

This is a conforming change to the standing rules to use the gender-neutral pronouns found in the rest of our party governing documents, to incorporate conforming language for delegate upgrading/downgrading, and to improve clarity of a couple provisions without substantive change. Prior notice of this revision was given at the September SCC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Thorp and Jill Garcia  
Co-chairs of the DFL State Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee

Note: additions are underlined and deletions are in ~~striketrough~~. The vertical ellipsis (:)  
represents unchanged text that isn't included in the report for brevity.

### **Proposal: Gender Identity and Gender-Neutral Language**

3. Upgrading Alternates. Each organizing unit's chair and vice chair jointly co-chair the unit's delegation for purposes of alternate seating. The organizing unit's delegation will elect another chair or co-chairs in their absence. If more than one alternate is available, then they are entitled to be upgraded as listed on the roster. The highest-ranking available alternate who maintains equal division for the organizing unit's delegation ~~of the same gender~~ succeeds an absent or departing delegate. A delegation co-chair may upgrade an alternate at anytime not specifically prohibited herein.

4. Downgrading. An upgraded alternate is subject to being downgraded in favor of an arriving delegate or a higher-ranking alternate, who displaces the lowest-ranking then-upgraded alternate whose downgrading maintains equal division for the organizing unit's delegation ~~of the same gender~~. A delegation co-chair may downgrade a previously upgraded alternate at anytime not specifically prohibited herein.

5. No upgrading at certain times. No alternate may be upgraded or downgraded, and no unseated delegate may take ~~his or her~~ their seat, while the floor is frozen or while a written ballot or other counted vote is underway.

6. Delegates with Multiple Memberships. No member may cast more than one vote on any ballot. A member who is eligible to vote in more than one capacity shall be registered in the capacity that maximizes the total number of votes that can be cast. Credentials may, with or without the member's consent (and even if the member objects), unregister a member in one capacity and register ~~him or her~~ them in a different capacity so that an alternate can be upgraded.

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10. Presiding Officer. The presiding officer of the Central Committee is the State Party Chair

(capitalized “Chair” means State Party Chair). The “chair,” uncapitalized, means the presiding officer, whether or not the Chair is presiding. A presiding officer other than the Chair cannot discharge any duty or exercise any power under these rules outside the meeting over which ~~he or she is~~ they are presiding.

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12. Recording Officer. The Central Committee’s regular recording officer is the State Party Secretary. The Secretary may appoint a secretary pro tempore or assistant secretary to record proceedings during a meeting, who may be relieved by the Secretary of ~~his or her~~ their duties at any time. In the absence of the Secretary, the chair may appoint a secretary pro tempore to record proceedings during a meeting.

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17. Recognition. A delegate or other person with speaking privileges may claim the floor: by written notice to the chair, before or during the meeting; or by lining up on the floor at a microphone or, if ~~he or she~~ they cannot reach a microphone, by raising ~~his or her~~ their hand, ~~or by having another meeting attendee get the chair’s attention.~~ The chair will ordinarily assign the floor in the order in which it is so claimed, provided that debate generally alternates between proponents and opponents, and between microphones. The chair may, without regard to this order, entertain a motion from the floor in the belief that a sufficient number may favor the motion. The chair may note when recognizing a speaker whom ~~he or she~~ they may recognize next, but such notice neither constitutes recognition nor creates a right to be recognized before debate expires or the chair recognizes another.

18. Debate.

A. General Limits. Each speaker, before speaking, must ~~identify himself or herself by state~~ their name and ~~by~~ the representative capacity in which ~~he or she is~~ they are speaking, and may state their gender pronouns. If the chair so requests, the speaker must also state which side of the pending motion ~~he or she intends~~ they intend to speak on. Except as these rules provide otherwise, each speaker may speak for up to two minutes per speech. However, during the initial debate on a main motion, as defined in Paragraph B, each speaker in opposition of a pending motion may speak for no more than three minutes per speech. Debate expires on any debatable motion when three speakers on each side have had the opportunity to speak. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is in order notwithstanding any limit in these rules.

B. Main Motions. ~~A main motion’s~~ The mover of the main motion may speak first and last on the motion, for four and one minute respectively, without prejudice to ~~his or her~~ their ordinary speaking privileges and even if debate has been limited, the previous question has been ordered, or time has otherwise expired. If the Executive Committee or another committee, or subcommittee, (other than committee or subcommittee on whose behalf the motion’s mover spoke) recommends that a motion be adopted or not, or if it recommends other action on the

motion, the reporting member may speak next on the motion after the mover has spoken, for up to four minutes.

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19. Motions

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B. Docket. The Chair must keep a docket of each main motion and other matter that awaits consideration by the Central Committee, from which docket ~~he or she~~ they will prepares and circulates a proposed agenda for each meeting. Except as these rules otherwise provide, a motion will ordinarily appear on the agenda of the first meeting whose constitutionally required notice is given after its introduction.

