



# RULES

Temporary & Proposed Rules

Report of the Senate District 59 DFL  
Pre-Convention Rules Committee  
*Saturday, March 7, 2026*

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# TEMPORARY & PROPOSED RULES

## Senate District 59 DFL Rules Committee Report - Saturday March 7, 2026

Final Revision approved on Saturday, February 21, 2026 by the Rules Committee

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND AGENDA

1. **Subordination.** Upon all matters not governed by the Official Call, the State DFL Party Constitution and Bylaws, the unit Constitution, and these rules, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern. The provisions of the Official Call shall take precedence over any other party rules at any level wherever a conflict exists.
2. **Agenda and Rules.** A **majority vote** of the convention is required to adopt these rules and the agenda. Once adopted, these rules and the agenda shall govern unless suspended or modified by a **two-thirds vote** of the convention.
3. **Quorum.** The quorum for conducting any business of the convention is a **majority of the registered delegates** (including upgraded alternates). If the absence of a quorum is suggested, its presence is established by a counted vote or by a written or electronic ballot. The convention chair shall recess the convention for **10 minutes** before any motion to adjourn the convention for lack of quorum is entertained.

### SEATING OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

4. **Registration.** Registration of delegates and alternates to the convention shall continue until adjournment. Newly registered delegates and upgraded alternates may not enter the floor while it is frozen.
5. **Delegation Chairs.** The delegates and upgraded alternates in each precinct shall elect one or more delegation chairs for purposes of alternate seating and ballot voting. The convention chairs shall instruct the convention as to the duties each delegation chair will be expected to perform during the convention. The name of each delegation chair shall be reported promptly to the convention secretary. Any delegate shall be eligible for election as delegation chair.
6. **Seating of Delegates.** All registered delegates and eligible alternates on the temporary roll shall be seated.
7. **Credentials Challenges.** Immediately following the initial report of the Credentials Committee, the

convention shall hear and resolve any challenges regarding delegate or alternate seating pursuant to the Official Call.

- a. **Grounds.** The only possible grounds for such challenges are whether the election of a delegate, alternate, and/or delegation was improper under DFL party rules; or whether the challenged party is ineligible to serve in the capacity to which they were elected.
  - b. **Committee Report.** The Credentials Committee chair(s) shall report each challenge to the convention, including the committee's recommended remedy to the challenge (if any). The temporary roll shall reflect the committee's recommendation.
  - c. **Debate.** Following the committee report, speakers on behalf of both the challenger(s) and the individual(s) subjected to challenge shall each be allowed **5 minutes** to present their positions, with the challenged party last. The convention shall then proceed to debate from the floor according to normal speaking limits.
  - d. **Resolution.** After debate on the challenge has ended, the convention will vote on whether the individuals shall be seated. All delegates and upgraded alternates on the temporary roll may vote on the report with the exception that no challenged delegate or upgraded alternate may vote on the resolution of their own challenge.
  - e. **Permanent Roll.** The resolution of all credentials challenges establishes the permanent roll of delegates and alternates to the convention. Any delegates or alternates entitled to be seated after all challenges have been resolved shall go to the registration table with their delegation chair so that proper seating can be arranged.
8. **Registration Inside Convention Hall.** As soon as practical after verification of a quorum, the Credentials Committee shall continue registration of delegates and upgrading of alternates from inside the convention hall so as to permit its members to maintain a consistent and accurate delegate count by precincts while participating as convention delegates.
  9. **Upgrading of Alternates.** The following rules shall govern upgrading and downgrading of alternates:
    - a. **Equal Division.** The delegation chairs shall

