

# Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Constitution and Bylaws

## **Preamble** **Independence Party Principles**

The principles of the Independence Party of Minnesota are:

### **INTEGRITY**

We are what we are and we do not pretend to be something we are not. Our word is good and we are accountable for the promises we make. In our personal actions and party affairs, we seek to exemplify the same fair, open, and democratic processes we advocate for our government. Before we evaluate others in the light of our principles we stand first in the light ourselves.

### **DIGNITY**

We respect all people as equal human beings possessing certain inalienable rights, which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Each member has an equal voice and vote in our party and we conduct ourselves so as to honor the people and institutions we serve. As a party, we advocate public policy only where broad member consensus exists and respectfully leave action on other matters to the free exercise of individual conscience and discretion.

### **JUSTICE**

All citizens deserve equal rights, protection, and opportunity under the law. In our Party and public affairs, we are ever vigilant to promote only those rules and laws which assure equity and freedom for all citizens.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

We are accountable for our actions or failure to act and it is up to us to generate the results we want. We readily assume the duties mandated by our purpose and we seek to manifest excellence in performing our agreed upon tasks.

### **SERVICE**

Political power belongs to the people and is only entrusted to those who serve in public and party office. In our endeavors, we work for the benefit of all citizens, not ourselves alone. Our job is to fulfill the expectations of those who have honored us with their trust.

### **COMMUNITY**

As individuals, party and nation, we live in relationship with each other and the earth. While exercising our rights and pursuing our individual interests, we are also mindful of the good of the whole. As a party, we endeavor to articulate the public good through open democratic processes and then manifest that good in our communities, state, and nation.

*For these ends, and upon these principles, we hereby establish and ordain this Constitution of the Independence Party of Minnesota.*

## **Article One** **Name**

### **Section 1. Name:**

The name of this organization shall be the Independence Party of Minnesota. The Independence Party of Minnesota shall also be known as the Independence Party, and the IP.

Subdivision 1. Initials: Upon adoption of the initials of the Independence Party of Minnesota, the initials may be inserted in place of the full name of the Independence Party of Minnesota.

## **Article Two** **Object**

### **Section 1. Object:**

The object of the Independence Party of Minnesota shall be to:

- A. Function as a Minnesota state major political party,
- B. Endorse candidates for partisan and non-partisan public office,
- C. Assist Independence Party of Minnesota - endorsed candidates in their campaigns for public office,
- D. Assist Independence Party of Minnesota - endorsed elected public officials in their service in public office,
- E. Advocate the enactment of public policy and laws that are consistent with the Independence Party principles, platform, and public policy positions,
- F. Support Independence Party of Minnesota members for appointed public office,
- G. Encourage and support citizen participation in the public political process, and
- H. Support and participate in similar activities at the national level.

## **Article Three** **Membership**

### **Section 1. Membership:**

Any person may be a member of the Independence Party of Minnesota who is:

- A. In agreement with the Independence Party of Minnesota principles and object,
- B. Is in compliance with the political party membership provisions of the Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules and;
- C. Is currently eligible to vote, or will be eligible to vote at the next general election.

## **Article Four** **State Convention**

### **Section 1. State Convention Organization:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence:** There shall be an Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention.

**Subdivision 2. Members and Officers:** The members of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall be the state delegates and the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention officers. When the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention is in session, the officers of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall be such as may be provided in the standing rules of the convention and the parliamentary authority. When the Independence Party of Minnesota

State Convention is not in session, the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers shall be the officers of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention.

**Subdivision 3. Responsibilities:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall provide the governance of the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 4. Powers:**

- A. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall be the supreme governing body of the Independence Party of Minnesota and shall have all power and authority of the Independence Party of Minnesota, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.
- B. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention may exercise any power and take any action that any subordinate party convention, Party committee, or other Independence Party of Minnesota entity is authorized by this Constitution and the Bylaws to exercise or take.

**Subdivision 5. Duties:** The State Convention shall:

- A. Elect the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers,
- B. Endorse candidates for statewide public office, or return votes of no endorsement.
- C. Adopt the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Platform. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention may assume other such duties, as it deems appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Section 2. State Convention Sessions:**

**Subdivision 1. Regular Sessions:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall assemble in regular session once in each calendar year. The day or days, time, and location of each such session shall be set by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. A written call to each such session shall be mailed to each state delegate at least thirty days before the opening of such session. The quorum for each such session shall be one-third of the state delegates in attendance at the session. The program of each regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall provide a period of time for delegates to convene by Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District and take up the business of their congressional district conventions.

**Subdivision 2. Special Sessions:** Special sessions of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention may be called by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee or authority designated by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. The day or days, time, and location of each such session shall be set by the committee or authority calling the session. A written call to each such session shall be mailed to each state delegate at least fifteen days before the opening of the session. Only those items of business that are specifically stated in the call to each such session shall be in order in the session. Such items shall be determined by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee or authority designated by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. The quorum for each special session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention shall be one third of the state delegates without regard to the number of delegates present at the session.

**Subdivision 3. Emergency Sessions:**

- A. Emergency sessions of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention may be called without previous notice by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee or authority designated by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. The quorum for each such session shall be the majority of the state delegates, without regard to the number of delegates present at the session.
- B. No business shall be in order in any emergency session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention that could otherwise be taken up in a special session or regular session without adverse consequence to the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 4. Platform Session:** A separate Platform Convention may be called with the same quorum and call requirements as specified for a regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention.

### **Section 3. State Delegates:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence and Number:** Each Congressional District shall allocate delegates per the rules and procedures of the Congressional District but no more than 10 delegates per Legislative District.

**Subdivision 2. Election:** State delegates from each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District shall be elected by majority vote of the Independence Party members at the regular session of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention. Such delegates shall be reported to the State Party Secretary no more than 14 days following the delegate's election.

#### **Subdivision 3. Term:**

- A. The term of office for each State Delegate shall begin 15 days ~~72 hours~~ after the close of the regular session of the delegate's Congressional District convention during even-numbered years and end 14 days after the close ~~one day before the opening~~ of the next such session during even-numbered years. (NOTE: This section is in interim status as per Article 15, Section 5 until ratified at the 2017 State Convention. The changes have been underlined and struck through for the readers convenience).
- B. Where a delegate fails to attend two consecutive conventions to which the delegate was properly called, or where delegate status verification procedures exist the same for all delegates, and a delegate fails to comply with such procedures, that delegate shall be declared nonfeasant by action of the State Executive Committee.
- C. Whereupon, that delegate's seat shall immediately become vacant. Such a declaration of nonfeasance shall be treated as an ordinary item of business, and not as a corrective or disciplinary action, as defined by this Constitution, the Bylaws, and/or parliamentary authority.

**Subdivision 4. Vacancy:** Each state delegate vacancy shall be filled per the rules and procedures of the Congressional District.

## **Article Five** **State Central Committee**

### **Section 1. State Central Committee Organization:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence:** There shall be an Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee.

#### **Subdivision 2. Members and Officers:**

- A. The members of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall be the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members, members of each Congressional District Committee, and State Central Committee persons.
- B. Each Independence Party of Minnesota -endorsed elected public official who is a State Representative, State Senator, State Constitutional officer, United States Representative, or United States Senator shall be an ex-officio member of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers shall be the officers of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee.

**Subdivision 3. Responsibilities:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall provide the governance of the Independence Party of Minnesota between sessions of the Independence Party of Minnesota State convention.

