**Constitution of the Republican Party of**

**Wright County, Minnesota**

**Preamble**

The Republican Party of Wright County welcomes the participation in our basic political organizational unit (BPOU) of all citizens concerned with the implementation of honest, efficient, and responsive government. The party believes in the equality of all, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. Therefore, it is the party committed to equal representation and opportunity for all and preservation of the rights of each individual. The purpose of this constitution is to ensure that the Republican Party provides equal opportunity for full participation for all citizens of our BPOU regardless of age, race, sex, religion, social or economic status.

# Article I-Name

The name of this organization shall be the Republican Party of Wright County Minnesota and is also referred to as "the BPOU."

# Article II-Composition

The BPOU consists of Wright County, except the precincts in Dayton and Otsego contained in Minnesota House District 30B. It also contains Precinct 1 of the City of Rockford and Precinct 1 of the City of Hanover, in Hennepin County.

# Article III-Purpose

Section 1: The purpose and objectives of the BPOU shall be the maintenance and advancement of good government according to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota through the promotion within the BPOU of the purpose and objectives of the National Republican Party and the Republican Party of Minnesota.

Section 2: The purpose and duties of the BPOU includes those imposed by law and custom upon official party committees. In addition, the BPOU must:

 A. Organize or cause to be organized each precinct in the BPOU,

 B. Encourage the formation of auxiliary Republican groups, and cooperate with and

coordinate their activities:

 C. Assist in conducting campaigns for the adoption of laws, and for the election of qualified Republican candidates for public office; and

 D. Administer the affairs of the Party within the BPOU.

# Article IV-Membership

Section 1: The membership of this BPOU shall be composed of all citizens eligible to vote in the BPOU who wish to be affiliated with the Republican Party and who support the purpose and objectives of the Republican Party.

Section 2: Any individual or group that involves the BPOU in a legal matter, where the BPOU is not found at fault, must reimburse the BPOU ALL expenses incurred by the BPOU before the individual or group will be allowed to participate in future BPOU events.

# Article V-Management and Structure

Section 1: The management of the BPOU shall rest with the BPOU Executive Committee (EC), subject to the direction of the Republican Party State Central Committee, and Executive Committee, the 6th Congressional District Committee(s), the State Party Constitution, the BPOU Constitution and applicable state statutes.

Section 2: The BPOU EC is composed of the BPOU Chair and Deputy Chair, Events Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and Media Coordinator.

The Full Committee includes:

 A. One (1) Regional Chair or one (1) Regional Deputy Chair from each of the regions:

 Region 1. Otsego P-1, P-2

 Region 2. Albertville P-1, P-2, Saint Michael P-2

 Region 3. Saint Michael P-1, P-3, P-4.

 Region 4. Hanover, Rockford Twp P-1

 Region 5. Monticello P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, Monticello Twp.

 Region 6. Buffalo P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4.

 Region 7. Maple Lake, Maple Lake Twp, Silver Creek Twp. Buffalo Twp,

 Chatham Twp. P-2

 Region 8. Clearwater, Clearwater Twp, Corrina Twp, Annandale, South Haven,

 South Side Twp

 Region 9. French Lake Twp, Albion Twp, Chatham Twp P-1, Middleville Twp,

 Howard Lake, Victor Twp

 Region 10. Montrose, Woodland Twp, Waverly, Marysville Twp

 Region 11. Delano, Franklin Twp, Rockford, Rockford Twp P-2

 Region 12 Cokato, Cokato Twp, Stockholm Twp

All elected Republican legislators and Republican state constitutional officers living within the boundaries of the BPOU shall also be members. Since their attendance at these meetings is not required, their position shall not be included in the quorum count unless they are present. The Congressional District Representatives and State Central Committee Delegates shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee, unless they hold office as described in Article V., Section 2.

Section 3: Duties: The duties and responsibilities of the EC are:

 A. Ensure that the fiduciary responsibilities of the Republican Party of Wright County BPOU are managed. It is the responsibility of each EC member to ensure that the integrity of the organization and all assets, including mailing lists, logos, web content, and written material are professional and conform with the principles of the BPOU.

 B. The Chair conducts BPOU EC meetings. The Deputy Chair conducts meetings in the Chair's absence. Together, they appoint BPOU committees (except the Nominating Committee) and coordinate the activities of the Regional Chairs. They are also ex-officio members of all committees.

 C. The Events Coordinator is responsible for coordination of fundraising, organizing BPOU sponsored events, and to ensure that events are communicated to the BPOU Members and the greater community as necessary.