## GENERAL CONVENTION RULES

- maintain equal division by gender identity for the delegation (and subcaucus) whenever possible. Equal division is achieved by upgrading alternates giving preference to the highest-ranked alternate with a gender identity that will achieve and/or maintain equal division (even if this means skipping a higher-ranked alternate).
- b. **Alternates Elected at Large.** Alternates elected at large shall be upgraded to delegate status according to their numerical ranking on the precinct report and according to equal division.
  - c. **Alternates Elected by Subcaucus.** Alternates elected through subcaucus voting systems will be upgraded to delegate status in the order reported within their subcaucus and according to equal division. If there are no alternates available from within a subcaucus, alternates will be raised from among the highest-ranking alternates, who will achieve or maintain equal division, within the other subcaucuses by a lottery, in which each subcaucus is represented in proportion to its delegate allocation strength.
  - d. **Temporary Delegate Badges.** A temporary delegate badge shall be issued to an alternate when the alternate is raised to delegate status. If the upgraded alternate is subsequently returned to alternate status, the alternate's delegate badge shall be immediately surrendered.
  - e. **No Upgrading During Voting.** There shall be no upgrading of alternates during any voting process.
10. **Floor Access.** Non-upgraded alternates and visitors present shall be seated separately from delegates and shall not be allowed on the convention floor during the convention.
  11. **Floor Passes—Campaigns.** No more than 10 floor passes shall be issued by the Credentials Committee chair to each candidate for those positions that are on the agenda to be elected or endorsed at this convention or at a higher-level convention. Individuals with campaign floor passes shall not be permitted on the floor when it is frozen.
  12. **Floor Passes—Accommodations.** Special floor passes shall be issued for an interpreter or other personal care assistant for any delegate or upgraded alternate who submits a request to the Credentials Committee. Such persons may be seated in close proximity to the delegate or alternate they are assisting, but they shall play no role in the convention.
  13. **Adjournment.** The convention shall not adjourn before completing the following business:
    - a. Elections of senate district officers specified in the senate district constitution,
    - b. Consideration of endorsement for state senate,
    - c. Consideration of endorsements for state house,
    - d. Election of State Convention delegation, and
    - e. Election of State Central Committee delegation.
  14. **Convention Chairs.** The convention shall elect one or more convention chairs, with equal division by gender identity, by **majority or plurality vote** as the convention determines. The convenor will open nominations and, if a delegate to the convention, may nominate any persons invited by senate district leadership to serve as convention chairs. Further nominations may be made from the floor. Unless the convention determines otherwise, it will elect two convention chairs.
  15. **Convention Assistants.** Following the election of chairs, the convention shall elect one or more parliamentarians, with equal division by gender identity, by **majority or plurality vote** as the convention determines. The elected convention chairs may place names of any invited parliamentarians into nomination. The convention chairs shall appoint a convention secretary and may appoint timekeepers, tellers, sergeants-at-arms, and other assistants as they deem necessary to conduct convention business.
  16. **Equal Division by Gender Identity.** Equal division by gender identity is achieved in elections and upgrading of alternates when the number of individuals elected or delegates seated of the male or female gender identity does not exceed the other by more than one. Individuals who do not identify as male or female shall not be counted as either male or female, and the remainder of the delegation shall be equally divided by gender identity. An individual's gender identity is determined by gender-self-identification.
  17. **Voting Methods.** Voting in contested elections and endorsements shall be by written ballot. In the event of a tie vote in an election, there will be a run-off ballot including only the names of the tied candidates; if a tie still exists, it will be broken by lot. All other voting shall be by voice vote or uncounted rising vote unless a written ballot vote is requested by the convention chair or by **one third** of the delegates present.

18. **Ballot Distribution.** On matters to be determined by written ballot, convention tellers shall distribute any paper ballots to the chair of each precinct delegation. These ballots shall be returned by the precinct delegation chair to the tellers. Tellers shall distribute any electronic ballots to delegates and upgraded alternates directly. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates and upgraded alternates seated under the rules of this convention.
19. **Prayer Breaks.** The convention shall recess for scheduled prayer breaks. No business nor any upgrading of alternates shall be conducted during a prayer break.
20. **Smoking/Vaping.** Smoking, vaping, and use of intoxicants is prohibited on the convention floor. No smoking or vaping is allowed in the hallways adjacent to the convention hall, or outside the main entry to the building.
21. **Signs, Literature, Demonstrations, and Order in Convention Hall.** No person may place any banners or posters on the convention platform or in any way obstruct the view of the platform by delegates. All signs and other materials must comply with the rules of the convention facility, and with any additional rules and procedures established by the Rules Committee. Campaign literature may not be distributed in the convention hall during balloting. No moving demonstrations are permitted during balloting. There shall be no disruptive demonstrations in the galleries. Each delegation will be responsible for collecting materials and garbage. Whistles, air horns, bull horns, and strobe lights or other similar devices will not be allowed during the convention in the convention hall.

