

## **Senate District 57 DFL 2021 Proposed Convention Rules**

### **Governance Authority and Agenda**

1. On all matters not governed by the Official Call, the State DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, the SD57 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. A majority vote of the convention is required to adopt these rules. Once adopted, these rules shall govern unless suspended or modified by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

### **Seating of Delegates**

3. The quorum for conducting any business of the convention is a majority of the total number delegates who have signed in to the convention.
4. Delegates may continue to join the convention until adjournment.
5. The convention shall hear and resolve any challenges regarding delegate seating pursuant to the Official Call.
6. There were no alternates elected in 2020, so no upgrading will be necessary.

### **General Convention Rules**

7. One or more Convention Chairs, with gender identity balance, shall be elected by a plurality vote of the convention.
8. The Convention Chair shall appoint a convention secretary and may appoint parliamentarians, timekeepers, and other assistants as they deem necessary to conduct convention business.
9. The Convention Chair shall ensure that each election complies with the requirements regarding equal division by gender identity.
10. The convention shall not adjourn until the following conditions have been met:
  - a. Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, Outreach & Inclusion Officer, Secretary, Treasurer.
  - b. If no one is nominated for a position, that election will be conducted at the next SD57 DFL Central Committee meeting (Tuesday, April 27).
11. Delegates to the 2021 SD57 DFL convention must be present (via Zoom app or Zoom meeting via phone) in order to vote. There are no absentee ballots.

### **Voting and Eligibility**

12. Delegates to this convention were elected by their 2020 precinct caucuses, and have received postal service and email notification of the convention.
13. Delegates have had the opportunity to update and correct their email addresses, and to receive assistance on how to use Zoom in advance of the convention.
14. All convention delegates have been sent their voting PIN in advance of the convention. This PIN will serve as their voting credential on all convention votes.
15. Ballots with an incorrect PIN will be considered spoiled ballots and will not count toward vote totals.

### **Nominations**

16. All who have applied via the SD57 Candidate google form will be placed into nomination for the positions they have selected on the form.
17. The deadline to submit a nomination is Thursday, April 15, 2021, and there will be no nominations taken from the floor, as approved by the SD57 Central Committee.
18. If there is a contested election (i.e. there is more than one candidate running for the same position), all candidates for the position will have the opportunity to speak for up to **one** minute.
19. In the case of an uncontested election, that election may be conducted by a vote of acclamation.

### Speech and Debate Rules

20. No delegate may speak until recognized by the Convention Chair. Speakers will first state their name and precinct. 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. Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak for more than **one** 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 **three** speakers have been heard on each side.
22. A properly nominated candidate who is dropped under the 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. 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. 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.
24. Any amendment to a motion or resolution that removes, changes, or adds **five** or more words must be submitted in writing to the Convention Chair before being considered. When the motion to amend is made, it must be seconded. Amendments take a majority vote for adoption.
25. Incumbent DFL office holders, declared DFL candidates, and other party dignitaries may address the convention at the discretion of the Convention Chair.

### Party Officer Elections

26. The SD57 DFL Chair, Vice Chair (not of the same gender as the Chair), Outreach & Inclusion 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 receives 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.

### Question and Answer

27. If there is a contested nomination, there may be a question and answer period after candidate presentations as follows:
  - a. All questions must be submitted in writing in the Zoom Chat before the completion of candidate presentations.
  - b. All questions must be:
    - i. Legible
    - ii. General in nature and addressed to all candidates
    - iii. Cover a single topic
    - iv. Not in the nature of a personal attack
    - v. Possible to answer within a **one** minute period.
  - c. The Convention Chair or the Convention Chair’s Designee shall screen all questions and eliminate any that are duplicate or not in compliance. The remaining questions shall be randomized.
  - d. Convention Chair shall ask the candidates each question in turn, but shall not read any preliminary remarks, statements or explanations included with the question.
  - e. The order of response for the first question will be established by lot and will rotate for each subsequent question.
  - f. Each candidate shall be allowed **one** minute to answer each question.
  - g. The Question period will last for **ten** minutes or until all questions are asked but shall be extended to allow all candidates to answer the final question.