

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
BELTRAMI COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**Preamble**

The Beltrami County Republican Party welcomes into its party all residents of Beltrami County who are concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient and 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 are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Therefore, it is the party committed to equal representation and opportunity for all and the 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 Beltrami County residents who believe in these principles, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, social or economic status.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Beltrami County Republican Party, which shall also be known as the Beltrami County Republicans, and which shall hereafter be referred to as the Basic Political Organizational Unit. (BPOU)

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1**

The membership of the BPOU shall consist of voters in Beltrami County who desire to support the objectives of the Party.

**Section 2**

Payment of dues shall not be required as a condition of membership.

**ARTICLE III: PURPOSE**

**Section 1**

X The purpose of the BPOU shall be the promotion of effective, efficient and limited government through the principles and objectives of the Republican Party, as outlined in the Platform of the Republican Party of Minnesota. It shall be the responsibility of the BPOU to assist all endorsed Republicans seeking public office whose district lies at least partly within Beltrami County, to expand the membership of the party in Beltrami County and to organize or cause to be organized each precinct within Beltrami County.

**Section 2**

The management of the affairs of the BPOU shall be vested in the BPOU Committee, subject to the direction and authority of the BPOU Convention, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota and the statutes of the State of Minnesota.

**Section 3**

The duties of the BPOU Committee shall include, but not be limited to, establishment of financial campaigns, organization of each precinct within the BPOU, endorsement of Republican candidates, and coordination of Republican activities within Beltrami County.

**ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE**

**Section 1**

The BPOU Committee shall consist of the BPOU Executive Committee, the president of each BPOU Affiliate, any congressional district or state party officer living within Beltrami County, the chairperson of each standing committee appointed by the BPOU Committee, and at large members who shall be divided into Honorary Members and a maximum of thirty Active At Large Members.

**Section 2**

All BPOU Committee members other than Honorary Members shall be referred to as Active Members. Active Members must live within Beltrami County, shall attend regularly scheduled BPOU Committee meetings and shall have full voting privileges within the BPOU Committee.

### **Section 3**

The BPOU Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, 7th District Vice Chairperson, 8th District Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. These shall be referred to individually as Executive Officers and their offices as Executive Offices. A Vice Chairperson must live within the congressional district for which elected at the time of such election. However, after being elected, should he/she no longer live within this congressional district due to either redistricting or a change of residence within Beltrami County, he/she may continue to serve the remainder of the term and shall retain the designated title for which he/she was elected.

### **Section 4**

If there are presently fewer than thirty (30) Active At-Large Members, if a president of a BPOU Affiliate or a former congressional district or state party officer living within Beltrami County shall cease holding the office entitling he/she to automatic membership, he/she may be elected as an Active At Large Member by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting of the BPOU Committee..

### **Section 5**

If an Executive Officer or the chairperson of a standing BPOU committee shall cease to be an Executive Officer or a chairperson of a standing BPOU committee, such individual shall automatically become an Active At-Large Member, unless also removed from BPOU Committee membership in accordance with Article XI, Section 2. If this provision causes the total number of Active At-Large Members to exceed thirty (30), such will be allowed temporarily until under normal course one or more members shall be removed, resign or otherwise cease to be an Active At-Large Member.

### **Section 6**

Except as provided in Sections 4 and 5, Active At Large Members shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting of the BPOU Committee after attendance of three (3) of the preceding five (5) regular monthly BPOU Committee meetings, including the meeting at which he/she is elected. New Active At-Large Members may be elected under this provision only when there are currently fewer than thirty (30) Active At-Large members.

### **Section 7**

An individual shall be automatically designated an Honorary Member if he/she: a) was a former Active Member who becomes an endorsed candidate and/or is elected for legislature, Congress or state constitutional office; b) becomes an endorsed Republican candidate for and/or is elected as a Republican state legislator in a district which includes all or part of Beltrami County; or c) is a former Active Member removed from Active Member status due to not meeting the attendance requirement specified in Article XI, Section 1. An Honorary Member may attend BPOU Committee meetings and participate in the discussion of regular BPOU Committee business and may serve on committees within the BPOU but does not have voting privileges within the BPOU Committee.