#### SPEECH AND DEBATE RULES

22. **Recognition.** No delegate may speak until recognized by the convention chair. Speakers will first state their name and precinct and may state their pronouns. Speakers should always address the chair. No person may speak more than once on an item of business until all others on that side who wish to do so have had an opportunity, and no one may speak more than twice on any item.
23. **Speaking Limits—Debate.** Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, no delegate shall speak

for more than **2 minutes** on any item. The chair will rotate speaking privileges among floor microphones and between proponents and opponents of a measure to the extent possible. Debate will terminate when **3 speakers** have been heard on each side.

24. **Dropped or Withdrawn Candidates.** A properly nominated candidate who is dropped under the appropriate drop rule, or who voluntarily withdraws, may address the convention for up to **1 minute** immediately after withdrawing, or before or immediately after the ballot result is announced.
25. **Motions to Table.** Any motion to table shall be considered as though it were a motion to postpone indefinitely. A motion to postpone indefinitely does not preclude amendments to the main motion.
26. **Motions to Reconsider, Object to Consideration.** The motions “to reconsider and enter on the minutes” and “to object to consideration” are not in order. The motion to reconsider is in order only at times when it can be taken up and will require a **two-thirds vote**.
27. **Motions in Writing.** Any amendment to a motion or resolution which removes, changes, or adds **5 or more words** must be submitted in writing to the convention chairs before being considered.
28. **Dignitary Speeches.** Incumbent DFL office holders, declared or potential DFL candidates, and other party dignitaries may address the convention at the discretion of the convention chairs. Such visitors will limit their remarks to no more than **2 minutes**.

#### WALKING SUBCAUCUS

29. **Time Limits for Walk Periods.** If a Walking Subcaucus system is used, delegates will have an initial period of **15 minutes** after subcaucus nominations are completed to move to the subcaucus of their choice. If all remaining subcaucuses are viable on the first count, then there shall be no second count. If any subcaucus is not viable on the first count, the convention chair will announce an additional **5-minute** period during which delegates can move among the remaining subcaucuses.
30. **Equal Division.** If elections for State Convention delegates and alternates or State Central Committee members and alternates take place by subcaucus and the resulting delegation is not equally divided by gender

identity, an odd-numbered subcaucus selected by lot from among those that elected more delegates of the over-represented gender identity will be instructed by the convention chairs to exchange one delegate of the over-represented gender identity for its highest ranking alternate of a different gender identity in the case of state delegates, and to replace a person it had elected with a person of a different gender identity in any other case. Any delegate reduced to alternate status will become the highest-ranking alternate of that subcaucus. If balance by gender identity is still not achieved, the process will be repeated with another odd-numbered subcaucus.

31. **Convention Chairs' Duties.** The convention chairs shall ensure that all Walking Subcaucuses are moving smoothly and assist those that are running behind.

### PARTY OFFICER ELECTIONS

32. **Nominations and Speeches.** Each party office shall be elected separately in the order listed on the agenda. The convention chair begins each election by opening nominations for that office. If constituted for the convention, the Nominations Committee shall place the committee's recommended candidate(s) into nomination. The committee may nominate as many persons for each office as there are positions to be elected at the convention. Other nominations may be made from the floor by name only without speeches or seconds. After nominations for an office are closed, each candidate may have **2 minutes** to use as they wish.
33. **Chair, Vice Chair, etc.** The senate district chair, vice chair (not of the same gender identity as the chair), secretary-administration officer, treasurer, affirmative action-outreach officer, and communications officer shall be elected by a **majority vote**. Voting will be conducted by a separate ballot for each position. If none of the nominees for an office receive a **majority vote** on a ballot, the nominee with the fewest votes will be dropped on the next ballot, provided that at least **two** candidates remain on that ballot.
34. **Directors.** The convention shall elect directors as specified in the senate district constitution and the convention notice. If delegates sufficient to elect one director demand to use proportional voting, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. If proportional voting is not used, the

convention will elect directors by **majority or plurality vote** as the convention determines. The convention chairs shall ensure that the election of directors results in equal division by gender identity. A contest for directors exists when the number of nominees of the male or female gender identity exceeds the other by more than one, even when the total number of nominees does not exceed the number of positions to be elected. Vacancies must be maintained such that equal division is achieved as to those directors elected.

