

Senate District 57 Republican Party  
BPOU Convention Agenda  
March 15, 2014

1. 8:30 AM: REGISTRATION OPENS
2. 9:00 AM: Welcome and Call to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance & Recognition of Veterans
4. Invocation
5. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES
  - a) ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE CONVENTION
  - b) ELECTION OF SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION
  - c) READING OF THE CONVENTION CALL
  - d) APPOINTMENT OF CONVENTION OFFICIALS
  - e) RECOGNITION OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES
  - f) PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT
  - g) ADOPTION OF RULES 1-9 FOR SEATING ALTERNATES
  - h) SEATING OF ALTERNATES
  - i) ADOPTION OF THE REMAINING RULES
6. \* MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES
7. Senate District Chair's Report
8. 10:00 AM time certain, Self-nominations for State Convention Delegate Closes
9. 10:00 AM time certain, Registration Closes
10. Final Credentials Committee Report
11. Resolutions Committee Report
12. BPOU Finance Chair Report
13. Nominating Committee Report
- Division of the Convention into House Districts -----
14. Nominations of Delegates and Alternates to State and Congressional District Conventions.
15. Election of Delegates and Alternates to State and Congressional District Conventions.
16. Motion to Endorse Minnesota House Candidates
17. Nomination of Minnesota House Candidates
18. Endorsement of Minnesota House Candidates
19. Other Business
20. Adjournment by 2:00 PM time certain. Clean up.

\*Convention Chairs will invite guest speakers to address the convention when they arrive, at any time.

# SENATE DISTRICT 57 – March 15, 2014

## PROPOSED RULES

### Section 1: General

1. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall be the parliamentary authority on all points not covered by the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, the Statutes of the State of Minnesota, the Official Convention Call of the Convention, or the Rules adopted by this Convention.
2. The order of business of this convention shall be as listed in the official agenda of the convention, subject to the discretion of the presiding Chair.
3. A motion to adjourn shall be debatable until the completion of the official business of the Convention, as stated in the agenda.
4. A quorum shall consist of twenty (20) percent of the total number of delegates elected at the precinct caucuses within the district. Once established, it shall prevail until adjournment of the convention.
5. These rules shall not be amended nor suspended except by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

### Section 2: SEATING OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

6. The permanent roll of the delegates entitled to speak and vote at this Convention shall consist of the duly elected delegates who are registered and such alternates who shall be registered and seated in accordance with these Rules.
7. In the absence of any delegate to the Convention, an alternate shall be seated, only during that delegate's absence from the floor. When a registered delegate returns to the floor of the convention, they shall be immediately seated, except that there will be no change in seating after a ballot has begun.
8. The order of seating of alternates shall be as follows:
  - a) If alternates were ranked by the precinct caucus, alternates shall be seated in order of ranking.
  - b) If alternates are not ranked, each vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of seated delegates of that precinct.
  - c) If no delegates are present and seated, the BPOU Chair shall fill the vacancy from the alternates present.
  - d) The voting strength of each precinct shall be the number of delegates and seated alternates present on the floor.
9. There shall be no cross-seating between precincts.
10. The Credentials Committee shall report any changes in the delegations prior to election of officers, election of delegates, voting on resolutions or any time requested by the Chair.

### Section 3: SPEAKING

11. A delegate or seated alternate wishing to speak shall rise, address the Chair, state his/her name and precinct, and the purpose for which he/she rises.

12. Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to one (1) minute by each speaker.
  - a) No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice upon the same subject.
  - b) No person shall be allowed to speak a second time until all those desiring to speak have had a first opportunity to do so.
  - c) The Convention Chair shall appoint a timekeeper for the purpose of timing discussion, debate and speeches during the Convention.
  - d) Speakers will alternate pro and con.
  - e) After six (6) minutes the Chair may call for the vote.
13. The Convention Chair at any time may invite any office holder, candidate or distinguished guest to address the Convention for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes.
14. Members of convention committees and members of the BPOU Executive Committee may make motions from the floor and engage in debate, but may not vote unless they are also seated as delegates.

#### **Section 4: VOTING**

15. There shall be no voting under the unit rule at this Convention.
16. Only delegates and seated alternates registered and present at this Convention shall be permitted to vote.
17. The vote on all questions shall be by voice vote subject to the following restrictions:
  - a) A rising vote shall be taken if requested by any delegate, or at the discretion of the Chair.
  - b) A roll call vote by precinct shall be taken if requested by five or more precincts.
  - c) Voting for officers, delegates and alternates, and for endorsement of candidates shall be by secret ballot for all contested elections.
18. If there is a dispute as to the vote of any precinct, the Chair of the Convention shall appoint a judge and two tellers to canvass the vote of said precinct, and the judge shall report the same to the convention.
19. No second shall be required to a motion to adopt the majority report of any committee. A minority report of any committee may be offered for substitution for the majority report if signed by three committee members.
20. When the previous question has been ordered on any proposition on which there has been no debate, it shall be in order, before the final vote has been taken, to debate the proposition for four (4) minutes with one-half of that time allotted to those in favor, and one-half to those in opposition to the proposition. The same right of debate shall be allowed whenever a motion to lay on the table has been made on any proposition on which there has been no debate.

#### **Section 5: RESOLUTIONS**

21. Resolutions from the floor are not permitted. All resolutions passed at the caucus must have been received and considered by the Resolutions Committee at least 10 days prior to the convention.
22. To debate a resolution, a minimum affirmative vote of 15% of the delegate strength of the Convention, as of the final credentials report, is required.

