED IN ARTICLE V

SECTION 1. SENATE DISTRICTS.

Subsection A. CONVENTIONS. In districts electing a member of the State Senate, a convention shall be held each even numbered year. Such conventions may be held concurrently with house district conventions. In years in which the district does not elect a senator, the house district conventions may become sessions of the senate district convention.

AUTHORITY. The senate district convention shall be the governing body of the senate district party.

MEMBERSHIP. Senate district conventions shall be composed of precinct delegates and alternates seated as delegates residing within the senate district. Delegates and alternates seated as delegates may prorate and cast all votes allotted the precinct if the senate district constitution so provides.

BUSINESS. The senate district convention shall elect senate district party officers and officials, shall recruit and may endorse a candidate for the State Senate and aid in the election of the candidate. The convention may conduct such other party business as may come before it.

Subsection B. OFFICERS. The senate district officers shall be a chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be specified in the senate district constitution.

Subsection C. SPECIAL COMMITTEE. In the absence of a regular senate district central committee authorized by the senate district constitution, a special senate district committee is authorized. Such a special senate district committee shall consist of the senate district officers, precinct chairs, and all members of the State Central Committee residing within the senate district. This special committee is authorized to fill vacancies among the senate district officers and to endorse candidates between meetings of the senate district conventions.

SECTION 2. HOUSE DISTRICTS.

Subsection A. CONVENTIONS. In districts electing a member of the State House of Representatives, a convention may be held each even numbered year. Such conventions may be held concurrently with the convention of the senate district.

AUTHORITY. The house district convention shall be the governing body of the house district party.

MEMBERSHIP. House district conventions shall be composed of precinct delegates and alternates seated as delegates residing within the house district. Delegates and alternates seated as delegates may prorate and cast all votes allotted the precinct if its constitution so provides.

BUSINESS. The house district convention may elect officers and officials, recruit and endorse a candidate for the State House of Representatives and aid in the election of the candidate. The convention may adopt a constitution, elect additional party officers and officials, establish executive and/or central committees, and conduct such other business as may come before it.

Subsection B. OFFICERS. The house district officers, if elected, shall be chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be specified in the house district constitution.

Subsection C. SPECIAL COMMITTEE. In the absence of a regular house district central committee authorized by the house district constitution, a special house district committee is authorized. Such a special house district committee shall consist of the house district officers, precinct chairs, and all members of the State Central Committee residing within the house district. This special committee is authorized to fill vacancies among the house district officers and to endorse candidates between meetings of the house district convention.

SECTION 3. COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.

Subsection A. CONVENTIONS. In counties other than those described in Article V, a convention shall be held in each even-numbered year. A county constitution may allow for annual conventions.

AUTHORITY. The county convention shall be the governing body of the county party.

MEMBERSHIP. County conventions shall be composed of the precinct delegates and alternates seated as delegates residing within the county or as may arise from Article V, Section 3.

BUSINESS. The county convention shall elect county party officers and officials, elect (in accordance with Article II, Section 4) delegates and alternates to the State Convention to serve until the next statewide precinct caucuses; and may adopt or amend the county party constitution, adopt resolutions, and conduct such other business as may come before it. (Annual conventions see Article III, Section 4, Subsection G.)

Subsection B. OFFICERS. The county party officers shall consist of a chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and eleven directors.

Subsection C. CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The county central committee shall be the governing body of the county between conventions.

MEMBERSHIP. The county central committee shall consist of the executive committee, precinct chairs, and each member of the congressional district central committee residing within the county.

Subsection D. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The county executive committee shall be the governing body of the county between meetings of the central committee.

MEMBERSHIP. The county executive committee shall include the county party officers and each member of the congressional district executive committee residing within the county.

ARTICLE VII PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

SECTION 1. CONVENTIONS.

AUTHORITY. Congressional district conventions shall be the governing body of the district and shall be held each even-numbered year. A congressional district constitution may allow for annual conventions.

MEMBERSHIP. Congressional district conventions shall be composed of State Convention delegates and alternates seated as delegates and State Party officers at the time of the congressional district convention residing within the congressional district.

A congressional district constitution may allow county units within its jurisdiction to elect up to an equal number of additional delegates and alternates to serve only as congressional district convention delegates and alternates.

