

Bylaws Amendments Submitted for the July 25, 2026 State Central Committee Meeting

ID / #	Author	Topic	Status
2026-20	George Ludvik	Permanent Bylaws Committee	Submitted to SCC
2026-21	Bridget Myers	County Executive Board Appointees	Submitted to SCC
2026-22	Stu Cvrk	Equal Time for Resolutions	Submitted to SCC
2026-23	Stu Cvrk	County E-Board Primary Endorsements	Submitted to SCC
2026-24	Stu Cvrk	Timing of County Organizational Meetings	Submitted to SCC
2026-25	Stu Cvrk	Regional Director Duties	Submitted to SCC
2026-26	George Ludvik	Clarify Resignation Process	Submitted to SCC
2026-27	Janet Jensen	State Electronic Meeting Restrictions	Submitted to SCC*
2026-28	Janet Jensen	County Electronic Meeting Restrictions	Submitted to SCC*
2028-29	Janet Jensen	Party Ticket Vacancies-No Electronic Mtgs	Submitted to SCC*

* Received and reviewed by the Bylaws Committee after its original July 8th consolidated submission



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-20

Date: June 18, 2026

Subject: Permanent Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

A permanent bylaws committee will establish an orderly and repeatable process to maintain and improve the quality of the bylaws by:

- assisting authors to write clear, concise text in the most appropriate bylaws paragraph
- providing quality review and recommended disposition to the State Central Committee
- imposing new submission and processing deadlines for the bylaws committee to do its job
- providing more review time for the State Central Committee members before voting
- requiring continuous review of the bylaws for needed improvement/amendment

Signature:

Christina M. Beudley

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-20

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

To establish an orderly and repeatable process to maintain and improve the quality of the Bylaws of the South Dakota Republican Party.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

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

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

The State Central Committee lacks an orderly and repeatable process to maintain and improve the quality of the Bylaws of the South Dakota Republican Party. This amendment establishes a permanent bylaws committee which will be responsible for that process. The committee will assist amendment authors to write clear, concise text which is of appropriate structure, content, and level of detail, and will assist the SCC by providing a quality assessment and recommended disposition of each amendment. The committee will continuously review the bylaws and propose amendments where improvements are needed.

This amendment provides for the appointment by designated SCC officials of committee members who have the interest and appropriate experience to advise on maintenance of bylaws. It also provides the scheduled time necessary for a thorough review and potential iteration of each amendment by the committee and for a thorough review by SCC members. The committee is advisory. The elected SCC members are ultimately responsible for carefully making decisions that determine the integrity of the bylaws.

Proposed New or Revised Content (new text is in bold italic)

SECTION I STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,

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

Item 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 Paragraph 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. The balance of the committee membership shall be comprised of one member appointed by each of the six regional directors. Each committee member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing official.**
- C. Duties of the Bylaws Committee:**
 - 1. Assist authors of amendments in the preparation of good quality amendments.**
 - 2. Review each proposed amendment. Forward each amendment to the state secretary with a bylaws committee recommendation at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the State Central Committee meeting.**
 - 3. Continuously review the bylaws for gaps in content, inconsistencies, and other quality issues, and recommend amendments as needed.**

Bylaws Amendment Submission (continued)

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, ~~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.~~ ***provided that the amendment shall have been:***
 - A. ***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; and***
 - B. ***Provided by the state secretary to all members of the State Central Committee for review at least thirty (30) days prior to that meeting; and***
 - C. ***Included in the agenda in the written notice of that meeting; and***
 - D. ***Approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those State Central Committee members present.***
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 relate directly to the line and section originally proposed for amendment.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

Clark Brown, State Committeeman, Fall River County

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.

Your Name

George Ludvik

Email

george@cdt-llc.com

Phone

(605) 259-3597

Role / Title

County Vice-Chair

County

Mellette

Organization



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-21

Date: June 29, 2026

Subject: County Executive Board Appointees

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

The current bylaw wording allows the County Chairman to appoint "at least three" registered Republicans to the Executive Board with no other requirements or restrictions. This is clearly open to potential abuse because theoretically EVERY registered Republican in the county, or only those who will vote with the chairman's agenda, could be appointed. Meanwhile, the votes of elected members can be routinely overrun because of the numbers of appointees.

The County Executive Board should make do with a specified limit of appointees, and the amendment to a limit of three (3) is very reasonable.

This amendment is clearly worded and improves the bylaws as well as SDGOP operations.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley".

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-21

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

This is to address the number of at large members appointments by the chairman.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section III - County Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Our county has seen this abused by our last few chairman of our county party. The way they bylaws are written, and they are not clear about number of appointments or if the additional members should have voting rights equal to elected officers. The bylaw currently written allows a chairman to completely take over the elected officers and create a new board.

