

# **Proposed Rules - 2026 8th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DFL CONVENTION**

## **GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND AGENDA**

1. Upon all matters not governed by the Official Call, the State DFL Constitution and Bylaws, the Eighth District DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, 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 and the agenda. Once adopted, these rules and the agenda shall govern unless suspended or modified by a two-third vote of the convention.
3. The quorum for conducting any business of the convention is a majority of the registered delegate votes (including upgraded alternates) that register the day of the convention.

## **SEATING OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

4. Registration of delegates and alternates to the convention shall continue until adjournment. No one may enter while the floor is frozen.
5. The seating of delegates and alternates shall be governed by the following:
  - a. All registered delegates (not alternates) on the temporary roll shall be seated.
  - b. The convention shall hear and resolve any challenges regarding delegate or alternate seating pursuant to the Official Call.
  - c. Any delegates or alternates entitled to be seated after all challenges have been resolved shall go to the registration table with their delegation chair so that proper seating can be arranged. As soon as practical after verification of a quorum, the registration staff shall function inside the convention hall to permit its members to maintain a consistent and accurate delegate count by organizing units while participating as convention delegates.
  - d. Alternates elected at large shall be upgraded to delegate status according to their numerical ranking on the Organizing Unit report. Alternates elected through subcaucus voting systems will be upgraded to delegate status in the order reported within their subcaucus. If there are no alternates available from within a subcaucus, alternates will be raised from among the highest-ranking alternates within the other subcaucuses by a lottery in which each subcaucus will be represented in proportion to its delegate allocation strength.
  - e. No more than five (5) floor passes for each candidate seeking the DFL congressional endorsement, no more than two (2) floor passes for each candidate seeking statewide DFL endorsement, and no more than one (1) floor pass for each candidate for DFL party office shall be issued by the credentials committee chair to those positions that are on the agenda to elect at this convention.
  - f. A temporary delegate badge shall be issued to an appropriate alternate when the alternate is raised to delegate status. There shall be no upgrading of alternates during any voting process. If the upgraded alternate is subsequently returned to alternate status, the alternate's delegate badge shall be immediately surrendered.
  - g. There shall be three sections of seating: visitors, non-upgraded alternates, and the convention floor. Non-upgraded alternates shall not be allowed on the convention floor during the convention. Visitors shall not be allowed in the non-upgraded alternate section or on the convention floor during the convention. Special floor passes shall be issued to an interpreter or other personal care assistant for any delegate or upgraded alternate who submits a request to the credentials committee. Such persons may be seated in close proximity to the delegate or alternate they are assisting but shall play no role in the convention.

## **GENERAL CONVENTION RULES**

6. The convention shall not adjourn until the following conditions have been met:
  - a. Consideration of Endorsement of the 8th Congressional District DFL Congressional candidate.
  - b. Adoption of an 8th Congressional District DFL Constitution.
  - c. Elections for Party Officers, as enumerated in the Constitution, are to be elected at this convention.
  - d. Elections for State Standing Committees.
7. One or more Convention Chairs, with gender balance, shall be elected by a plurality vote of the convention.
8. 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.
9. Contested elections shall be conducted 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 division unless a written ballot vote is requested by the Convention Chair or by one-third of the delegates present.

10. Convention tellers shall distribute ballots to the chair of each delegation on matters to be determined by written ballot. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates and upgraded alternates seated under the rules of this convention. These ballots shall be returned by the tellers.
11. Smoking, vaping, and the use of intoxicants are prohibited on the convention floor. No smoking or vaping is allowed in the hallways adjacent to the convention hall or outside the main entry to the building.
12. No person may place any banners or posters on the convention platform, podium, stage, behind the stage, 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 of the Rules committee. Each campaign is limited to no more than fifteen (15) signs. All signs, except for one from each campaign, must be smaller than 2' x 4'. Campaign literature may not be distributed in the convention hall after balloting has begun. No moving demonstrations are permitted. There shall be no disruptive demonstrations that interfere with the business of the convention. Each campaign will be responsible for collecting its materials and garbage, with a \$150 fine if materials remain. Whistles, air horns, bull horns, and strobe lights or other similar devices will not be allowed during the convention in the hall.
13. The Convention Chair shall ensure that each election complies with the requirements regarding equal division by gender.
14. The Convention Chair shall be permitted to issue floor passes to distinguished party leaders at his or her discretion, within reason.