**Subdivision 4. Powers:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall be the second-highest governing body of the Independence Party of Minnesota and shall have the power to

adopt, amend, and rescind provisions of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Bylaws by majority vote.

**Subdivision 5. Duties:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall:

- A. Oversee and supervise the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee, and
- B. Elect at-large members of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall have such other duties as are appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.
- C. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee may exercise any power and take any action that any subordinate Independence Party of Minnesota Convention, Independence Party of Minnesota Committee, or other Independence Party of Minnesota entity is authorized by this Constitution, the Bylaws, and/or parliamentary authority, to exercise or take.

**Subdivision 6. State Central Committee Persons and Alternates:** For each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District, there shall be no more than 10 Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee persons. The election, term, removal, and vacancy provisions for each such committee person shall be the same as such provision for Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee officers. Each Congressional District shall elect alternates per the rules and procedures of the Congressional District.

## **Section 2. State Central Committee Meetings:**

**Subdivision 1. Regular Meetings:**

- A. There shall be regular meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee. Each such meeting shall occur no less than ninety days and no more than two hundred seventy days after the close of the preceding regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention. The meeting day or days, time, and location shall be set by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed to each Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee member and each alternate Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee person at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting.
- B. The quorum for each regular meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall be one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee members in attendance.

**Subdivision 2. Special Meetings:** Special meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee may be called by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee or by petition of one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Secretary. The day or days, time, and location of each such meeting shall be set by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee or stated in the petition for the meeting. A written call to each such meeting shall be mailed to each Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee member and alternate Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee person at least fifteen days before the opening of the meeting. Only those items of business that are specifically stated in the call to each such meeting shall be in order in the meeting. Such items shall be determined by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee or stated in the petition for the meeting. The quorum for each special meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee shall be one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee members, without regard to the number of members present at the meeting.

**Subdivision 3. Emergency Meetings:** Emergency meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee may be called without previous notice by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson, the majority of the committee officers, or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. The quorum for each such meeting shall be the majority of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee members without regard to the number of members present

at the meeting. No business shall be in order in any emergency meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee that could otherwise be taken up in a special meeting or regular meeting without adverse consequence to the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 4. Electronic voice or data meetings:** Any regular, special or emergency meeting that is properly called, may be held by electronic voice or data meeting (including but not limited to teleconference). Any actions taken at such a meeting shall be reaffirmed at the next regular meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee meeting.

## **Article Six**

### **State Executive Committee**

#### **Section 1. State Executive Committee Organization:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence:** There shall be an Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee.

**Subdivision 2. Members and Officers:** The members of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall be the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers, Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee chairpersons, and four at-large members elected by the Independence Party of Minnesota Central Committee. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers shall be the officers of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee.

**Subdivision 3. Responsibilities:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall provide the governance of the Independence Party of Minnesota between meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee and when the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention is not in session.

**Subdivision 4. Powers:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall be the third-highest governing body of the Independence Party of Minnesota and shall have such powers as may be appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee may exercise any power and take any action that any subordinate Independence Party of Minnesota convention, Independence Party of Minnesota committee, or other Independence Party of Minnesota entity as authorized by this Constitution, or the Bylaws to exercise or take.

**Subdivision 5. Duties:** The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall conduct the day-to-day business of the independence Party of Minnesota and shall have other such duties as may be appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the independence Party of Minnesota, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

#### **Section 2. State Executive Committee Meetings:**

**Subdivision 1. Regular Meetings:** There shall be a regular meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee at least once in each calendar quarter. The day or days, time, and location of each such meeting shall be set by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson, or in the event of chairperson nonfeasance, the majority of the Committee officers. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed to each Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee member at least fifteen days before the opening of the meeting. The quorum for each regular meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall be one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members in attendance.

**Subdivision 2. Special Meetings:** Special meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee may be called by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson,

the majority of the Committee officers, or petition of one third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members. Such a petition shall be filed with the State Party Secretary. The day or days, time, and location of each such meeting shall be set by the State Party Chairperson, Committee officers calling the meeting, or stated in the petition for the meeting. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed to each Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee member at least fifteen days before the day of the meeting. The quorum for each special meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall be one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members without regard to the number of members present at the meeting, subject to this Constitution, the Bylaws, and/or parliamentary authority.

**Subdivision 3. Emergency Meetings:** Emergency meetings of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee may be called without previous notice by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson, the majority of the Committee officers, or one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members. The quorum for each such meeting shall be the majority of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members, without regard to the number of members present at the meeting. No business shall be in order in any emergency meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee that could otherwise be taken up in a special meeting or regular meeting without adverse consequence to the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 4. Electronic voice or data meetings:** Any regular, special or emergency meeting that is properly called, may be held by electronic voice or data meeting (including but not limited to teleconference). Any actions taken at such a meeting shall be reaffirmed at the next regular meeting of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee meeting.

### **Section 3. State Party Officers:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence and Designation:** There shall be Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers shall be the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson, Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Director, Independence Party of Minnesota Secretary, and Independence Party of Minnesota Treasurer. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all Independence Party of Minnesota committees, except nominations committees.

#### **Subdivision 2. Deputy State Party Officers:**

- A. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Secretary and Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Treasurer may each have a deputy, known as the Independence Party of Minnesota Deputy State Party Secretary and Independence Party of Minnesota Deputy State Party Treasurer respectively. The Independence Party of Minnesota Deputy State Party officers shall assist their respective Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers in the performance of their duties, as directed by their Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers. The Independence Party of Minnesota Deputy State Party officers shall not be seated as Executive Committee members, shall not vote as Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee members, and shall not serve as Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers, except where a deputy's respective Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer is absent, unavailable, or found to be nonfeasant by proper action of the Independence Party of Minnesota.
- B. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Deputy State Party officer shall be nominated solely by his or her respective Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer. The Independence State Party Executive Committee shall approve or deny such nominated deputies.

#### **Subdivision 3. Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers:**

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer shall have, as appropriate to one's office, such parliamentary and administrative duties, responsibilities and powers as are appropriate and necessary to carry on the parliamentary and administrative affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota.

- B. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chair shall be the highest executive of the party. He or she will serve as the liaison between the Independence Party of Minnesota and the media, public, and government. The Chair will also serve as head of the State Convention. Party Spokespersons can be appointed by Independence Party of Minnesota Chair. The spokesperson shall have no conflict with any other political position.
- C. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chair shall be a voting member of the Independence Party of Minnesota Executive Committee
- D. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Director shall be the highest executive of party governance. He or she will serve as head of the Independence Party of Minnesota Executive Committee and Central Committee of the Independence Party. The Independence Party of Minnesota Director shall manage the day to day operations of the Independence Party of Minnesota Executive Committee.

**Subdivision 4. Election:** Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officers shall be elected by majority vote of the State delegates at each odd-numbered-calendar-year regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chair and Director shall be nominated and elected as a ticket by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention.

**Subdivision 5. Term:** The term of office for each Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer shall begin fifteen days after the close of each odd-numbered-calendar-year regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention and end fourteen days after the close of the next such session.

**Subdivision 6. Vacancy:**

- A. Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention. Each Independence Party of Minnesota State Party officer vacancy may be temporarily filled by resolution of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee.
- B. Each person appointed by such a resolution shall be the officer pro tem of the office named in the resolution and shall immediately and automatically yield the office upon the filling of the office by Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention vote. Where the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Treasurer is absent or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Treasurer office is vacant, the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson shall also serve as the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Treasurer until the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Treasurer is no longer absent or the office is no longer vacant.