Proposed New or Revised Content

8. County Executive Board: A County Executive Board consists of the county chairman, county vice chairman, county secretary, county treasurer, state central committeeman, state central committeewoman, county finance director, and ~~at least~~ (replace with) **up to** three others appointed by the county chairman from the registered Republicans in the county. The County Executive Board conducts party business between regular meetings of the County Central Committee. The county chairman calls the meetings of the County Executive Board and presides over such meetings. The county secretary keeps the minutes. Three members of the County Executive Board may call a meeting in writing. A meeting of the County Executive Board may be held electronically.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Bridget Myers

Email

bridgetsmassage@gmail.com

Phone

(605) 261-8594

Role / Title

County State Committeewoman

County

Minnehaha



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-22

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Equal Time for Resolutions

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☒ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

This amendment offers a positive suggestion, however, it imposes what would normally be considered a meeting rule into the bylaws, which should not routinely contain this level of specificity and detail. This content is appropriate for the convention rules, and it should be submitted as a recommendation to the rules committee.

Signature:

Christina M. Beudley

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-22

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Title: Equal Time for Resolutions Discussion on the Floor

Modify subparagraph IV.4.D:

Floor Resolutions Discussion. Equal time shall be provided for pro and con positions during the floor discussion of resolutions prior to the vote.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section IV - State Convention

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Resolutions committee discussions of proposed resolutions were well-handled. Proponents and opponents received equal time. As most floor delegates did not benefit from the pro-con discussions during committee, the resolutions discussions on the floor should also provide equal time for proponents and opponents.

Proposed New or Revised Content

To Provide Equal Time for Resolutions Discussion on the Floor,

Add the following new sentence to the end of subparagraph IV.4.D. Rules of Order:

Regarding resolutions, equal time shall be provided for pro and con positions during the floor discussion of resolutions prior to the vote.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Stu Cvrk

Email

sjcvrk@reagan.com

Phone

(858) 412-9385

Role / Title

County Chair

County

Bon Homme



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-23

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: County E-Board Primary Endorsements

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☒ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

Republican voters in a primary election, not party officials, should decide who will represent them in the general election. For the bylaws to authorize party funding of pre-primary candidacies invites unnecessary friction and division within the party. Furthermore, this bylaws change is inserted at the level of the County E-Board, which is a small subset of County Central Committee members and may include unelected appointees. This amendment does not improve party operations and may promote abuse and cronyism.

Republican party officials are always free, at a time of their own choosing, to individually endorse any candidate for public office. The expenditure of party funds should await the voters' decisions.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-23

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Enable county executive boards and officials to publicly endorse and support primary candidates.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section III - County Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Elected GOP officials (incumbents) have frequently endorsed GOP primary candidates. Historically, the SDGOP tradition has been for county party officials not to do so. In the interest of fairness, it's time to remove that tradition which benefits some at the expense of others.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Primary Endorsements by County Parties

Add new sentence to the end of Section III, paragraph 8 to read:

County executive boards may publicly endorse and dispense funds to primary candidates at their discretion.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Stu Cvrk

Email

sjcvrk@reagan.com

Role / Title

County Chair

County

Bon Homme

Phone

(858) 412-9385



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-24

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Timing of County Organizational Meetings

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

This amendment appears consistent with the intent of the current bylaws, which specify that the counties elect their officers, including State Central Committee members, by January 31, so that the newly elected members will be the ones voting in the election of state leadership positions in the planned winter meeting (February, March, or April). However, the bylaws allow the State Central Committee to schedule the winter meeting in a different month, e.g. mid-January, which might mean that outgoing county members are voting for new state leadership. This amendment closes a potential loophole and is therefore an improvement to the current bylaws.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley".

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-24

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Title: Timing of Regular County Organizations Meetings

Regular county organizational meetings shall be completed and reported prior to the State Central Committee's Winter Meeting.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section III - County Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Outgoing boards should not be involved in selecting the SCC e-board members going forward.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Title: Timing of Regular County Organizational Meetings

Add new second sentence to Section III, paragraph 4 to read:

This meeting shall be held and results reported prior to the State Central Committee's Winter Meeting.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Stu Cvrk

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Phone

(858) 412-9385

Role / Title

County Chair

County

Bon Homme



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-25

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Regional Director Duties

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

The author's cooperation with the committee to ensure the necessary bylaws paragraph updates were included is appreciated. This amendment improves the bylaws and the operations of the SDGOP by addressing missing provisions. It warrants approval.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina M. Beudley".

