

# Constitution of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota

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## ARTICLE I

### Name and Objects

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

SECTION 2. The objects of the party shall be, to (a) uphold constitutional government, (b) sustain Jeffersonian Democracy, (c) advance the interest of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and its candidates, (d) organize and perpetuate a strong, representative and effective party organization in the State of Minnesota, (e) affiliate with and advance the interests of the National Democratic Party, and (f) to advocate and further such principles as may be from time to time adopted by its party conventions.

## ARTICLE II

### Membership

SECTION 1. The membership of the party shall be composed of all voters of the State of Minnesota who believe in the principles and desire to support the objects of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

SECTION 2. The County Committees shall enroll all party members. Such committees may invite the voluntary payment of dues, but payment of dues shall not be required as a condition for membership.

## ARTICLE III

### State Party Administration

SECTION 1. The general management of the affairs of the party in the state shall be vested in the state convention and subject thereto, in the State Central Committee and subject to the determinations and directions of said two bodies in the State Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. During, or immediately following the state convention held each general election year, subsequent to the year 1944, at the call of the State Chairman or of any three of their own members, the State Central Committee shall meet at the same place as the convention. The state convention shall elect from the membership of the party the state party officers; namely, chairman, vice-chairman, vice-chairwoman, secretary, and treasurer, who shall serve as such until their successors are chosen.

SECTION 3. The State Central Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The state party officers, who shall be its officers;
- (b) All county chairmen and chairwomen, or in their absence, their alternates;
- (c) A representative until (but not after) the general election in each election year appointed by each successful nominee of the party at that year's primary election for state offices and for senator and representative in congress;
- (d) Additional representatives for certain counties as hereinafter stated:  
Each county for each additional ten thousand votes above the first ten thousand votes cast therein at the last preceding presidential election for the Presidential Electors for the Democratic candidate for President, shall be entitled to an additional representative on the state central committee to be elected as the county chairmen are elected.

SECTION 4. The State Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The state party officers, who shall be its officers;
  - (b) The national committeeman and committeewoman;
  - (c) Three representatives from each congressional district, at least one of whom shall be a woman. These representatives shall be elected at the regular district conventions.
- SECTION 5. Meetings of said committees may be called

by the chairman or meetings of the State Central Committee may be called by any ten members thereof, or by the State Executive Committee, and meetings of the State Executive Committee may be called by any five members thereof, upon three days' notice by wire or five days' notice by mail to all the members of such committee. Said committee may adjourn to a time and place certain or by rule may provide for regular meetings at stated intervals and places.

SECTION 6. The presence of either the chairman, chairwoman, or an alternate from at least one-third of the counties in the state shall be required to constitute a quorum of the State Central Committee. One-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum of the State Executive Committee.

SECTION 7. County vice-chairmen and vice-chairwomen shall be alternates for their respective county chairmen and chairwomen on the state central committee, unless other alternates have been chosen by the respective county conventions.

SECTION 8. No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any meeting of the State Central Committee or State Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE IV

### County and District Administration

SECTION 1. Subject to the determinations and directions of the state conventions, the State Central Committee and the State Executive Committee in the order named, the general management of party affairs and the rule-making power shall be vested (a) as to each county primarily in the county convention, and, subject thereto, in the county committee chosen by the regular county convention each general election year to serve until their successors have been chosen, and (b) as to affairs particularly affecting a congressional district, in a district committee.

SECTION 2. The regular county convention shall elect the usual county party officers, including a chairman, a chairwoman, a vice-chairman, a vice-chairwoman, and secretary-treasurer, who shall also serve in said capacities as officers of the county committee.

SECTION 3. When a congressional district consists of an entire single county, the county committee and officers shall serve as the committee and officers of such district. When a congressional district consists of only a portion of a county, the members of the county committee resident in such district shall constitute the district committee. In all other cases, the members of the State Central Committee resident in such district shall constitute the district committee, except in case a portion of a county is included in such district with other territory, in which case the members of the county committee resident in such portion of a county shall elect two members of such district committee plus one additional member for each additional 10,000 votes above the first 10,000 votes cast therein at the last preceding presidential election for the electors for the Democratic Candidate for President of the United States. The State Chairman, immediately after the close of each State Convention, shall issue a call for a meeting of the members of each district committee for the purpose of electing officers similar to those of a county committee (except where such districts consist of an entire single county), electing three members of the State Executive Committee, and considering endorsements for Congress.

SECTION 4. Meetings of county and district committees may be called by the chairman or by any five members thereof, upon two days' notice by wire or five days' notice by mail to all the members of such committee.

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SECTION 5. Copies of all permanent rules and of all platforms adopted by county conventions shall forthwith be filed with the secretary of the State Central Committee.

