

4th CD DFL [Ramsey County] DFL Convention Proposed Rules May 4, 2024

Text in brackets applies only to Ramsey County DFL Convention

GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND AGENDA

1. **Subordination.** Upon all matters not governed by the Official Call, the State DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, the 4th Congressional District [Ramsey County] DFL Constitution, and these Rules, Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised shall govern. 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.

SEATING OF DELEGATES

4. **Registration.** Registration of delegates to the convention shall continue until adjournment. Newly registered delegates may not enter while the floor is frozen.
5. **Delegation Chairs.** Each delegation shall elect one or more delegation chairs for purposes ballot voting. The Convention Chairs shall instruct the convention as to the duties each delegation chair will be expected to perform during the convention. The name of each delegation chair shall be reported promptly to the Convention Secretary. Any delegate shall be eligible for election as delegation chair.
6. **Seating of Delegates.** All registered delegates on the temporary roll shall be seated.
7. **Credentials Challenges.** The convention shall hear and resolve any challenges regarding delegate seating pursuant to the Official Call. 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. **Floor Access.** Visitors [and non-Ramsey Co. Delegates] shall be seated separately from delegates and shall not be allowed on the convention floor during the convention.
9. **Floor Passes—Campaigns.** Three (3) floor passes shall be issued by the credentials committee chair to each candidate for those positions of public office 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.
10. **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 shall be seated in close proximity to the delegate they are assisting, but shall play no role in the convention.

GENERAL CONVENTION RULES

11. **Adjournment.** The convention shall not adjourn before completing the following business:
 - a. Elections of party unit officers specified in the constitution.
 - b. Endorsement of U.S. House Candidate
 - c. Approval of a 4th CD [Ramsey County] DFL Constitution

12. **Convention Chairs.** The convention shall elect one or more Convention Chairs, with equal division, by plurality vote.

13. **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.

14. **Voting Methods.** Contested elections and endorsements shall be done by written ballot. In the event of a tie vote for election, 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.

15. **Ballot Distribution.** Convention tellers shall distribute ballots to the chair of each precinct delegation on matters to be determined by written ballot. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates and seated under the rules of this convention. These ballots shall be returned by the precinct delegation chair to the tellers.

16. **Prayer Breaks.** The convention shall recess for scheduled prayer breaks. No business shall be conducted during a prayer break.

17. **Smoking/Vaping.** Smoking, vaping, and use of intoxicants is prohibited on the convention floor. No smoking or vaping is allowed in the hallways adjacent to the convention hall, or outside the main entry to the building.

18. Signs, Literature, Demonstrations, and Order in Convention Hall.

a. The Arrangements Committee shall designate an equal portion of wall space behind the stage assigned by lot for the exclusive use of each campaign for DFL endorsement that requests such space from the Arrangements Committee. Campaigns may also post signs on their tables and in their hospitality rooms. These are the only places signs may be posted indoors.

b. All signs and other materials must comply with the rules of the convention facility, and with any additional rules and procedures established by the Arrangements Committee.

c. No stickers shall be worn, distributed, or posted

d. Campaign literature may only be placed on candidate tables or given directly to willing delegates.

e. No moving demonstrations are permitted during balloting. There shall be no disruptive demonstrations in the galleries.

f. 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

19. Recognition. No delegate may speak until recognized by the Convention Chair. Speakers will first state their name. 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.

20. Speaking Limits—Debate. Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak for more than two (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 at the discretion of the Chair.

21. Speaking Limits—Credentials Challenges. With respect to credentials challenges, prior to the floor debate, all speakers on behalf of both the challenged delegation and the challenging delegation shall each be allowed five (5) minutes in total to present their positions, with the challenged delegation speaking last.

22. **Dropped or Withdrawn Candidates.** A properly nominated candidate who is dropped under the appropriate drop rule, or who voluntarily withdraws, may address the convention, committee, or commission for up to one minute immediately after withdrawing, or before or immediately after the ballot result is announced.

23. **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.

24. **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 and will require a two-thirds vote.

25. **Motions in Writing.** Any amendment to a motion or resolution which removes, changes, or adds five (5) or more words must be submitted in writing to the Convention Chairs before being considered.

26. **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 two (2) minutes.

U.S. HOUSE QUESTION AND ANSWER

27. **Order of Business.** In the event of a contest for endorsement, there will be a question and answer period for U.S. House candidates as follows:

28. **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? Yes or No answer only.”

29. **Submission in Writing.** All other questions must be submitted in writing before the completion of candidate presentations.

30. **Criteria for Questions.** All questions must be:

- a. Legible
- b. General in nature and addressed to all candidates
- c. Cover a single topic
- d. Not in the nature of a personal attack
- e. Possible to answer within a two (2) minute period.

31. **Screening of Questions.** Convention Chairs shall screen questions for duplicates and compliance with Rule #30.

32. **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.

33. **Order of Response.** The order of response for the first question will be established by lot and will rotate for each subsequent question.

34. **Time Limit for Responses.** Each candidate shall be allowed two (2) minute to answer each question.

35. **Time Limit for Question Period.** The question period will last for thirty (30) minutes or until all questions are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Candidates will be allowed time to answer the final question.

PARTY OFFICER ELECTIONS

36. **Nominations and Speeches.** The nominations committee shall place in nomination the committee's recommendations. Other nominations shall be made from the floor without speeches or seconds. Candidates for election to a party unit office shall be nominated by name only. In a contested election, each candidate may have one minute to address the convention.

37. **Chair, Vice Chair, etc.** Chair, Vice Chair (not of the same gender identity as the Chair), Outreach Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer [Ramsey County Chair, Vice Chair, Outreach Officer, Secretary and Treasurer] shall be elected by a majority vote. Voting will be conducted by separate ballot for each position. If none of the nominees for an office receive a majority vote on a ballot, the nominee with the least number of votes will be dropped on the next ballot, provided that at least two candidates remain on that ballot.

38. **Directors.** The convention shall elect Directors as specified in the unit constitution, with equal division. The convention will elect Directors by plurality vote or as the convention determines.

U.S. HOUSE ENDORSEMENT RULES

39. **Nominations.** Candidates for U.S. House endorsement shall be nominated by name only. To be in order, a nomination for U.S. House must be seconded in writing by 25 delegates. Petitions should be delivered to the Convention Chair or a designated assistant.

40. **Speeches.** Each candidate (and/or their representatives) shall be allowed no more than ten (10) minutes to address the convention. The time shall start at the beginning of any demonstration or speech, whichever comes first. No others may speak on behalf of or against the candidate.

41. **Vote Threshold.** Endorsement of a candidate requires a 60 percent affirmative vote of the Convention.

42. **Drop Rule.** Candidates receiving less than 10% will be dropped after the first ballot. On subsequent ballots, the drop off percent will be raised by 10% each ballot. However, in no case will this drop off rule be used to reduce the number of candidates remaining on the next ballot to less than two.

43. **No Endorsement.** If no candidate for endorsement for US House has received sixty percent of the votes cast after five (5) ballots, a motion to have no endorsement will be in order at any time thereafter and will pass with a majority vote.