

TEMPORARY AND PROPOSED RULES
2024 SENATE DISTRICT 56 DFL CONVENTION
April 20, 2024

GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND AGENDA

1. **Subordination.** Upon all matters not governed by the Official Call, the State DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, the Senate District 56 Constitution, and these rules, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern. The provisions of the Official Call shall take precedence over any other party rules at any level wherever a conflict exists.
2. **Agenda and Rules.** A **majority vote** of the convention is required to adopt these rules and the agenda. Once adopted, these rules and the agenda shall govern unless suspended or modified by a **two-thirds vote** of the convention.
3. **Quorum.** The quorum for conducting any business of the convention is a **majority of the registered delegates**. If the absence of a quorum is suggested, its presence is established by a counted vote or by a written or electronic ballot. The convention chair shall recess the convention for **[10] minutes** before any motion to adjourn the convention for lack of quorum is entertained.

SEATING OF DELEGATES (There are no alternates to this convention.)

4. **Registration.** Registration of delegates to the convention shall continue until adjournment.
5. **Freeze Floor.** Before conducting any vote, the chair has the discretion to instruct the sergeants-at-arms to freeze access to the area where the delegates are seated on the convention floor. Delegates may not enter the floor while it is frozen.
6. **Seating of Delegates.** All registered delegates on the temporary roll shall be seated.
7. **Credentials Challenges.** Immediately following the initial report of the Credentials Committee, the convention shall hear and resolve any challenges regarding delegate seating pursuant to the Official Call.
 - a. **Grounds.** The only possible grounds for such challenges are whether the election of a delegate was improper under DFL party rules; or whether the challenged party is ineligible to serve in the capacity to which they were elected.
 - b. **Committee Report.** The Credentials Committee chair(s) shall report each challenge to the convention, including the committee's recommended remedy to the challenge (if any). The temporary roll shall reflect the committee's recommendation.
 - c. **Debate.** Following the committee report, speakers on behalf of both the challenger(s) and the individual(s) subjected to challenge shall each be allowed **[5] minutes** to present their positions, with the challenged party last. The convention shall then proceed to debate from the floor according to normal speaking limits.
 - d. **Resolution.** After debate on the challenge has ended, the convention will vote on whether the individuals shall be seated. All delegates on the temporary roll may vote on the report with the exception that no challenged delegate may vote on the resolution of their own challenge.
 - e. **Permanent Roll.** The resolution of all credentials challenges establishes the permanent roll of delegates to the convention. Any delegates entitled to be seated after all challenges have been resolved shall go to the registration table with their delegation chair so that proper seating can be arranged.
8. **Registration Inside Convention Hall.** As soon as practical after verification of a quorum, the Credentials Committee shall continue registration of delegates from inside the convention hall so as to permit its members to maintain a consistent and accurate delegate count by precincts while participating as convention delegates.
9. **Floor Access.** Visitors present in person shall be seated separately from delegates and shall not be allowed on the convention floor during the convention.
10. **Floor Passes—Campaigns.** No more than **[5]** floor passes shall be issued by the Credentials Committee chair to each candidate for those positions that are on the agenda to be elected or endorsed at this convention. Individuals with campaign floor passes shall not be permitted on the floor when it is frozen.
11. **Floor Passes—Accommodations.** Special floor passes shall be issued for an interpreter or other personal care assistant for any delegate who submits a request to the Credentials Committee. Such persons may be seated in close proximity to the delegate they are assisting, but they shall play no role in the convention.

