

**MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Representative Greg Davids, Co-Chair

Representative Kelly Moller, Co-Chair

**Committee Rules for Election Contests
2025-2026**

1. These rules apply to a challenge to the election returns or eligibility of a House member referred to the Committee on Ethics by the House, pursuant to item 9 of the Agreement for House Organization, dated February 5, 2025.
2. The Ethics Committee must not act on an election contest referred to it until all proceedings in the contest, including appeals, have concluded. An election contest may not be referred to the Ethics Committee unless the House has received communication from a court.
3. The Ethics Committee must appoint a House member to make a case in favor of rejecting the election returns or eligibility of the member whose election is contested, hereafter referred to as “the petitioner.” The petitioner must not be a member of the Ethics Committee and may be represented by legal counsel. The petitioner must be given adequate notice of all Ethics Committee meetings regarding the election contest and must have an opportunity to be heard at all such meetings.
4. The member whose election is contested, hereinafter referred to as the “respondent,” must be given adequate notice of all Ethics Committee meetings regarding the election contest and must have an opportunity to be heard at all such meetings. The respondent may be represented by legal counsel.
5. When all judicial proceedings in the contest have concluded, all available court records from the contest must be assembled for the Ethics Committee’s consideration. A copy must be provided to the petitioner and the respondent.
6. With or without a public meeting, the bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Ethics Committee may issue a scheduling order prescribing the time and manner for receiving written briefs and oral arguments from both the petitioner and the respondent. Copies of briefs received by the Committee must be provided to the petitioner and the respondent.
7. The petitioner has the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent’s election returns should not be accepted or that the respondent is ineligible to be a House member.
8. The Ethics Committee may set aside the court's findings of fact in the election contest only if those findings are clearly erroneous, giving deference to the court's opportunity to evaluate witness credibility.

9. No more than 15 days after receipt of a referral of an election contest from the House, or no more than 15 days after conclusion of all expected court communications have been received, whichever is later, the Ethics Committee must conclude its consideration of the election contest and may report any recommendations to the House for final disposition.
10. At any point after the Ethics Committee has received a referral and all proceedings in the contest, including appeals, have concluded, a motion in the committee to conclude consideration and make, or not make, recommendations to the House shall be in order.