

# CONSTITUTION OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

## ARTICLE - I

The name of this organization shall be “Blue Earth County Republican Party”, hereinafter referred to as “the Party”.

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be the maintenance and advancement of good government in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the United States, the State of Minnesota, and the constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, together with the furtherance of such principles as may from time to time be adopted by conventions of the Republican Party and for the election of endorsed Republican candidates.

## ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

### Section 1 – Precinct Committees

#### Purpose

The Precinct Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Party between meetings of the Commissioner District Committee and County committee. Committee officers are encouraged to maintain contact with the registered Republicans in their Precincts to promote the goals of the Republican Party within the Precincts.

#### Composition

Blue Earth County Precinct residents who register at the biennial caucus held in even numbered years (as prescribed by Minnesota law) are eligible to serve as Precinct Officers and/or Delegates. Each Precinct Committee is comprised of the following Officers who shall each have a limited voting strength of one vote:

- Precinct Chair
- Precinct Vice Chair
- Precinct Secretary
- Precinct Delegates
- Any Republican state legislator or endorsed candidate for the state legislature or their representative, residing within that Precinct.
- Any CD1 committee member or State Central committee member residing within that Precinct.

### Section 2 – Commissioner District Committees

#### Purpose

Each Blue Earth County Commissioner District shall be established a Commissioner District Committee, which shall work to promote the goals of the Republican Party within its district.

#### Composition

Each Commissioner District Committee is comprised of the following voting members who shall each have a limited voting strength of one vote:

- The caucus delegates and alternates that reside in the commissioner district led by their precinct chair , and
- any members of the County, Congressional District or State Executive Committees who reside within the Commissioner District.

The members shall elect a County Commissioner District Chair and Deputy Chair from within their ranks at the Blue Earth County odd year convention. All County Commissioner District Chairs and Deputy Chairs must reside within the boundaries of their county commissioner districts that they represent.

### **Meetings**

Meetings of the Commissioner District Committees may be called with at least five (5) days' notice by the Commissioner District Chair or by request of a simple majority of the members of the Commissioner District Committee. Meeting notices must be delivered by email, postal mail, text message or phone to all Executive Committee members, with the method of delivery specified by each committee member. Meetings may be conducted via virtual conference call or video call system if there is inclement weather, in cases of state or federal emergency, or a majority vote of the quorum of the county commissioner district committee members over email, postal mail or text message.

## **Section 3 – Executive Committee**

### **Purpose**

The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Party between meetings of the County Committee. The officers of the Executive Committee, shall conduct the administrative affairs of the Party between meetings of the Executive Committee. These officers shall have the power and duties customarily associated with such office.

### **Composition**

The Executive Committee comprises the following members:

- Executive Chair
- First Vice Chair
- Second Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Each County Commissioner District Chair
- The chair of each College Republican group organized within Blue Earth County.

Each individual is limited to a voting strength of one. The County Commissioner District chairs and the College Republican chairs may have their deputy chairs fill in for them and have the same voting right as the chair when the chair is absent. Deputy chairs may attend the executive committee meetings and participate in the discussion of a motion but may not vote, make a motion or second a motion if the county commissioner district chair is present. All members of the executive committee must reside within the boundaries of Blue Earth County. An exception can be made for any executive officer position with a majority vote of the executive committee and that member will have full voting rights and privileges as all the other executive committee members. Any executive officer that does reside

outside the county borders must be ratified at the next scheduled county convention. All county commissioner district chairs and deputy chairs must reside within the boundaries of their county commissioner districts that they represent.

### **Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall meet not less than four (4) times annually. Meetings may be called at any time, with at least five (5) days advance notice, either by the Chair or at the request of a simple majority of the members of the Executive Committee. Meeting notices must be delivered by email, text message or phone to all Executive Committee members, with the method of delivery specified by each committee member. Meetings may be conducted via virtual conference call or video call system if there is inclement weather, in cases of state or federal emergency, or a majority vote of the quorum of the executive committee email or text message.

## **Section 4 – County Committee**

### **Purpose**

The management of the affairs of the Party shall be vested in the County Committee in accordance with the constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota.

