



Endorsing Convention

Red Wing High School
2451 Eagle Ridge Dr.
Red Wing, MN 55066

March 20th, 2010

Second Congressional District Republican Party
Annual Convention
March 20, 2010

1. 9:00 am Welcome and Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Reading of the Official Call
5. Election of the Temporary Chair of the Convention
6. Election of the Temporary Secretary of the Convention
7. Appointment of the Parliamentarian
8. Appointment of Chief Teller
9. Appointment of Chief Sergeant-At-Arms
10. Recognition of Convention Committees
11. Recognition of Veterans
12. First Report of the Credentials Committee
13. First Report of the Rules Committee
14. Seating of Alternates by BPOUs
15. Motion to make the Temporary Organization Permanent
16. Second Report of the Rules Committee
17. Second Report of the Credentials Committee
18. Consideration of a Motion to Endorse for U.S. House of Representatives
19. Report of Candidate Search Committee for Congressional Endorsement
20. Endorsement for Second Congressional District U.S. House of Representatives
21. Report of the 2nd District Congressman
22. Report of the Resolutions Committee
23. Report of Second Congressional District Officers (Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer)
- Can be given at various times determined by Convention Chair
24. Other Business
25. Adjournment

****NOTES:**

9:15 A.M. Search Committee (BPOU Chairs) for Congressional Endorsement

*Announcements and introductions of guests may take place throughout the convention at the discretion of the convention chair.

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...) are 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.

RULES

I. Parliamentary Rules

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, shall govern the conduct of the business of this Convention when not in conflict with the laws of the State of Minnesota, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Minnesota Republican Party, the Constitution of the Second Congressional District Republican Committee, the Official Call, and Rules adopted by this Convention.

II. Order of Business

- A. The order of business for this Convention shall be as outlined in the official Agenda of the Convention, which is an integral part of these Rules.
- B. A motion to adjourn shall be debatable until the completion of the official business of the convention, as stated in the agenda.

III. Convention Roll and Quorum

- A. 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.
- B. In the absence of any delegate to the Convention, an alternate shall be seated for that delegate only during the delegate's absence from the floor. The procedure for seating alternates or filling vacancies in this Convention shall be as follows:
 - 1. Vacancies shall be filled from the alternates present from the BPOU in which the vacancy exists as provided for by that BPOU's Constitution and/or By-Laws or by that BPOU's convention.
 - 2. If the BPOU's Constitution and/or By-Laws or that BPOU's convention are silent as to the seating of alternates, then seating shall be done by the BPOU's Chair(s) if seated. If neither is seated or if they fail to agree, then the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of that BPOU's delegation already seated.
- C. Seating of registered alternates shall be permissible at any time, if a delegate or seated alternate is absent, provided that upon return of the delegate, the delegate shall be immediately seated. However, at the start of any ballot, there shall be no change in seating until that ballot has been completed.
- D. A majority of the total number of delegates registered shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of convening the Convention. Thereafter, a call for a quorum shall be out of order.

- E. There shall be no cross-seating between BPOUs, i.e., a delegate or alternate from one BPOU cannot be seated in another BPOU. The BPOU's Constitution and/or By-Laws shall govern cross-seating within a BPOU.
- F. Registration shall close at 10:00. Only those registered shall participate in the Convention as delegates or alternates.

IV. Amendment or Suspension

After adoption of these Rules, they may be suspended or amended, where allowed, only by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates and seated alternates voting.

V. Addressing the Convention

- A. A delegate or seated alternate wishing to speak shall rise, address the Convention Chair, and when recognized, state his or her name and delegation and the purpose for which he or she rises.
- B. Elected Official from the House of Representatives to the United States from this district (or his designee) shall be allowed a reasonable time to report to the Convention.
- C. All Republican candidates for Statewide offices will be given equal time to address the Convention. Their comments shall not exceed five (5) minutes per individual. Candidates will be allowed to address the Convention during breaks in the proceedings as close as possible to their desired speaking time, at the discretion of the Chair.
- D. Other members of Congress, statewide elected officials and State Party officers may address the Convention during breaks in the Convention business, at the discretion of, and in an order determined by, the Chair. These comments should not exceed 10 minutes per individual.
- E. Debate on any motion or subject shall be limited to one (1) minute by each Speaker. No person shall be allowed to speak a second time upon the same question until all others wishing to be recognized have been heard. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject.
- F. At least two speakers on each side of a question shall be afforded the opportunity to speak on an issue before a motion for the previous question shall be in order. After six (6) minutes of debate, the Chair may call for the vote.
- G. Candidates for House of Representatives to the United States from this district shall be allowed twenty (20) minutes floor time, which the candidate may use for nominating, seconding speeches and/or personal address to the Convention. The order of nomination, seconding and candidate speeches shall be determined by lot, with all speeches by or for a given candidate completed before the next candidate is nominated. Individuals who are not delegates or alternates may be invited to address the Convention on behalf of the candidates.
- H. The Convention Chair or its designees shall keep an accurate record of each speaker's time and must rigorously enforce these time limitations.

