

**DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY OF MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION,
BYLAWS, AND RULES COMMITTEE**

Report: Ramsey County DFL Constitution and Bylaws
Approved 4 October 2025

The Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee hereby *approves* the appended Constitution and Bylaws of the Ramsey County DFL Party, as amended, subject to the changes required below.

I. Required changes. The Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee finds that the State DFL Constitution require Ramsey County DFL Party to adopt the following amendments to its Constitution and Bylaws:

A. Article 1, Section 2 must be amended to read:

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ARTICLE I: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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Section 2. Policies.

Subsection A. General Rules & Policies. General rules and policies stated in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Call of the Minnesota DFL, and the National Democratic Party shall govern the Ramsey County DFL, ~~if clearly applicable.~~

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Explanation

This change is needed to ensure that the Ramsey County DFL is compliant with rules on subordination of units. The constitution and bylaws of all DFL units are subordinate to the Minnesota DFL Constitution and Bylaws, full stop. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. X, § 4.

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B. Article III, Section 1 must be amended to read:

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ARTICLE III: PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

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Section 1. Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee.

The Ramsey County Executive Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Outreach Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, 7 Directors, and any member of a state or congressional district executive committee residing in Ramsey County.

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Explanation

There are two changes here, which are each explained in turn:

“Directors”

Directors are a required officer for DFL units, and directors are required to be part of the Executive Committee. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. X, § 3.

“State or”

This change is required to ensure that the Ramsey County DFL is compliant with the rules governing membership of executive committees. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. VIII, § 2.

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C. Article III, Section 1, Bylaw A must be amended to read:

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ARTICLE III: PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

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Section 1. Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee.

Bylaw A. The Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee shall be responsible for the administration and organization of ~~party affairs within the county~~ the Ramsey County DFL, subject to the control and direction of the Ramsey County DFL County Convention and the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

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Explanation

This change is required to ensure that the authority of the Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee under DFL rules is appropriately limited. There are various other DFL units physically located within Ramsey County (such as Saint Paul DFL, Roseville DFL, Maplewood DFL, various senate districts, etc.). Ramsey County DFL has no authority over party affairs within those units, and the existing language may incorrectly suggest that it does. The new language should be consistent with the unit’s intent. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. VIII, § 2.

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D. Article III, Section 3 must be amended to read:

ARTICLE III: PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

Section 3. Vacancies and Dismissals. In the case of a vacancy in any county-wide positions, the vacancy shall be filled by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee. Party Ramsey County DFL officers may be dismissed by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee for cause only on the grounds of clear malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office – using the same procedure outlined in the State DFL Constitution.

Explanation

There are two changes here, which are each explained in turn:

“Ramsey County DFL”

This change is required to ensure that the rules governing dismissal are consistent with DFL rules. The Ramsey County DFL only has the authority to remove its own officers, not other party officers. While the committee does not believe it was the unit’s intent to suggest otherwise, this should still be clarified. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. V, § 17.

Strike “Misfeasance”

This change is needed to ensure that the grounds for dismissal are consistent with DFL rules. “Misfeasance” is no longer permissible grounds for dismissal under DFL rules. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. V, § 17.

E. Article V, Section 1 must be amended to read:

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT PROCESS

Section 1. Amendments. This Constitution may be amended by a 60% vote of any Convention the county-wide convention of the Ramsey County DFL where consideration of the Constitution is indicated as part of the Call.

Explanation

There are two changes here, which are each explained in turn:

“County-Wide Convention”

This change is required to ensure it is clear *which* convention has the authority to amend the constitution. The constitution makes reference to both the Countywide Convention and to Commissioner District Endorsing Conventions. Only the Countywide Convention has the authority to act for the entire Ramsey County DFL, and therefore only the Countywide Convention has the authority to amend the constitution. The committee believes this language is consistent with the unit’s intent. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. X, § 4.

Strike “Where consideration...”

This change is required to ensure that the rules governing amendments are consistent with DFL rules. A DFL unit has the authority to adopt amendments to its constitution at any convention. Inclusion of those amendments in the call is not a requirement. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. X, § 4.

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F. Article V, Section 2 must be amended to read:

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ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT PROCESS

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Section 2. Bylaws. Bylaws to the Constitution may be adopted and amended by a **60% majority** vote of the Ramsey County DFL County convention or by 60% vote of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Bylaws concerning matters not expressly governed by and not in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted by a 60% vote of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee members voting on the question provided that a quorum is present; and further provided that such Bylaws were considered at a prior meeting of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee and a notice of intent to consider Bylaws were included in the meeting notice.

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Explanation

This change is required to ensure that the rules governing amendments are consistent with DFL rules. While it is correct that a 60% vote is required for a Central Committee to adopt or amend bylaws, a convention may adopt or amend bylaws by a majority vote. Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. X, § 4.

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II. Recommended changes: The Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee recommends (but does not require) that the Ramsey County DFL adopt the following amendments to its Constitution and Bylaws:

A. Article IV should be amended by adding a section to read:

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ARTICLE IV: CONVENTIONS AND SPECIAL ENDORSING COMMISSIONS

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Section 3. Commissioner District Endorsing Commissions. The business of each Commissioner District Endorsing Convention shall be to consider endorsement of a Ramsey County commissioner for that district and transact other business as may come before it.

Note: If this section is added, the existing Section 3 should be renumbered as Section 4.

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Explanation

The committee recommends adding this section to clearly state the business of the Commissioner District Endorsing Conventions.

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III. Suggested changes: The Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee suggests, without recommendation or limitation, that the Ramsey County DFL consider the adoption of the following amendments to its Constitution and Bylaws:

A. Article III, Section 2, Bylaw C could be amended to read:

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ARTICLE III: Party Organizations

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Section 2. Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Bylaw C. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the ~~delegates~~ members.