GENERAL CONVENTION RULES

12. **Adjournment.** The convention shall not adjourn before completing the following business:
 - a. Elections of party unit officers specified in the Senate District 56 Constitution,
 - b. Consideration of endorsements for State House,
 - c. Elections of State Convention delegates and alternates and
 - d. Elections of State Central Committee members and alternates.
13. **Convention Chairs.** The convention shall elect one or more convention chairs, with equal division by gender identity, by plurality vote or as the convention determines. The convener will open nominations and may nominate any persons invited by senate district leadership to serve as convention chairs. Further nominations may be made from the floor.
14. **Convention Assistants.** The Convention Chairs shall appoint a convention secretary and may appoint parliamentarians, timekeepers, tellers, sergeants-at-arms, and other assistants as they deem necessary to conduct convention business.
15. **Equal Division by Gender Identity.** Equal division by gender identity is achieved in elections when the number of individuals elected or delegates seated of the male or female gender identity does not exceed the other by more than one. Individuals who do not identify as male or female shall not be counted as either male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided by gender identity. An individual's gender identity is determined by gender-self-identification.
16. **Voting Methods.** Voting in contested elections and endorsements shall be by written ballot. In the event of a tie vote in an election, there will be a run-off ballot including only the names of the tied candidates; if a tie still exists, it will be broken by lot. All other voting shall be by voice vote or uncounted rising vote unless a written ballot vote is requested by the convention chair or by **one third** of the delegates present.
17. **Ballot Distribution.** Convention tellers shall distribute paper ballots on matters to be determined by written ballot. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates seated under the rules of this convention. These ballots shall be returned to the tellers.
18. **Prayer Breaks.** The convention shall recess for scheduled prayer breaks. No business shall be conducted during a prayer break.
19. **Smoking/Vaping.** Smoking, vaping, and use of intoxicants is prohibited on school district property, in buildings and on grounds.
20. **Signs, Literature, Demonstrations, and Order in Convention Hall.** No person may place any banners or posters on the convention platform or in any way obstruct the view of the platform by delegates. All signs and other materials must comply with the rules of the convention facility, and with any additional rules and procedures established by the Constitution and Rules Committee. Campaign literature may not be distributed in the convention hall during balloting. No moving demonstrations are permitted during balloting. There shall be no disruptive demonstrations in the galleries. Each delegation will be responsible for collecting materials and garbage. Whistles, air horns, bull horns, and strobe lights or other similar devices will not be allowed during the convention in the convention hall.

SPEECH AND DEBATE RULES

21. **Recognition.** No delegate may speak until recognized by the convention chair. Speakers will first state their name and precinct and may state their pronouns. Speakers should always address the chair. No person may speak more than once on an item of business until all others on that side who wish to do so have had an opportunity, and no one may speak more than twice on any item.
22. **Speaking Limits—Debate.** Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak for more than **[2] minutes** on any item. The chair will rotate speaking privileges among floor microphones and between proponents and opponents of a measure to the extent possible. Debate will terminate when **[3] speakers** have been heard on each side.
23. **Dropped or Withdrawn Candidates.** A properly nominated candidate who is dropped under the appropriate drop rule, or who voluntarily withdraws, may address the convention for up to **one minute** immediately after withdrawing, or before or immediately after the ballot result is announced.
24. **Motions to Table.** Any motion to table shall be considered as though it were a motion to postpone indefinitely. A motion to postpone indefinitely does not preclude amendments to the main motion.
25. **Motions to Reconsider, Object to Consideration.** The motions “to reconsider and enter on the minutes” and “to object to consideration” are not in order. The motion to reconsider is in order only at times when it can be taken up and will require a **two-thirds vote**.

26. **Motions in Writing.** Any amendment to a motion or resolution which removes, changes, or adds **[5] or more words** must be submitted in writing to the convention chairs before being considered.
27. **Dignitary Speeches.** Incumbent DFL office holders, declared DFL candidates, and other party dignitaries may address the convention at the discretion of the convention chairs. Such visitors will limit their remarks to no more than **[2] minutes**.

WALKING SUBCAUCUS

28. **Time Limits for Walk Periods.** If a Walking Subcaucus system is used, delegates will have an initial period of **[15] minutes** after subcaucus nominations are completed to move to the subcaucus of their choice. If all remaining subcaucuses are viable on the first count, then there shall be no second count. If any subcaucus is not viable on the first count, the convention chair will announce an additional **[5]-minute** period during which delegates can move among the remaining subcaucuses.
29. **Equal Division.** If elections for State Convention delegates and alternates or State Central Committee members and alternates take place by subcaucus and the resulting delegation is not equally divided by gender identity, an odd-numbered subcaucus selected by lot from among those that elected more delegates of the over-represented gender identity will be instructed by the convention chairs to exchange one delegate of the over-represented gender identity for its highest ranking alternate of a different gender identity in the case of state delegates, and to replace a person it had elected with a person of a different gender identity in any other case. Any delegate reduced to alternate status will become the highest-ranking alternate of that subcaucus. If balance by gender identity is still not achieved, the process will be repeated with another odd-numbered subcaucus.
30. **Convention Chairs' Duties.** The convention chairs shall ensure that all Walking Subcaucuses are moving smoothly and assist those that are running behind.