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-25

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Add new paragraph listing Regional Director duties.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section I - State Central Committee
- Section II- State Executive Board (paragraph references only)

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

The regional directors are the only members of the State E-board who do not have a list of duties in Section I, paragraph 5. Long past time to elucidate their duties such that they can make meaningful and consistent reports during SCC meetings.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Insert new paragraph **6. Duties of Regional Directors** (below) in Section I, following the end of paragraph **5. Duties of Officers**.

6. Duties of Regional Directors: The regional directors shall have the following duties:

1. Shall participate in State Central Committee and State Central Committee Executive Board meetings.
2. Shall effectively support the state chair in the efforts identified by the state central committee.
3. Shall maintain regular contact with county party organizations (semiannually at a minimum).
4. Shall facilitate the development and submission of issues to the State Central Committee, as appropriate, while representing counties within the region.
5. Shall facilitate the organization of inactive counties within the region; when requested by the State chairman, shall convene county organizational meetings to elect new officers in inactive counties.
6. Shall assist the State chair in the transition of newly elected regional directors including handover of files and other materials used in the performance of their duties.

Make the following paragraph adjustments: Re-number original paragraph **6. Vacancies** to be **7. Vacancies**, and change the paragraph reference in sub-paragraph E. line 3 from I.6.D to I.7.D. Then re-number original paragraph **7. Meetings** to be **8. Meetings**. In Section II, change the paragraph references in Section II paragraph 1, line 7 as follows: change I.6.A to I.7.A, and change I.6.D to I.7.D.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Stu Cvrk

Bylaws Amendment Submission (continued)

Email

sjcvrk@reagan.com

Phone

(858) 412-9385

Role / Title

County Chair

County

Bon Homme

Organization



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-26

Date: July 2, 2026

Subject: Clarify Resignation Process

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

The need for clarity in the resignation process became evident during the credentials challenge in last month's convention. This amendment improves the bylaws as well as party operations.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-26

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

To add clarity to the resignation process.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section III - County Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

During the credential challenge, it became clear that leaving this to interpretation is a bad idea. Roberts gives conflicting advice. First: That a person cannot be forced to hold office after resignation. Second: That the body used to replace the vacancy is the body that can accept the resignation.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Section 3 Paragraph 5 Item A

Add Line 9: Shall accept a resignation at the request of the resigner at the time requested. If no time frame is requested the resignation is effective immediately. The resignation must be written, including email, or text.

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

George Ludvik

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(605) 685-3253

Role / Title

County Vice-Chair

County

Mellette



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-27

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: State Electronic Meeting Restrictions

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

As coordinated with the author, the bylaws committee recommends that this amendment be modified for accuracy and clarity as follows:

- 1) Delete the word "officer" from the inserted words.
- 2) Replace the words "bylaw changes" with "proposed bylaws amendments"

After modification, this amendment will improve the bylaws and the operations of the SDGOP by ensuring the integrity of voting in elections and in decisions regarding proposed bylaws amendments. This amendment should be approved as modified above.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-27

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

To ensure that elections of State Central Committee officers (State Chair, State Vice-Chair, State Secretary, and State Treasurer) and changes to our Bylaws (2/3 approval requirement) be held in person and not electronically.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section I - State Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

If I remember correctly, the authority to hold electronic meetings was added to our SDGOP bylaws during Covid. Roberts Rules of Order encourages inperson meetings and is cautious of meetings held electronically.

Officer elections and bylaw changes are too important to be handled electronically.

Officer elections decide who will lead the South Dakota Republican Party. Bylaw changes decide the rules we all must follow. These are not routine votes. They affect the future, fairness, and trust of the SDGOP.

When we meet in person, members can speak, ask questions, make motions, object, and vote with confidence. It is also easier to confirm who is present and eligible to vote. The purpose of this change is to maintain the integrity and transparency of our election process within the SDGOP regarding election of officers and changes to Bylaws.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Section I.7.I. Electronic Meetings: A meeting of the State Central Committee may be held electronically. Notice of an electronic meeting is valid if sent at least five days in advance, not including weekends or holidays. No proxies are permitted at a meeting held electronically. **Officer elections and bylaw changes may not be voted on at a State Central Committee meeting held electronically.**

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Janet Jensen

Email

vicechair@sdgop.com

Phone

(605) 209-6272

Bylaws Amendment Submission (continued)

Role / Title

State Executive Board Member

County

Organization



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-28

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: County Electronic Meeting Restrictions

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

This amendment will improve the bylaws and the operations of the SDGOP by ensuring the integrity of voting in county officer elections. This amendment should be approved.

Signature:

Christina M. Beudley

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-28

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

This proposed bylaw change to Section III.7.E is to ensure that elections for county central committee officers are held in person and not electronically.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section III - County Central Committee

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

County Officer elections are too important to be handled electronically. Robert's Rules favor members who make the effort to attend and participate. Electronic meetings might encourage disengaged members to log in, vote without following the debate, and weaken this important process.