 D. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining and controlling BPOU member lists, convention delegates and alternates lists, and other data used by the BPOU. Other responsibilities include keeping meeting minutes and working with the chair to provide communications to BPOU members.

 E. The Treasurer is responsible for all BPOU financial resources including, maintenance of financial records, disbursement of authorized funds, preparation and submission of all reports as required by law, helps create an annual budget and any other duties assigned by the Republican Party State Constitution. The Treasurer, or chair designate, presents a Treasurer’s Report at each BPOU meeting and works with the Events Coordinator to overseeing all receipts and disbursement amounts.

 F. After each precinct caucus, the EC must rank alternates that were not ranked by the precinct in conformance with Article VIII, Section 3 of this Constitution.

 G. Regional Chairs manage Republican Party affairs at the precinct level within their region. Duties include supporting precinct caucuses by helping organize precinct leadership and by working to increase caucus attendance. Regional Chairs will also be the regional contact for elected state representatives and senators.

 H. Regional Deputy Chairs will assist with the duties of their respective Regional Chair and act as voting members of the Full Committee if their respective Regional Chair is absent.

 I. The Media Coordinator is responsible for managing social media accounts to keep the Wright County Republican Party relevant, promoting conversation about current events, updating the website, and having local media outlets publish information the EC wants to make know.

Section 4: Finances

 A. All records must be provided by the Treasurer for an annual review by the EC before the first meeting of January.

 B. At least every odd year, the EC must designate the financial institution to be used as a depository for BPOU funds after the BPOU convention.

 C. The BPOU Chair and Treasurer must sign all financial institution signature cards.

 D. All disbursements will be by check and require signatures as directed by the EC.

 E. All funds received by the BPOU from any source must be deposited in the account(s).

 F. All reports to be presented to the BPOU EC must be complete and made available in a timely manner.

 G. All statuary reports MUST be completed in a timely manner and delivered to the recipient as defined by the statute or rules of the submission.

# Article VI-BPOU Elections

Section 1: The BPOU EC shall be elected to a two-year term by the delegates to the odd-year BPOU convention.

 A. Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Events Coordinator, Treasurer, and Media Coordinator will be elected at large.

 B. A caucus of the respective regions described in Article V will elect Regional Chairs and Regional Deputy Chairs.

 C. State Central Committee Delegates and ranked alternates, a Congressional District Representative and alternates are elected at large.

Section 2: Officers of each precinct may consist of (2) Chairs and a Secretary, elected to a two-year term at the even-numbered years Precinct Caucus, in compliance with state statute.

Section 3: A Nominating Committee must be appointed by the BPOU EC in advance of the odd-year BPOU conventions for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various BPOU EC positions. This does not prohibit nominations from the floor. The EC will provide written guidelines to the Nominating Committee.

All candidates for elected positions must be interviewed by members, or designates, of the Nominating Committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to secure candidates for the ballot and present a slate of qualified candidates to the membership for a vote.

 A. Screening guidelines must be prepared for each candidate including, but not limited to, accepting the principles of the Republican Part of Wright County, supporting the principles of the Republican Party, and upholding the fiduciary responsibilities of the BPOU.

 B. All candidates, especially those who are entrusted with the financial assets of the BPOU, must be vetted to ensure that the person has the necessary experience, the ability to meet the BPOU organization’s financial responsibilities, and prepare all official documentation as prescribed by regulation.

# Article VII-BPOU Committee Meetings

Section 1: Requirements:

 A. Regular Committee Meetings: The EC must establish a calendar of regular meetings. A copy of the minutes of the previous meeting containing the time and place of the next meeting must be given to the members of the EC at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

 B. Special Committee Meetings: The EC must meet at the call of the Chair or at the request of any three (3) members of the Executive Committee. A minimum of three (3) days notice must be provided to members of the EC.

C. Quorums: a quorum consists of 50% of seated members of this EC for the purpose of transacting BPOU business.

Section 2: "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" governs the proceedings of all meetings of the EC.

# Article VIII-BPOU Conventions

Section 1: BPOU Conventions will be held each year for the purpose designated by the Official Call issued by the BPOU Chair and Vice Chair, State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, or the Congressional District Committee(s). The BPOU EC will determine the time and place of these conventions.

 A. An Endorsing Convention may be held at the call of the BPOU Chair and Vice Chair, or at the discretion of the majority of the BPOU Executive Committee, with the approval of the State Executive Committee. A notice of not less than five (5) days shall be given to delegates and alternates. They shall be held for the purpose of endorsing a candidate for office.