### **Composition**

The County Committee comprises the following members:

- The Executive Committee
- Chair and Vice Chair of each voting precinct within Blue Earth County
- Any Republican state legislator, or endorsed candidate for the state legislature or their representative, if they represent a district that covers all or part of Blue Earth County
- a representative from any Republican affiliate if approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee
- The current members of the Republican Congressional District or State Executive Committees residing within Blue Earth County.

Each individual is limited to a voting strength of one.

### **Meetings**

Meetings of the County Committee may be called with at least five (5) days' notice by the Executive Committee Chair or by request of a simple majority of the members of the Executive Committee or of the County Committee. Meeting notices must be delivered by email, text message, or phone to all County Committee members, with the method of delivery specified by each committee member. Meetings may be conducted via virtual conference call or video call system if there is inclement weather, in cases of state or federal emergency, or a majority vote of the quorum of the executive committee over email or text message.

## **Section 5- Standing Subcommittees**

The following standing subcommittees are established and operate under the direction of the Executive Committee. Each subcommittee comprises a chair and any Republicans residing in Blue Earth County who wish to serve on the subcommittee. Standing Subcommittees may remain vacant.

### **Finance and Legal Subcommittee**

The Finance and Legal subcommittee shall maintain the county budget report, and work to ensure compliance with applicable finance and election laws. Provides oversight for the treasurer and the treasurer shall be part of this committee.

#### **Events Subcommittee**

The Events subcommittee shall plan and coordinate Republican events held within the county, and shall assist candidates for state and local elected office in planning their events.

#### **Fundraising Subcommittee**

The Fundraising Subcommittee shall work with other subcommittees to raise funds for the operations of the Party.

#### **Volunteer and Delegate Management Subcommittee**

The Volunteer and Delegate Management subcommittee shall maintain lists of volunteers, delegates and alternates, for use by the Party committees and endorsed candidates to carry out their tasks. Works to identify republican voters in the county and maintain local voter records in the database provided by RPM.

#### **Communication and Research Subcommittee**

The Communication and Research subcommittee shall act as media liaison, and shall prepare and publish communications, including the preparation and purchase of publicity materials the coordination of online communications. The subcommittee shall conduct general research on non-affiliated local political organizations, candidates and elected officials as needed.

#### **Candidate Search and Nominations Subcommittee**

The Candidate Search and Nominations subcommittee shall work to identify and recruit potential candidates for partisan and non-partisan elected offices in Blue Earth County, and potential candidates for offices of the Republican Party of Blue Earth County, and shall provide their recommendations to the Republican Party of Blue Earth County at its annual convention. No member of this committee may seek the endorsement of the Party for elected office without a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 6 – Temporary Subcommittees**

The Executive Committee may establish temporary subcommittees as needed. Temporary subcommittees are automatically disbanded unless they are renewed every ninety (90) days by the Executive Committee. Chairs of temporary subcommittees do not have a vote on the Executive Committee.

### **ARTICLE IV – CONVENTIONS**

#### **Section 1 – General**

County Conventions shall be held annually as provided by the constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota. The Chair shall issue a Convention Call not less than ten (10) days prior to the convention to all executive committee members, delegates and alternates in the district. Meeting notices must be delivered either by hand delivery with sign off, email, postal mail, text message or phone.

#### **Section 2 – Convention Committees**

The following Convention Committees shall be established: Credentials Committee, Constitution committee, Rules Committee, and, for conventions in even-numbered years, a Resolutions Committee. The chair of each Convention Committee shall call not less than one (1) meeting of the committee, to be held not less than one (1) month prior to the convention. The committees must consist of a minimum of two (2) members of the BPOU. Meetings may be conducted in-person, ~~or~~ via a conference call or video call.

### **Section 3 – Convention Roll**

The roll of the County Convention comprises duly elected delegates from each voting precinct in the county. If an elected delegate is not present at the convention, a duly elected alternate from that precinct shall be seated in the place of the delegate, in order of their election rank. A precinct shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each delegate or seated alternate present.