### **FLOOR DEBATE RULES**

15. No delegate may speak until recognized by the Convention Chair. Speakers will first state their name and Organizing Unit and may choose to share their pronouns. 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.
16. Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak for more than two (2) minutes on any item. The chair will rotate speaking privileges among floor microphones and between proponents and opponents of a measure to the extent possible. The debate will terminate when three (3) speakers have been heard on each side.
17. With respect to credentials challenges to delegations, prior to the floor debate, speakers on behalf of both the challenged delegation and the challenging delegation shall each be allowed five (5) minutes in total to present their positions, with the challenged delegation speaking last.
18. 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 (1) minute immediately before the ballot result is announced.
19. 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-third vote.
20. Any amendment to a motion or resolution that removes, changes, or adds five (5) 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.
21. Candidates seeking DFL Endorsement for statewide office or surrogate may address the convention at the discretion of the Convention Chair for no more than 10 minutes. Video addresses will be limited to 5 minutes. Candidates who have already earned the DFL Endorsement may address the convention for no more than 3 minutes.

### **WALKING SUBCAUCUS**

22. If a Walking Subcaucus system is used, delegates will have an initial period of ten (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 five (5) minute period during which delegates can move among the remaining subcaucuses.
23. Elections shall not be complete until the entire executive committee and the members elected out of individual subcaucuses are equally divided by gender identity. The convention chair shall be responsible for the implementation of this provision by lot, if necessary.
24. The Convention Chair shall ensure that all Walking Subcaucuses are moving smoothly and assist those that are running behind.

### **PARTY OFFICER ELECTIONS**

25. The Unit 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 a 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.
26. The convention shall elect at least fifteen (15) Directors as specified in the unit constitution, with equal division by gender identity. If delegates are sufficient to elect one Director, and request proportional voting for Directors, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system provided in the Official Call, following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. If proportional voting is not used, Directors shall be elected by plurality vote of the convention.
27. The nominations committee shall place the names of all candidates who submitted information for a given position into nominations for that position. Other nominations shall be made from the floor without speeches or seconds.
28. Candidates for election to a party office shall be nominated by name only, but each candidate shall have no more than [2] minutes to address the convention.

#### **ELECTION OF STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

29. Two (2) State Directors, along with two (2) representatives to each of the following State Committees (cannot be of the same gender identity): Outreach and Inclusion, Constitution and Bylaws, Platform Issues and Legislative Affairs, and one (1) Budget Committee representative, shall be elected by a majority vote. Voting will be conducted by a 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 (2) candidates remain on that ballot.
30. Seven (7) State DFL Central Committee At-Large Members shall be elected with equal division by gender identity. If delegates are sufficient to elect one State Central Committee member who requests proportional voting, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system provided in the Official Call, following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. If proportional voting is not used, Central Committee members shall be elected by plurality vote of the convention.
31. The nominations committee shall place the names of all candidates who submitted information for a given position into nominations for that position, and the committee's recommendations. Other nominations shall be made from the floor without speeches or seconds.
32. Candidates for election to a party office shall be nominated by name only, but each candidate shall have no more than two (2) minutes to address the convention.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ENDORSEMENT RULES**

33. Endorsement of a candidate for US Representative requires a sixty percent affirmative vote of the Congressional District Convention.
  - a. The Nominations Committee must place in nomination the name of any candidate(s) for endorsement who have submitted their information before that committee. Any nominations from the floor will be in name only and require three (3) delegates to second the nomination.
  - b. Each candidate (and/or their representative(s)) shall be allowed no more than five (5) minutes to address the convention. Candidates are allowed to allocate their time as they see fit, including having one or more people speak on behalf of the candidate or the use of visual aids such as video. Floor demonstrations are not permitted.
  - c. There will be a question-and-answer period after congressional candidate presentations, as follows:
    - i. The only question shall be "Will you suspend your campaign if someone other than you is endorsed by this convention? Your answer must be Yes or No answer only." The question shall be asked by the Convention Chair immediately following each congressional candidate's presentation.
  - d. No others may speak on behalf of or against the candidate.
  - e. Candidates receiving less than ten percent (10%) will be dropped after the first ballot. On subsequent ballots, the drop-off percent will be raised by five percent (5%) each ballot. In addition, after the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) ballot, the lowest remaining candidate will be dropped regardless of the percentage. However, in no case will this drop-off rule be used to reduce the number of candidates remaining on the next ballot to less than two. A vote for "no endorsement" is always in order.
  - f. If no candidate for endorsement has received sixty percent of the votes cast after five (5) ballots, a motion to have no endorsement will be in order at any time thereafter.