PARTY OFFICER ELECTIONS

31. **Nominations and Speeches.** Each party office shall be elected separately in the order listed on the agenda. The convention chair begins each election by opening nominations for that office. The Nominations Committee shall place the committee's recommended candidate(s) into nomination. The committee may nominate as many persons for each office as there are positions to be elected at the convention. Other nominations may be made from the floor by name only without speeches or seconds. After nominations for an office are closed, each candidate may have **[1] minute** to use as they wish.
32. **Directors.** The convention shall elect **[13]** directors, with equal division. If delegates sufficient to elect one director demand to use proportional voting, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. If proportional voting is not used, the convention will elect directors by plurality vote or as the convention determines. The convention chairs shall ensure that the election of directors results in equal division by gender identity. A contest for directors exists when the number of nominees of the male or female gender identity exceeds the other by more than one, even when the total number of nominees does not exceed the number of positions to be elected. Vacancies must be maintained such that equal division is achieved as to those directors elected.
33. **State Central Committee.** The convention shall elect **[5]** State Central Committee members and **[7]** alternates. One alternate shall be elected for each member, including the senate district chair and vice chair who are automatic members. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity. If a contest for members exists, the convention chair will ask for a show of hands on whether to use proportional voting.
- Proportional Voting.** If delegates sufficient to elect one member demand to use proportional voting, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules.
 - Non-Proportional Voting.** If proportional voting is not used, the convention will elect State Central Committee members by plurality vote or as the convention determines.
 - Alternates.** State Central Committee alternates will be nominated and elected after State Central Committee members, repeating the above steps used to elect members. Alternates must be ranked by the convention or subcaucus (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) for use in upgrading at meetings. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity.
 - Equal Division.** The convention chairs shall ensure that the election of State Central Committee members and alternates results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the members elected, the alternates elected, and the entire delegation. A contest for State Central Committee members or alternates exists when the number of nominees of the male or female gender identity exceeds the other by more than one, even when the total number of nominees does not exceed the number of positions to be elected. Vacancies must be maintained such that equal division is achieved as to those members and alternates elected. If the difference between female- and male-identifying members is one, the imbalance in delegate election must be reversed in favor of the underrepresented gender identity in the election of alternates.

HOUSE DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT RULES

34. **House District Conventions.** The senate district convention shall recess into two house district conventions. All senate district convention delegates are delegates to their respective house district conventions. Unless the convention determines otherwise, the senate district convention chairs may serve as convenors of each house district convention. Each house district convention elects its own convention chairs and takes up the business of state house endorsement. It may conduct other business as authorized by the senate district convention. Each house district convention may recess in between ballots to permit the senate district convention to reconvene and proceed with other business on its agenda. Each house district convention shall adjourn upon completion of its business.
35. **Nominations.** Candidates for state house endorsement shall be nominated by name only without speeches or seconds.
36. **Speeches.** Each candidate (and/or their representative(s)) shall be allowed no more than **[7] minutes** to address the convention. No others may speak on behalf of or against the candidate. When there is only one nominee for an endorsement, the candidate may reserve their speech until after the convention has voted on the endorsement.
37. **Question and Answer.** If there is more than one nominee, a question-and-answer session will take place after candidate speeches as follows:
- First Question.** The first question to candidates for endorsement shall be “Will you suspend your campaign if someone other than you is endorsed by this convention? A ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answer only.”
 - Submission in Writing.** All other questions must be submitted in writing before the completion of candidate presentations.
 - Criteria for Questions.** All questions must be:
 - Legible,
 - General in nature and addressed to all candidates,
 - Cover a single topic,
 - Not in the nature of a personal attack, and
 - Possible to answer within a **[1]-minute** period.
 - Screening of Questions.** The convention chairs or their designee shall screen all questions and eliminate any that are duplicative or not in compliance. The remaining questions shall be selected randomly.
 - Asking Questions.** The convention chair shall ask the candidates each question in turn, but shall not read any preliminary remarks, statements or explanations included with the question.
 - Order of Response.** The order of response for the first question will be established by random selection and will rotate for each subsequent question.
 - Time Limit for Responses.** Each candidate shall be allowed **[1] minute** to answer each question.
 - Time Limit for Session.** The question-and-answer session will last for up to **[10] minutes** per candidate nominated but for no longer than **[60] minutes** total. The session shall end if all questions are asked but shall be extended to allow all candidates to answer the final question.
38. **Vote Threshold.** Endorsement of a candidate for state house requires a **60 percent affirmative vote** of the convention. When there is only one nominee, the convention may vote by acclamation (voice vote) on the endorsement.
39. **Drop Rule.** Candidates receiving less than **[10] percent** will be dropped after the first ballot. On subsequent ballots, the drop off percent will be raised by **[5] percent** each ballot. In addition, after the **[4th] percent** ballot, the lowest remaining candidate will be dropped regardless of vote share. However, in no case will this drop rule be used to reduce the number of candidates remaining on the next ballot to less than **two**.
40. **No Endorsement.** If no candidate for endorsement has received **60 percent** of the votes cast after **[5] ballots**, a motion to have no endorsement will be in order at any time thereafter and will pass with a **majority vote**.

