

CONSTITUTION OF THE AITKIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

PREAMBLE

The Aitkin County Republican Party welcomes all residents of Aitkin County who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, responsive government. The party believes in these principles as stated in the Declaration of Independence: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Therefore, the party is committed to equal representation and opportunity for all and preservation of the rights of each individual. It is the purpose of this Constitution to ensure that the party provides equal opportunity for full participation in our civic life for all Aitkin County residents who believe in these principles regardless of age, race, sex, religion, or social or economic status.

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the **AITKIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY** of the State of Minnesota.

Section 2: The purpose of the Party shall be the maintenance and advancement of good government through the promotion within Aitkin County of the principles and objectives of the Republican Party as determined by the National Republican Convention, the Minnesota Republican Convention, the Eighth Congressional District Republican Convention, and the Aitkin County Republican Convention. To obtain this purpose it is essential that the Party shall organize at all levels to elect Republicans to public office.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

Section 1: The membership of the Party shall be composed of all voters of Aitkin County who desire to support the purposes of the Party.

Section 2: Dues. Payment of dues shall not be required as a condition of membership.

ARTICLE III

Structure

Section 1: The management of the affairs of the Party within Aitkin County shall be vested in the County Committee, subject to the direction of the State Central Committee, the Aitkin County Republican Party Convention, the Eighth Congressional District Republican Committee, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and the statutes of the State of Minnesota.

Section 2: The duties of the County Committee shall include, but are not limited to, establishment of effective financial campaigns, organization of each precinct within the County, assistance to candidates of the Republican Party, and coordination of all Republican activities in Aitkin County.

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Section 3: The County Committee shall be composed the County Executive Committee and additional elected and appointed members as follows:

A. A County Executive Committee - which will include the offices of Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and the State Central Delegate. Each of these officers shall be elected for a two-year term by the delegates of the Aitkin County Republican Convention, held during each non-election year. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election of any office.

Section 4: Additional members to be elected during odd years at the County Annual Convention and serve for a 2-year term.

A. One person from each of the five County Commissioner districts. Each of these shall be elected for a two-year term by the delegates of the Aitkin County Republican Convention, held during each non-election year.

B. State Central Committee Alternates

C. Chair of each Republican Auxiliary Group organized in the County.

Section 5: Additional appointed County Committee members, and state and district officers.

A. Four Committee persons at large. Two of these persons are to be appointed by the County Committee Chair and two appointed by the County Committee Deputy Chair. Their term shall be for two years. The appointed members are subject to the approval of the newly elected County Committee, at the first County Committee meeting following the county annual convention.

B. Any District or State Republican Party officers residing in the County.

ARTICLE IV

Elections and Appointments

Section 1: The County Committee shall appoint the Chairs of the following standing committees at the first County Committee meeting following the County Convention in odd-years; a Constitution Committee, a Nominations Committee, and a Finance Committee chair. The chairs of standing committees serve for a 2-year term. The County Committee may appoint chairs to any Republican auxiliary group organized within the County, as deemed appropriate, exclusive of the Young Republicans organization.

Section 2: Precinct Officers of each precinct shall consist of a Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, and such other officers as prescribed by the County Committee, elected during election years for two-year terms by a caucus of Republicans, within said precinct, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Minnesota. However, in the event that a precinct shall fail to elect officers at a regular precinct caucus, officers for such precinct may be elected by the County Committee.

Section 3: The Nominating Committee in advance of the County Convention held in the non-election

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year shall meet and interview candidates for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of the County Committee to be submitted for the consideration of the County Convention. Candidates considered for office by the Nominating Committee and nominated shall be those who would be the most ably qualified for the performance of their respective duties in the event of their election to office. Nominations may also be made from the floor. All nominees are subject to public inquiry by the members of County Convention as to the individual's qualifications for the office, prior to a vote being taken for that office.

Section 4: The Constitution Committee shall meet as deemed necessary to review all proposed amendments to the constitution and provide a recommendation prior to they being considered for adoption.

Section 5: The Finance Committee's purpose is to develop and implement fund raising strategies. They shall meet as deemed necessary to ensure the financial health of the Aitkin County Republican Party is maintained. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are ex-official members of this committee.