### **Section 8**

Any Republican organization which is organized within Beltrami County may be granted BPOU Affiliate status by a majority vote at a BPOU Convention.

### **Section 9**

The BPOU Committee may disband the BPOU Organization and reorganize itself along either state senate or state house legislative district lines, if all the following conditions are met:

- a. Approvals of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at a BPOU Committee meeting; provided that notice of the proposal to reorganize is mailed or emailed to all Active Members at least thirty (30) days before the reorganization meeting.
- b. Approval of the affected congressional district executive committees.
- c. Approval of the State Executive Committee.
- d. Approval of at least sixty percent (60%) of the BPOU Convention, provided that notice of the reorganization proposal was issued in the call of the Convention. The BPOU Convention shall submit its transitional plans to accomplish such reorganization to the congressional and State Executive Committees for their review.



## ARTICLE V: PARTY ELECTIONS

### Section 1

The officers of each precinct shall consist of a chairperson, a secretary and such other officers as may be elected at the precinct caucus. Such officers shall be elected during the even numbered years for a two year term, by a caucus of Republicans who reside in said precinct, subject to the provisions of the Republican Party of Minnesota Constitution and the applicable statute(s) of the State of Minnesota.

### Section 2

If a precinct fails to elect officers at a regular precinct caucus, such vacancy may be filled as prescribed by Article X, Section 1.

### Section 3

Executive Officers shall be elected for a two year term at the odd numbered year Regular BPOU Convention by majority vote. Each Executive Officer shall be elected separately and not as part of a slate of candidates. The two year term of an Executive Officer shall commence at the adjournment of the odd numbered year BPOU Convention at which such officer was duly elected.

### Section 4

A nominating committee may be appointed by the BPOU Executive Committee or the BPOU Committee before the BPOU Convention held in odd numbered years for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Executive Offices of the BPOU Committee. Such nominations shall be submitted for the consideration of the BPOU Convention, provided that nominations may also be made from the floor of the BPOU Convention.

### Section 5

Eligibility for a party officer position shall not be limited to precinct delegates or alternates.

## ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

### Section 1

The BPOU Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, or at the request of any three members of the BPOU Executive Committee, to conduct Party business between regular meetings of the BPOU Committee. A majority of the BPOU Executive Officers shall constitute a quorum during the transaction of such business; however, notice must be given to all Executive Officers before such business is conducted. A consensus of the majority of all Executive Officers shall be required to transact such business. Such meetings may optionally be held informally via telephone or electronic communication unless any two (2) Executive Officers shall demand a physical, formal meeting, in which case such shall be required.

### Section 2

The BPOU Committee shall meet monthly, unless otherwise determined by the BPOU Committee. A special meeting may be held at the call of the Chairperson, or any two (2) other Executive Officers, or any five (5) Active Members of the Committee. Notice of any special meeting or change in regular meeting date, time or location shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary or Chairperson to all Active Members at least five (5) days before such meeting. A majority of the BPOU Active Members present shall constitute a quorum during the transaction of business by the BPOU Committee, provided that at least five (5) Active Members must be present, which must include at least two (2) Executive Officers. A regularly scheduled meeting may be cancelled or rescheduled by the BPOU Committee or the Executive Committee due to extenuating circumstances.

### Section 3

Meetings of the BPOU Committee shall not be open to the general public, except by special declaration of the Chairperson or the Executive Committee. Absent such declaration, all meetings shall be open to all Active and Honorary Members. Invited guests and other interested Republicans may also attend, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, the Executive Committee and the BPOU Committee. The Chairperson, the Executive Committee and the BPOU Committee shall each and collectively have the authority to ask for removal from the meeting of anyone not a member of the BPOU Committee, however, any disagreement as to such removal shall be resolved by a majority vote of present Executive Officers, if at least three are present, and otherwise by a majority vote of those present at the meeting of the BPOU Committee.

#### **Section 4**

Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern the proceedings of the above mentioned groups, except as otherwise provided herein.

### **ARTICLE VII: CONVENTIONS**

#### **Section 1**

Regular BPOU Conventions of the Beltrami County Republican Party shall be held each year within a range of dates established by the State Central Committee, and at the call issued by the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee or the BPOU Committee. The time and place of the BPOU Convention shall be determined by the BPOU Committee.