 B. Special BPOU Conventions shall be held at the call of the afore mentioned groups, or at the discretion of the majority of the BPOU Executive Committee, provided that a minimum of five (5) day notice, in writing, be sent to each delegate and alternate.

Section 2: At all BPOU Conventions, the first order of business shall be the temporary credentials report. The convention shall then proceed to the seating of the delegates, as outlined in Article VIII, Section three (3). A precinct shall be entitled to one vote for each delegate or alternate present and seated. Votes shall be weighted if necessary.

Section 2: The BPOU Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates elected at Republican Party Precinct Caucus within the BPOU. The distribution of delegates shall be uniform throughout the BPOU. The credentials committee shall seat all duly elected and accredited delegates of each precinct who are present. In the event no delegates are present from a precinct, the credentials committee shall seat all accredited alternates for that precinct, indicating which delegates they replace unless the alternates have been previously ranked. Vacancies shall be filled according to the following procedures:

 A. The precincts shall caucus after acceptance of the temporary credentials report. If the precinct chair is not present, the seated delegates shall elect a chair and then proceed to fill the vacancies.

 B. The alternates in the order in which the Precinct Caucus ranked them shall fill vacancies. Unranked alternates shall be ranked by lottery by the EC at the first meeting following the precinct caucus.

 C. The seating of delegates and alternates shall be governed by the adopted rules of the respective convention.

 D If a precinct has any vacancies that can't be filled by an alternate from the same precinct, the vacancy will remain.

Section 3: Delegates and alternates to the State and Congressional Republican District Conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, as well as the State Republican Constitution, and shall continue as such until their successors are elected.

Section 4: A motion to sub-caucus, for the purpose of endorsing, will be in order at any BPOU Convention in the years when these elections occur. This motion must carry by a majority vote.

 A. A Sub-Caucus of a BPOU Convention or a separate convention of the delegates from Senate Districts 29 and 30 (when Senate District 30 is uncontested) may endorse a candidate for State Senator; however, if endorsement is by a separated convention, agenda of said convention shall be limited to the endorsement of these candidates only. Endorsement shall be by sixty percent of the voting strength of the sub-caucus or convention. The most recent credentials report prior to each ballot shall govern the voting strength.

 B. A Sub-Caucus of a BPOU Convention or a separate convention of the delegates from State House District 29A ,29B, or 30A may each endorse a candidate for State Representative; however, if endorsement is by a separated convention, agenda of said convention shall be limited to the endorsement of these candidates only. Endorsement shall be by sixty percent of the voting strength of the sub-caucus or convention. The most recent credentials report prior to each ballot shall govern the voting strength.

 C. A BPOU Convention may provide for a non-binding advisory endorsement to candidates for District, State, or Federal office. Endorsement shall be sixty percent of the voting strength of the convention. The most recent credentials report prior to each ballot shall govern the voting strength.

# Article IX-Vacancies and Removals

Section 1: Vacancies in the precinct offices will be filled by appointment of the EC or, if so directed, by a caucus of Republicans in the affected precinct. If a vacancy occur in the EC, the EC must appoint a replacement.

Section 2: An officer of the EC or Full Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any meeting of the seated Full Committee members provided that the officer in question be furnished with a ten (10) day notice of the reasons that may warrant removal. The officer in question will be entitled to respond to these reasons in person or in writing prior to the vote to remove.

Section 3: If a member of the Full Committee is absent without cause from more than three (3) consecutive meetings, this person shall be subjected to the removal provisions outlined in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 4: It is the duty of all Full Committee members to support Republican endorsed candidates. Should any member of this body actively and publicly campaign against a Republican endorsed candidate, that member will be immediately removed from the Full or EC. Members of the EC must not distribute campaign literature, or actively support a candidate seeking endorsement, during the endorsing convention.

Section 5: Any elected member of the EC who announces their candidacy for federal or state elected public office is required to take an immediate leave of absence. If any member receives an endorsement or runs in the primary election, they must resign their position on the EC.

# Article X-Dissolution

In the event the state legislative lines are redrawn, the EC may dissolve the BPOU by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

# Article XI-Amendments

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at any BPOU Convention, provided that the proposed amendments be first referred to a duly appointed Constitution Committee, and the Official Convention Call will indicate that constitutional amendments will be considered.

Section 2: After state legislative redistricting is completed, by a two thirds (2/3) vote, may amend Article 8 to update them to the new legislative districts that fall within Wright County.