- I. Officers of the Convention or members of any Convention Committee may address the Convention even if they are not delegates or seated alternates to the Convention.

VI. Voting

- A. The vote on all questions shall be by voice except as follows:
 1. At the request of at least ten (10) delegates from at least two (2) different BPOUs or at the discretion of the Chair, a rising vote shall be taken.
 2. Voting for contested positions or contested endorsement shall be by secret ballot.
- B. The BPOU chair or their designee shall collect ballots cast by each delegation and turn them over to the tellers. If the BPOU chair is not present, then the remaining delegates and seated alternates will elect a person to serve in that capacity.
- C. The Chief Teller shall verify the number of ballots cast by a delegation and the Convention Chair shall announce any discrepancies. Once verified, all ballots shall be commingled prior to counting.
- D. BPOU Chairs shall ensure that each delegate and seated alternate in his or her delegation will cast only one vote and that unused ballots are returned unmarked.
- E. The Chief Teller shall report back to the Convention Chair the total number of votes cast for each candidate and the Convention Chair shall announce the results to the Convention.
- F. If there is a dispute as to the number of ballots cast by any delegation, the said delegation challenge shall be made before the ballots from that delegation are commingled with those of other delegations. Upon such a challenge, the Convention officers selected by the Chief Teller shall count the ballots cast by said delegation.
- G. Each delegate shall have one full vote. Voting by unit rule is forbidden.
- H. Tellers will count any ballot marked “No Preference,” “Undecided,” “No endorsement” or “None” in any vote totals. The ballots shall not count for any candidate.
- I. Tellers will report the blank, abstentions, unintelligible ballots, ballots marked only “→” or “X”, or ballots cast for an ineligible person or fictional character. These ballots will not be included in the 60% vote needed for endorsement.
- J. For endorsement: Ballots marked for more than one candidate shall not be counted for any candidate, but will count in the total needed for endorsement.
- K. For endorsement: Each candidate may have one observer in the “counting room.”
- L. The observers in “the counting room” are not allowed to talk, nor are they allowed to communicate in any way with the Tellers, directly or indirectly.
- M. Observers are allowed only to observe and shall not impede or interfere with the counting process in any manner whatsoever.

- N. Any abridgment by observers must be immediately reported to the Chief Teller and Convention Chair who will direct the Sergeant at Arms to remove the offender immediately from the counting room. The ejected observer may be replaced by another candidate-appointed observer.
- O. Any observed irregularities are to be reported to the Chief Teller who will report to the Convention Chair for remedy and disposition.
- P. Ballots will be destroyed after the close of the convention.

VII. Resolutions

- A. Resolutions from the floor are not permitted. All resolutions passed at the BPOU conventions must have been received and considered by the 2nd District Resolutions Committee at least 10 days prior to the convention.
- B. 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.
- C. Consideration of the Resolutions Committee report will proceed in three stages:
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. 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 approval, the resolutions in that section will be considered one at a time, *without regard for the committee recommendation and without debate*. Items can be pulled for later debate with a 15% vote.
 - 3. The Convention will then proceed to debate and vote, *without regard for the committee recommendation*, on each of the “pulled” resolutions.
 - 4. The Convention will then proceed to debate and vote on any resolutions forwarded by the Resolutions Committee that do not fit within one of the existing sections of the existing platform.
- D. Debates on resolutions are governed by the same time limits and conditions of debate as other motions. .

VIII. Endorsement

- A. The Convention shall first determine by simple majority vote whether endorsement shall be considered for United States Representative from the Second Congressional District.
- B. The Search Committee shall facilitate the orderly consideration by the Convention of the endorsement of a United States Representative from the Second Congressional District.
- C. All candidates for Congress or their representatives must appear before the Search Committee during the time allotted..

- D. In order to obtain endorsement by the Convention, a candidate must receive a vote of at least sixty (60) percent of the valid ballots cast, and at least fifty (50) percent of the total delegates and seated alternates from the most recent Credentials report.
- E. If there is only one candidate, the Convention may decide by a two-thirds vote to endorse by a rising vote.
- F. For contested races:
 - 1. Any candidate with less than ten (10) percent of the voting strength on two consecutive ballots will be dropped from further consideration.
 - 2. After every fifth (5th) ballot, if no candidate has been endorsed, the Convention Chair shall allow each candidate five (5) minutes to address the Convention.

IX. Miscellaneous

- A. Minority reports of a Convention Committee may be presented if two (2) members of the Committee concur.
- B. Signage for candidates will be limited to twenty (20) signs maximum per candidate. The Convention Arrangements Committee shall determine locations of all candidate signage. No Signs are allowed on the stage walls or stage (behind the speaker's back.)
- C. All literature distributed at the Convention must have its source(s) prominently displayed.
- D. All non-compliant literature must be immediately removed. Compliance is determined by the Convention Chair.
- E. Removal of literature following the convention, other than official Convention documents, is the responsibility of the source(s). The Executive committee may recover reasonable clean-up cost.
- F. No unauthorized video or audio recording of the convention proceedings will be allowed.