35. **State Central Committee.** The convention shall elect State Central Committee members and alternates. The total delegation and any automatic members are specified in the 2024-2025 Official Call. One alternate shall be elected for each member, including the senate district chair and vice chair. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity. If a contest for members exists and more than **three members** are to be elected by the convention, the convention chair will ask for a show of hands on whether to use proportional voting.
  - a. **Proportional Voting.** If delegates sufficient to elect one member demand to use proportional voting, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call following the rules stated in the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules.
  - b. **Non-Proportional Voting.** If proportional voting is not used, the convention will elect State Central Committee members by **majority or plurality vote** as the convention determines.
  - c. **Alternates.** State Central Committee alternates will be nominated and elected after State Central Committee members, repeating the above steps used to elect members. Alternates must be ranked by the convention or subcaucus (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) for use in upgrading at meetings. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity.
  - d. **Equal Division.** The convention chairs shall ensure that the election of State Central Committee members and alternates results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the members elected, the alternates elected, and the entire delegation. A contest for State Central Committee members or alternates exists when the number of nominees of the male or female gender identity exceeds the other by more than one, even when the total number of nominees does not exceed the

number of positions to be elected. Vacancies must be maintained such that equal division is achieved as to those members and alternates elected. If the difference between female- and male-identifying members is one, the imbalance in delegate election must be reversed in favor of the underrepresented gender identity in the election of alternates.

### ENDORSEMENT RULES

36. **House District Conventions.** The senate district convention shall recess into two house district conventions. All senate district convention delegates are delegates to their respective house district conventions. Unless the convention determines otherwise, the senate district convention chairs may serve as convenors of each house district convention. Each house district convention elects its own convention chairs and takes up the business of state house endorsement. It may conduct other business as authorized by the senate district convention. Each house district convention may recess in between ballots to permit the senate district convention to reconvene and proceed with other business on its agenda. Each house district convention shall adjourn upon completion of its business.

37. **Nominations.** Candidates for endorsement shall be nominated by name only without speeches or seconds. Nominations for endorsement for state senate and state house shall follow officer reports in the agenda. If no contest exists, endorsements by acclamation are in order under Rule 40.

38. **Speeches.** Each candidate (and/or their representative(s)) shall be allowed no more than **10 minutes** to address the convention. No others may speak on behalf of or against the candidate. When there is only one nominee for an endorsement, the candidate may reserve their speech until after the convention has voted on the endorsement.

39. **Question and Answer.** If there is more than one nominee, a question-and-answer session will take place after candidate speeches as follows:

- a. **First Question.** The first question to candidates for endorsement shall be “Will you suspend your campaign if someone other than you is endorsed by this convention? A ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answer only.”
- b. **Submission in Writing.** All other questions must be submitted in writing before the completion of candidate presentations.
- c. **Criteria for Questions.** All questions must be:

- i. Legible,
  - ii. General in nature and addressed to all candidates,
  - iii. Cover a single topic,
  - iv. Not in the nature of a personal attack, and
  - v. Possible to answer within a **1-minute** period.
- d. **Screening of Questions.** The convention chairs or their designee shall screen all questions and eliminate any that are duplicative or not in compliance. The remaining questions shall be selected randomly.
- e. **Asking Questions.** The convention chair shall ask the candidates each question in turn, but shall not read any preliminary remarks, statements or explanations included with the question.
- f. **Order of Response.** The order of response for the first question will be established by random selection and will rotate for each subsequent question.
- g. **Time Limit for Responses.** Each candidate shall be allowed **1 minute** to answer each question.
- h. **Time Limit for Session.** The question-and-answer session will last for up to **10 minutes** per candidate nominated but for no longer than **60 minutes** total. The session shall end if all questions are asked but shall be extended to allow all candidates to answer the final question.