### **Section 4 – Endorsing Conventions**

State Legislative Candidates shall be endorsed by a vote of sixty percent (60%) in favor of the candidate, in accordance with the State and Congressional District Republican Constitutions, at a special Endorsing Convention by delegates and seated alternates elected in the legislative district. If the district lies wholly within Blue Earth County BPOU, the Chair shall issue an Endorsing Convention Call not less than five (5) days prior to the convention to all delegates and alternates in the district. If the district lies partially within Blue Earth County BPOU, then the Blue Earth County Chair may issue an Endorsing Convention Call in conjunction with the other County or District chairs where the district overlaps not less than 5 days prior to the convention to all delegates and alternates in that district. If the chairs from the district that is partially within Blue Earth County are unable to come to an agreement on when and where to hold the endorsing convention then CD1 chair or MNGOP may call the convention in accordance with the MNGOP constitution. Any endorsing convention whether the district lies wholly or partially within Blue Earth County may be hosted within the county and the BPOU's portion paid for as jointly decided between the executive committee chair and treasurer. The chair and treasurer must report back on the endorsing convention activities and costs to the executive committee at the next executive committee meeting.

### **Section 5 – Delegate, Alternate and Volunteer Lists**

The county-wide delegate, alternate and volunteer lists will be available to candidates running for office as a Republican after they have requested from an executive committee officer a list agreement and that they sign and return that agreement to the BPOU treasurer. The list agreement must not prohibit a candidate from running in any way including being withheld and the list agreement must state that the list may not be used for commercial or non-political purposes.

## **ARTICLE V – SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 – Term of Office**

All committee and precinct officers serve a two-year term, which begins at the close of the convention or caucus at which they were elected, and ends at the close of the next convention or caucus at which a new election for that position is to be held.

### **Section 2 – Executive Committee**

#### **Election**

Officers of the Executive Committee are individually elected by a simple vote at the County Convention held in odd-numbered years.

### **Delegate and Alternate Lists**

The county-wide delegate and alternate list will be available to candidates running for a Republican BPOU office position after they have requested from an executive committee officer a list agreement, that they sign and return that agreement to the treasurer and fill out the nominations form and return that form to the nominations committee with their intention to run for BPOU officer position. Republican members wishing to run for County Commissioner district chairs or deputy chair may request a delegate and alternate list for their county commissioner district from an executive committee officer, they have signed a list agreement and return that agreement to the treasurer. The list agreement must not prohibit an officer candidate from running in any way or be withheld and the list agreement must state that the list may not be used for commercial or non-political purposes.

### **Nominations**

The Candidate Search and Nominations Committee shall accept nominations for the offices of the Executive Committee officers until thirty (30) minutes after the start of the convention, and shall report to the convention body the names of all nominees along with the Committee's recommendation(s) for each office. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor of the convention provided the candidate has met with the nominations committee within the above time frame.

### **Section 2a- Commissioner District Committees**

The Chair and Deputy Chair of each Commissioner District Committee shall be elected by a simple majority vote at a special caucus of delegates and seated alternates to the County Convention held in odd-numbered years. All nominations for these offices must be made from the floor of the caucus.

### **Section 3 ~~=~~ Standing Subcommittees**

The Executive Committee Chair may appoint the chairs of each Standing Subcommittee, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Standing Subcommittee chairs shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. The members of the Standing Subcommittees do not have a vote on the Executive Committee.

### **Section 4 – Convention Committees**

#### **Election**

At the Commissioner District caucus held at the County Convention in odd-numbered years, each Commissioner District ~~shall~~may select up to ~~two~~one (12) members from their Commissioner District to serve on each of the four Convention Committees. The Executive Committee ~~may~~shall appoint at least two members and up to three (3) ~~additional members~~ to each Convention Committee not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the convention.

#### **Officers**

The Executive Committee must select the chair of each Convention Committee not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convention. The chair of each Convention Committee may select a Deputy Chair.

### **Section 6-5 – Vacancies**

#### **Definition**

An office in a precinct committee, Commissioner District Committee, Standing Subcommittee, Convention Committee, the County Committee, or the Executive Committee is considered vacant if: (a) the officeholder submits a notice of resignation to the Executive Committee; (b) the officeholder has passed away or permanently moves outside of the precinct, Commissioner District, or county in which he or she was elected; or (c) a two-thirds vote of the Executive or County Committee finds that the officeholder has not satisfactorily completed his or her assigned duties, provided that the officeholder has been given ten (10) days' notice of the County Commissioner's intention to vote on the matter, and that the officeholder is given the opportunity to speak.