**Bylaw 01.00. At-Large Executive Committee Members:**

**Bylaw 01.10. Existence and Number:** There shall be four at-large members of the State Executive Committee.

**Bylaw 01.20. Election:** Each at-large Executive Committee member shall be elected by majority vote of the State Central Committee at its regular meeting in each odd-numbered calendar year.

**Bylaw 01.30. Term:** The term of office for each at-large Executive Committee member shall begin fifteen days after the close of the odd-numbered-calendar-year regular meeting of the State Central Committee and end fourteen days after the close of the next such meeting.

**Bylaw 01.40. Vacancy:** At-large Executive Committee member vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the State Central Committee. Such vacancies may be temporarily filled by resolution of the State Executive Committee. Each person so appointed by State Executive Committee resolution shall be a pro tem Committee member and shall immediately and automatically yield the office upon the filling of the office by State Central Committee vote.

**Bylaw 10.00. State Executive Committee:**



**Bylaw 10.10. State Executive Committee Members:**

**Bylaw 10.11. No Restrictions on Campaign Activities:** No State Executive Committee member shall be restricted from being an active participant/member of an endorsed IP candidate's campaign and/or campaign committee.

**Bylaw 10.12. State Executive Committee vote on allocating funds:** However, should the State Executive Committee hold a vote on allocating State Party funds to such candidates, any State Executive Committee member who is an active participant/member of an endorsed IP candidate's campaign/campaign committee, shall abstain from voting on such a matter.

**Bylaw 10.13. Voluntary leave of absence:** Any State Executive Committee member who shall become an active participant/member of an endorsed IP candidate's campaign/campaign committee, may at his/her own discretion, voluntarily take a leave of absence from the State Executive Committee for the duration of that campaign.

**Bylaw 10.20. Attendance:**

**Bylaw 10.21. Unexcused absence of State Executive Committee members:**

- A. Every State Executive Committee member must contact the State Party Secretary, State Party Deputy Secretary, State Party Chair, or the State Party Vice-Chair, if the member will not be able to attend a regular or special meeting of the State Executive Committee. At the time of this contact, an Independence Party Congressional District Chairperson may designate another Congressional District Committee member to fully represent him or her at the meeting.
- B. Notice of each such meeting must be given to every State Executive Committee member by phone call, fax or by email, at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.
- C. If any State Executive Committee member fails to notify one of the above referenced Officers, then the member will be noted on the Minutes of that meeting as an "unexcused absence".
- D. After three unexcused absences during a calendar year, any further unexcused absences will be cause for removal from the State Executive Committee.
- E. Such removal will be subject to a vote of the State Executive Committee, and removal must be on the published agenda that is mailed, faxed or emailed to every member of the State Executive Committee, including the member subject to removal.
- F. Any such member subject to removal would be entitled to appeal such action, pursuant to Article 14, Section 2, Subdivision 8 of the State Party Constitution.

## **Article Seven**

### **State Special Committees**

**Section 1. State Special Committees:**

- A. There shall be Independence Party of Minnesota State Special Committees. Each Independence Party of Minnesota State Special committee may also be known as a State ad hoc committee, select committee, screening committee, advisory committee, Investigating committee, commission, or task force. Independence Party of Minnesota State Special committees may be formed by resolution of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention, Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee, Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee, or action by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson. The properties of each Independence Party of Minnesota State Special committee shall be specified in the resolution to appoint the Special committee; except each Independence Party of Minnesota State Special committee formed by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson shall serve as directed by the State Party Chairperson, and each such committee may be dissolved by the State Executive Committee. No State Special committee shall exist for more than eighteen consecutive calendar months without being again formed by the authority that

first formed the Special committee. No Special committee formed by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson shall become effective until the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Chairperson has notified the State Executive Committee that the chairperson has formed a Special Committee.

- B. Such notification may take place by mail to each Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee member, or by an announcement that is made and at an Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee meeting and recorded in that meeting's minutes.

## **Article Eight**

### **Congressional District Conventions**

#### **Section 1. Congressional District Convention Organization:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence and Number:** There shall be one Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention for each Congressional District in the State of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 2. Members and Officers:** The members of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall be the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention officers and the State delegates that are eligible to vote in the convention's Congressional District. Such delegates shall also be known as Congressional District delegates and shall be the same persons as the state delegates. When each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention is in session, the officers of the convention shall be such as may be provided in the standing rules of the convention and the parliamentary authority. When each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention is not in session, the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Party officers shall be the officers of their Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention.

**Subdivision 3. Responsibilities:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall provide the governance of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District.

**Subdivision 4. Powers:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall be the highest governing body of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District; except the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention, Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee, and Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall have all power and authority of the independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Subdivision 5. Duties:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall:

- A. Elect its Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Party officers, and;
- B. Endorse candidates for the office of United States Representative for its Congressional District, or return votes of no endorsement.
- C. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention may assume other such duties, as it deems appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

#### **Section 2. Congressional District Convention Sessions:**

##### **Subdivision 1. Regular Sessions:**

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall assemble in regular session at least once in each calendar year. A written call to each such session shall be

mailed to each state delegate and local delegate in the convention's Congressional District at least thirty days before the opening of the session.

- B. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention must assemble a minimum of forty-five calendar days preceding the regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention.

**Subdivision 2. Special Sessions:**

- A. Special sessions of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention may be called by the convention's Congressional District Committee or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. Such sessions may also be called by petition of one-third of the convention delegates. Such a petition shall be filed with the appropriate Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Secretary. The day or days, time, and location of each such session shall be set by the committee calling the session or stated in the petition for the session.
- B. A written call to each such session shall be mailed to each state delegate and local delegate in the convention's Congressional District at least fifteen days before the opening of the session. Only those items of business that are specifically stated in the call to each such session shall be in order in the session.
- C. Such items shall be determined by the committee calling the session or stated in the petition for the session. The quorum for each special session of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention shall be one-third of the convention delegates without regard to the number of delegates in attendance.

**Subdivision 3. Emergency Sessions:** Emergency sessions of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention may be called without previous notice by the appropriate Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District chairperson, the majority of the appropriate Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officers, the convention's Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee, or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. The quorum for each emergency session of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District convention shall be the majority of the Congressional District delegates, without regard to the number of delegates present at the emergency session. No business shall be in order in any emergency session of any Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention that could otherwise be taken up in a special session or regular session without adverse consequence to the Independence Party of Minnesota.

## **Article Nine**

### **Congressional District Committees**

**Section 1. Organization:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence and Function:** There shall be one Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee for each Congressional District. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall be, one in the same, the Central committee and the Executive committee of its Congressional District.

**Subdivision 2. Members and Officers:** The members of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall be the Congressional District Party officers and any other members as per the rules and procedures of the Congressional District.

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Legislative District committee, the territorial limits of which are wholly within the territorial limits of one Congressional District, shall be a resident Legislative District committee of that Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District.
- B. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Legislative District committee, the territorial limits of which extend into the territorial limits of more than one Congressional District, shall be a resident Legislative District committee of one of those Congressional Districts; the one shall be designated

by resolution of the Independence Party of Minnesota Legislative District committee. Such resolution shall be filed with the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Secretary and with the secretaries of each pertinent Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee.

