

# CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY OF SENATE DISTRICT 46

As Adopted on April 14, 2024

We, the members of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party of Minnesota in the Senate District 46 do establish this Constitution.

## ARTICLE I OUR PARTY

**Section 1. Name.** The name of the organization shall be the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party Senate District 46 hereinafter called Senate District.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the organization shall be to support the development and election of Democrats who can effectively advance the ideals of the Party and represent the residents of Senate District 46. The organization will support those endorsed representatives in implementing the platform of the State DFL Party.

**Section 3. Membership.** Membership in the Senate District shall be open to all residents of the Senate District who support the principles of the State DFL Party. No person who is a member of any other political party may vote on a motion, resolution, nomination or election at any caucus, convention meeting or conference of the Senate District.

**Section 4. Subordination.** This organization is bound, in all respects, by the State Party Constitution and Bylaws and the Official Call of the State DFL Party.

**Section 5. Eligibility for Party Office.** Persons are eligible for election to party office, except as limited by this Constitution or relevant sections of the State Party Constitution:

**Section 6. Affirmative Action, Outreach, and Inclusion Statement.** The Chair and Vice Chair and all officers shall (through affirmative action, outreach, and inclusion) encourage young people, seniors, women, persons living with disabilities, and other historically underrepresented groups whether by race, ethnic group, immigration status, consideration of faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other protected status to participate in party affairs at every level. This includes welcoming, informing, and providing access to training for all persons regarding how to effectively participate in the selection and party governance processes; actively recruiting, selecting, placing, and retaining members of such previously stated groups; and encouraging all Democrats to select affirmatively such individuals when voting, so that such groups shall be

represented on delegations, in committees, and in party offices, at every level within the DFL Party at least in reasonable proportion to their presence in the state. These affirmative steps shall provide a basis for review and challenge of officers and delegations as specified in the Bylaws or the Rule Book and as printed in the Official Call.

## **ARTICLE II PRECINCT CAUCUS ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1. Precinct Caucuses and Organization.** The basis of party organization structure shall be the Precinct Caucus held on the date and in the manner prescribed by the Official Call.

**Section 2. Gender Balance.** At least one of the two Vice Chairs must not be of the same gender as the Precinct Chair. These officers support the Chair in the party activities and serve as an alternate for the Precinct Chair on the Senate District Central Committee. They shall be elected in the order of succession. In the event of vacancy, the ranked Vice Chair shall become the new Precinct Chair. In the event that no ranked Vice Chair is available, the Senate District Central Committee may appoint a Precinct Chair.

**Section 3. Precinct Chair.** The responsibility of the Precinct Chair shall be the organization of the precinct for the Senate District. Each Precinct Chair is a voting member of the District Central Committee. The Chair may convene regular meetings of members in the precinct to consider the business of the party.

**Section 4. Precinct Vice Chair.** The duties of the Precinct Vice Chairs shall be such duties as delegated by the Precinct Chair and, in the event that the Precinct Chair is unable to attend, will be a voting member of the District Central Committee.

## **ARTICLE III SENATE DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1. Conventions of the Senate District.** A Senate District Convention shall be held in even-numbered years. A majority of registered delegates and upgraded delegates at the Convention shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 2. Business of the Senate District Convention.** The Senate District Convention shall elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention, members of the State Central Committee in accordance with the State Party Constitution, District Directors, and membership on the Central Committees of the corresponding Congressional Districts in accordance with the Constitution of the respective Congressional District, and endorse candidates for the Legislature, and ratify Precinct Chairs and Vice Chairs elected at the precinct caucuses.

At the Convention, the Senate District may adopt resolutions, approve amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and conduct other party business that may come before it.

**Section 3. Authority of the Senate District Convention.** The Senate District Convention shall be the governing body of the Senate District, subject to the State Party Constitution, and the Official Call as prescribed by the State Central Committee.

**Section 4. Notice of Convention.** The date, time and in the manner of the convention shall be announced at the precinct caucuses; and, in addition, each delegate and alternate shall be notified in writing of the date, place, time and any other pertinent information by the Chair at least ten (10) days prior to the Convention. The Convention Call shall state the method of voting for State Convention delegates and alternates and explain the procedures to be followed for such election.

**Section 5. Business Conferences of the Senate District.** A Business Conference may be held in odd-numbered years in lieu of a Convention as determined by the Central Committee. Business conference voting members shall be the members of the Central Committee with their alternates serving as alternates to the business conference when the conference is called to order.

**Section 6. Business of the Business Conferences.** The Business Conference or odd-year convention shall elect the Senate District Party Offices of Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Outreach Officer, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Data & Technology Officer. Additionally, the conference may endorse in special elections if appropriate, adopt resolutions and conduct informational and training workshops; provided the business conference may not amend the Senate District Constitution.

**Section 7. Governing Bodies between Conventions.** The Senate District Central Committee shall be the governing body of the Senate District between conventions. The Senate District Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Senate District between meetings of the Central Committee.

**Section 8. Senate District Executive Committee.** The Senate District Executive Committee shall consist of the Senate District Party Officers including Directors, and all members of the Executive Committees of the Congressional Districts residing in the Senate District. Twenty percent (20%) of the current Executive Committee membership shall constitute a quorum. For all other meetings, the quorum shall be twenty percent (20%) of the body's membership for the transaction of business.

