

DULUTH DEMOCRATIC FARMER LABOR (DFL) PARTY CONSTITUTION

Approved on 5.31.2025 by the Duluth DFL Convention

1. **NAME:** The name of this organization shall be the Duluth Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, hereinafter "Duluth DFL."
2. **PURPOSE:** The Duluth DFL exists to provide an effective and responsible party organization in the City of Duluth and Independent School District Number 709, to affiliate with and advance the interests of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota, to sustain and advance the principles of liberal democracy and constitutional government, and to uphold civil and human rights and the principles of economic justice.
3. **SUBORDINATION:** All provisions of this Constitution shall incorporate and be subject to all applicable provisions of the Minnesota State DFL Constitution, the National Democratic Charter, and the pertinent federal, state, and local laws.
4. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** In electing persons and committees under this Constitution, efforts shall be made to follow the State DFL Constitution, allowing for the involvement of the broadest possible spectrum of participants.
5. **MEMBERS:** All residents of the City of Duluth and the townships within the boundaries of ISD 709 who support the principles of the Minnesota DFL and who are not members of any other political party may be members of this organization (hereinafter referred to as eligible members). Any person eligible for membership may, if screened by the Nominations Committee, be elected as an officer of this organization.
6. **RULES OF ORDER:** All convention and meeting matters of this organization not governed directly by this Constitution, convention rules, or the Minnesota State DFL Constitution shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as most recently revised.
7. **OFFICERS:** The officers of this organization shall consist of: Chairperson; Vice Chairperson (different gender than the Chair); a Secretary; a Treasurer; an Outreach & Inclusion Officer; six (6) Geographic Area Directors, one from each of the five City Council Districts and one from the City of Rice Lake or the townships as outlined in Article 5; and eight (8) At-Large delegates with no one gender representing more than half of all directors.
8. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee of this organization shall consist of all officers and any member of the State Executive Committee residing within the jurisdiction of the Duluth DFL as outlined in Article 5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for managing party affairs between meetings of the Central Committee. A quorum shall consist of 30% of the membership of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Executive Committee who shall have three consecutive unexcused absences from Executive Committee meetings, if notified after two consecutive unexcused absences, shall be considered resigned, and the position shall be declared vacant.
9. **CENTRAL COMMITTEE:** The Central Committee of this organization shall consist of all members of the Executive Committee, plus all the members of the 8th Senate District and the 3rd Senate District Central Committees residing in the jurisdiction of the Duluth DFL as outlined in Article 5. This may include Senate District/County Unit officers, Directors, and

Precinct Chairs (or Vice Chairs as an alternate). The Central Committee shall fill vacancies in offices, executive committee membership, and precinct chairpersons by a majority vote of a quorum after a fifteen (15) day notice to all members of the Central Committee declaring the vacancy and intention to elect. By providing an email address to the Duluth DFL or the State DFL, members consent to receive electronic communications. If a member prefers not to use electronic communication, the member must communicate that to the Executive Committee. The unit is responsible for providing another means of communication for notices as required by this constitution. Thirty (30) percent of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

10. BYLAWS/ONGOING RULES: The Executive Committee, as defined above, may adopt such bylaws as are needed for the efficient, effective, and responsible operation of the Duluth DFL Party.

11. CONVENTION COMMITTEES: Convention Committees shall include, but not be limited to: Rules, Constitution, Credentials, and Nominations. Membership on such committees shall be persons chosen to serve on said Committees at the most recent DFL precinct caucuses. The Executive Committee may appoint up to three (3) additional members of the Duluth DFL, as defined in Article 5, to any Duluth DFL Committee. All delegates/alternates, including Duluth DFL Party officers, are eligible for membership on any Committee; however, no member of the Nominations Committee shall vote on a recommendation for any Party office for which they, themselves, are under consideration. No candidate, whether a member of the Nominations Committee or not, will be allowed to be present while other candidates for the same office are screened.

- A. According to the State DFL Constitution, units are prohibited from having a pre-convention committee make an endorsement recommendation. Such a recommendation shall be ruled out of order. Units or their designated pre-convention committee may send candidate questionnaires; however, all questions must be general in nature, addressed to all candidates, and not like a personal attack.
- B. To bolster candidate confidentiality and to encourage participation by more DFLers in the Nominations Committee, committee meetings or portions thereof that deal with potentially sensitive information or another stated reason may be considered closed if there is an agreement by a two-thirds majority of committee members present and that vote and reason are recorded in that meeting's minutes.

12. CONVENTIONS: The Duluth DFL Executive Committee shall issue a Call for all Conventions, and all such convention calls shall comply with the procedures established by the Minnesota State DFL Party. By providing an email address, delegates and alternates consent to receive electronic communications.

- a. The Duluth DFL Executive Committee may call a special Convention to endorse candidates for the offices of Mayor of the City of Duluth, candidates for the Duluth City Council, candidates for the Board of Independent School District Number 709, and candidates for St. Louis County Commissioner Districts lying entirely within the City limits of Duluth but not entirely within the boundaries of any one MN State Senate District.
- b. The Duluth DFL Executive Committee may call a special convention, which

must include all of the precincts and townships outlined in Article 5, to consider bylaws under this Constitution or amendments to this Constitution. Such a Convention may be combined with a special endorsing convention or held independently. In any case, amendments to the Constitution shall require a sixty percent (60%) vote for adoption.

- c. Only delegates and upgraded alternates elected from the most recent precinct caucuses may be seated at conventions. Delegates from the most recent precinct caucus will be seated first, with upgraded alternates filling out any vacancies.
- d. When upgraded to a delegate, no alternate to the Convention shall be instructed or bound, and each alternate upgraded to a delegate shall cast a vote independently of other delegation members. A precinct may cast only one vote for each delegate or alternate upgraded to delegate present and seated at the time of balloting.
- e. A majority of delegates and upgraded alternates who are seated as delegates and have registered at the Convention shall constitute a quorum.
- f. No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any convention or meeting of any committee of this organization. Except for contested endorsements, all voting shall be open and not secret unless a secret ballot is called for by the Chair or moved as supported by one-third (1/3) of the voting body.
- g. Endorsements of candidates shall require a sixty (60) percent vote, and there shall be no endorsement for the office of a geographical area larger than that outlined in Article 5. If a vacancy occurs in the Office of Mayor, City Council, School Board, or County Commissioner (for St. Louis County Commissioner Districts lying entirely within the City limits of Duluth but not entirely within the boundaries of any one MN State Senate District), a special endorsing Convention consisting of the delegates and alternates that cover the affected area who were elected at the most recent caucus will be called. The Convention may also conduct any other necessary business at that time, but only if the Convention includes all delegates and alternates upgraded to delegate from the geographic area outlined in Article 5. No person shall cast a vote for endorsement for an office for which that person would be ineligible to vote in the primary or general election.
- h. All balloting for contested endorsements shall be by a signed ballot or an electronic ballot.