STATE CONVENTION DELEGATE ELECTIONS

41. **Delegate Election Procedures.** The convention shall elect to the State Convention **[19] delegates** and **[19] alternates**. Delegates to the State Convention are also delegates to the Congressional District Convention. The procedures to be used in the election of delegates and alternates to the State and Congressional District Conventions are as follows:
- Acclamation.** If the convention chair determines that no more want to serve than there are delegate positions, the election shall be by acclamation.
 - Proportional Voting.** If a contest exists, the convention chair shall ask for a show of hands on whether to use proportional voting. If delegates sufficient to elect one State Convention delegate demand proportional voting, it must be used.
 - Walking Subcaucuses.** If proportional voting is used, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call and will follow the rules of the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. In addition, each subcaucus must indicate the gender identity of all delegates and alternates for the purpose of equal division within the Senate District 56 delegation.

- d. **Non-Proportional Voting.** If proportional voting is not used, the convention will elect State Convention delegates by plurality vote or as the convention determines.
- e. **Alternates.** Alternates will be nominated and elected in a similar fashion to delegates. Alternates must be ranked by the convention or subcaucus (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) for use in alternate upgrading at the State and Congressional District Conventions. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity.
- f. **Equal Division.** The convention chairs shall ensure that any contested election of State Convention delegates and alternates results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the delegates elected, the alternates elected, and the entire delegation. If the difference between female- and male-identifying members is one, the imbalance in delegate election must be reversed in favor of the underrepresented gender identity in the election of alternates. If equal division does not occur when electing State Convention delegates or alternates, the senate district chair must submit with the convention reports a written statement indicating why equal division did not occur.

DELEGATION CHAIR AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

- 42. **State Convention Delegation Meeting.** The senate district’s delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the Senate District 56 convention. Unless the convention determines otherwise, the Senate District 56 convention chairs may serve as convenors of the delegation meeting. The delegation shall elect its own meeting chairs and take up the business of electing the congressional district pre-convention committee members and the election of delegation co-chairs.
- 43. **Congressional District Pre-convention Committee Elections.** If the congressional district does not specify otherwise, the State Convention delegation shall elect congressional district pre-convention committee members and alternates (if any). Committee members and alternates must be delegates or alternates to that convention (including non-voting delegates but excluding Distinguished Party Leader delegates). The meeting chairs shall ensure that any contested election of pre-convention committee members results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the members, alternates (if any), and the entire delegation elected to each committee. If equal division does not occur when electing pre-convention committee members and alternates, the senate district chair must submit with the convention reports a written statement indicating why equal division did not occur.
- 44. **State Convention Delegation Co-Chairs.** The delegation shall elect delegation co-chairs, not of the same gender identity, for purposes of alternate seating, roll call, and ballot voting at the state and congressional district conventions. Any State Convention delegate (not alternates) shall be eligible for election as a delegation co-chair. The names of the delegation co-chairs shall be reported promptly to the senate district secretary and the State DFL Office.

PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS

- 45. **Reading of Platform Statement.** The Platform Statement in the Official Call shall be read to the convention or other group selecting the resolutions to forward before consideration of resolutions begins.
- 46. **Resolutions.** Senate District 56 can forward **[38]** resolutions to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee. The resolutions to be forwarded by the senate district must be selected from among those resolutions adopted by the precinct caucuses from precincts wholly or partially within the senate district. The resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee should address party positions on state and national issues. Resolutions that cover only local issues should not be forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee. All resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee must be submitted in the format prescribed by the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee, with only one resolution per form and only one subject per resolution. After the convention or meeting, the senate district chair must send or deliver the resolutions selected to the State DFL Office so they are received no later than the date in the Official Call.
- 47. **Comment and Advocacy.** There shall be a period of comment and advocacy on resolutions, for up to **[45] minutes** total, during which time any delegate may speak, for one time and one time only, for a total of **[60] seconds**, for or against any resolution they choose. No amendments may be considered during comment and advocacy. The convention chair may entertain these speeches as scheduled on the agenda and during convention delays.
- 48. **Procedure for Selection.** The procedure for selecting the resolutions to be forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee is as follows:

The convention will vote on each resolution presented for consideration. To remain in consideration, a resolution must receive at least a **60 percent affirmative vote** of the convention. In calculating vote totals, abstentions shall be counted as part of the vote (in effect making them "no" votes). If more than the allowed number of resolutions receive the necessary **60 percent vote**, the resolutions that received the highest percentage vote (with any ties for last place decided by lot) will be the resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee.