



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

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[Republicans@rebuildthemngop.com](mailto:Republicans@rebuildthemngop.com)

To Whom It May Concern:

Last week, we received a letter asking several questions regarding major parties.

Here are the responses to those questions:

1. Does the MNSOS office verify the truthfulness of a submitted document by certifying the receipt of a document?

Response: No.

2. Would the MNSOS testify to the truthfulness of a document submitted by a political party or take the position the MNSOS office is a keeper of records for the People and the certification provided merely confirms receipt of a document?

Response: We do not vouch for the accuracy of documents filed with OSS. That responsibility lies with the person or organization filing the document. Please see Minnesota Statutes, section 5.15. clause (a), which treats documents filed with OSS as being under the penalties of perjury.

3. Did the MNSOS inform political parties that, until July 1, 2023, only minor parties were required to submit constitutions and amendments to the constitution as they are passed to the MNSOS office, under MN Stat 202A.12?

Response: I am not aware of any notice given that only minor parties had to comply.

4. Did any letter sent to a political party prior to July 1, 2023, with the primary purpose of verifying that party's received votes in the last general election cycle met required thresholds to maintain party status, purport to suggest that any compliance prior to July 1, 2023 is in any way determinative of that party's

compliance with or party status under any statutes or requirements that became effective July 1, 2023 or later?

Response: Not to my knowledge. However, party status for the entirety of calendar year 2023 was determined by the former method requiring a party statewide candidate to receive votes in all counties and at least five percent of the votes cast for that office. Party status for calendar year 2024 and subsequent years, is determined under the method adopted by the 2023 Legislature.

5. If a major Party submits a certification that states it is IN FACT in compliance with 200.02, Subd. 7, does the MNSOS office take the position that the mere acceptance of the document by the MNSOS office creates a presumption of and therefore confirms the truthfulness of the document or is the acceptance by the MNSOS a required act to fulfill the duty to preserve the record of documents submitted?

Response: See the answers to questions 1 and 2.

6. When the MNSOS accepts a filed document that states within the filed document itself that it is an AMENDED Constitution, and the minutes of the convention state the amendments were passed as a block and make no mention of a vote to adopt the amended Constitution, what do the amendments amend?

Response: We take no position on how amendments are integrated into the private organization's constitution.

7. Many delegates now have questions about the inconsistency in dates on the different cover letters submitted by the Chair of the Republican Party of MN regarding the amendments to the Party Constitution passed in May 2022.

Response: Response: Both the originally received document and the version with the corrected cover letter are now on file under the number.237917. Other questions related to those documents are best directed at the authors of those documents.

Best regards,

BIBI BLACK  
General Counsel  
Office of the Secretary of State