#### **Section 2**

Special BPOU Conventions may be held at the call of the State Executive Committee or the State Central Committee, or by a petition signed by no fewer than twenty-five (25) delegates to the BPOU Convention, or by a majority vote of all Active Members.

#### **Section 3**

The call to any BPOU Convention shall be issued at least ten (10) days prior to the convention to all delegates and alternates duly elected at precinct caucuses.

#### **Section 4**

Prior to any BPOU Convention, the BPOU Committee shall appoint the committees necessary to prepare and carry out the business of the convention.

#### **Section 5**

Once the temporary organization has been established, the next orders of business shall be the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee, the declaration of a quorum, and an adoption of those rules which pertain to the seating of alternates. The Convention shall then proceed to the seating of alternates as outlined in Section 6 below. Each precinct shall be entitled to one(1) vote for each delegate registered and present and each seated alternate.

#### **Section 6**

A BPOU Convention shall consist of delegates and seated alternates elected at precinct caucuses. The number of delegates from each precinct shall be based on a uniform ratio throughout the BPOU, such ratio to be determined by the BPOU Executive Committee or the BPOU Committee. In the event that a precinct did not conduct an election of delegates or alternates to the BPOU Convention, that precinct shall have no representation.

#### **Section 7**

Precincts that did conduct an election of delegates and alternates to BPOU Convention, and which do not have their full allotted quota of delegates registered and present at the BPOU Convention, shall attempt to fill their allotted quota by seating alternates who are present and registered. Such seating shall be determined by the rank of the vote when elected as alternate at precinct caucus. If alternates were not ranked at precinct caucus or if documentation of their rank cannot be manifested, such precincts shall caucus to select the number needed to fill the quota of delegates from alternates present and registered.

#### **Section 8**

If a precinct does not have sufficient delegates and alternates present and registered to fill its allotted quota of delegates, its voting strength shall be reduced to be equal to the number of delegates and alternates present and registered.

#### **Section 9**

Delegates and alternates to the BPOU Convention shall be elected in accordance with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and shall serve for two (2) years, provided that they continue to be entitled to vote in the precinct from which they were elected. Twice as many alternates as the number of delegates allotted may be elected.

### **ARTICLE VIII: DISTRICT & STATE DELEGATION**



#### Section 1

Delegates and alternates to the District and State Conventions shall be elected at the even numbered year BPOU Convention, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota and in accordance with the statutes of the state of Minnesota. They shall serve for two (2) years, or until their successors are elected, provided that they continue to be entitled to vote in the congressional district which they were chosen to represent. Twice as many alternates as the number of delegates allotted may be elected.

#### Section 2

Only delegates and alternates elected at their precinct caucus may seek election as a delegate or alternate to the District and State Conventions.

#### Section 3

Once one or more ballots have been cast for election of delegates and alternates, it shall be permissible to break ties by methods specified by the rules of the convention.

#### Section 4

If a delegate is not present at the District or State Convention to which he/she was elected, the vacancy shall be filled by an alternate present and registered as determined by rank of the vote. If alternates were not ranked at the BPOU Convention or if documentation of their rank cannot be manifested, the delegation shall caucus to select the number needed to fill the quota of delegates from alternates present and registered.

### ARTICLE IX: STATE CENTRAL DELEGATION

#### Section 1

Delegates and alternates to the State Central Committee shall be elected at the odd numbered year BPOU Convention, in accordance with the constitutions of the congressional district party(s) and state party and in accordance with the statutes of the state of Minnesota. They shall serve for two (2) years, or until their successors are elected, unless they resign or are duly declared ineligible by the congressional district or state party. Three times as many alternates as the number of delegates allotted may be elected. Alternates shall be ranked when elected.

#### Section 2

Eligibility for delegate or alternate to the State Central Committee shall not be limited to precinct delegates or alternates.

#### Section 3

Once one or more ballots have been cast for election of delegates and alternates, it shall be permissible to break ties by methods specified by the rules of the convention.

#### Section 4

In the event of a vacancy for a delegate or alternate position, such vacancy may be filled by a majority vote of the BPOU Committee. In accordance with the Constitution of the Republican Party of Minnesota, a vacancy for a delegate position must be filled by an alternate, if any.