## ARTICLE V Conventions

SECTION 1. Subject to the orders and determinations and instructions of the State Central Committee or State Executive Committee, the state chairman shall call (a) the regular state delegate convention each general election year, and (b) such other delegate conventions as may be desirable.

SECTION 2. Each presidential election year the delegates to the State Convention shall nominate presidential electors and elect delegates to the National Democratic Convention, provided, however, in connection therewith, in conformity with past custom and practice, each congressional district shall have the right to recommend to the State Convention its numerical proportionate number of the delegates to the national convention, and the State Convention shall ratify, approve, and affirm the election of the delegates so recommended; the balance of the delegates shall be elected at large by the State Convention.

SECTION 3. If plainly included in the call, any State Convention may amend this constitution, adopt a party platform, endorse candidates for office and determine other matters of party concern, provided, however, that the convention adopting this constitution may before its final adjournment amend this constitution in any particular.

SECTION 4. No endorsement of candidates by a State Convention shall be valid unless at the time of the adoption of the resolution or other form of endorsement at least one-half of the duly elected delegates to such convention are present at the meeting place and at least a two-thirds vote of those present shall approve such endorsement.

SECTION 5. Save as otherwise expressly provided herein, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Chapter 2 of Part Three of the Minnesota Election Law are made a part of this constitution. Under the direction of the State Central Committee or State Executive Committee, the state chairman may vary the conditions and requirements of the holding of primary caucuses, but the holding of such caucuses shall in no case be less than twenty days after the receipt of the call of the convention from the state chairman.

SECTION 6. Each county shall be entitled to such number of votes as may be determined in the call of the state convention.

SECTION 7. Each county may elect such number of delegates not to exceed double the number of votes of each county to the state convention as may be determined by the county convention, and the number of votes to which such county is entitled shall be pro-rated among the delegates of each county.

SECTION 8. The chairman of the State Central Committee shall appoint a credentials committee for each state convention at least fifteen days prior to the date thereof. If he fails so to do, the state party officers plus the national committeeman and the national committeewoman shall act as such credentials committee.

SECTION 9. At all conventions, spectators must be plainly separated from the voting members.

## ARTICLE VI Removals, Vacancies and Disputes

SECTION 1. Except as to contests as to seats at a state convention, all disputes and contests resulting from the

holding of county conventions shall be determined by the State Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. If notice of the proposed action appears plainly in the call of the meeting, (a) any state party officer may be removed and his successor chosen by two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the State Central Committee, (b) any county party officer may be removed and his successor chosen by not less than two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the county committee, and (c) vacancies in any party office or committee may be filled for the unexpired term by the body which made the original choice.

## ARTICLE VII Democratic Clubs

SECTION 1. The right of special organizations having Democratic affiliations to exist and carry on their activities as they see fit, consistent with the objects, platforms and principles of the party, shall be recognized. Such organizations in furtherance of party and public welfare shall be encouraged, but shall not participate in party government.

## ARTICLE VIII National Committeeman and Committeewoman

SECTION 1. The delegates to the state convention held for the nomination of presidential electors shall select a national committeeman and a national committeewoman, who shall serve as such until their successors are chosen.

## ARTICLE IX Temporary Provisions

SECTION 1. Immediately upon the adoption of this constitution, the delegates to the convention so adopting the same shall select a national committeeman and a national committeewoman and the first state party officers who shall serve as such until their successors are chosen as provided herein.

SECTION 2. In any county which is entitled to more than two members of the State Central Committee, the county officers may reconvene the delegates to the county convention and elect such additional members as such county may be entitled to.

SECTION 3. In the event the name of this party is duly changed to "Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party", then on or before June 15th, 1944, precinct caucuses shall be held in each precinct or voting district of the state for the election of delegates to the county conventions hereinafter provided for. Such county conventions shall meet at a suitable place in the county to be specified by the county chairman, for the purpose of electing or providing for the appointment of county officers and local committees, the election of delegates to congressional district conventions hereinafter provided for, and doing all other things required of county conventions by this constitution. Following such county conventions, the state chairman shall cause appropriate district conventions to be called for the purpose of electing members of the State Executive Committee, and taking all other action required to be taken by a district convention under this constitution.

## ARTICLE X SECTION 1. This constitution shall become operative, and be in effect, from and after its adoption.

Adopted April 15th, 1944.

*I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Constitution of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota, adopted in convention, April 15th, 1944.*  
*Hubert H. Humphrey Jr., Chairman of the Convention*

Off. Doc. #9588

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED

JUL 12 1944

*Wm. H. Johnson*  
Secretary of State.