Constitution of the Republican Party of Olmsted County Minnesota

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I: Name....1
ARTICLE II: Membership....1
ARTICLE III: Purpose....2
ARTICLE IV: Officers....2
ARTICLE V: Executive Committee....3
ARTICLE VI: Central Committee....4
ARTICLE VII: Nominating Committee....6
Article VIII: Constitution Committee....7
ARTICLE IX: Vacancies....8
ARTICLE X: Meetings....9
ARTICLE XI: Conventions....9
ARTICLE XII: Legislative District, City, Ward, Township, or School Board Endorsing Conventions....12
ARTICLE XIII: Rules and Amendments....14

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Republican Party of Olmsted County, Minnesota, hereinafter called the “Party”. This Party shall be the Basic Political Organizational Unit (BPOU) of Olmsted County.

ARTICLE II: Membership

The membership of the Party shall be composed of all voters of Olmsted County hereinafter called the “County", who support the purpose of the Party.

ARTICLE III: Purpose

The purpose of the Party shall be the maintenance and advancement of good government through the election of Republicans to public office and through the promotion of the principles and objectives of the Republican Party of Minnesota as determined by the National Republican Convention, the Minnesota Republican Convention, the local Republican Congressional District Convention, and the Olmsted County Republican Convention, under the applicable statutes of the State of Minnesota.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1: The Party officers shall consist of the following, at least two of whom are from outside the City of Rochester:

(a) One Chair, who shall also be one of the county's delegates to the local Republican Congressional District Central Committee

(b) One Deputy Chair who shall also be one of the county's delegates to the local Republican Congressional District Central Committee.

(c) Eight Vice-Chairs

(d) Secretary

(e) Treasurer

Section 2: Election and Terms. Party officers shall be elected for two-year terms by majority vote of the County Convention in non-election years, said terms to begin immediately following the County Convention at which they are elected.

Section 3: No party officer shall act as Chair or campaign manager for any candidate seeking nomination for, or running for, public office representing

the Republican Party that requires Republican Party endorsement prior to said party endorsement. Following party endorsement this restriction shall apply only to the Party Chair and Deputy Chair. This section does not apply to nonpartisan public office candidates or office holders.

Section 4: Any party officer who announces their candidacy for elected public office representing the Republican Party, that requires Republican Party endorsement, shall be placed on immediate leave of absence and, if endorsed or files for an elective public office representing the Republican Party, that requires Republican Party endorsement, relinquishes their party officer position by this action. This section does not apply to nonpartisan public office candidates or office holders.

Section 5: Upon request by the state party treasurer, the treasurer of The Republican Party of Olmsted County shall prepare biennial budgets or submit financial data pertaining to the organization for review and shall submit financial data to the state party treasurer.

ARTICLE V: Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers named in Article IV and not more than three additional members elected annually by the Central Committee.

Section 2: The administration and management of Party affairs between meetings of the Central Committee shall be vested in the Executive Committee, subject to such policies and directives as may be established from time to time by the Central Committee.

Section 3: Two alternates to the local Congressional District Central Committee shall be elected from the Executive Committee by the Central Committee at the first Central Committee meeting after the non-election year County Convention.

ARTICLE VI: Central Committee

Section 1: The Central Committee, the basic political organizational unit committee as defined by the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, shall consist of the following :
(a) The members of the Executive committee of the Party ;

(b) The additional County representatives and alternates to the State Central Committee, who shall be elected for two (2) year terms by majority vote of the County Convention in non-election years;

(c) A maximum of fifteen (15) members at-large may be elected by the Central Committee to serve for terms which expire on the date of the even year County Convention;

(d) No more than two Chairs for each precinct who shall be elected for two (2) year terms by a plurality at a caucus of Republicans living in such precinct, said caucus to be held in election years in accordance with Minnesota Statutes. In the event a precinct fails to elect two Chairs at a regular caucus, the position(s) may be filled by the Central Committee;