23. Consideration of the Resolutions Committee report will proceed in three stages:
- a) Delegates will be asked if there are any resolutions on which debate is desired. An affirmative vote of 15% of the seated delegates and alternates is required to pull an item for debate.
  - b) The Convention will proceed, section by section, to vote to approve the recommendations of the committee for all items in the section not pulled for debate. If any section fails to receive majority approval, the resolutions in that section will be voted one at a time, without debate and without regard for the committee recommendation.
  - c) The Convention will then proceed to debate and vote, without regard for the committee recommendation, on each of the “pulled” resolutions.
24. Debates on resolutions are governed by the same time limits and conditions of debate as other motions.

### **Section 6: ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

25. Delegates and alternates shall be apportioned by House Districts according to the Republican Presidential vote in 2012 and allocated by the authority of the State Executive Committee and State Central Committee. House District 57A may elect 18 delegates and up to 36 alternates and House District 57B may elect 20 delegates and up to 40 alternates.
26. Nominations for delegates and alternates to District and State Conventions shall be by self-nomination at registration. Nominees will be given a final chance before closure to add or withdraw their names, and to verify they are nominated in the correct House district.
27. Those nominated will be allowed to address the convention for 30 seconds to introduce themselves.
28. Nominees must reside within the House District for which they are nominated.
29. Voting shall be by House District via secret ballot.
30. The precinct chair or designee shall be given the correct number of ballots for the precinct according to the Credentials Report and hand them to each duly seated delegate or alternate.
31. Ballots will be collected by the precinct chair or designee and turned in to the Credentials Chair or the Chief Teller.
32. When the ballots are verified by precinct (correct number returned), they will be commingled and then the results tabulated.
33. Results will be reported by House District.
34. Delegates and alternates will be ranked by total votes received. The top vote-getters will be the delegates until the full slate of delegates is determined, and the remaining candidates will be alternates, ranked by the vote total they receive from highest to lowest within their House District. In the event of a tie in votes a coin toss, or other similar method deemed appropriate, will determine the ranking.

### **Section 7: ENDORSEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES**

35. In order to endorse, the Convention must first entertain and pass a motion to endorse a

candidate.

36. The Candidate Search and Nominations Committee shall report to the Convention and place into nomination the names of candidates who have successfully completed the candidate interview process. Nominations made as a result of the Candidate Search and Nominations Committee do not require a second. The committee may provide additional information about these candidates as a guide to the delegates.
37. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the individual being nominated. These nominations will require a second.
38. Speeches or remarks about candidates shall not be in order during this initial nomination process.
39. A candidate may remove his or her name from consideration at any time.
40. Candidates for House of Representatives for 57A and 57B shall be endorsed separately by their respective House District seated delegates and alternates.
41. The nominating, seconding and candidate speeches will be made from the podium in an order to be determined by lot. All such speeches on behalf of and by a nominee shall be heard before proceeding to the next nominee.
42. Each candidate shall be allowed fifteen (15) minutes for nominating, seconding and candidate speeches.
43. If there is no contested race the Convention may decide, by a 2/3 vote, to endorse by acclamation.
44. In contested races, voting shall be by secret ballot. Balloting shall continue until a candidate has been endorsed by receiving 60% of valid ballots cast and more than 50% of the voting strength of the convention according to the last credentials committee report preceding such vote.
45. Any candidate receiving less than 10% of the vote on any ballot, after the second ballot, shall cease to be considered a candidate for endorsement. After the fifth ballot, and any subsequent ballot that is a multiple of five, the Convention Chair may allow the candidates five (5) minutes to address the Convention.
46. After the endorsement, the endorsed candidate may address the convention for up to five (5) minutes.
47. A motion to adjourn shall not be in order during the endorsement process, excepting that, if an endorsement is not complete by the time certain of 2:45 PM, a motion to adjourn will be in order.

## Robert's Rules Reminders:

- I. All debate, amendments, or procedural points must be germane to the business under consideration. Germane simply means that whatever is being said must be relevant. There should be a logical connection between all statements and/or actions, and what is going on and currently being considered.
- II. There is no such thing as a friendly amendment. Once a matter is before the group, it is the property of the Convention, and no one or two people, not even the maker and the seconder of the motion, may change it without going through the amendment process.
- III. Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.
- IV. Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote!
- V. A report or motion from a committee does not require a second.
- VI. Once a committee makes a report and motion, it belongs to the group not the committee. All matters on interpretation of rules or motions (once passed) are made by the Convention Chair and may be appealed to the Convention.
- VII. Everyone (Committee Chairs, Executive committee members, elected officials, the person submitting a resolution or motion, etc.) is treated the same as any other Convention members during the debate. They are governed by the same rules limiting both time and amount of debate.
- VIII. How to End Debate  
"Call for the Previous Question" — This will close debate on a pending question and require immediate vote by the group on whether to close debate. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required.

Note: If there is no more debate, a call is not needed. This only slows things down by requiring a vote on the call before a vote on the question. If the chair sees no more debate, he may simply ask for a vote.

### Common Terms

**Point of Privilege:** Pertains to noise, personal comfort, etc. - may interrupt only if necessary!

**Parliamentary Inquiry:** Inquire as to the correct motion - to accomplish a desired result or raise a point of order.

**Point of Information:** Generally applies to information desired from the speaker: "I should like to ask the (speaker) a question." The question is asked to the Chair.

**Point of Order:** Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made.