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Explanation

The committee believes this language is clearer. “Members” is the proper term here, not “delegates.” Minn. DFL Const. & Bylaws, art. VII, § 2.

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B. Article III, Section 3 could be amended to read:

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ARTICLE III: Party Organizations

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Section 3. Vacancies and Dismissals. In the case of a vacancy in any ~~county-wide positions~~ Ramsey County DFL officers, the vacancy shall be filled by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee. Ramsey County DFL officers may be dismissed by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee for cause only on the grounds of clear malfeasance or nonfeasance in office – using the same procedure outlined in the State DFL Constitution.

Note: This language already incorporates two required changes.

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Explanation

The committee believes this language more clearly communicates the unit's intent.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY DFL PARTY

May 4, 2024 ~~May 15, 2022~~

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is the Ramsey County DFL.

Section 2. Policies.

Subsection A. General Rules & Policies. General rules and policies stated in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Call of the Minnesota DFL, and the National Democratic Party shall govern the Ramsey County DFL, if clearly applicable.

Subsection B. Conventions and Delegate Selection. The general rules and policies governing conventions and delegates as stated in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Calls of the Minnesota DFL shall govern the Ramsey County DFL.

ARTICLE II: SUBORDINATION

This Constitution and any Bylaws adopted pursuant to it are subordinate to the Minnesota DFL Constitution and Bylaws. Matters not specifically governed by this Constitution or its Bylaws, but provided for in the superior documents, shall be given effect based on the superior documents if the provisions in question clearly apply to the Ramsey County DFL. If there is a conflict between specific provisions of this document and general provisions of superior documents, the provisions of this document shall apply unless that superior document clearly prohibits such application.

ARTICLE III: PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee. The Ramsey County Executive Committee shall consist of a Chair, ~~Associate Chairs~~, Vice Chair, Outreach Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, and any member of a congressional district executive committee residing in Ramsey County. ~~The Secretary, Treasurer, and Affirmative Action Officer of the Congressional District 4 DFL shall serve as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Affirmative Action Officer of the Ramsey County DFL.~~

Bylaw A: The Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee shall be responsible for the administration and organization of party affairs within the county, subject to the control and direction of the Ramsey County DFL County Convention and the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Bylaw B: The chair shall be empowered to convene and conduct meetings of the Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee and the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee and shall also convene the Ramsey County DFL County Convention.

Bylaw C: The Meetings of Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee will be held concurrently with the Meetings of the DFL Executive Committee of the Congressional District having the largest share of the population of Ramsey County when practical.

Section 2. Ramsey County DFL Central Committee. The Ramsey County DFL Central Committee shall include the Ramsey County DFL Executive Committee and those members of the State DFL Central Committee or Congressional District Central Committee residing in Ramsey County. Senate Districts partially within Ramsey County with no State DFL Central Committee members residing in Ramsey County may elect one Delegate and one Alternate to the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Bylaw A: Between conventions, the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee may declare and fill vacancies among party officers.

Bylaw B: The Meetings of Ramsey County DFL Central Committee will be held concurrently with the Meetings of the DFL Central Committee of the Congressional District having the largest share of the population of Ramsey County when practical.

Bylaw C: A quorum shall consist of 20% 10 of the delegates.

Bylaw D: Special Central Committee Meetings may be called by either the Chair; by any 3 members of the Executive Committee; or by any 7 members of the Central Committee.

Section 3. Vacancies and Dismissals. In the case of a vacancy in any county-wide positions, the vacancy shall be filled by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Party officers may be dismissed by the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee for cause only on the grounds of clear malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office – using the same procedure outlined in the State DFL Constitution.

ARTICLE IV: CONVENTIONS AND SPECIAL ENDORSING COMMISSIONS

Section 1. County Conventions. The business of the County Convention shall be to: consider endorsement of county-wide elected officials; ~~adopt only platform proposals that are specific to Ramsey County;~~ consider amendments to this Constitution and its Bylaws; elect officers and transact other business as may come before it.

Bylaw A: The Ramsey County DFL Convention will be held concurrently with the Convention of the Congressional District having the largest share of the population of Ramsey County.

~~**Bylaw B:** County Commissioner endorsing conventions shall be held no later than one week prior to the opening of filing for county elections and will, when possible, be held concurrently with the Senate District having the largest share of the population of a commissioner district at the time of the decennial redrawing of the commissioner district.~~

Bylaw B: County endorsing conventions may be held at other times only for the purpose of endorsing candidates for county-wide elected offices.

Section 2. Countywide Convention Delegates/Alternates. State Convention Delegates and Alternates, Delegates at large (including but not limited to State DFL Party officers at the time of the convention), and non-voting delegates, who reside in Ramsey County, shall be full Delegates to the Ramsey County Convention.

Section 3. Commissioner District Endorsing Convention Delegates/Alternates. Senate District Delegates and Alternates, Delegates at large, and non-voting delegates, who reside in a given Ramsey County Commissioner District shall be the Delegates and Alternates to their Commissioner District endorsing convention.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT PROCESS

Section 1. Amendments. This Constitution may be amended by a 60% vote of any Convention of the Ramsey County DFL where consideration of the Constitution is indicated as part of the Call.

Section 2. Bylaws. Bylaws to the Constitution may be adopted and amended by a 60% vote of the Ramsey County DFL County convention or by 60% vote of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee.

Bylaws concerning matters not expressly governed by and not in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted by a 60% vote of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee members voting on the question provided that a quorum is present; and further provided that such Bylaws were considered at a prior meeting of the Ramsey County DFL Central Committee and a notice of intent to consider Bylaws were included in the meeting notice.