**Section 9. Senate District Central Committee.** The Senate District Central Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee, State Central Committee Delegates and Alternates, the Precinct Chairs and all members of the Central Committees of the Congressional Districts residing in the Senate District. Except as provided in Article III, Section 9 of the DFL Constitution, the quorum for conventions or endorsing commissions is a majority of members registered at the Convention. For all other meetings, the quorum shall be 20% of the body's membership for the transaction of business.

**Section 810. Endorsement by Senate District Central Committee**

In the event of vacancy or no endorsement by the Senate District Convention, and in the absence of any direction to the contrary by the Senate District Convention, the Senate District Central Committee may endorse a candidate for the State Legislature. Such endorsement must otherwise conform to the rules governing endorsement by the Senate District Convention, and can only be granted by affirmative vote of 60% of the Central Committee Members present and voting on the endorsement (excluding blanks, abstentions and spoiled ballots). Such endorsement may only be made at a Senate District Central Committee meeting properly called with 10 days notice, including official notice of intent to endorse.

**Section 911. Senate District Officers.** District officers, whose duties are specified in the Bylaws, shall be as follows:

- A. Chair
- B. Vice Chair(s) (At least one of the Vice Chairs shall not be of the same gender as the chair)
- C. Outreach Officer
- D. Secretary
- E. Treasurer
- F. Communications Officer
- G. Data & Technology Officer
- H. Up to eleven (11) Directors. The duties of the directors are prescribed in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE IV VACANCIES**

**Section 1. Filling Vacancies.** Between conventions, the Central Committee shall declare and fill vacancies among Senate District Officers and Precinct Chairs in the manner prescribed in the State Constitution. The Central Committee is responsible for declaring and filling vacancies in its membership. A vacancy occurs for any of the following reasons: resignation, death, change of residence outside the Senate District or dismissal for cause.

If a quorum is present, a majority vote of members at a Central Committee meeting is sufficient to declare a vacancy. The Central Committee, by a majority vote may fill such a vacancy, but only at a meeting properly called after notice of intent to elect. Only those vacancies specified in the meeting notice may be filled at the meeting.

**Section 2. Removal from Office.** Officers may be removed for nonfeasance or malfeasance. Failure to perform the duties prescribed by the Bylaws constitutes nonfeasance. Personal endorsement, financial assistance or other support or assistance by an officer to a candidate running in opposition to an endorsed DFL candidate constitutes malfeasance. Before dismissal for malfeasance or nonfeasance, the individual must be given 30 days' written notice specifying the cause and must be granted the opportunity for a hearing before the Senate District Central Committee. All proceedings for dismissal shall be governed by and conducted in accordance with the State DFL Party Constitution Article III, Section 16, and the Bylaw under that section. For the purpose of dismissal, except as otherwise provided in the State DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, a two thirds vote of the members of the Senate District Central Committee present and voting is required.

## **ARTICLE V GENERAL RULES**

**Section 1. Succession.** In the case of the vacancy of the Chair, the Vice Chair not of the same gender as the former Chair shall succeed to the office, and a new Vice Chair will be elected by the Central Committee.

**Section 2. Disposition of Party Records.** Upon leaving office, or if asked by the Senate District Central Committee, all party officers shall turn over all party records, access codes, books and properties to their successors to the Convention or to the Central Committee charged with electing their successors.

**Section 3. Use of Records.** All documents, records, and any personal data held by the Senate District are considered the protected, private intellectual property of the Senate District. No individual may disseminate such protected information to any 3rd party without the expressed consent of the Central Committee, Executive Committee, and/or relevant entities from whom such information originated. This shall not preclude any candidate's or party officer's rightful access to the information pursuant to the MN DFL Rule Book's List Policy. All lists and rosters generated must be turned over to the Senate District Secretary. Email or postal addresses may be withheld from distribution as set forth in the DFL List policy.

## ARTICLE VI THIS CONSTITUTION

This Constitution supersedes all other previous constitutions of the Senate District.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

**Section 1. Amendments.** This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of delegates at any annual Convention of the Senate District.

**Section 2. Standing Committee.** A standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee will be responsible for presenting recommended changes for consideration by the Convention Constitution Committee.

## ARTICLE VIII BYLAWS

Bylaws consistent with this Constitution and the State DFL Constitution may be adopted or amended by majority vote of the District Convention. They may also be adopted or amended by action of the Senate District Central Committee, provided such Bylaws or amendments receive a 60 percent affirmative vote.

## ARTICLE IX LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Individuals may request a leave of absence from an elected or appointed position within the Senate District. The leave of absence must be requested in writing stating the reason and duration of the leave and sent to both the Secretary and Chair. The individual must also cease participation with and notify the Secretary and Chair of any DFL entity of which they are a member.

If approved by a majority of the Executive Committee, the leave of absence requires the individual to temporarily relinquish all DFL duties, titles, and privileges they had maintained, and the individual shall not be subject to discipline or dismissal for action or inaction which occurred during the approved leave of absence. If the leave of absence is not approved, the individual must either resign their position or continue fulfilling the requirements of the position to which the individual was elected or appointed (if neither of these things occur, they are subject to dismissal for cause). An individual taking a leave of absence must return all DFL party assets during the leave of absence. Following a leave of absence, the individual will then have their DFL party assets, duties, titles, and privileges returned to them. For the purpose of succession and vacancies, an individual on a leave of absence shall be considered equivalent to a resignation, however any elected replacements shall only serve until the end of the individual's leave of absence.