Section 6: The Credentials, Rules and Resolutions Committees shall be appointed through the authority of the County Executive Committee, and a report will be submitted for consideration to the County Convention by each of these committees.

ARTICLE V

Meetings

Section 1: The County Executive Committee shall meet at the Call of the Chair, or deputy chair in the absence of the chair, or at the request of three members thereof, for the purpose of conducting Party business in the interim, between meetings of the County Committee. All decisions of the Executive Committee must have the approval of the County Committee.

Section 2: The County Committee shall meet monthly, unless otherwise determined by the County Committee, at the call of the chair, deputy chair or any four members thereof. Written, personal, or telephone notice shall be given at least five days in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of the transaction of business by the County Committee.

Section 3: Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of the County Committee, except as otherwise provided herein.

ARTICLE VI

Conventions

Section 1: County Conventions of the Party shall be held each year during the period and for the purposes designated by the Official Call issued by the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, or the Eighth Congressional District Committee. The time and place thereof shall be determined by the County Executive Committee.

Section 2: Special County Conventions shall be held at the Call of the State Executive Committee, the

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Eighth Congressional District Committee, or at any time deemed necessary by a majority of the members of the County Committee, provided that at least two weeks written notice be sent to each delegate and alternate.

Section 3: County Conventions shall be held at such time and place as predetermined by the County Committee. The first order of business received shall be the temporary credentials report. The Convention shall then proceed to have the delegates vote on the seating of the delegates as outlined in Section 4. A precinct will only be allowed to vote the strength of the delegates actually seated at the convention.

Section 4: A County Convention shall be composed of those delegates and alternates who reside within an Aitkin County precinct and who were duly elected at the most recent Republican Party precinct caucus held within the precinct. The number of delegates and the basis of their apportionment shall be uniform throughout the county. The Credentials Committee shall seat all duly accredited delegates of each precinct who are in attendance and present their credentials prior to the time stated in the Call for the convening of the Convention. In the event no delegates are present from a precinct, the Credentials Committee shall seat all accredited alternates from that precinct, indicating which delegates they replace. In the event that there are both delegates and alternates present, the Credentials Committee shall seat only the delegates and the vacancies shall be filled as provided below:

A. The precincts shall caucus after acceptance of the temporary report of the Credentials Committee. If the Chair of the precinct is not present, the seated delegates shall first elect a Chair and then proceed to fill the vacancies as provided herein. The precincts may also fill vacancies that occur later by informal caucus on the floor in like manner.

B. The seated delegates of each precinct shall fill all vacancies by a vote of the seated delegates, and shall first fill vacancies from the accredited alternates present from that precinct. In case of a tie, the Chair shall appoint one of those who are tied to fill that particular vacancy. Alternates shall be elected to fill vacancies one at a time to replace specific delegates and then the alternate elected to fill the vacancy shall be eligible to vote in the election to fill the next delegate vacancy. If such specific delegate shall later arrive, the delegate shall assume his/her seat and replace the alternate who was elected for him/her. Alternates who arrive later shall not replace any person seated except they will be eligible to fill vacancies from that precinct.

Section 5. Delegates and alternates to the Republican County, District and State conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota. Their term shall continue as such until their successors are elected, provided that they continue to be entitled to vote in the area which they were chosen to represent. Delegates and alternates shall be elected during the even numbered years at the County Convention for a two year term, however, election of delegates and alternates may also be held during the County Convention in odd

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numbered years in order to fill vacancies of delegates and alternates. Twice as many alternates as the number of delegates allotted may be elected at the County Convention and alternates shall be specified as first alternates and as second alternates.

Section 6. Vacancies may occur in a delegate's position upon his/her death, resignation or removal from the geographical area from which he/she was elected, or upon the failure of the body having the power of election to fill such position. If no duly elected alternate is available to fill the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original delegate or alternate was elected, as dictated by law.

