

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

Printed Page No. 24

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 451

01/17/2023 Authored by Stephenson
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Policy
01/23/2023 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register as Amended
Read for the Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; modifying requirements related to the ordering of candidates
1.3 for partisan offices on the state general election ballot; amending Minnesota Statutes
1.4 2022, sections 204D.08, subdivision 5; 204D.14, subdivision 1; repealing Minnesota
1.5 Statutes 2022, section 204D.13, subdivisions 2, 3.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204D.08, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 5. Party columns; arrangement. The names of candidates for nomination of the
1.9 major political party that received the smallest average vote at the last state general election
1.10 must be placed in the first column on the left side of the ballot. The names of candidates
1.11 for nomination of the major political party that received the next smallest average vote at
1.12 the last state general election must be placed in the second column, and so on. The average
1.13 vote shall be computed in the manner provided in section 204D.13, subdivision 2 by dividing
1.14 the total number of votes counted for all of the party's candidates for statewide office at the
1.15 state general election by the number of those candidates at the election.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204D.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.17 Subdivision 1. Rotation of names. The names of candidates for partisan and nonpartisan
1.18 offices on the state general election ballot and the judicial nonpartisan general election ballot
1.19 shall be rotated in the manner provided for rotation of names on state partisan primary
1.20 ballots by section 204D.08, subdivision 3.

1.21 Sec. 3. REPEALER.

1.22 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204D.13, subdivisions 2 and 3, are repealed.

204D.13 BALLOT; PARTISAN OFFICES.

Subd. 2. **Order of political parties.** The first name printed for each partisan office on the state general election ballot shall be that of the candidate of the major political party that received the smallest average number of votes at the last state general election. The succeeding names shall be those of the candidates of the other major political parties that received a succeeding higher average number of votes respectively. For the purposes of this subdivision, the average number of votes of a major political party shall be computed by dividing the total number of votes counted for all of the party's candidates for statewide office at the state general election by the number of those candidates at the election.

Subd. 3. **Nominees by petition; placement on ballot.** The names of candidates nominated by petition for a partisan office voted on at the state general election shall be placed on the state general election ballot after the names of the candidates for that office who were nominated at the state primary. No later than 11 weeks before the state general election, the secretary of state shall determine by lot the order of candidates nominated by petition. The drawing of lots must be by political party or principle. The political party or political principle of the candidate as stated on the petition shall be placed after the name of a candidate nominated by petition. The word "nonpartisan" shall not be used to designate any partisan candidate whose name is placed on the state general election ballot by nominating petition.