

Subject Rotation of candidate names on ballot

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Overview

This bill modifies the standards for rotation of candidate names for partisan offices on the state general election ballot. Instead of ordering major party candidates based on the vote share for their party at the last state general election, all candidate names would be rotated so that each candidate's name appears a substantially equal number of times at the top, bottom, and middle of the ballot. This rotation process would apply to all candidate names, regardless of their party affiliation.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Party columns; arrangement.
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In a section of law governing the ordering of party columns on the primary election ballot, removes a cross-reference that would become obsolete due to a repealer contained later in the bill. The cross-reference is replaced by text that mirrors the content of the subdivision that is being repealed.

2	Rotation of names.
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Requires the names of partisan candidates on the state general election ballot to be rotated in the same manner as the rotation of names on the state partisan primary ballot.

In practice, this change would mean that the names of all candidates would rotate so that each candidate appears a substantially equal number of times at the top, the bottom, and the middle of the list of candidates across all ballots printed for the election.

Under current law, major party candidate names are ordered based on the average number of votes received at the last state general election (with the candidate

Section	Description
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	representing the smallest number of votes appearing at the top). Candidates not affiliated with a major political party appear at the bottom of the list.
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3	Repealer.
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	Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.13, subdivisions 2 and 3, which reflect the current law governing the rotation of candidate names on the ballot. This section is superseded by the new requirement for rotation of names provided in this bill.
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