



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID

2026-12

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Establish a permanent bylaws committee and describe its composition, duties, and integration into the amendment process.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section I - State Central Committee
- Section IX - Bylaw Amendments

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Responsibility needs to be formally assigned to maintain the quality and integrity of the SDGOP Bylaws. The bylaws, in accordance with SD state law, constitute the governing document of the SDGOP. Per Roberts Rules of Order, the bylaws of an organization should prescribe its primary characteristics, how it functions, and the rules that are considered so important that a large majority vote is required to change them. These rules delineate organizational purpose, membership, hierarchical structure, positional turnover, duties and limitations, and other important functions, including how to amend the bylaws. At present no entity is assigned to maintain this most important document. A permanent bylaws committee is necessary to ensure the integrity of the bylaws. This would involve using clear, concise language and avoiding excessive detail, which surely leads to excessive amending. It involves clean-up of conflicting and/or redundant provisions, and consistency with state law and RNC rules. It involves the development of standards and guidelines for submitting amendments, to assist the authors who write them. The amendment process should improve the bylaws and organizational functions, not harm them.

The current process of amending the bylaws is poor and, without intervention, will eventually result in inferior bylaws. A permanent bylaws committee can fix this process. Amendments can now be dumped on the State Central Committee (SCC) 15 days prior to any meeting without prior vetting of quality, accuracy, and completeness, and often without full sentences describing the reason for change. Bylaws should not be cluttered up with minute procedural details which should be contained in lower level documents that are easier to change, often called "procedures." The bylaws committee will work with authors to improve the quality of deficient submissions, and will forward amendments to the SCC with a quality assessment and an appropriate recommendation. Scheduled time must be inserted in the process to allow the above vetting to occur, as well as for the voting members of the SCC to adequately review amendments. Better quality amendments will bring order and clarity to the process of voting on them.

The appointment of the bylaws committee chairman and other members should follow a process that identifies and recruits the bylaws committee members with the applicable experience, skills, and specific interest that would best serve the committee's functions. Certain traits come to mind in prospective members: English language and writing skills, detail oriented, logical thinker, organized, previous bylaws experience, word processing skills, managerial experience, teamwork oriented, registered Republican voter, to name a few. Although the state chairman normally appoints all committee members, the burden of searching for the most appropriate bylaws committee members, beyond its chairman, will benefit from requiring the assistance of the regional directors to appoint the others. However, the agenda of the appointed members is not to represent a region, but to ensure the quality of the SDGOP bylaws. Finally, the bylaws committee will need to develop processes, guidelines, and an attitude of teamwork which will not be fostered by constant turnover. Specified "terms" are unnecessary. The state chairman can consult with the bylaws committee chairman and the regional directors as necessary when vacancies need to be filled or a committee member is not performing. No elaborate process needs to be invented to accommodate change in committee personnel.

Proposed New or Revised Content

SECTION I STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

5. Duties of Officers A. State Chairman, modify item 8:

8. The state chairman shall appoint members to any committees deemed necessary for the operation of the Republican Party, *except as prescribed in Section I.8.B.*

SECTION I STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, add new Section I.8:

8. Permanent Bylaws Committee:

A. Purpose: The permanent Bylaws Committee shall ensure the integrity and maintenance of the Bylaws of the South Dakota Republican Party.

B. Membership: Membership is limited to registered Republican voters in South Dakota. The state chairman shall appoint the bylaws committee chairman, who shall serve at the pleasure of the state chairman. The other members of the bylaws committee shall each be appointed by one of the six regional directors, and they shall serve at the pleasure of that appointing regional director.

C. Duties of the Bylaws Committee:

1. Publish and maintain form(s) and guidelines to assist authors of amendments in the preparation of good quality amendments which will, if passed,

Bylaws Amendment Submission (continued)

maintain the integrity of the bylaws.

2. Review each proposed amendment and, if necessary, coordinate improvements with the author. Forward each amendment to the state secretary with a bylaws committee assessment and recommendation to the State Central Committee.

3. Continuously review the bylaws for gaps in content, conflicts, inconsistencies, and other quality issues, and prepare amendments as needed.

SECTION IX BYLAW AMENDMENTS, modify as indicated below:

SECTION IX

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

1. **Procedure:** These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the State Central Committee, *provided that the amendment:* ~~by a two-thirds vote of those present. Any member of the State Central Committee may propose an amendment by submitting it in writing to the state secretary, who shall include it in the notice of the next regular or special meeting. No proposed amendment may be considered unless it was included in the meeting notice.~~

A. has been submitted in writing by a member of the State Central Committee to the bylaws committee for review not later than ninety (90) days prior to that meeting, unless the state chairman directs an abbreviated timeframe due to the urgency of a specific amendment;

B. has been provided by the bylaws committee via the state secretary to all members of the State Central Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered; and

C. has received a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those State Central Committee members present at the meeting at which it was approved.

2. **Amendment of Proposals:** Any proposal for amending the bylaws may be amended *during the meeting at which it is considered*, provided that such amendment(s) must *be germane* to the *subject matter of the original* ~~relate directly to the line and section originally proposed for amendment.~~

Supporting Document(s)

- [Original-Amendment-adding-bylaws-committee_cmb20260102.pdf](#)

Members Who Also Support This Change

This submission was authored by the current bylaws committee.

Confirmation

- ✓ I affirm I am a current member of the SDGOP State Central Committee

Confirmation

- ✓ I confirm I have read and understand the current bylaws regarding how bylaw changes are handled.

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Role / Title

County State Committeewoman

County

Butte

Organization