#### Section 5

In the event that it is duly declared that redistricting has resulted in one or more delegates or alternates residing in a different congressional district other than that for which they were elected, then they shall continue their current role in their new congressional district. However, if such change results in a number of delegates greater than the allocated quota for that congressional district, the BPOU Committee shall determine, by majority vote, which current delegate(s) shall continue to serve. Further, if such change results in a number of alternates and/or displaced delegates greater than the allocated alternate quota for that congressional district, the BPOU Committee shall determine, by majority vote, which displaced delegates and current alternates shall continue to serve as alternates and what the new alternate ranking shall be.

## ARTICLE X: VACANCIES

### Section 1

The Chairperson with the approval of the BPOU Committee may call a special caucus, for one or more precincts, in the manner prescribed by statute for biennial precinct caucuses, for the sole purpose of filling vacancies in precinct offices or precinct delegates or alternates, where such exist at the time of notice, and may provide for the appointment of an acting officer until an officer is duly elected.

### Section 2

Should vacancies occur among the Active At-Large membership of the BPOU Committee, the BPOU Committee may elect replacement(s) in the manner prescribed in Article IV.

### Section 3

A vacancy shall occur upon the death, removal or resignation of an Executive Officer or Active At-Large Member or upon his/her change of residence to a location outside of Beltrami County.

### Section 4

In the event that the Chairperson shall be temporarily unable to fulfill his/her duties due to infirmity or extended absence, one of the two Vice Chairpersons, to be determined in accordance with Section 8, shall serve as Acting Chairperson, until such time as the Chairperson is again able fulfill his/her duties.

### Section 5

In the event that an Executive Officer other than the Chairperson shall be temporarily unable to fulfill his/her duties due to infirmity or extended absence, the Chairperson shall appoint an acting officer from among the Active At-Large Members, until such time as the officer is again able fulfill his/her duties.

### Section 6

In the event of vacancy in the office of Chairperson, one of the two Vice Chairpersons, to be determined in accordance with Section 8, shall serve as Acting Chairperson, until such time as a new Chairperson may be elected in accordance with Sections 9 and 10.

### Section 7

In the event of vacancy of an Executive Office other than that of the Chairperson, the Chairperson shall appoint an acting officer from among the Active At-Large Members, until such time as a new officer may be elected in accordance with Sections 9 and 10.

### Section 8

Subject to and in accordance with Sections 4 and 6, in the event of a temporary inability to serve or a vacancy in the office of Chairperson, the 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice Chairperson shall serve as Acting Chairperson if such temporary inability or vacancy commences in an odd numbered year, and the 8<sup>th</sup> District Vice Chairperson shall serve as Acting Chairperson if such temporary inability or vacancy commences in an even numbered year. However, if this Vice Chairperson is unwilling or unable to serve as Acting Chairperson, or if this office is currently held by an appointed Acting Vice Chairperson or is currently vacant, then the other Vice Chairperson shall serve as Acting Chairperson.

### Section 9

In the event of any vacancy in an Executive Office, a Special BPOU Convention shall be duly called, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 2 and 3, unless a Regular BPOU Convention is scheduled to occur within 45 days of the date that vacancy is known. If a Special BPOU Convention is called, such convention shall occur within 45 days of the date that vacancy is known.

### Section 10

If a special election to fill a Executive Office vacancy is held at a BPOU Convention which is not the odd numbered year Regular BPOU Convention, the Executive Officer shall not serve a full two year term but shall only serve until the adjournment of the next odd numbered year Regular BPOU Convention.

## ARTICLE XI: REMOVALS

### Section 1

Any Active At-Large Member who is absent from three consecutive monthly BPOU Committee meetings shall automatically be moved from the Active At-Large Members status to Honorary Member status, unless



there are circumstances made known to the BPOU Committee and the BPOU Committee votes to retain the Active At Large Member status. However, such Honorary Member may at any time be re-elected as an Active At-Large Member by the BPOU Committee in accordance with Article IV, Section 6.