(e) No more than one representative of each of the organizations recognized as an affiliate organization pursuant to the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Minnesota which have active, organized units in the County. The current list of recognized affiliates is documented in the bylaws of the Republican Party of the State of Minnesota. Any such delegate must be elected by the membership of his own organization;

(f) The designated representative of the local Republican Congressman. The designated representative must be a resident of the County;

(g) All elected State or National Republican public officials who are residents of the County or the portion of whose district in Olmsted County includes at least 50% of the population of the entire district, or their designated representatives, who must reside in the County, and all officers of the District, State or National Party who reside in the County;

(h) Senate District delegates and their alternates to the local Congressional District Executive Committee who reside in the County.

Section 2: The management of the affairs of the Party within the County shall be vested in the Central Committee, subject to directions from the Olmsted County Convention of the Party and provisions of the Constitutions of the Republican Party of Minnesota and of the local Congressional District and applicable statutes of the State of Minnesota.

Section 3: The duties of the Central Committee shall include, but are not limited to, establishment of effective financial campaigns, organization of each precinct, assistance to the candidates of the Republican Party and the national Republican Party, and coordination of Party activities in the County. To accomplish such duties, the Central Committee may create and appoint such standing and temporary committees as it deems necessary.

ARTICLE VII: Nominating Committee

Section 1: The County Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Nominating Committee and designate two Co-Chairs. The Committee shall consist of an odd number of persons with not less than five (5), at least three of whom shall be members of the Central Committee.

Section 2: If any member of the Nominating Committee seeks an office in the Olmsted County Republican Party organization, he shall absent himself from all discussion in committee related to, and not participate in selection of, the nominees for that office.

Section 3: The Nominating Committee shall prepare its slate of candidates for all elective offices and elective positions on the Central Committee in non-election years. In general election years, it shall prepare a slate of proposed Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the District and State Conventions. Such Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be apportioned by legislative house districts according to the vote cast for the Party's Gubernatorial or Presidential candidate in the most recent general election. Delegates and Alternate Delegates from each legislative district shall be elected by the County Convention. The Nominating Committee shall present its slate at or before the last regular Central Committee meeting prior to the County Convention.

Section 4: Nominations for elective offices and elective positions on the Central Committee may be made by Delegates or seated Alternate Delegates from the floor of the County Convention. Nominations for Delegate or Alternate Delegate may be made from the floor of the Convention by Delegates or seated Alternate Delegates who must reside in the legislative district of the nominee.

Article VIII: Constitution Committee

Section 1: Members: The County Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Constitution Committee and appoint two Co-Chairs. The Constitution Committee shall consist of at least one but not more than three members of the Executive Committee. Members of the Central Committee may be added to bring the total members of this committee to seven. At no time should the Committee have less than three members.

Section 2: Duties of the Constitution Committee :
(a) The Committee may propose amendments, and shall review all submitted amendments for the Constitution of the Republican Party of Olmsted County, Minnesota.

(b) The Committee shall present their referrals at or before the last regular Central Committee meeting prior to the County Convention.

(c) A Committee member shall give a live report of the referrals to the County Convention.

(d) The Committee shall publish their referrals on the website containing information for the Convention at least 48 hours before the start of the County Convention.

(e) These referrals shall include:
1. recommendation to accept or deny adoption of the proposed amendment
2. vote totals of the Committee, both for and against adoption of the amendment
3. a condensed reasoning of the majority vote
4. if there is a tie vote no reasoning need be given

Section 3: Rules for submitting amendments to the Committee
(a) All proposed amendments shall be presented with clear and easily distinguished additions or subtractions from the currently adopted text of the Constitution.

(b) A final wording of the proposed amendment as it is to be read shall be included with the proposal.

(c) The intent of, and arguments for, the proposed amendment changes shall be included with the proposal.

(d) The proposal shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, to be forwarded to the Constitution Committee, at least two weeks before the last regular Central Committee meeting prior to the County Convention signed and dated by the person(s) requesting the changes.