BUSINESS. The convention shall elect congressional district party officers and officials. It shall be the function of the convention to endorse a candidate for the United States House of Representatives in accordance with Article III, Section 4. The convention shall elect two persons, either delegates or alternates to the State Convention, for membership on each pre-convention committee established by the State Executive Committee, and two persons either delegates or alternates to the State Convention, to serve as alternates to each pre-convention committee. In presidential elections years the convention shall also nominate a presidential elector and elect the National Convention delegates and alternates allotted the district in accordance with Article III, Section 4, the Bylaws, and the rules and directives of the State Executive Committee and Democratic National Committee. The convention shall elect two state directors to serve on the State Executive Committee, in a manner prescribed by the congressional district constitution. The convention may adopt or amend a constitution. The convention may adopt resolutions and conduct such other business as may come before it. (Annual conventions also see Article III, Section 4, Subsection G).

SECTION 2. OFFICERS. The congressional district officers shall consist of a chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and eleven directors.

SECTION 3. CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The congressional district central committee shall be the governing body of the congressional district between conventions.

MEMBERSHIP. The congressional district central committee shall include the executive committee, members of the State Central Committee residing within the congressional district, and such other members as the congressional district constitution may provide.

BUSINESS. Between conventions, the central committee is empowered to fill vacancies among the following: the congressional district delegation to the National Convention, the presidential elector nominee, and the endorsed congressional candidate.

SECTION 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The congressional district executive committee shall be the governing body of the congressional district between meetings of the central committee.

MEMBERSHIP. The executive committee shall be composed of the party officers, members of the State Executive Committee residing within the district, and such other members as the congressional district constitution may provide.

BUSINESS. The executive committee is responsible for the general management of the congressional district party business subject to the approval of the congressional district central committee.

ARTICLE VIII
STATE PARTY ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. CONVENTION.

AUTHORITY. The State Convention is the supreme governing body of the party in Minnesota.

MEMBERSHIP. (a). DELEGATES. There shall be 1,200 delegate votes at the State Convention apportioned among the county units in proportion to the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Candidates Average Vote (defined in Article III, Section 10) provided that no county unit shall have less than three votes, (eligibility exceptions in Article V, Section 3). The method of equal proportions prescribed for allocation of representatives in Congress shall be applied to the allocation of delegates to county units.

A county unit allotted three votes shall elect six delegates with a half vote each; a county unit allotted four votes shall elect six delegates with 2/3 vote each; a county unit allotted five votes shall elect six delegates with 5/6 vote each; a county unit with six votes or more shall elect delegates with one vote each.

MEMBERSHIP. (b). DELEGATES-AT-LARGE. State party officers at the time the convention is called to order and congressional district chairs and associate chairs at the time the congressional district convention is called to order shall be delegates-at-large to the State Convention. Elected Officials (as defined in Article VIII, Section 2) shall elect 25 delegates-at-large to serve only at the State Convention and who will serve a term of two years.

MEMBERSHIP. (c). NON-VOTING DELEGATES. DFL endorsed and elected public officials and State Commission members of Constitution and Bylaws and Platform and Issues, not among those listed in Membership (a) or (b), shall be non-voting delegates.

BUSINESS. The State Convention shall elect convention officers and state party officers. In presidential election years, it shall elect national committee members, and delegates and alternates to the National Convention in accordance with Article III, Section 4, and the Bylaws, and shall nominate presidential electors. It shall be the function of the State

Convention to endorse candidates for statewide office and adopt a party platform, or provide for such endorsement and adoption. It may amend this Constitution and/or the accompanying Bylaws. It may transact such other business as may come before the Convention.

COMMITTEES. The State Chair, subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee, shall appoint co-conveners for the following committees: rules, credentials, nominations and such others as may be deemed necessary by the State Executive Committee. The appointments shall be made at least 26 days before the opening of the Convention. The State Party Chair shall notify each committee member of the convener's name and the first committee meeting at least 22 days prior to the Convention. The first order of business for each committee shall be the election of a permanent committee chair. Each committee shall then perform the duties appropriate to its area of responsibility. The chairs of the rules committee, platform and issues commission and constitution and bylaws commission shall make the preliminary reports of their committees available to all delegates and alternates at least seven days prior to the opening of the State Convention. Each chair(s) shall report their findings at the appropriate time on the Convention agenda for consideration by the State Convention.