#### **Section 2**

Except as provided in Section 1, an Active At-Large Member may be removed from Active membership to Honorary membership, or may be removed entirely from BPOU Committee membership, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any duly called meeting of the BPOU Committee, provided that said member shall have been furnished with a detailed written statement of the charges against him/her at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and further provided that said member shall be entitled to answer the charges against him/her in front of the entire BPOU Committee, if he/she so desires, before the question is voted upon.

#### **Section 3**

An Executive Officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates and seated alternates at any duly called BPOU Convention, provided that all of the following apply: a) Such officer shall have been furnished with a detailed written statement of the charges against him/her at least ten (10) days prior to the Convention; b) The convention call shall contain notice that removal of the officer will be considered; c), Said officer shall be entitled to answer the charges against him/her in front of the BPOU Convention, if he/she so desires, before the question is voted upon.

#### **Section 4**

If an Active Member shall become an endorsed candidate and/or be elected for legislature, Congress or state constitutional office, he/she shall automatically be re-designated as an Honorary Member. Such individual shall become eligible to be re-elected as an Active Member at such time as he/she is no longer an endorsed candidate or elected official for legislature, Congress or state constitutional office.

#### **Section 5**

An Honorary Member may be removed by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting of the BPOU Committee.

#### **Section 6**

An appointed member of the BPOU Committee may be removed by the appointing authority.

### **ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

#### **Section 1**

A Constitution Committee may be appointed by the BPOU Executive Committee or the BPOU Committee prior to any BPOU Convention. The Constitution Committee shall then serve until the adjournment of the following BPOU Convention. This committee shall give consideration to and may propose appropriate amendments and revisions of this Constitution. Any member of the Constitution Committee shall have the privilege of addressing the BPOU Convention when any report of the Constitution Committee is being considered.

#### **Section 2**

Any amendments or revisions proposed by the Constitution Committee shall be reported in a written form which shall clearly identify each provision to be amended, revised or removed. Such report shall also include the entire current text of this Constitution. This report shall be made available for the review of each delegate and alternate to the BPOU Convention at least ten (10) days prior to the BPOU Convention, either by printing the entire report or by issuing instructions whereby such delegate or alternate may access the report in electronic format online. This report shall also be distributed in writing to all present and registered delegates and alternates, prior to the call to order of the BPOU Convention.

#### **Section 3**

Any delegate or alternate may propose an amendment or revision to this Constitution which is not included in the report of the Constitution Committee, but only if such amendment or revision has, prior to the call to order of the convention, been distributed in writing to all registered delegates and alternates, who are present prior to the call to order of the BPOU Convention. Such shall also be made available to any late arriving delegate or seated alternate upon their request. This restriction shall not prevent the consideration of minor wording changes to duly proposed amendments or revisions.

#### Section 4

At the time of consideration by the BPOU Convention, several amendments and/or revisions may be grouped together for a vote as a single question, only after the chairperson of the convention has asked for any motions to remove any single amendment or revision from the group of amendments and revisions, for individual consideration and separate vote.

#### Section 5

Any duly proposed and considered amendment or revision shall be adopted so as to amend or revise this Constitution if passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at any BPOU Convention. Any such adopted amendment or revision shall go into effect as of the moment passed, unless the proposal as adopted specifies a future effective time or date.

#### Section 6

If the BPOU Convention shall pass any amendment or revision to the requirements for BPOU Committee membership, or the requirements for any office or position within the BPOU Committee, such revision to this Constitution shall not be applied so as to disqualify any current individual holding such position on the basis of what occurred prior to the effective date of the amendment or revision, unless the proposal as adopted specifically dictates otherwise.

### ARTICLE XIII: GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section 1

The BPOU Party Organization is affiliated with the Republican Party of Minnesota, and its activities shall be consistent with the objectives and principals of the same. The provisions of the Republican Party of Minnesota Constitution shall override any part of this Constitution which is not consistent therewith.

#### Section 2

No member of the BPOU Committee 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 matters. This shall not be construed to prevent any official or member of the BPOU Committee from freely expressing his/her opinions, provided he/she makes clear that his/her statements are solely his/her own personal views.

#### Section 3

The provisions of this Constitution shall be part of the rules of each Convention, and these provisions may not be suspended by a vote of the 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, where he/she is entitled by law to participate.

Approved by the Beltrami County Republican Convention, February 21, 2015.