### **Filling Vacancies**

The Executive Committee Chair may appoint an interim officer to any vacant office until the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Vacancies in any office in the county organization may be filled by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. County Commissioner District chairs or Deputy Chair vacancies must be filled by members from within that County Commissioner District. Vacancies in a precinct committee may be filled by a special caucus of the precinct as prescribed by state law. Delegate and alternate vacancies may not be filled.

## **ARTICLE VI – SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

### **Section 1 – Term of Office**

All delegates and alternates serve a two-year term, which begins at the close of the convention or caucus at which they were elected, and ends at the close of the next convention or caucus at which a new election for that position is to be held. All delegates and alternates shall serve at any appropriate convention during their term.

### **Section 2 – Delegates and Alternates to the County Conventions**

#### **Election**

Delegates and alternates to serve at the County Conventions and any appropriate Endorsing Conventions shall be elected by each voting precinct at the biennial caucus, held in even-numbered years, in accordance with state law. Precincts may hold a combined caucus, but must individually elect their officers, delegates and alternates. The convener of each precinct caucus will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

#### **Allocation of Delegates**

The number of delegates and alternates allotted in each voting precinct shall be apportioned by the Executive Committee in accordance with Republican voter turnout for that precinct in the most recent general election.

#### **Seating Order**

The order of seating alternates to County Conventions shall be as prescribed by state law.

### **Section 3 – Delegates and Alternates to the District and State Conventions**

#### **Election**

Delegates and alternates to the District and State Conventions shall be elected at the County Convention held in even-numbered years, in accordance with the constitutions of the Congressional District Republicans and of the Republican Party of Minnesota, respectively. Elections to the District and State Conventions shall be held separately; individuals may be elected to both.

## **Allocation of Delegates**

Two (2) delegates in the District Convention and two (2) delegates to State Convention shall be elected at large prior to the Commissioner District caucus. All additional delegates and alternates shall be apportioned to the Commissioner Districts according to the number of delegates elected to each Commissioner District for the County convention. Each Commissioner District will caucus to elect its delegates and alternates. Following the Commissioner District caucuses, four (4) at large alternates to District and four (4) at large alternates to State shall be elected by the whole convention.

## **Seating Order**

The order of seating District and State Conventions shall be as follows:

1. At Large Delegates
2. County Commissioner Delegates
3. Alternates within each County Commissioner District replace their vacant delegates by rank and at large alternates replace the at large delegate vacant slot.
4. Any remain county commissioner district slots not filled by a delegate or alternate within that district shall be replaced by an available at large alternate if available.
5. Any remaining county commissioner district slot not filled by a delegate, alternate within that district or at large alternate will be filled by a cross seating of alternates from other county commissioner districts based on their rank. In case of tie in ranks, the tie will be broken by drawing of lot.

## **Section 4 – Delegates and Alternates to the District and State Central Committees**

Delegates and alternates to the Congressional District and State Central Committees shall be elected at the County Convention held in odd-numbered years in accordance with the Congressional District and State constitutions, respectively.

## **ARTICLE VII – AMENDING THIS CONSTITUTION**

### **Section 1 – Amendment**

This constitution may be amended at any County Convention, provided that the proposed amendment or amendments shall have first been referred to the Constitution Committee. In its report to the convention, the Committee must bring all proposed amendments before the body regardless of its recommendation for each amendment. Amendments must be approved by sixty percent (60%) of delegates and seated alternates.

### **Section 2 – Limited Amendments after Redistricting**

At such time as any local, state or federal units of government redraw electoral district lines which affect the organizational structure of the Blue Earth County Republicans, the County Chair shall, within thirty (30) days, call a special meeting of the County Committee which shall have the power to amend Article III of this Constitution for the express purpose of re-establishing appropriate organizational structure in response to the redistricting action. The call must be made not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Such amendment by the County Committee shall require an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those County Committee members present.