40. **Vote Threshold.** Endorsement of a candidate for state house requires a **60 percent affirmative vote** of the convention. When there is only one nominee, the convention may vote by acclamation (voice vote) on the endorsement.

41. **Drop Rule.** Candidates receiving less than **10 percent** will be dropped after the first ballot. On subsequent ballots, the drop off percent will be raised by **5 percent** each ballot. In addition, after the **4<sup>th</sup>** ballot, the lowest remaining candidate will be dropped regardless of vote share. However, in no case will this drop rule be used to reduce the number of candidates remaining on the next ballot to less than **two**.

42. **No Endorsement.** If no candidate for endorsement has received **60 percent** of the votes cast after **5 ballots**, a motion to have no endorsement will be in order at any time thereafter and will pass with a **majority vote**.

### STATE CONVENTION DELEGATE ELECTIONS

43. **Delegate Election Procedures.** The number of state delegates and alternates to be elected by the

convention is specified in the 2024-2025 Official Call. The procedures to be used in the election of delegates and alternates to the congressional district and State Conventions are as follows:

- a. **Acclamation.** If the convention chair determines that no more want to serve than there are delegate positions, the election shall be by acclamation.
- b. **Proportional Voting.** If a contest exists, the convention chair shall ask for a show of hands on whether to use proportional voting. If delegates sufficient to elect one State Convention delegate demand proportional voting, it must be used.
- c. **Walking Subcaucuses.** If proportional voting is used, the convention will use the Walking Subcaucus system described in the Official Call and will follow the rules of the Walking Subcaucus section of these rules. In addition, each subcaucus must indicate the gender identity of all delegates and alternates for the purpose of equal division within the senate district's delegation.
- d. **Non-Proportional Voting.** If proportional voting is not used, the convention will elect State Convention delegates by **majority or plurality vote** as the convention determines.
- e. **Alternates.** Alternates will be nominated and elected in a similar fashion to delegates. Alternates must be ranked by the convention or subcaucus (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) for use in alternate upgrading at the congressional district and State Conventions. Alternates are ranked without regard to gender identity.
- f. **Equal Division.** The convention chairs shall ensure that any contested election of State Convention delegates and alternates results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the delegates elected, the alternates elected, and the entire delegation. If the difference between female- and male-identifying members is one, the imbalance in delegate election must be reversed in favor of the underrepresented gender identity in the election of alternates. If equal division does not occur when electing State Convention delegates or alternates, the unit chair must submit with the convention reports a written statement indicating why equal division did not occur.

#### DELEGATION CHAIR AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

unit's delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall meet immediately after the adjournment of the organizing unit convention. Unless the convention determines otherwise, the organizing unit convention chairs may serve as convenors of the delegation meeting. The delegation shall elect its own meeting chairs and take up the business of electing the congressional district pre-convention committee members and the election of delegation co-chairs.

45. **Congressional District Pre-convention Committee Elections.** If the congressional district does not specify otherwise, the State Convention delegation shall elect congressional district pre-convention committee members and alternates (if any). Committee members and alternates must be delegates or alternates to that convention (including non-voting delegates but excluding Distinguished Party Leader delegates). The meeting chairs shall ensure that any contested election of pre-convention committee members results in equal division by gender identity with respect to the members, alternates (if any), and the entire delegation elected to each committee. If equal division does not occur when electing pre-convention committee members and alternates, the unit chair must submit with the convention reports a written statement indicating why equal division did not occur.
46. **State Convention Delegation Co-Chairs.** The delegation shall elect delegation co-chairs, not of the same gender identity, for purposes of alternate seating, roll call, and ballot voting at the state and congressional district conventions. Any State Convention delegate (not alternates) shall be eligible for election as a delegation co-chair. The names of the delegation co-chairs shall be reported promptly to the organizing unit secretary and the State DFL Office.