Section 7. A County Convention, by a vote of sixty percent, may endorse candidates for public office, provided that such convention, by a simple majority vote, has determined to endorse or consider endorsement at the convention for that office. When more than one candidate is nominated for endorsement for an office, none of them shall be voted upon separately and the candidacy of all shall be submitted on one ballot. If no candidate receives the required sixty percent vote, then subsequent balloting may eliminate all but the top two candidates. The determination of endorsement for an office in which the Constitution is not coterminous with the territory of the convention, shall be made only by those delegates residing within such constituency. Where the constituency of an office comprises an area where more than one county is involved, then endorsement can be given only by a joint convention that includes all areas of such constituency.

Section 8: A County Convention may provide an advisory endorsement to candidates for District, State, or National office, provided that such advisory endorsement is not binding upon delegates to District and State Conventions. The procedure for advisory endorsement shall be limited to one ballot with all nominated candidates for the same office to be submitted on the same ballot.

ARTICLE VII

Vacancies and Removals

Section 1: Vacancies in precinct offices may be filled by appointment of the County Committee, or if so within the precinct in which the vacancy occurs.

Section 2: Should a vacancy occur in one or more offices of the County Committee, the County Committee may appoint a replacement to fill each vacancy.

Section 3: A member of the County Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the County Committee, provided that the member whose removal is under consideration shall have been furnished with a detailed written statement of the charges against him/her at least ten days prior to the meeting, and provided further, that said member shall be entitled to answer the charges against him/her before the entire Committee, if he/she so desires, before the question is voted upon.

ARTICLE VIII

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General Provisions

- Section 1:** The County Party organization is affiliated with the Republican Party of Minnesota, and its activities shall be consistent with their objects, platforms, and principles of the official State organization. The provision of the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota shall govern if any part of this Constitution is not consistent therewith.
- Section 2:** No member of the County organization shall be authorized to express the views or otherwise speak on behalf of any group within the Party on any matters of policy unless the group has first considered and taken action on such matter. This shall not be construed to prevent any official of the County organization from freely expressing his/her opinions, provided he/she makes clear that such statements are solely his/her own personal views.
- Section 3:** The provisions of this Constitution shall be presumed to be incorporated as a part of the rules of each County Convention.
- Section 4:** Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to deny or abridge the rights of any voter to participate in any Party caucus, primary, or convention in which he/she is entitled by law to participate.
- Section 5:** The County Committee Treasurer shall prepare biennial budgets for review by the State Party secretary-treasurer and likewise shall submit financial data to the State Party secretary-treasurer and Finance Committee as requested.
- Section 6:** All monies received in the name of the Aitkin County Republican Party shall be deposited in its account. All monies received shall be reported by the County Committee Treasurer along with copies of any reports required by state or federal law. No contribution shall be accepted and no expenditure shall be made by the Aitkin County Republican Party at a time when the office of the County Committee Treasurer is vacant.
- Section 7:** No loan, in any form, may be made to any individual or Party officer. In the event that any Party officer converts to his/her own use any Party funds, Party officers shall diligently encourage and assist all law enforcement personnel in prosecuting the violator to the full extent of the law.

ARTICLE IX

Recommended Status for Non-Partisan Elected Offices

- Section 1:** Candidates for a non-partisan elective public office may be “*recommended*” for office, provided the following conditions are met:
- A. The candidate makes a formal request in writing addressed to the Aitkin County Republican Party to be considered for recommended status.
 - B. The Nominations Committee shall examine the applicant including, but not limited to the candidate’s affirmation and support of the principles set forth in the Preamble to this Constitution and whether they are considered to be ably qualified to carry out the specific duties of the office the candidate is seeking.

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C. After completion of a favorable examination, a candidate must receive a sixty percent (60%) vote in favor of conferring recommended status by the County Executive Committee.

Section 2: Support for non-partisan elected office candidates that have received a recommended status may include the following:

A . Access to voter information held by the State Party, but limited to the voters in the specific district represented by the office being sought, and

B. Other resources available at the discretion of the State, District and Aitkin County Republican Party.

C. A recommended candidate may refer to themselves publicly and on written materials as; *“recommended by the Aitkin County Republican Party”* but may not use the term *“endorsed by”* publicly or on any campaign literature or signage.

D. The Executive committee shall not confer recommended status on more candidates than the positions for elected office or offices that are contained on the ballot.

ARTICLE X Amendments

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates present at any Annual County Convention, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been first referred to and considered by the duly appointed Constitution Committee.

Nothing Follows.