SECTION 2. DFL ENDORSED, ELECTED OFFICIALS DELEGATES/DIRECTORS. The State Chair shall convene a convocation in even-numbered years of DFL endorsed and elected public officials. The business of the convocation shall be to elect 25 at-large delegates to the State Convention, elect 10 delegates to serve on the State Central Committee for a term of two years and elect three directors to serve on the State Executive Committee for a term of two years. No alternates will be elected for any of the aforementioned delegates/directors, and they shall serve only to the the convention and committees at the state party level. This convocation shall fulfill the delegate election guidelines applicable under the Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 3. STATE PARTY OFFICERS. State party officers elected at a State Convention shall be chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, national committee members, and 12 state-at-large directors. They shall assume office at the adjournment of the convention or meeting at which they were elected.

BYLAW The Chair's duties shall be to represent the DFL party to the public and serve as the full-time salaried chief executive officer. The Chair, upon the recommendation of a personnel committee appointed by the Chair, and approval of the State Executive Committee may appoint, with annual review, an administrative director to manage the day-to-day business and financial affairs of the state party office. The Chair shall supervise the implementation of all policies and personnel directives adopted by the State Convention, State Central Committee or State Executive Committee. The Chair shall provide for parliamentary education which shall include the

training of party chairs and parliamentarians at the congressional district and county unit levels on the application of the State DFL Constitution, Bylaws, and Convention/Caucus Call to party business, especially in the conduct of county unit and congressional district conventions. The Chair shall be salaried and the salary shall be set by the Executive Committee.

The **Associate Chair** shall assist the State Chair in providing leadership in party organization and political education. In addition, the Associate Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair during the temporary absence of a Chair.

The **Secretary** shall be in charge of all the files and records of the party and of preparation of necessary documents. The Secretary shall preserve such files and records and open them for examination at convenient and appropriate times at the request of any duly elected State Central Committee member.

The **Treasurer** shall have custody of the funds of the party and shall render written accounts of his/her receipts and reimbursements to each meeting of the State Central Committee and State Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall also make a full report 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 other times as may be requested by either the State Central Committee or the State Executive Committee, by a certified public accountant. Copies of the Treasurer's report shall be sent to all members of the State Central Committee.

SECTION 4. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The State Central Committee shall be the governing body between conventions.

MEMBERSHIP. The State Central Committee shall consist of the State Executive Committee, the congressional district chairs and associate chairs who do not serve on the State Executive Committee, ten elected officials as defined in Article VIII, Section 2, plus the chair and associate chair of the senate districts plus 332 representatives divided among the county units according to the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Candidates Average Vote (see Bylaw, Article III, Section 10), provided that each county unit shall have at least one vote (eligibility exceptions in Article V, Section 3). A system of equal proportions prescribed for allocation of representatives in Congress shall be used to determine allocation of representation to county units.

A county unit allotted one vote shall send as its representative(s) the chair and/or associate chair. A county unit allotted two votes shall send as its representatives the chair and associate chair. A county unit allotted more than two votes shall send as its representatives the chair and associate chair and in addition they shall elect delegates-at-large. County unit representatives shall be elected at even-numbered year conventions and serve a term of two years.

For all State Central Committee delegates (including the chair, associate chair and delegates elected at large) ranked alternates shall be elected.

A poll by mail of the members of the State Central Committee may be taken on specific questions, provided such a poll is voted by the State Executive Committee. In such polls, at least 15 days must elapse between the mailing of ballots and the date set for the tabulation of returns.

BUSINESS. The State Central Committee shall fill vacancies among state officers, statewide delegates and alternates to National Conventions, endorsed candidates for statewide office, and statewide nominees for presidential electors. It may reconvene an adjourned State Convention. It may adopt or amend the Bylaws to this Constitution.

SECTION 5. STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AUTHORITY. The State Executive Committee shall be the governing body between meetings of the State Central Committee.

