



My name is Travis "Bull" Johnson and I am the Chair and founder of the Constitutional Republic Party, a party still in its infancy, only a few months old. I founded this party after my 2022 Congressional run in Minnesota's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District where I took 5.4% of the vote. I campaigned for 18 months and we spent about \$50,000 to earn that 5.4%, but it was the proof of concept we needed that we could provide a political home to all of the political orphans that the GOP and DFL left behind in the race to the edges.

When we decided to start this party it was with the knowledge for it to grow and to give a real options to people we would need to earn ballot access, we put forth our plan to put all of our efforts into the next state wide race (US Senate in 2024) in order to try to earn ballot access so people would have a real choice in the following elections, not just red or blue. We also understood some of the dangers to a new party and placed safeguards in our by-laws and trademarked the party so that we could protect the brand and protect ourselves from bad actors who did not believe in and support our principles and would ensure that our candidates would represent what we believed in, the Constitution.

The purpose of a political party is to get people elected to public office and you can not win the game if you are not allowed on the field, the field being the ballot. While some safeguards should be in place to prevent the abuse of the system, this proposed change to 10% is not really attainable unless there is a state wide race that is not contested.

I mentioned in the first paragraph how I got 5.4% of the vote in a congressional race last year, let me put that in some perspective for you. In 2022 there was roughly 114 races between the US House of Representative, the US Senate and governorships where there was a third party in addition to the Democrats and the GOP. A total of 2 broke 5%, none broke more than 7%.

The DFL points to states with much higher percentages to be considered a major party, but we are not really talk about major party status, we are talking about ballot access. What the DFL is not telling you is that MN is the only state that requires major party status to get on to the ballot, the others that recognize major and minor parties in their statutes grant ballot access to minor parties. Only 14 states require 5% or more for party ballot access, only 4 require the 10% included in this bill, Alabama, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

This proposal by the DFL flies against everything the DFL claims it supports about diversity, it basically says you need to be among the majority population for your voices to be heard and if you are not, your voices do not count, there is no room at the table if your colors are not red or blue.

I call on every member here to do what is right for the people of Minnesota and give us a choice and not do what is best for your party and power.

I would not have started this party, if the ballot standard had been 10%, it would have been unrealistic to expect ballot access and you can not change anything from the stands. We deserve the freedom of options on our ballots, the DFL push for RCV while pushing this bill is just a way for them to ensure they are the only options while pretending they are for choice. With all due respect, I call bullshit.

One last thought, if this was any other industry other than politics, and the two major players Chairperson of their boards had colluded to limit the access of competition into the market, they would be up on anti-trust violations, why should it be acceptable in politics for them to do the same? That is the only purpose of this bill, to eliminate competition and protect the majorities market share.

We are firmly opposed to HF2808. We are including a copy of other states requirements for ballot access along with their statute numbers for verification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T E 'Bull' Johnson" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Travis "Bull" Johnson

Chair, Constitutional Republic Party

218-280-4854

## WHAT MUST A PARTY DO TO KEEP QUALIFIED STATUS

Ala	Any statewide office	20%	17-13-40	2000
Alas	Governor or US Senator	3% (or 5,000 registrants)	15.60.010	2022
Az	President and Governor	5% (or .67% of total Regis.)	16-804A	2022
Ark	President and Governor	3%	7-1-101(1)	1996
Cal	Any statewide, gubernatorial years	2% (or .33% of total Regis.)	5100a	2022
Colo	Any statewide	1% (or have 1,000 reg.)	1-4-1303	2022
Ct	Any (each office separate)	1%	9-372(f)	2022
Del	Party's vote irrelevant	Regis. of one-tenth of 1%	3001	2022
Fla	Party's vote irrelevant	File list of officers	97.021(14)	2022
Ga	Any statewide	1% (of no. of reg. voters)	21-2-180(2)	2022
Hi	Party's vote irrelevant	Be on last 3 elections	11-62(d)	2022
Id	Party's vote irrelevant	Must have run 3 candidates	34-501(1)a	2022
Il	Any statewide	5%	10-2	2006
In	Secretary of State	2%	3-8-7-25	2022
Io	President and Governor	2%	43.2	2022
Kan	Any statewide	1%	25-302(b)	2022
Ky	President	2%	118.325	2016
La	Party's vote irrelevant	Must have 1,000 registrants	441	2022
Me	Party's vote irrelevant	Must have 5,000 registrants	321.1	2022
Md	President or Governor	1% (or 1% registration)	4-103	2022
Ma	Any statewide	3% (or 1% registration)	50-1	2022
Mi	Any statewide	1% Sec State winner's vote	168.685(3)	2022
Mn	Any statewide	5% at either of last 2 elec.	200.02.7	2020
Ms	Party's vote irrelevant	Must be organized	23-1-81(c)	2022
Mo	Any statewide	2% at either of last 2 elec.	115.013(10)	2022
Mt	Any statewide, either of last 2 elec.	5% of gub. winner's vote	13-10-601	2020
Neb	Any statewide (or reg. of 10,000)	5%, either of last 2 elec.	32-521	2022
Nev	Any office, statewide or district	1% of U.S. House vote	293.1715	2022
NH	Governor or U.S. Senator	4%	652:11	2016
NJ	Lower house of legislature	10% of statewide vote	19:1-1	1913
NM	Any office, statewide or district	5% of gub/pres vote total	1-7-7	2022
NY	President and Governor	2%	1-104.3	2022
NC	Pres or Gov, or on in 35 states	2% (or on in 35 states)	163-96(1)	2020
ND	Pres., Gov., Sec. Of State, Att Gen	5%	16.1-11-30	2016
Oh	President or Governor	3%	3517.01	2014
Ok	Any statewide,	2.5%, either of last 2 elec.	1-109	2022
Ore	Any statewide	1% of U.S. House vote	248.008(2)	2022
Pa	Party's vote irrelevant	15% registration membership	2872.2(a)	never
RI	President or Governor	5%, either of last 2 elec.	17-1-2(f)	2014
SC	Party's vote irrelevant	Must have run 1 candidate	7-9-10	2022
SD	Any statewide	2.5%, either of last 2 elec.	12-1-3(3)	2022
Tn	Any statewide	5%	2-104(27a)	1968
Tx	Any statewide	2% in any of last 5 elections	181.005(b)	2022
Ut	Any statewide	2% at either of last 2 elec.	20-3-2(g)	2022
Vt	Party's vote irrelevant	Be organized in 10 towns	2103(23)	2022
Va	Any statewide	10%, either of last 2 elec.	24.2-101	1994
Wa	President	5%	29.01.090	2000
WV	Governor	1%	3-1-8	2020
Wis	Any statewide	1%, either of last two elec.	5.62(1b)	2022
Wy	U.S. House, Governor or Sec. State	2%	22-1-102(18)	2022