

## **An Explanation of a State Convention**

[What is a State Convention?](#)

[What Does a State Delegate do at an Even Year State Convention?](#)

[What Does a State Delegate do at an Odd Year State Convention?](#)

---

## What is a State Convention?

Minnesota state statute requires a major political party to hold a state convention in every general election year:

“The final authority over the affairs of each major political party is vested in the party's state convention to be held at least once every state general election year at the call of the state central committee” ([§202A.12, Subd. 1](#)).

Minnesota state statute requires a party to have an executive committee:

“The state executive committee of the party shall have charge of the administration of the party's affairs, subject to the direction and control of the state convention and the state central committee” ([§202A.12, Subd. 3](#)).

Minnesota state statute requires a party to have a constitution:

“The chair of the state central committee of each party shall file with the secretary of state a copy of the party's constitution and all amendments to the constitution as they are enacted” ([§202A.12, Subd. 4](#)).

In every general election year, the Republican Party consists of the state delegates elected by the BPOUs who attend the party's state convention. These delegates are the party. In another general election year, another group of delegates is the party. These are the members of the party who meet in a state convention in that year. While others are aligned with the party, these are the ones who have voting rights to determine the direction of the party in that general election year. The delegates determine that at a state convention.

[Return home.](#)

---

## What Does a State Delegate do at an Even Year State Convention?

All state delegates attend a state convention that is required by statute.

“The final authority over the affairs of each major political party is vested in the party's state convention to be held at least once every state general election year at the call of the state central committee” ([§202A.12, Subd. 1](#)).

As required by state statute, the Republican Party of Minnesota establishes, by its Constitution, provisions regulating a state convention ([MNGOP Constitution, Article VII](#)).

1. In a **gubernatorial general election year**, two things occur at a state convention:

**A. Consider resolutions**

Resolutions are proposals to change the state Party Platform. Every precinct resolution that is passed by a BPOU is then considered at a district convention by all the district delegates from all the BPOUs in the district.

All the resolutions that are passed by the district delegates at a congressional district convention are forwarded to the state convention. Resolutions that are passed at the state convention are entered into the Party Platform.

**B. Endorse candidates**

At a state convention, the district delegates from all the BPOUs in the state endorse statewide candidates. A state endorsing convention is governed by the state party constitution ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V](#)).

Candidates may be endorsed for the office of:

- U.S. Senate,
- Governor,
- Attorney General,
- Secretary of State, and
- Auditor

2. In a **presidential general election year**, a state convention conducts the following business:

**A. Consider resolutions**

**B. Endorse a U.S. Senate candidate**

**C. Elect presidential electors**

The state convention elects presidential electors and alternates ([MNGOP Constitution, Article VI, Section 8](#)). Republican presidential electors cast the votes in the federal electoral college for a Republican who is elected in Minnesota as the U.S. president.

**D. Elect delegates to the Republican National Convention**

A state convention elects delegates to the RNC ([MNGOP Constitution, Article V](#),

[Section 5 C](#)). At the national convention, all the Minnesota RNC delegates, along with the RNC delegates from all the other states, endorse the Republican presidential candidate.

[Return home.](#)

---

## **What Does a State Delegate do at an Odd Year State Convention?**

There generally is not a state convention in the odd year. An odd year is not a general election year. Therefore candidates do not need to be endorsed.

[Return home.](#)