C. Staff review. If the Chair or Vice Chair determine a motion may have an impact upon the Party's budget, ~~he or she~~ they may direct the Executive Director to review the motion and advise the central committee as to how the motion's estimated cost will affect the budget.

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I. Other motions. No motion is otherwise in order until the mover delivers it in writing to the chair. But the chair may, ~~in his or her~~ at their discretion, entertain an unwritten motion shorter than six words.

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21. Other Business.

A. Officer Reports. The reports to the Central Committee from the Vice Chair, Outreach Officer, Secretary, Treasurer, and committees shall be made via the email list, with paper copies for members available at the meeting. An officer or committee will otherwise report orally to the Central Committee only if (A) ~~he or she has~~ they have asked for action on a written recommendation, or (B) the Chair or the Executive Committee finds that the report especially merits the Central Committee's attention. The Chair shall provide oral reports to the Central Committee at the Chair's discretion.

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25. Order among candidates. The chair will determine by lot, with each candidate or ~~his or her~~ their representative present, the order in which candidates for the same office speak or answer questions

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27. Floor passes. Each candidate is entitled to up to five floor passes for use in ~~his or her~~ their campaign while seeking endorsement or election.

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30. Speeches. Each candidate for a state officer position or endorsement shall be allowed up to five minutes time to be used as the candidate wishes. ~~may speak for up to five minutes, which he or she may divide among one or more speakers (including himself or herself) in his or her favor.~~ A candidate who declines the nomination may not speak. Each candidate for any

other position may speak for up to one minute.

31. Demonstrations. A candidate may arrange for a moving demonstration or for music during ~~his or her speech~~ their allotted time. No other demonstration is otherwise allowed. The “demonstrations” that this rule prohibits include (but are not necessarily limited to): a moving demonstration; a whistle, air horn, bullhorn, amplifier, loudspeaker, or other artificial noisemaking; a strobe light, light show, or other non-static visual display, or a spotlight or other projected light; a fragrance, incense, or other noticeable smell; a shower of balloons, confetti, glitter, water, or any other substance; and any other intrusive sensation.

32. Question-and-answer session. A question-and-answer session follows the candidates’ speeches only for state officer elections and endorsements.

A. Length. The question-and-answer session lasts 30 minutes for a contested endorsement or a contested election for Chair, 15 minutes for a contested election for any other office, and five minutes for an uncontested election or endorsement. The meeting may limit or extend these times, or cancel the session altogether, by a two-thirds vote. If only one candidate has been nominated, then a motion to elect ~~him or her~~ them by acclamation cancels the question-and-answer period.

B. Asking questions. Any delegate may submit a question or questions to the secretary before the question-and-answer period begins. Each question must: (i) be written legibly on a single piece of paper with only the one question on it; (ii) be signed legibly by a delegate; (iii) identify the office to which it relates, if the meeting includes more than one endorsement or election; (iv) be concise, without a preamble or other extraneous material; (v) be general enough in nature that all the candidates can answer it on substantially equal terms. A question addressed to fewer than all the candidates is out of order, but the chair may rephrase such a question so that it applies to all the candidates on substantially equal terms if ~~he or she~~ they can do so fairly and inconspicuously; (vi) not cast an aspersion upon or otherwise personally attack any candidate or candidates; and (vii) be capable of being answered within one minute.

C. Drawing questions. The secretary, with each candidate or ~~his or her~~ their representative present, will draw the questions blindly. The secretary must exclude a question if it: (i) does not satisfy this or any other applicable rule; (ii) substantially overlaps an earlier question; or (iii) was submitted by a delegate who also submitted another question that was already asked relating to the same office.

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E. Order, rotation. The chair will determine by lot, with each candidate or ~~his or her~~ their representative present, the order in which the candidates answer the first question. The order then rotates so that the candidate who answered the preceding question first answers the pending

question last and each other candidate advances one place in the rotation.

33. Voting. For uncontested elections, the meeting may elect by acclamation. Otherwise, the vote must occur by written ballot. Any printed ballot, or any list posted for the delegates, must list all the candidates.

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B. Ballots. The tellers will distribute and collect the ballots by congressional district delegation or as the meeting directs. No teller or delegation chair may distribute a ballot to, or collect a ballot from, a delegate who is not seated on the floor with ~~his or her~~ their delegation. But the chair may arrange for a ballot to be distributed to and collected from a delegate who is not seated on the floor but is actively engaged in ~~his or her~~ their duties as an officer, or who is actively engaged in assisting an officer.

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D. Drop rule. A candidate is dropped if ~~he or she~~ they gets less than 10 percent of the votes, or less than 20 percent on the second ballot, or less than 30 percent on the third ballot, or less than one-third on the fourth or any later ballot, as long as the two candidates with the most votes (or, in the case of a tie for the second most votes, the candidates with the most and second most votes) are not dropped. A candidate who gets dropped under this rule, or who voluntarily withdraws, may address the meeting for up to two minutes before or immediately after the result is announced.

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45. Order of Business. The chair may, ~~in his or her~~ at their discretion, entertain from the floor as a question of privilege a motion relating to the order of business.