#### PLATFORM AND RESOLUTIONS

47. **Reading of Platform Statement.** The Platform Statement in the Official Call shall be read to the convention or other group selecting the resolutions to forward before consideration of resolutions begins.
48. **Resolutions.** The organizing unit can forward to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee a number of resolutions equal to **twice the number of State Convention delegates** allocated to the organizing unit, or **20 resolutions**, whichever is greater. The resolutions to be forwarded by the organizing unit

44. **State Convention Delegation Meeting.** The organizing

must be selected from among those resolutions adopted by the precinct caucuses from precincts wholly or partially within the organizing unit. The resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee should address party positions on state and national issues. Resolutions that cover only local issues should not be forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee. All resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues must be submitted in the format prescribed by the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee, with only one resolution per form and only one subject per resolution. After the convention or meeting, the organizing unit chair must send or deliver the resolutions selected to the State DFL Office so they are received no later than the date in the Official Call.

49. **Procedure for Selection.** The procedure for selecting the resolutions to be forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee is as follows:

The convention will vote on each resolution presented for consideration. To remain in consideration, a resolution must receive at least a **60 percent affirmative vote** of the convention. In calculating vote totals, abstentions shall be counted as part of the vote (in effect making them "no" votes). If more than the allowed number of resolutions receive the necessary **60 percent vote**, the resolutions that received the highest percentage vote (with any ties for last place decided by lot) will be the resolutions forwarded to the State DFL Platform and Issues Committee.

# TEMPORARY AND PROPOSED AGENDA

## 2026 SD59 DFL CONVENTION

### SENATE DISTRICT CONVENTION

- 1) Call to order by senate district chair – **11:00 a.m.**
- 2) Welcome(s).
- 3) Reading of Affirmative Action, Outreach, and Inclusion Statement.
- 4) Resolutions Committee report and reading of Platform Statement.
- 5) Credentials Committee report and resolution of any credentials challenges.
- 6) Election of convention chairs and parliamentarian(s).
- 7) Appointment of convention secretary and other officials.
- 8) Adoption of Agenda and Rules.
- 9) Election of precinct delegation chairs.
- 10) Officer reports, if any.
- 11) Endorsement for state senate. If no contest exists, a vote by acclamation is in order under Rule 40.
- 12) Separation into house district conventions and endorsement of candidates for state house. If no contests exist, votes by acclamation are in order under Rule 40. Then reconvene as the senate district convention.
- 13) Constitution Committee report and consideration of amendments to SD59 DFL Constitution and bylaws.
- 14) Nominations Committee report and election of party officers: chair, vice chair (not of the same gender identity as the chair), secretary-administrative officer, treasurer, affirmative action-outreach officer, communications officer, and directors (12-19).
- 15) Election of State Central Committee delegation of 5 delegates (not including chair and vice chair) and 7 alternates.
- 16) Election of State Convention delegation of 19 delegates and 19 alternates.
- 17) Other Business.
- 18) Adjournment.

### STATE CONVENTION DELEGATION MEETING

- 1) Call to order by organizing unit convention chairs – immediately after convention adjournment.
- 2) Reading of Affirmative Action, Outreach, and Inclusion Statement.
- 3) Election of meeting chairs.
- 4) Election of congressional district pre-convention committee members and alternates, if applicable.
- 5) Election of State Convention delegation co-chairs.
- 6) Adjournment.

\* Each house district convention may recess in between ballots to permit the senate district convention to reconvene and proceed with other business on its agenda.

\*\* Speakers may address the body throughout at the chair's discretion.

\*\*\*Prayer breaks of at least 15 minutes will be taken at:

Prayer Breaks for Saturday, March 7, 2026

*All times U.S. Central Time*

Fajr	5:03 am
Sunrise	6:40 am
Dhuhr	12:24 pm
Asr	3:33 pm
Maghrib	6:09 pm
Isha	7:41 pm

Source: <https://salahtimes.net/>



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

*Introduction to the Declaration of Independence*

Asserts as a matter of natural law the ability of a people to assume political independence; acknowledges that the grounds for such independence must be reasonable, and therefore explicable, and ought to be explained.