MEMBERSHIP. The Executive Committee shall consist of the party officers elected at a State Convention, state directors elected at each congressional district convention (with the congressional district secretary and treasurer serving as alternates), and three voting directors elected by DFL endorsed, elected officials (as defined in Article VIII, Section 2). It shall also include as non-voting members, chair(s) of each constitutionally authorized state party commission, and members of the National Committee not elected by the State Convention.

BUSINESS. The State Executive Committee shall be responsible to the State Central Committee for the general management of the party's business. It may also establish temporary committees. It shall establish a budget, including salaries, subject to State Central Committee approval. All disputes and contests resulting from the holding of house district, senatorial district, county unit and congressional district conventions shall be decided by the State Executive Committee, except those disputes to be decided under Article III, Section 3.

The State Executive Committee shall establish procedures for review of party constitutions of the county, house district, senate district, and congressional district organizations by the Constitution Commission. Other subordinate party organizations shall be reviewed by the DFL central committee having jurisdiction in accordance with Article III, Section 13. Such constitutions shall become operative unless disapproved within six months of submission to state party headquarters. Disapproval is subject to appeal to the State Central Committee. The State DFL office shall maintain a file of valid constitutions for all party organizations.

The State Executive Committee shall take any action necessary to ensure that the use of the designation "Democratic-Farmer-Labor", or any combination thereof, be restricted to persons or organizations authorized by the State Convention, the State Central Committee, or the State Executive Committee.

The State Executive Committee may call a meeting of any central committee. With the consent of the State Central Committee, the State Executive Committee may reconvene an adjourned State Convention.

BYLAW The State Executive Committee shall assign duties to the directors. At least one director shall be assigned each of the following: finance, party organization, legislative liaison, new voter registration and involvement, liaison with elected state officials, party ombudsmen functions, communications, platform and issues development, affirmative action, constitution, youth programs and education, and liaison with non-legislative DFL elected officials.

BYLAW The State Executive Committee shall have the authority to recommend and implement procedures for commissions. Authority for existing commissions shall be granted through governing conventions or through amending the Bylaws.

SECTION 6. STATE PARTY COMMISSIONS. State party commissions shall include: Commission on Affirmative Action, Commission on Constitution and Bylaws, and Commission on Platform and Issues; and shall function as described in the Bylaws.

BYLAW All commissions, except the Commission on Affirmative Action, shall be comprised of two delegates and two alternates elected by the congressional district conventions in even-numbered years and two delegates and two alternates elected by the State Executive Committee. In seating alternates, preference shall be given to the alternate of the same gender as the delegate. All commission members shall serve a term of two years, commencing at the adjournment of the State Convention held in even-numbered years and shall present its recommendations to the appropriate governing bodies.

A. COMMISSION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. The appropriate executive committee shall establish an affirmative action officer for each county unit, congressional district and the State Executive Committee. The affirmative action officers may be ex-officio members of the executive committee on the level at which they serve and shall make a report to the convention at that level.

The Affirmative Action Commission shall consist of two delegates and two alternates elected by the congressional district central committees and two delegates and alternates elected by the State Executive Committee, the state affirmative action officer, the eight congressional district affirmative action officers, and persons appointed by the State Chair and confirmed by the State Executive Committee from special underrepresented categories, such as: youth, senior citizens, men, women, labor, racial minorities, disabled, and farmers. Each congressional district and county unit shall have a similar affirmative action commission. Affirmative action commissions and affirmative action officers shall be accountable to the State Executive and State Central

Committees. The Affirmative Action Commission shall prepare an affirmative action plan and shall submit the plan for approval and implementation to the State Executive Committee. The State Affirmative Action Commission shall be a compliance and review commission in terms of affirmative action programs and delegate selection and in turn shall make recommendations to appropriate governing bodies. It may establish a date for affirmative action plan submission. The Commission shall be properly funded to carry out its mandate.

B. COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS. The Commission on Constitution and Bylaws shall have as minimum objectives:

1. Perform periodic reviews of the following documents in relations to the Constitution and Bylaws of the DFL Party, with a view toward resolving any conflicts with the Constitution:

a. The National Charter of the Democratic Party.

b. The DFL Affirmative Action Plan.

c. Delegate Selection Rules for the Democratic National Convention.

d. Minnesota Election Laws.

e. Constitutions of subordinate DFL organizations, as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 4.

