

PROPOSED AND TEMPORARY RULES
2023 SD56 DFL CONVENTION
April 16, 2023

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. 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 (There are no alternates.)

4. **Registration.** Registration of delegates to the convention shall continue until adjournment. Newly registered delegates may not enter while the floor is frozen.
5. **Seating of Delegates.** All registered delegates on the temporary roll shall be seated.
6. **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 so that proper seating can be arranged.
7. **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 while participating as convention delegates.
8. **Floor Access.** Visitors shall be seated separately from delegates and shall not be allowed on the convention floor during the convention.
9. **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 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 may 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: Elections of SD56 officers specified in the SD56 constitution.
12. **Convention Chairs.** The convention shall elect one or more Convention Chairs, with equal division, by plurality vote or as the convention determines.
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. **Equal Division by Gender Identity.** The Convention Chair shall ensure that each election complies with the requirements regarding equal division located in the Equal Division section of the State DFL Rule Book (Addendum A of the Minnesota DFL Constitution and Bylaws).
15. **Voting Methods.** Contested elections shall be done 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.

16. **Ballot Distribution.** Convention tellers shall distribute 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.
17. **Prayer Breaks.** The convention shall recess for scheduled prayer breaks. No business shall be conducted during a prayer break.
18. **Smoking/Vaping.** Smoking, vaping, and use of intoxicants is prohibited in the library. No smoking or vaping is allowed outside the main entry to the building.
19. **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. Campaign literature may not be distributed outside of the convention hall, or 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.

SPEECH AND DEBATE RULES

20. **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.
21. **Speaking Limits—Debate.** Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak for more than [1] minute on any item. The chair will rotate speaking privileges between proponents and opponents of a measure to the extent possible. Debate will terminate when [3] speakers have been heard on each side.
22. **Speaking Limits—Credentials Challenges.** With respect to credentials challenges, prior to the floor debate, speakers on behalf of both the challenged delegation and the challenging delegation shall each be allowed [3] minutes in total to present their positions, with the challenged delegation speaking last.
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, committee, or commission 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 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 Chair 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 Chair. Such visitors will limit their remarks to no more than [2] minutes, with the exception of legislators representing SD56 who will limit their remarks to no more than five [5] minutes.

WALKING SUBCAUCUS

28. **Time Limits for Walk Periods.** If a Walking Subcaucus system is used, delegates will have an initial period of [10] 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 Chair will announce an additional [5] minute period during which delegates can move among the remaining subcaucuses.
29. **Convention Chairs’ Duties.** The Convention Chair shall ensure that all Walking Subcaucuses are moving smoothly and assist those that are running behind.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

30. **Order of Business.** If there is a contest for election to a party unit office, there will be a question-and-answer period after candidate presentations as follows:
31. **Submission in Writing.** All questions must be submitted in writing before the completion of candidate presentations.
32. **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 [1] minute period.
33. **Screening of Questions.** The Convention Chair or their designee shall screen all questions and eliminate any that are duplicative or not in compliance. The remaining questions shall be placed in a container and drawn by lot.
34. **Asking Questions.** Convention Chair shall ask the candidates each question in turn, but shall not read any preliminary remarks, statements or explanations included with the question.
35. **Order of Response.** The order of response for the first question will be established by lot and will rotate for each subsequent question.
36. **Time Limit for Responses.** Each candidate shall be allowed [1] minute to answer each question.
37. **Time Limit for Question Period.** The Question period will last for [12] minutes or until all questions are asked but shall be extended to allow all candidates to answer the final question.

PARTY OFFICER ELECTIONS

38. **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, but each candidate may have [2] minutes to use as they wish.
39. **Chair, Vice Chair, etc.** The SD56 Chair, Vice Chair (not of the same gender identity as the 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.