



THE STATE OF BOYS



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Houston County Delegations Advance Amendment Proposal Following Contested Boys State Elections

By: Matthew Mangan

In a development that participants described as both unprecedented and consequential, members of the Minneapolis and St. Paul delegations at Boys State Houston County broke new legislative ground Wednesday by initiating the drafting of a constitutional amendment designed to establish write-in candidacy provisions for every state-level elected office.

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Drawing inspiration from the traditions of constitutional self-government established by the Founding Fathers, delegates framed their effort as an exercise in civic responsibility and institutional reform. Just as the architects of the American republic sought to create mechanisms capable of addressing perceived shortcomings in government while preserving democratic legitimacy, participants determined that constitutional amendment would be an essential tool for correcting electoral deficiencies and safeguarding the rights of voters. The proposal emerged in the aftermath of what numerous delegates characterized as unfair electoral procedures surrounding the selection of candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. Concerns raised by participants centered on questions of candidate access, electoral equity, and the perceived limitations of the existing nomination framework.

Responding to these concerns, the entire cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul convened to formulate a comprehensive amendment aimed at expanding democratic participation within the Boys State governmental structure. The proposed measure would create a formal write-in mechanism applicable to all statewide offices, thereby allowing delegates to support candidates whose names do not appear on official ballots.

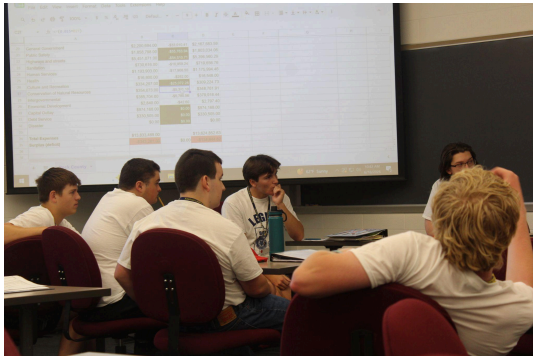
The amendment represents a fundamental affirmation of representative governance. They contend that democratic institutions derive legitimacy not merely from procedural compliance but from the availability of meaningful electoral choice. By providing delegates with the ability to cast votes for individuals outside the established candidate slate, advocates believe the amendment would strengthen both electoral accountability and voter autonomy. “The principle at stake is broader than any single election,” one delegate involved in the drafting effort stated. “Our objective is to ensure that every voter retains the opportunity to support the candidate they believe best represents their interests, regardless of whether that individual was included in the original nomination process.”

Counselors within the Boys State program noted that write-in candidacy provisions have historically occurred as an important safeguard in democratic systems, particularly in circumstances where voters perceive limitations in ballot access or candidate representation. The proposed amendment seeks to institutionalize that safeguard by extending it uniformly across all state-level offices. The drafting process began Wednesday evening, with participating delegates collaborating on constitutional language, implementation procedures, and standards governing vote

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accessibility with administrative clarity, ensuring that any future write-in system would operate transparently and efficiently. Should the amendment advance through the necessary legislative and constitutional channels, it could represent one of the most significant electoral reforms undertaken during the current Boys State session. Advocates maintain that the measure is not intended to challenge the legitimacy of existing officeholders but rather to expand the mechanisms through which democratic participation can occur.

For many participants, Wednesday's actions signaled a broader commitment to democratic innovation. Whether the amendment ultimately succeeds or fails, its introduction has already inspired delegates to stand firmly behind their principles, engage more actively in the legislative process, advocate for their convictions, and participate in shaping the institutions that govern them.



Rock County Hit by Devastating Flooding

Rock County faced a terrible flood today, in which 75 people were displaced, and \$3.1 million in damage was suffered.

Counties elected officers yesterday afternoon, and those officers assumed office this morning.

The first order of business in Rock County was to balance the budget. Coming into the day, Rock County had a deficit of \$343,261.

The county government was able to balance the budget through a series of targeted budget cuts and the creation of an investment committee.

Immediately following the balancing of the budget, however, the county was hit by a massive flood that displaced 75 people and caused \$3.1 million in damages.

Rock County subsequently requested aid from the governor, which approved some aid, and from its other nearby counties, Cook and Houston, from which it has not heard back from yet.

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Rock County Delegate Sentenced During Budget Dispute

One of the most talked-about controversies at Boys State so far this week centered on Rock County delegate Khoa, who became the subject of a highly publicized court case. This all occurred during a county meeting that involved a heated dispute over a proposed 1.5% budget reduction to Khoa's program. According to the allegations presented during the proceedings, Khoa was accused of threatening county board members' grandmothers in an effort to reverse the funding cut.

After a lengthy trial filled with intense testimonies and aggressive debate, the county court found Khoa guilty. He was sentenced to 10 in the Boys State Prison system. Undeterred by the verdict, Khoa served his 10 minutes and immediately announced plans to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. As of the time of writing this the appeal is pending."



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Expedited Truth

Richard C. Ebert, Joe Kise, Lee Krough, Lars Nesvig, and C.A. “Chic” Zwiener: Were key individuals behind the establishment of Minnesota's Boys State program in 1949.



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