- C. Independence Party of Minnesota Each Legislative District committee shall be within the jurisdiction of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention and Congressional District committee of which it is a resident Legislative District committee.
- D. For the purposes of delegate registration and seating, at Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District conventions and Independence Party of Minnesota State conventions, each delegate shall be registered and seated according to the Congressional District in which the delegate is eligible to vote.

**Subdivision 3. Responsibilities:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall provide the governance of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District between sessions of its Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention.

**Subdivision 4. Powers:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall be the next-highest governing body of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District to its Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention; and shall have the power to adopt, amend, and rescind provisions of its Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Bylaws by majority vote. Previous notice of any motion pertaining to the Congressional District Bylaws shall be included in the call to the meeting in which the motion will be an item of business. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall have other such powers as are appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Subdivision 5. Duties:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall have such duties as are appropriate and necessary to carry on the affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota in its Congressional District, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

## **Section 2. Congressional District Committee Meetings:**

**Subdivision 1. Regular Meetings:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall conduct a regular Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee meeting at least once in each calendar year; however, Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committees may conduct regular Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee meetings on a more frequent basis when necessary. Each such meeting shall occur no less than ninety days and no more than two hundred seventy days after each regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention, the territorial limits of which are the same as the territorial limits of the Congressional District committee. The day or days, time and location of each such meeting shall be set by the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee chairperson, or in the event of chairperson nonfeasance, the majority of the committee officers. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed to each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee member at least thirty days before the opening of the meeting. The quorum for each regular meeting of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall be one-third of the committee members in attendance.

### **Subdivision 2. Special Meetings:**

- A. Special meetings of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee may be called by the committee chairperson, the majority of the committee officers, or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. Such meetings may also be called by petition of one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee members. Such a petition shall be filed with the Committee Secretary. The day or days, time, and location of each such meeting shall be set by the chairperson, officers, or committee calling the meeting or stated in the petition for the meeting.

- B. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed to each committee member at least fifteen days before the opening of the meeting. The quorum for each special meeting of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee shall be one-third of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee members without regard to the number of members present at the meeting.

**Subdivision 3. Emergency Meetings:**

- A. Emergency meetings of each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee may be called without previous notice by the committee chairperson, the majority of the committee officers, or the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee. The quorum for each such meeting shall be the majority of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee members, without regard to the number of members present at the meeting.
- B. No business shall be in order in any emergency meeting of any Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee that could otherwise be taken up in a special meeting or regular meeting without adverse consequence to the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Section 3. Congressional District Officers:**

**Subdivision 1. Existence and Designation:** There shall be Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Party officers for each Congressional District. The Congressional District Party officers shall be the Congressional District Party chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer.

**Subdivision 2. Duties, Responsibilities, and Powers:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officer shall have, as appropriate to one's office, such parliamentary and administrative duties, responsibilities, and powers as are appropriate and necessary to carry on the parliamentary and administrative affairs of the Independence Party of Minnesota, subject to this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Subdivision 3. Election:** The Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officers of each Congressional District shall be elected by majority vote of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention delegates at each odd numbered- calendar-year regular session of the Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention.

**Subdivision 4. Term:** The term of office for each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officer shall be begin fifteen days after the close of the odd-numbered-calendar-year regular session of the officer's Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention and end fourteen days after the close of the next such session.

**Subdivision 5. Vacancy:**

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officer vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of an Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District Convention that has the same territorial limits as the vacant office. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District officer vacancy that continues for more than sixty days may be filled by resolution of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee.

**Bylaw 04.00. Candidate Endorsement:**

**Bylaw 04.10. Eligibility:** Any member of the Independence Party of Minnesota shall be eligible for endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota, as a candidate for elected office.

**Bylaw 04.20. Application Process:** Any person seeking endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota shall submit an Application for Endorsement to the Chair of the Independence Party of Minnesota State or, Congressional District authorized to convey the convention for the endorsement of

the Independence Party of Minnesota or the Chair of the superior Independence Party of Minnesota organization, which contains the territory of the respective endorsing convention.

**Bylaw 04.30. Endorsement Application:** An “Endorsement Application” shall be prepared by the Executive Committee, and shall be signed by the candidate, and dated, and shall be witnessed by an Officer of the respective or superior Executive Committee.

**Bylaw 04.40. Candidate Screening Committee:** The Officers of the respective Executive Committee of the Convention which shall consider endorsement, shall compose the Candidate Screening Committee, and shall determine, based on the Endorsement Application, if the candidate as “Qualified” for seeking endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota or shall provide the basis of determining the candidate is unqualified to seek endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota. The candidate deemed “Unqualified” may appeal the decision to the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee.

**Bylaw 04.50. Resources:** A candidate deemed “Qualified” shall be granted access to the Convention Roll of State Delegates and State Alternates accredited to the respective convention for which the candidate shall seek endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota. Use of the Convention Roll shall be limited solely to the solicitation of support for candidate endorsement. The Convention Roll of Delegates and Alternates shall be deemed copyrighted material, and the property of the Independence Party of Minnesota, and is granted as a license to the candidate. Any unauthorized use, other than for the license granted shall be deemed to be valued at Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per name for each said unauthorized usage due and payable upon demand.

**Bylaw 04.60. Resources Prohibited:** No funds or resources, including web pages, or email of any respective Independence Party of Minnesota organization shall be used for the candidacy of any person seeking endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota. No Independence Party of Minnesota State, or Congressional District Officer or appointee, including Precinct Caucus Conveners, or Coordinators, shall assist any candidate seeking endorsement, while in the performance of their official duties.

**Bylaw 04.80. Cross Endorsement:** No person may be granted the endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota, who is not a member of the Independence Party of Minnesota, or is a member and / or candidate of another political party.

- A. Any Independence Party of Minnesota endorsement granted to a candidate who violates this provision, shall be automatically be revoked by the Chair of the respective State, or Congressional District which granted endorsement to the candidate.

**Bylaw 04.90. Balloting:**

- A. All voting shall be by secret ballot and shall include the option of “No Endorsement”.
- B. Balloting of three or more candidates shall be by means of a ranked choice voting.
- C. If only one candidate has been presented to the convention for endorsement for an elected office, a motion of a unanimous ballot (white ballot), shall be in order, and shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the convention.
- D. A blank ballot shall be deemed a ballot not cast.

**Bylaw 04.100. Endorsement Threshold:** The endorsement of any candidate shall require a three-fifths (3/5) majority vote of the ballots cast for the candidate.

**Bylaw 04.110. Endorsement Duration:** The duration of an endorsement of the Independence Party of Minnesota, unless otherwise provided, shall be effective until:

- A. The endorsed candidate is no longer a candidate due to the voluntary withdraw of the candidate
- B. The endorsed candidate is no longer a candidate due to failure to win election of a Primary or General Election of the office sought.
- C. The endorsed candidate is elected and completion of the term of elected office.
- D. The endorsed candidate becomes a candidate for the same office in the next election or different elected office.

## **Article Ten**

### **Constituency Conventions and Committees**

#### **Section 1. Existence and Rank:**

- A. There shall be constituency conventions and constituency committees. Where they cross Congressional District borders the designation and territorial limits of the Minnesota territorial division, political subdivision, or administrative unit for which such convention assembles or such committee is formed.
- B. Where constituencies are wholly within a Congressional District, such constituency conventions and constituency committees shall be governed per the rules and procedures of the Congressional District.