ARTICLE IX: Vacancies

Section 1: Vacancies in the Executive Committee, Precinct Chairs, and members at-large positions may be filled via election by the County Central Committee.

Section 2: In the event of vacancies for district or state convention delegates or alternates, if needed to fill a delegation, such vacancies shall be filled by procedures as stated in the MN GOP Constitution.

Section 3: Any officer or elected member of the Central Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of those present and eligible to vote at any meeting of the Central Committee, provided that a quorum is present and provided that the member whose removal is under consideration shall have been furnished with a detailed, written statement of the charges against him or her at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and provided further that said member shall be entitled to answer the charges against him before the entire committee, if he so desires, before

the question is subjected to vote. Notice of the meeting shall include notice of said proposed action.

Section 4: An appointed member of the Central or Executive Committee may be removed by the appointing authority in the same manner as an elected member.

ARTICLE X: Meetings

Section 1: The Central Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair or Deputy Chair or at the request of any three members thereof, provided, however, meetings shall be held monthly at least six times per year.

Section 2: Fifteen percent (15%) of the members of the Central Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transaction of business. This number shall be determined and published by the Executive Committee at any change in the number of Central Committee members.

Section 3: Written or oral notice of Central Committee meetings shall be given to all members in advance of said meetings. Such notice shall be provided at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of said meetings.

ARTICLE XI: Conventions

Section 1: The Annual Convention of the Republican Party of Olmsted County shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the County Central Committee for purposes designated by the official call and for such other business as may come before the Convention.

Section 2: Special Conventions, including conventions for the purpose of endorsing candidates for public office, shall be held at the call of the State

Executive Committee, the local Congressional District Committee, or by the County Central Committee whenever necessary.

Section 3: Delegates and alternates to the annual County Convention shall be selected in the manner prescribed by the Republican Party of Minnesota Constitution and set forth in the official call for each annual convention. The apportionment of the Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the annual County Convention shall be as follows:

(a) Total County votes cast in the most recent Gubernatorial or Presidential election for the party candidate shall be divided into the votes cast in the precinct for the same candidate in order to find that precinct's percent of the total County Republican vote. That percentage is then multiplied by the total number of delegate positions allocated to the County's convention. The whole number which results, discarding fractions, shall be the primary delegate allocation to that precinct. The Delegate/Alternate ratio for all conventions shall match the MN GOP Delegate/Alternate ratio.

(b) Any precinct which has zero as the result of the computation in (a) shall be allocated one delegate.

(c) Any remaining delegate positions shall be allocated to the precincts with the largest fractional portions thereof in descending order and which had at least one delegate resulting from the computation in (a). They shall be elected for a two-year term and shall serve until their successors are fully elected and certified. Delegates to specially called conventions (i.e., conventions other than the annual County Convention) shall be those same persons who were delegates to the annual County Convention unless contrary provisions for selection for the delegates are set out in the official call by the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, or the local Congressional District Committee. No person may be a delegate at a convention held for the purpose of endorsing candidates for public office by virtue of holding an office within any party organization. If a special convention is held to endorse a

legislative candidate whose district encompasses parts of two or more counties, delegates from the County to such a convention shall be those persons who would qualify as delegates to County Endorsing Convention and who live in the particular legislative district concerned. No delegate at any convention may vote for the election of delegates to district or state conventions or for the endorsement of candidates to public office unless he shall be qualified to vote in the general election to be held in November of that same year.

Section 3a: Alternate Delegates to any convention shall be seated in the order prescribed by the precinct caucus and, if none, by lot. Delegates or Alternate Delegates may only be seated in their precinct.

Section 4: One Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the County Convention who are residents of the County may be elected by the County membership of any organization recognized as an affiliate organization pursuant to the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Minnesota. The current list of recognized affiliates is documented in the bylaws of the Republican Party of the State of Minnesota.

Section 5: If, due to legislative or precinct redistricting within the county, a duly elected delegate or alternate to the County Convention is redistricted out of the legislative district or precinct in which he was duly elected, he will continue to serve in the legislative district or precinct where he was elected until the next duly constituted caucus.