2. Review and draft the Caucus and Convention Call.

3. Draw by lot the members to the rotating three-person Constitution Review Board, which shall have authority to recommend settlements and remedies of constitutional challenges, disputes, and interpretations to appropriate governing bodies.

4. Recommend refinements/changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the DFL Party.

5. Continue drafting of Bylaws to the Constitution of the DFL Party, reporting recommended changes to the State Central Committee and/or the DFL State Convention.

6. Make educational opportunities regarding the Constitution and Bylaws available to party organizations whenever possible. This includes the use of commission members in presentations.

7. Schedule and conduct hearings (as appropriate) throughout the state for the purpose of receiving input on recommended changes, additions or refinements to the Constitution and Bylaws. The Commission will solicit recommendations from DFL elected officials and party officers.

8. Prepare a final report for action by the State Convention.

C. COMMISSION ON PLATFORM AND ISSUES. The Commission on Platform and Issues shall develop platform criteria and form procedures for the ongoing process of resolutions from the caucuses and an orderly procedure for the convention. It shall also monitor and evaluate for informational purposes the implementation of platform planks by appropriate governmental bodies and report the results to the appropriate party officials. It will bring to the attention of subsequent caucuses and conventions those platform planks which have and those which have not been enacted. It may identify current and

timely issues that are not addressed in the platform in order to present them to the appropriate governing bodies. The Commission may develop task forces and may hold hearings between conventions. The Commission shall not issue a resolution or issue statement. It may develop a manner for topical issues to be developed and a procedure to recommend to the State Central Committee for action. The Commission shall present specific recommendations for inclusion in the DFL Call to Convention to the Commission on Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX OTHER ELECTORAL JURISDICTIONS

SECTION 1. ELECTORAL JURISDICTIONS NOT PROVIDED FOR ELSEWHERE. In an electoral jurisdiction for which this Constitution does not otherwise provide a means of endorsement, the central committee of the party having the smallest jurisdiction which includes the electoral jurisdiction shall be responsible for the party's affairs in elections in that electoral jurisdiction, and may authorize the adoption of a party constitution for the electoral jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL ENDORSING COMMISSION.

AUTHORITY. A special endorsing commission for an election in an electoral jurisdiction not provided for elsewhere may be called by the central committee having jurisdiction, if a commission is not authorized by the constitution of the electoral jurisdiction.

MEMBERSHIP. For an electoral jurisdiction equivalent to, or smaller than, a senatorial district in population, the delegates and alternates elected at precinct caucuses within that jurisdiction shall be delegates and alternates to the special endorsing commission.

For an electoral jurisdiction larger than a senatorial district in population, excluding cities of the first class, which are included in Section 3 below, the delegates and alternates to the State Convention who reside within the jurisdiction, or the delegates and alternates elected at precinct caucuses within that jurisdiction.

BUSINESS. The special endorsing commission may recruit and endorse a candidate for each office open for election, and aid in the election of the candidate.

Endorsement involving an election in a subjurisdiction of such an electoral jurisdiction may be made by delegates to the special endorsing commission who reside within the subjurisdiction.

The special endorsing commission may conduct such other business as may be authorized by the constitution of the electoral jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS. A city of the first class may conduct a special endorsing commission to endorse candidates for local office. Delegates to such a commission shall be elected at caucuses which may be held at a

time different from the regular even-year organizational caucuses. Such caucuses and commissions shall follow the election laws and guidelines of regular caucuses and conventions. The date and arrangements of these caucuses and commissions shall be established by the central committee having jurisdiction.

**ARTICLE X
AMENDING PROCEDURES FOR CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates at any State Convention of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

**ARTICLE XI
BYLAWS**

Bylaws concerning matters not expressly governed by, nor in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted or amended by majority vote of the State Convention.

Bylaws may be adopted or amended by the State Central Committee provided such changes receive majority affirmative vote of the entire membership. A copy of the proposed changes in Bylaws shall be included in the meeting notice of the State Central Committee.

**ARTICLE XII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

All State Convention matters not covered by this Constitution and its Bylaws or by convention rules, or by law shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, most recently revised.

**ARTICLE XIII
NEW CONSTITUTION**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
FILED**

OCT 15 1986

Jean Anderson Howe
Secretary of State

#36973

O.D.