#### **Section 2. Constituency Conventions:**

The members of each constituency convention shall be the delegates who are eligible to vote within the territorial limits of the convention. The quorum for each session of each constituency convention shall be one-third of the convention delegates without regard to the number of delegates present at the session.

#### **Section 3. Constituency Committees:**

Constituency committees may be formed by:

- A. Resolution of the Congressional District Convention or Congressional District committee, the territorial limits of which wholly contain the territorial limits of the committee so formed, or
- B. Joint resolution of the State Executive Committee and Congressional District Conventions or Congressional District committees; the combined territorial limits of which wholly contain the territorial limits of the committee so formed. The properties of each committee so formed shall be such as are stated in the resolution to form the committee.

#### **Bylaw 05.50. Non-Partisan Candidates Supported by a Constituency Committee:**

**Bylaw 05.51. Distribution of Party Funds by Constituency Committee to Supported Non-Partisan Candidates:** A Constituency Committee organized under Article 10 of the IP State Constitution may distribute Party funds as well as in-kind resources and materials (collectively referred to as “distributions”) to candidates that it supports for local non-partisan office. No nonpartisan candidates shall receive a distribution from a Constituency Committee until support is declared for that non-partisan candidate.

**Bylaw 05.52. Declaring Support for a Candidate: Prohibition without delegate vote:** A Constituency Committee develops its organization as provided for by Article 10 of the IP State Constitution. A Constituency Committee shall not make any distributions to a non-partisan candidate until such Committee, whether in its Charter, Constitution, Bylaws or Standing Rules of its Executive Committee or the like, allows for all IP delegates residing within the geographic bounds of the constituency, to have the opportunity to vote to declare support for such non-partisan candidate put forward. The Constituency Committee cannot declare support for a non-partisan candidate, and shall not make any distribution to such candidate, unless delegates vote to support a nonpartisan candidate.

**Bylaw 05.53. Voting to Support a Non-Partisan Candidate:** A vote on declaring support shall be called a “Support Vote”. Delegates shall have 15 days notice of a Support Vote. The quorum requirement for a Support Vote shall be 50% of those delegates in attendance at the meeting or convention where the Support Vote takes place. Support for a non-partisan candidate shall only be declared when 50% of the delegates in attendance vote in the affirmative to support such candidate. No nonpartisan candidate shall be considered supported without declaration of support through a Support Vote.

**Bylaw 05.54. Executive Committee of the Constituency or the Like:** A representative body of a Constituency Committee, such as an Executive Committee, may reserve the right to determine levels and methods of distribution. Such representative body may also reserve the right to put forward a non-partisan candidate for support, but should allow for some advisement from delegates in this process.

**Bylaw 05.55. Screening:** A Constituency Committee shall not hold a Support Vote until a nonpartisan candidate is properly screened and deemed eligible for support. After a candidate is put forward for support, the highest officer of the Constituency Committee shall provide for the screening of such candidate in a method that at the bare minimum demonstrates consistency in beliefs with the Platform of the IP. A Constituency Committee shall consider the bare minimum criteria of eligibility for support the same as eligibility for endorsement. A Constituency Committee is encouraged to determine eligibility for support on far more rigorous, locally relevant criteria as well. The highest officer of the Constituency Committee shall report to delegates prior to conducting a Support Vote, on whether or not a candidate is eligible for support. If the candidate is ineligible, no Support Vote shall take place. If a non-partisan candidate is considered ineligible after screening, and two delegates may by letter demand that the highest officer appoint a new screener or screening committee and such officer shall comply with that demand. No nonpartisan candidate shall be screened more than twice.

**Bylaw 05.56. Exclusion of Non-Partisan Candidates in a Race that is Partisan in Nature:** This section shall not pertain to any non-partisan elections anywhere that are partisan in nature by the fact that a party or political affiliation descriptor is placed on an official ballot with the candidate's name. In those circumstances, there shall be no disbursement without endorsement.

## **Article Eleven** **State Party Platform**

### **Section 1. Existence and Definition:**

**Subdivision 1. Formation:** There shall be a State Party Platform that shall consist of platform planks. The State Party Platform shall be:

- A. The highest official statement of public policy made and issued in the name of the Independence Party, and
- B. In keeping with the principles and object of the Independence Party. Each platform plank receiving three-fourths or more of a State Convention vote for it, as a cornerstone plank, shall be known as a cornerstone plank.
- C. Each platform plank not adopted as a cornerstone plank, yet receiving three-fifths or more of a State Convention vote shall be known as a supporting plank.

### **Section 2. Platform Formulation and “Sunset” for Planks:**

State Party platform planks may be adopted or repealed at any regular or special session of the State Convention for which the convention call indicated that platform would be a business item. In even-numbered calendar years, at the opening of platform deliberations by the regular session of the State Convention, each and every current plank will be removed from the platform if no State Convention has adopted or reaffirmed the plank since the last general, statewide election (November in the previous even-numbered year). Planks must be reaffirmed in the same way a new plank would be adopted.

### **Section 3. Platform Balloting:**

The ballot for platform planks shall list the following choices for each proposed plank: “Cornerstone”, “Supporting”, and “No”. Each voting delegate shall mark one choice per proposed plank. Planks receiving sufficient votes, as per Section II above, shall become cornerstone planks. Planks not receiving sufficient votes to become a cornerstone plank shall have their votes for “Cornerstone” and “Supporting” added together to ascertain if that plank received the requisite support to be a supporting plank as per Section 1 above.

## **Article Twelve** **Bylaws**

### **Section 1. Bylaws:**

There shall be State Party Bylaws and Congressional District Party Bylaws; also known as bylaws. Such bylaws shall be subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in keeping with the principles and object



of the Independence Party.

- A. Where any provision of any bylaws, rules or procedures conflicts with the provisions of any higher level bylaws and/or constitution, the provisions of the higher level bylaws and/or constitution shall prevail and the provision of the conflicting language shall be null and void.
- B. Current copies of all bylaws, rules and procedures at any level shall be filed with the State Party Secretary.

**Bylaw 11.00. Bylaws Amendment:**

**Bylaw 11.10. Amendment of Bylaws:** The State Party Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the State Central Committee or a majority vote of the State Party convention, provided that the text of each proposed amendment is included in the meeting notice or convention call for the meeting or convention session at which the proposed amendment is considered. The State Central Committee and State Party convention may also amend the Bylaws by a majority vote in a vote by mail, where all vote by mail rules then in effect are adhered to.

**Bylaw 11.20. Right to Propose Amendments:** Any Independence Party member, committee, or convention may propose amendments to the State Party Bylaws.

**Bylaw 11.30. Proposed Amendment Processes:** Proposed amendments to the State Party Bylaws shall be submitted in typewritten form, with a font size of ten points or greater, to the State Party Secretary. The State Party Secretary shall ensure that all proposed amendments are included in the meeting notice or convention call for the State Central Committee meeting or State Party convention at which the proposed amendments are to be considered. Except for reasonable formatting changes, no person may edit or otherwise alter the text of a proposed amendment, except the person or entity that is proposing it. Upon receipt of each proposed amendment, the State Party Secretary shall ensure that it is accurately published in its entirety and included in the appropriate meeting notice or convention call.

**Bylaw 11.40. Receipts and Deadlines:** Upon receipt of each proposed amendment to the State Party Bylaws, the State Party Secretary shall issue a written receipt to the submitting member or entity for the received items. Where a deadline date for the inclusion of proposed amendments in a meeting notice or convention call has been properly established and announced, no proposed amendments received by the State Party Secretary after the deadline date shall be included in the meeting notice or convention call to which the deadline applies.

