

# CONSTITUTION OF THE STEVENS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR PARTY

## Article I.

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this organization is the Stevens County Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

**Section 2. Membership.** Membership in this Party is open to all residents of Stevens County who support the principles of the DEL Party in Minnesota. No member of any other political party may vote within the DFL Party.

**Section 3. Eligibility for Party Office.** Pursuant to the principles of affirmative action as stated in the DFL State Constitution, Bylaws and Call, persons who meet the membership requirements of Article I, Section 2, are eligible for election to any Party office.

## Article II. Subordination

This Constitution is subordinate to the pertinent parts of the Constitution and Bylaws of the 7th Congressional District DFL and the State DFL Parties.

## Article III. County Convention

**Section 1. Notice.** Written notice of the date, time and place of a convention shall be mailed or presented to all delegates and alternates to any convention at least ten days before the date of the convention.

**Section 2. Membership.** The County Convention shall be composed of precinct delegates, alternates seated as precinct delegates, and Distinguished Party Leader Delegates as defined in the State DFL Constitution, who reside within the County. A precinct may cast only one vote for each delegate present and voting. A majority of the delegates and alternates serving as delegates registered at the convention shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 3. Business of the County Convention.** The convention shall elect party officers, State Convention delegates and alternates, and State Central Committee members and alternates, adopt resolutions, amend this Constitution, and conduct any other party business that properly comes before it.

## Article IV.

## Central Committee

**Section 1. Central Committee.** The Central Committee shall be the governing body of the County DFL between conventions. The Central Committee shall consist of the County Executive Committee members, precinct chairs elected at each precinct caucus every even-numbered year, each member of the Congressional District Central Committee residing in the County, and each State Central Committee member residing in the County.

**Section 2. Central Committee Meetings.** The Central Committee shall meet at least two times per year. Meetings may be called by the County Chair, by one-eighth of the membership of the Central Committee, or by a majority of the Executive Committee. The quorum for Central Committee meetings is a majority of those members present.

**Section 3. Dismissal for Cause.** The Central Committee may dismiss a member for cause on grounds of clear misfeasance or malfeasance in office. For such dismissal, a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote is required, but only after a member is given thirty days' written notice specifying the cause and is granted a hearing.

**Section 4. Filling Vacancies.** A vacancy occurs for the following reasons: resignation, death, change of residence to a jurisdiction other than the one from which he/she was elected, or dismissed for cause. The Central Committee, by a majority vote of the quorum at a meeting properly called after notice of intent to elect, may declare a vacancy and fill that vacancy. Only those vacancies specified in the meeting notice may be filled at that meeting. Vacancies shall be filled within sixty days of their occurrence.

## Article V. Executive Committee and Officers

**Section 1. Executive Committee.** The County Executive Committee shall be the governing body between Central Committee meetings. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Associate Chair (of different gender), Secretary, Treasurer, Affirmative Action Officer, and at least eleven Directors elected by the County Convention, with gender balance of the Directors as required by the State DFL Constitution. Each member of the Congressional District Executive Committee residing in the County shall also be a member of the County Executive Committee. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings is 25% of its members.

**Section 2. Duties of Officers.**

**a. CHAIR:** It shall be the duty of the County Chair to convene the County Convention (following the procedures described in the Call) and preside at meetings of the County Central Committee and Executive Committee. The Chair shall attend meetings of the State and Congressional District Central Committees. The Chair shall also perform all other duties incident to the office.

**b. ASSOCIATE CHAIR:** The Associate Chair shall preside at Central and Executive Committee meetings, and convene the County Convention, in the absence of the Chair. It shall further be his/her duty to assist the Chair in the discharge of the Chair's duties, and to attend meetings of the State and Congressional District Central Committees.

**c. SECRETARY:** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to preserve the minutes and attendance records of all proceedings of the Executive and Central Committees. The Secretary shall, at the direction of the Chair, notify members of the Executive and Central Committees of meetings of this organization. The Secretary shall perform all other duties usually incident to the office of Secretary.

**d. TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of this organization, and shall make no disbursement thereof without authority or ratification by the Executive Committee or Chair. The Treasurer shall perform all other duties usually incident to the office of Treasurer.

**e. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER:** The Affirmative Action Officer shall be responsible for outreach to underrepresented groups within the County, and shall perform all other duties usually incident to the office of Affirmative Action Officer in the DFL Party.

**f. DIRECTORS:** The Directors shall perform those functions assigned to them from time to time by the Executive Committee or the Central Committee.

**Section 3. Committees:** The Executive Committee shall establish committees as it determines to be appropriate to execute the business of the Executive Committee and the County DFL organization, and shall designate members to chair and serve on those committees.

## **Article VI. General Rules**

**Section 1. Disposition of Party Records.** Upon leaving office, a Party officer shall turn over all Party records, books and properties to his/her successor.

**Section 2. Notice of Executive and Central Committee Meetings.** Notice of Executive and Central Committee meetings, specifying time and place, shall be sent in writing or presented to all members not less than ten days in advance of the meeting, except that such notice may be provided not less

than seventy-two hours in advance by personal delivery, telephone, or other electronic means. An agenda shall be prepared by the County Chair prior to the meetings of the Executive and Central Committees and shall be included in all notices.

**Section 3. Amendments.** This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates at any County Convention.

**Section 4. Bylaws and Their Amendment.** Bylaws concerning matters not expressly governed by nor in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the County Convention. Bylaws may also be adopted or amended by the County Central Committee, provided such adoptions or amendments receive a sixty percent (60%) vote of approval. A copy of any proposed change in the Bylaws shall be included in the meeting notice.

**Section 5. Parliamentary Authority.** Parliamentary matters not governed by this Constitution and its Bylaws, nor by the rules of the body in question, nor by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Congressional District DFL or State DEL, nor by the Official Call, shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, most recently revised.

**Section 6.** This Constitution and its Bylaws supersede all previous Constitutions and Bylaws of the Stevens County DFL Party.

**Section 7.** This Constitution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its adoption at the 2000 Stevens County DFL Convention.

### **Amendments**

**Amendment 1 - Adopted at 2012 County Convention:** The Stevens County DFL reserves the option to split each delegate to the Congressional and State Conventions into two half votes as determined by the County Convention. (Superseded by Amendment 2)

**Amendment 2 – Adopted at 2016 County Convention:** When allowed by the Constitution of the Minnesota DFL, the Stevens County DFL shall split each delegate to the Congressional and State Conventions into two half votes.