When we meet in person, county central committee members can speak, ask questions, make motions, object, and vote with confidence. It is also easier to confirm who is present in person and eligible to vote.

Because county officers will, in turn, vote for the state officers, it is imperative that we maintain transparency and integrity in the election process of our county SDGOP officers.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Section III.7.E. Electronic Meetings: A meeting of the County Central Committee may be held electronically. **County Officer elections may not be held at a meeting conducted electronically.**

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Janet Jensen

Email

vicechair@sdgop.com

Phone

(605) 209-6272

Role / Title

State Executive Board Member

County

Organization



BYLAWS COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION COVER SHEET

Amendment #: 2026-29

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: Party Ticket Vacancies-No Electronic Meetings

The Bylaws Committee Recommends to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Approve | ☐ Send Back to Committee |
| ☐ Reject | ☐ No Recommendation |

Rationale For Recommendation:

Filling a vacancy for a candidate for public office who already won a primary election is a process that requires more transparency and accuracy than would be provided by the currently available electronic tools in use by the SDGOP. This amendment will improve the bylaws and the operations of the SDGOP by fostering integrity in voting in such elections. This amendment should be approved.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Beudley".

Chair of Bylaws Committee



Bylaws Amendment Submission

Final Amendment ID # 2026-29

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Change

Section V addresses how the SDGOP handles vacancies in the party ticket. Section V.2 deals with a vacancy after the Primary for a Presidential elector of statewide office. Section V.3 addresses how a vacancy is filled following a primary in a public office (Legislative District) office.

The two proposed amendment changes suggested are both in Section V; therefore, I'm including them together in this submission.

The purpose is to disallow electronic voting at a meeting where elections are held for such important races as a Presidential Elector, US Congressional, SD Constitutional or a South Dakota Legislative seat.

What Section(s) Does the Bylaws Change Involve?

- Section V - Vacancies in Party Ticket

Detailed Reason for Change(s)

Filling a vacancy for a presidential elector, a statewide race (US Congressional, SD Constitutional Officer), or Legislative race electronically may be convenient, but we risk losing confidence in both the process and the legitimacy of the result. These important votes should be made in person by people who show up. As we have just seen at our 2026 SDGOP Convention, the process of nominating our Republican Constitutional officers was much more than simply placing a vote. There was an interchange of ideas and debate that can only happen in person. In meetings held electronically, people can "participate," but be completely disengaged. They might have trouble getting recognized to speak, have problems with technology that can slow down debate, and because the host has control over the microphones, debate can be limited and not spontaneous. If people have control over their microphones, there can also be interruptions by those who inadvertently leave their microphones on, which in turn, disrupts the flow of the meeting and wastes valuable time. We saw some of this in the meetings we had over Zoom prior to our convention.

According to Google: "Robert's Rules of Order has been careful about electronic meetings because online meetings can make discussion harder. In a regular in-person meeting, people can respond quickly, see body language, and know when someone wants to speak. Online, things like muted microphones, delays, and technical problems can interrupt the flow of debate. It can also be harder to notice objections or concerns because people's facial expressions and body language are not always clear. Another concern is fairness. Everyone should have an equal chance to participate, but online meetings may be harder for people who are not comfortable with technology. Finally, private chats and side conversations can distract from the meeting and break proper meeting rules. For these reasons, Robert's Rules focuses on keeping meetings fair, clear, respectful, and organized."

Another important issue to consider is validating and ensuring that the person placing the vote is actually the one elected and entitled to do so. Our SDGOP Bylaws do not allow for our Convention to be held electronically. After watching our convention process, I truly hope we can understand why these votes should not be taken electronically. We must have integrity and transparency in our election process for these important races.

Thank you for considering these proposed changes.

Proposed New or Revised Content

Section V.2.D. Proxies and Attendance: No proxies are permitted at a meeting called for this purpose. ~~No member is allowed to attend or vote by telephone teleconference or other electronic means unless the meeting is held electronically.~~

Section V.3 Other Public Offices: If the vacancy is a party candidate for public office other than presidential elector or statewide office, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of County Central Committee members in attendance who reside in the affected district. In multi-county legislative districts, the call for a meeting shall be issued by the state chairman, who shall notify all interested County Central Committee members of the hour, date, and place where such meeting shall be held. In a single county district, the call shall be issued by the county chairman upon learning of the vacancy. ~~Any such meeting may be held electronically.~~

Bylaws Amendment Submission (continued)

Supporting Document(s)

Members Who Also Support This Change

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.

Your Name

Janet Jensen

Email

vicechair@sdgop.com

Phone

(605) 209-6272

Role / Title

State Executive Board Member

County

Organization