**Bylaw 11.50. Payment of Proposed Amendment Costs:**

- A. Where a proposed amendment or a combined number of proposed amendments submitted by the same party member are no more than two 8 ½" page in length, the proposed amendments shall be included in the meeting notice or convention call at the Independence Party's expense.
- B. Where such proposed amendments exceed two pages in length, the full cost of printing and distributing the proposed amendments, including the cost of the first two pages, shall be borne by the member who is proposing the amendments. Where such costs apply, no proposed amendments shall be included in a meeting notice or convention call, before such costs have been fully paid.
- C. Proposed amendments submitted by the State Executive Committee, State Central Committee, or State Party convention shall be published and distributed at Independence Party expense, without regard to the length of the proposed amendments.

**Bylaw 11.60. Action On Proposed Amendments:** Where proposed amendments to the State Party Bylaws are taken up by the State Central Committee or State Party convention, the proposed amendments may be discussed, amended, and voted upon as any other item of business. No motion to amend a proposed amendment shall be in order where the motion is not germane to the subject(s) included in the proposed amendment.

## **Article Thirteen**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 1. Parliamentary Authority:**

The parliamentary authority of the independence Party shall be the current edition of The Scott Foresman Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. The provisions of the parliamentary authority shall prevail in all cases to which they apply and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Bylaws, and any Standing Rules, or special rules of order the Independence Party may adopt.

**Article Fourteen**  
**General Provisions**

**Section 1. Definitions:**

**Subdivision 1. “Legislative District” or “Congressional District”:** Shall mean a Minnesota territorial division of that name as Definition in the Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules.

**Subdivision 2. “Congressional District committee”, or “Congressional District Convention”:** Shall mean the Independence Party of Minnesota unit of that name, having the same territorial limits and titular number as the same named and numbered Minnesota territorial division, and having jurisdiction in those territorial limits, subject to the provisions of this constitution and the bylaws.

**Subdivision 3. “State Executive Committee”, “State Central Committee”, or “State Convention”:** Shall mean the Independence Party of Minnesota unit of that name having the same territorial limits as the territorial limits of the state of Minnesota, and having jurisdiction in those limits, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Subdivision 4. “Territorial limits”:** Shall mean the geographical boundaries of the state of Minnesota, territorial divisions, political subdivisions, or administrative units, as defined in the Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules.

**Subdivision 5. “File”, “filing”, or “filed”:** Shall mean mailed in a timely manner to the appropriate authority and kept in the official books or records of the independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 6. “Mail”, “by mail”, or “mailed”:** Shall mean sending or receiving documents via the first class mail service of the United States Postal Service, or by a method that is equally reliable and timely or more reliable and timely.

**Subdivision 7. “Eligible to vote”:** Shall mean eligible to vote in a State of Minnesota general election as provided in the Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules.

**Subdivision 8. “Independence Party official”:** Shall mean any person who is an Independence Party of Minnesota officer, Committee member, State delegate, or local delegate.

**Subdivision 9. “Properties”:** Of a convention or committee shall mean the existence, definition, designation, responsibilities, powers, duties, voting rights, sessions or meetings, quorum, members, officers, terms, and other such characteristics of the convention or committee.

**Subdivision 10. “Party”:** Shall mean the Independence Party of Minnesota, or of the Independence Party of Minnesota.

**Subdivision 11. “Endorsement”:** Shall mean said “Qualified” Candidate will be offered the support of The Independence Party and its respective governing bodies. It is to include Delegate, Data, Media, Financial Aid, and any other resources which the respective governing body can supply to a campaign.

**Subdivision 12. “Support Vote”:** Shall mean said “Qualified” Candidate for Non-Partisan office will be given a “show of support” by The Independence Party and its respective governing bodies. It is to be a limited backing of a campaign and it is to include, Delegate, Media, and any other resources which the

respective governing body can supply to a Non-Partisan campaign. In-kind resources may not be direct campaign materials, including but not limited to campaign literature, campaign lawn signs, or bumper stickers.

## **Section 2. General Provisions For Members and Officials:**

**Subdivision 1. Accreditation:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota member or official shall be accredited by virtue of one's standing as a member or official, and compliance with such registration requirements as may be provided in the Bylaws, the Independence Party of Minnesota parliamentary authority, or the standing rules of a convention.

**Subdivision 2. Fees:** While Independence Party of Minnesota entities may charge admission fees to Party members, Party officials, and/or members of the general public for certain events, no fees or assessments shall be charged to any individual as a condition of eligibility for Party office, continuing service in Party office, or participation in any independence Party of Minnesota convention or committee.

**Subdivision 3. Voting and Participation Rights:** No person shall be required to cast a vote contrary to one's expressed preference. No person shall be granted Independence Party of Minnesota voting rights who is not an Independence Party of Minnesota member in good standing. No person shall have more than one vote. No person shall have less than one vote. No Independence Party of Minnesota member or official shall be granted party voting rights who is not accredited. No person shall have convention voting rights who is not a State delegate or local delegate. No person shall be denied voting or participation rights except by due process as is provided in this Constitution and as may be further provided in the Bylaws and parliamentary authority.

- A. No person shall have committee voting rights who is not a member of the committee conducting a vote.
- B. No person shall have convention voting rights who is not a member of the convention conducting a vote.

**Subdivision 4. Proxy Voting Prohibited:** Except as expressly provided for in the Independence Party State Party Constitution and Bylaws there shall be no proxy votes or voting by proxy.

**Subdivision 5. Duties of Independence Party Officials:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota official shall, as appropriate to one's office:

- A. Read the Independence Party of Minnesota Constitution and Bylaws
- B. Be present at sessions and meetings,
- C. Notify officials of one's anticipated absence from upcoming meetings or sessions,
- D. Vote or register abstention from voting on questions that properly come before the official,
- E. Maintain proper registration,
- F. Cast vote by mail ballots in the time and manner provided for doing so,
- G. Respond to official Independence Party of Minnesota surveys, and
- H. Present such reports as may be officially requested.

**Subdivision 6. Limits of Responsibility, Power, and Duty:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota official shall have only those responsibilities, powers, and duties that are provided in this Constitution and such as may be provided in the Bylaws, standing rules of a committee, standing rules of a convention, or the parliamentary authority.

**Subdivision 7. Removal of Independence Party Officials:**

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota official that is elected by a convention may be removed from office for cause by a two-thirds vote of a convention that has the same territorial limits and jurisdiction as the convention that elected the official.
- B. Each Independence Party of Minnesota official that is elected by a committee may be removed from office for cause by two-thirds vote of a committee that has the same territorial limits and jurisdiction as the committee that elected the official.
- C. Each Independence Party of Minnesota official that is appointed may be removed from office for any reason by action of the authority that appointed the official.

**Subdivision 8. Appeals:** Except action pertaining to breaches of order in any meeting or session, corrective or disciplinary action that is imposed upon any Independence Party of Minnesota member, official, committee, or convention may be appealed within fifteen days of notification of such action to the committee that is next-higher to the committee or convention that imposed such action.

- A. After receipt of such an appeal, that next-higher committee may refer the appeal to its next higher committee or affirm, amend, or rescind the action imposed.
- B. No appeal so referred shall again be referred. Appeals shall have precedence over all other committee business.
- C. Notwithstanding Article Fourteen, Section 2, Subdivision 7 of this Constitution, the voting and participatory rights of any member, official, committee, or convention that has made such an appeal shall remain in full force and effect while one's appeal is pending; except that the authority that imposes corrective or disciplinary action upon an elected officer may direct that the officer shall be suspended from certain parliamentary and administrative responsibilities, powers, or duties while any appeal the officer may make is pending.