Section 6: A County Convention, by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the delegates seated at the convention, may endorse candidates for public office; provided, however, that such endorsement shall be advisory only and that delegates to District or State Conventions from said county shall not be bound by such endorsement.

Section 7: The provisions of this Constitution shall be presumed to be incorporated as a part of the rules of each convention. The convention

may adopt additional rules so long as they are not contrary to this Constitution.

Section 8: Alternate Delegates to the District or State Convention shall be seated in the order prescribed by the County Convention and, if none, by lot. Alternate Delegates may be seated in any vacancy in the County delegation in a manner determined by lot. Any Alternate Delegate from the district may claim his seat at any time during the Convention from an Alternate Delegate seated outside his own district.

Section 9: Senate District delegates and alternates to the local Congressional District Executive Committee shall be elected for a two-year term in odd numbered years at the local Congressional District Convention at a caucus of Delegates from that Senate District.

ARTICLE XII: Legislative District, City, Ward, Township, or School Board Endorsing Conventions

Section 1: Convention Call
(a) Where a legislative district, city, ward, township or school district lies wholly within a given BPOU, the BPOU Executive Committee shall issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

(b) Where a legislative district, city, ward, township or school district crosses BPOU lines, but lies wholly within a Congressional District, the Congressional District Executive Committee may issue the call for an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

(c) In the event that a majority of the precinct chairs from a legislative district, city, ward, township or school district which crosses BPOU lines should sign a petition requesting an endorsing convention and specifying the convener, the chair(s) of the Congressional District, shall issue the call for such convention.

(d) In the event that all of the BPOU Executive Committees from a legislative district, city, ward, township or school district that crosses BPOU lines should request an endorsing convention, then the chairs of the respective BPOUs on behalf of their committees may issue a joint call for such an endorsing convention and appoint the convener.

(e) The Convention call shall be issued at least 10 calendar days in advance of said convention.

Section 2: Convention Composition
(a) Eligible voters at legislative district, city, ward, township or school board endorsing conventions shall be the delegates or their alternates who reside within the legislative district, city, ward, township or school district and who were duly elected at the most recent Republican Party of Minnesota precinct caucus held within the political boundaries of the BPOU.

(b) Should the delegates and alternates qualified to vote at a legislative district, city, ward, township or school board convention not all be elected based on the same ratio of the Republican vote count, then those delegates and alternates elected based on the highest ratio of the vote count shall be counted as one (1) vote and those delegates and alternates elected on a lesser ratio of the vote count shall have the percentage of one (1) vote based on their percentage of the highest elected ratio of the vote count.

Section 3: Time and Place of Legislative District, City, Ward, Township or School Board Endorsing Convention. Legislative Conventions shall be held every even numbered year. Special Legislative District, City, Ward, Township or School Board Endorsing Conventions may be held at the call of the Committee. Conventions shall be held at a place determined by the Committee issuing the call.

Section 4: Endorsement

(a) Endorsement shall be granted if a candidate receives a 60% vote of the Convention and if the 60% is greater than or equal to at least a majority of the registered delegates and seated alternates as established by the last report of the credentials committee preceding such vote.
(b) No endorsement shall be made prior to 90 days in advance of the opening of filings for the office for which endorsement is being considered.
(c) A candidate's endorsement shall end when the final election results for the office being sought are announced or if the candidate is either eliminated in a primary election or is no longer a candidate for that office.
(d) Party resources in support of endorsed candidates shall be determined by the Central Committee.

ARTICLE XIII: Rules and Amendments

Section 1: The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern the proceedings of all meetings and conventions of the above-mentioned groups, except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 2: Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to deny or abridge the rights of any voter to participate in any party caucus, primary or convention in which he is entitled by law to participate.

Section 3: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates and Seated Alternates present at any County Convention, provided the proposed amendments shall have first been referred from a duly appointed Constitution Committee. Amendments to this Constitution shall become effective at the close of the County Convention at which they were adopted.