**Subdivision 9. Honors:** Honorary titles or positions may be conferred upon individuals by resolution of a convention, as appropriate to that convention's territorial limits and jurisdiction.

**Bylaw 07.00. At -Large National Seats:**

**Bylaw 07.10. Provisions For National Seats:**

**Bylaw 07.11. National Seats Defined:** Where the independence Party of Minnesota affiliates with a national political party, and the national party has delegate, board, committee, representative, or other such seats that provide the Independence Party of Minnesota with representation on one or more entities of the national political party, and where such seats may be filled by action of one or more Independence Party of Minnesota entities, the following provisions shall apply. For the purposes of this article, the above mentioned seats shall be collectively known as national seats.

**Bylaw 07.12. National Seats Filled By Elections:** Except where a person holds a national seat by virtue of his or her service in another Independence Party of Minnesota office, each national seat shall be filled by a person elected by the Independence Party of Minnesota committee or convention having jurisdiction appropriate to the seat. Where national party rules permit an Independence Party of Minnesota official to appoint a person to a national seat, the official shall only appoint a person who has been elected to fill that seat by an Independence Party of Minnesota committee or convention having appropriate jurisdiction.

**Bylaw 07.13. Alternates:** Where the national party rules permit alternate national seat holders to be selected, the alternates shall be elected in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as the national seat holders.

**Bylaw 07.14. Multiple Seating Prohibited:** No person may occupy more than one national seat at a time.

**Bylaw 07.15. Prior Member Activity Required:** Except where a person holds a national seat by virtue of his or her service in another Independence Party of Minnesota office, no person shall be eligible to fill any national seat that has not been an active member of the Independence Party of Minnesota at least one year prior to the date he or she would be elected to fill a national seat.

**Bylaw 07.16. Prior Member Activity Defined:** For the purpose of determining a member's active or inactive status, one or more of the following indicators shall be used:

- A. Attendance at official Independence Party meetings as documented in the meeting minutes or sign-in sheets,
- B. Dates of financial contributions made to the Independence Party of Minnesota or its endorsed candidates,
- C. Service as an Independence Party of Minnesota official at any level,
- D. Service on the campaign committee of any Independence Party-endorsed candidate, as attested

- to by the candidate or an official of the candidate's campaign committee,
- E. Service on a State of Minnesota board, agency, or commission where the law requires partisan identification to so serve and where the person is identified as an Independence Party member,
  - F. The personal production of objectively verifiable results that directly benefit the Independence Party of Minnesota, such as petition signatures gathered, volunteer hours logged, party building activities organized, funds raised, rallies organized, house parties hosted, new members recruited, literature distributed, etc.

**Bylaw 07.17. Eligibility Challenge:** Any Independence Party of Minnesota member may challenge the eligibility of another member that is seeking to fill a national seat. Eligibility challenges shall be submitted to the chairperson of the committee or convention that is conducting an election to fill the seat. Eligibility challenges may be made any time before the vote begins to fill a national seat. No anonymous eligibility challenges shall be accepted. Where an eligibility challenge is made, the committee or convention shall conduct a vote to rule on the person's eligibility. A two-thirds vote shall be required to deem the person ineligible. Before such a vote is taken, the person in question shall be given the opportunity to present his or her member activities to the committee or convention. Eligibility presentations and discussions shall be strictly limited to verifying member activities as described in Subdivision 6 of this section.

**Bylaw 07.18. National Seats Filled At The Pleasure Of The Electing Body:** Except where a person holds a national seat by virtue of his or her service in another Independence Party of Minnesota office,

- A. Each person who is seated in a national seat shall serve at the pleasure of the committee or convention that elects him or her, or at the pleasure of another committee or convention that has appropriate jurisdiction as defined by the Constitution and these Bylaws,
- B. Any person may be removed from any national seat, with notice, by the committee or convention that seated that person, or other committee or convention that has appropriate jurisdiction,
- C. Each national seat shall immediately and automatically fall vacant when a committee or convention having appropriate jurisdiction opens nominations for a successor to fill a currently occupied seat, and
- D. Each committee or convention having jurisdiction to fill a national seat may open nominations at any time and without notice, to fill the seat if it is vacant, or to elect a successor to the seat if it is occupied.

**Bylaw 07.19. Term of Office:** Except where a person holds a national seat by virtue of his or her current service in another Independence Party of Minnesota office, each person that is seated in a national seat shall serve a term of two years, beginning on the date he or she is elected to fill the seat, or shall serve until his or her successor is elected.

### **Section 3. General Provisions for Conventions and Committees:**

**Subdivision 1. Congressional District Rules and Procedures:** Congressional Districts shall have bylaws, rules, and procedures. In the absence of said bylaws, rules, and procedures that are applicable to stated provisions with the State Party Constitution or Bylaws, the State Executive Committee may implement temporary bylaws, rules and procedures until such time as the Congressional District adopts their own bylaws, rules and procedures.

**Subdivision 2. Rules:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota convention may adopt rules pertaining to its delegates, officers of the convention, and the conduct of the business and affairs of the convention. Such rules shall be known as the standing rules of the convention. Standing rules of the convention shall be subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws. The effect of such rules shall expire at the close of the session at which the rules were adopted.

**Subdivision 3. Minutes:** Each Independence Party of Minnesota convention and committee shall provide for the keeping and approval of minutes of its session proceedings, and for the filing of such minutes with the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Secretary.

**Subdivision 4. Power To Form Standing and Special Committees:** Each convention and each committee shall have the power to form standing committees and special committees, as appropriate to

its jurisdiction, and subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Bylaw 09.00. State Standing Rules:**

**Bylaw 09.10. State Standing Rules:** The State Executive Committee shall be tasked with the creation and implementation of any State Standing Rules.

**Subdivision 4. Vote By Mail:**

- A. The officers of each Independence Party of Minnesota convention or committee may conduct votes by mail. Each vote by mail shall be by written ballot. No vote by mail shall be by secret ballot. The percentage of votes tallied in a vote by mail shall be the percentage of all possible votes, without regard to the number of ballots actually cast. No vote by mail election or ballot question shall be decided by less than a majority vote.
- B. Procedures for conducting a vote by mail and for the authentication, public inspection, filing, and retention of vote by mail ballots, and for challenging the accuracy of a vote by mail, shall be such as may be provided in the Bylaws. No vote by mail shall be conducted in the absence of such Bylaws provisions. No vote by mail shall be conducted in lieu of any session, meeting, business, or action required by the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Bylaw 06.00. Voting By Mail:**

**Bylaw 06.10. Procedures:** When calling for a vote by mail the chair of the convention or committee conducting the vote shall set the timeline for ballots to be returned. Reasonably sufficient time shall be allowed so that voting members may consider their vote and consult with other members of the convention or committee regarding the consequences of the vote. Ballots may be cast by United States Postal Service, electronic mail, or facsimile. The chair conducting the vote shall also provide the location(s) to which the ballots are to be returned and the ballot form which he or she will accept.

**Bylaw 06.20. Vote Authentication:** The chair of the convention or committee conducting a vote by mail shall exercise due diligence in authenticating the returned ballots. The chair of the convention or committee conducting a vote by mail shall notify each member of the convention or committee of the voting results, including a report of each member's vote, abstention from voting, failure to respond, or returned due to bad address.

**Bylaw 06.30. Public Inspection. Filing and Retention:** Voting results and individual vote by mail ballots shall be a matter of public record. All physical and electronic ballots shall be retained until after the next meeting of the convention or committee conducting the vote. The occurrence and results of a vote by mail shall be reported in the minutes of the next meeting of the committee that conducted the vote by mail or the next session of the convention that conducted the vote by mail.

**Bylaw 06.40. Challenging Vote(s):** Any voting member of the convention or committee conducting a vote under these provisions may challenge the authenticity of any vote(s). The convention or committee may uphold the challenge(s) and rescind a motion passed in a vote by mail by a majority vote at the next meeting of the convention or committee conducting the vote.

**Subdivision 5. District Fundraising:**

- A. Each Independence Party of Minnesota Congressional District committee may raise and disburse money in the name of the Independence Party.
- B. Each committee that does so shall:
  - I. Be fully responsible for its own compliance with the applicable statutes, rules, codes, and regulations
  - II. File copies of all government required reports with the State Party Treasurer the same day such reports are filed with the government agencies.
  - III. Maintain an account for such funds, and
  - IV. Provide copies of account statements for that account to the State Party Treasurer as often as such statements are issued.

**Subdivision 6. Spending Restrictions:** No money shall be disbursed by any Independence Party of Minnesota State Convention, State Committee, or State Treasurer

- A. In support of any public policy initiative that is not in keeping with the Independence Party of Minnesota principles and Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Platform, or
- B. The benefit of any candidate for public office who is not endorsed by the Independence Party of Minnesota, except as may be provided in the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Bylaws, or
- C. For any purpose that is not in keeping with the Independence Party of Minnesota object.

**Bylaw 05.00. Distribution of Party Funds:**

**Bylaw 05.10. State Income Tax Check off Proceeds:** All state income tax check-off proceeds received by the party from the Minnesota Department of Revenue may be distributed to and disbursed by the State Executive Committee as the State Executive Committee deems appropriate, subject to the provisions of the State Party Constitution and Bylaws.

**Bylaw 05.20. PCR Proceeds:** Each Party unit that accepts PCR contributions is required to register said unit with the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board before accepting any cash contributions. Each Party unit that is registered and recognized by the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board is entirely responsible for complying with all rules, regulations and required filings as mandated by the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board.

Each cash contribution received by the State Party (IP of MN) under the Minnesota Political Campaign Refund (PCR) Program may be disbursed by the State Executive Committee as the State Executive Committee deems appropriate, subject to the provisions of the State Party Constitution and Bylaws. The State Party will provide a PCR receipt from the State Party to the contributor in a timely manner, as prescribed by law, for the refund application.

Each cash contribution received by a Congressional District Party unit under the Minnesota Political Campaign Refund (PCR) Program may be disbursed by the Congressional District Party unit as that Congressional District Executive Committee deems appropriate, subject to the provisions of the State Party Constitution and Bylaws; provided that the Congressional District Party unit has a duly elected Chair and Treasurer, and a bank account for deposit of contributions. That Party unit will provide a PCR receipt from that unit to the contributor in a Timely manner, as prescribed by law, for the refund application.

The State Executive Committee may institute reciprocal revenue sharing arrangements with all Party Units, subject to the restriction that (1) the receiving Party unit retains a minimum of 75% of the contributions received by the respective Party unit and (2) the revenue sharing percentage is equal and reciprocal between the State Party and the other Party units.

**Bylaw 05.30. Other Proceeds:** Each cash contribution that is not a state income tax check off contribution and not a PCR contribution shall be subject to the same rules as PCR proceeds contained in Bylaw 05.20.

**Section 4. General Administrative Provisions:**

**Subdivision 1. Accounting Standards:** Each financial report given or approved by any Independence Party of Minnesota official, committee, or convention shall be in keeping with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Subdivision 2. Open Meetings and Books:**

- A. Certain Independence Party of Minnesota meetings, sessions, books, records, and lists/databases shall be open to the public; except executive sessions, the minutes of executive sessions, membership lists, and contributor lists; works in progress that are not ready for public distribution and certain lists/databases designated as confidential in the Bylaws, or by action of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee or higher-ranking authority. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall have the authority to establish

a Confidentiality Agreement and/or Standing Rule to control the distribution of delegate, membership and Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee lists/databases, to any person or entity, or candidates for the Independence Party of Minnesota.

- B. The Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee shall, at all times, maintain current and accurate lists of all Independence Party of Minnesota officials, including the official's names, mailing address and home telephone number. Lists of Independence Party of Minnesota officials shall at all times be fully available to any Independence Party of Minnesota official who requests such list. Where the cost of printing and/or delivering lists(s) exceeds \$1.00, fees may be charged to the requesting Party official for such lists. The amount of any such fee shall not exceed the actual cost of printing and/or delivering the requested list(s).
- C. Where such fee is charged to a requesting Independence Party of Minnesota official, the fee shall be calculated in the same way as for all requesting Independence Party of Minnesota officials.

**Bylaw 08.00. Redistricting:**

**Bylaw 08.10. Redistricting:** Redistricting of Party units shall comply with: national or state census results, as provided for in the U.S. and/or Minnesota Constitutions; or by final court order, and will commence immediately after such final court order is handed down, or immediately after Party precinct caucuses.

**Section 5. Officer Eligibility:**

A State or Congressional District Officer shall be required to meet the following eligibility requirements for election to office.

- A. Comply with membership requirements of the Independence Party of Minnesota.
- B. Reside within of the respective Independence Party of Minnesota State or Congressional District organizational territorial boundaries for the position elected.
- C. Shall be voting age at the next General Election.

## **Article Fifteen Amendment**

**Section 1. Appointment of IPM Constitution Committee:**

The Independence Party of Minnesota Chair of the State Executive Committee shall appoint the members and chair of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution Committee, with the advice and consent of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Executive Committee.

**Section 2. Committee Review:**

All amendments to the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution shall be submitted to the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution Committee for review. All amendments submitted, shall be passed out of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution Committee, with or without recommendation, for consideration of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee.

**Section 3. Notice of Amendment:**

The specific language of any amendment to be considered, shall be made available on the Independence Party of Minnesota website, no later than thirty (30) days prior to its consideration.

**Section 4. Amendment Adoption:**

All amendments to the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution shall require the approval of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Upon passage, the amendment shall have immediate effect, subject to ratification of the Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Convention.

**Section 5. Ratification:**

Amendments to the Independence Party of Minnesota State Constitution, approved by the Independence Party of Minnesota State Central Committee, shall require ratification 1, without further amendment, by the



Independence Party of Minnesota State Party Convention by a simple majority (50%+1) vote. Failure to ratify the amendment shall render the amendment null and void.

**Section 6. Composition:**

Page identification, format, and any attached cover pages or reference aids, such as a table of contents or index shall not be deemed part of this Constitution. No text or illustrations other than the text of this Constitution, page identification, and cross references shall be placed between the first word and last word or in the margins of this Constitution. This Constitution is composed of the numbering, titling, and text of the Preamble and Articles.

**Section 7. Enforcement:**

Each provision of this Constitution and the Bylaws shall be separately enforceable. Where any item or portion of this Constitution, the Bylaws, becomes invalidated or declared void by proper authority, all other provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws shall remain in full force and effect.

As passed by the State Central Committee, January 21, 2017