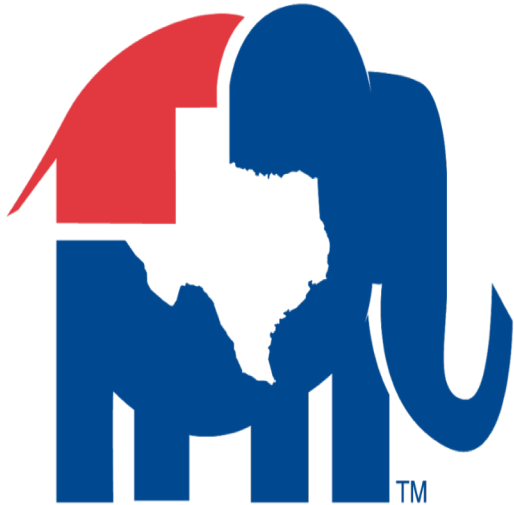


# Road to Convention



**REPUBLICAN  
PARTY OF TEXAS**



# Conventions

## A MAJOR function within the Party

- Precinct Convention**
  - Each County determines when and where to be held
  - Must be AFTER polls close on election day and before County/SD Convention convenes on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday after the Primary Election**
  
- County/Senate District Convention – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday after the Primary Election.**
  - Date is set by state party rule, but the time and location is set by CEC
  - County Convention – if the County is entirely in ONE State Senate District
  - Senate District Convention – if the County has more than one State Senate District



# Purpose of Conventions

- Elect Delegates and Alternates to attend the next convention
- **Set the Party Platform, Rules & Priorities**
- **Elect Party leadership**
  - State Chairman
  - State Vice Chairman
  - National Committeeman
  - National Committeewoman
  - State Republican Executive committee (SREC) Members
- **Effective way to make change happen**



# Delegates

- are grassroots Republicans
- participate in the shaping of the Party, its role, and its direction regarding public policy
- serve as volunteers
- must be elected to represent their district



# The Power of a Delegate

- Shape the defined beliefs of the Party
- Deliver legislative priorities for the Party to champion and for elected officials advance
- Set Party rules
- Elect leadership



# CONVENTION

The convention process is a tiered set of meetings that each primarily have the responsibility of electing delegates to the next level, until delegations from the entire state (or nation) come together in a group small enough to get work done

**PRECINCT → COUNTY / SD → STATE**



# What are resolutions?

A means for proposing your ideas

## Precinct Convention

Bring 3 copies in writing

Propose during appropriate agenda item

Discuss, amend

Vote

**Other conventions:** Resolutions committees



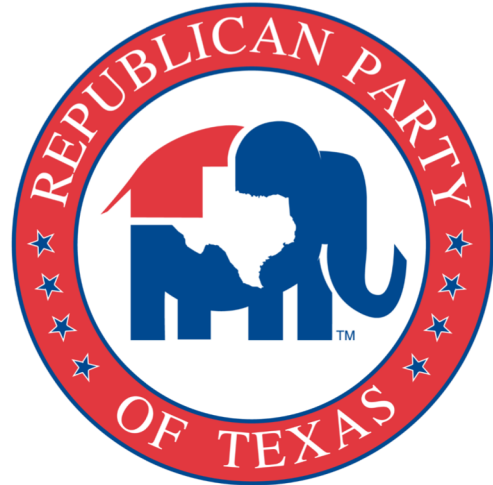
## Remember: Process is key

- Learn Robert's Rules
- Practice (online resources/cheat sheet)
- Study RPT Rules



# Tier 1

## Precinct Conventions





# Who Can Participate?

- Any registered voter in the precinct who voted in the Republican Primary Election of year convention is held.
- Any registered voter who has taken the Oath of Affiliation
  - Not participated in another party's primary or convention process



# CEC Vote on Precinct Conventions

- Your County Executive Committee (CEC) needs to vote on when and where your county will hold their Precinct Conventions.

## OPTIONS:

### 1. After the polls close on Election Day

- **Pros**
  - Easy to tell people when and where to attend
  - Plenty of time to process all paperwork and appoint temporary committees
- **Cons**
  - Make sure you add the extra time into the contracts you sign with the polling locations when you secure them.
  - If many of your activist are also working the polls they might not be able to finish their duties and attend the conventions



# CEC Vote on Precinct Conventions

## 2. Some date or time after Election Day but before the County/SD Conventions

- Pros
  - Election workers would be able to participate in the conventions
  - Doesn't require folks to stay even later on a school night
  - Does not interfere with election night parties or returns
- Cons
  - Might be difficult to get activists out on an additional day
  - Shortens the time frame to organize for the County/SD Convention



# CEC Vote on Precinct Conventions

## 3. Same Day as County Convention -

- Pros
  - Activists only have to give up one day instead of two
- Cons
  - Logistics, especially committee work, could be an issue



# Precinct Convention Process

- The Precinct Chair is the Temporary Precinct Convention Chairman and will start the meeting
  - If there is no Precinct Chair or they aren't present, any single voter or group of Primary Election voters in that Precinct can still hold the meeting
    - If the precinct is vacant and a convention is still held, this might be a good pool of candidates to recruit from to fill the vacancy
  - Materials will be posted on the RPT website
    - Script, Minutes, Delegate/Alternate List, & Sign In Sheet



# Precinct Convention Process

- A Permanent Convention Chairman is elected by those present at the meeting
  - The Precinct Chair can be elected as the Permanent Convention Chairman or another person can be
    - The Permanent Precinct Convention Chair's duties end when the convention is adjourned and they have submitted the convention materials to the County Chair



# Precinct Convention Process

- **At the Precinct Convention, delegates and Alternates are nominated and elected to represent the Precinct at the County/SD Convention**
  - Make sure to use LEGAL names
  - AKA the name used to vote in the election
- **Platform Resolutions are proposed and those adopted are forwarded to the County/SD Convention**
  - Resolutions MUST be presented in writing





# Precinct Convention Guidelines

- No quorum is required
  - One person can hold a convention meeting
- Precinct Conventions can last from a few minutes to an hour or more
- Minutes and other forms **MUST** be returned by the Permanent Convention Chair to the County Chair by the required time and date. Credential problems will occur putting delegate standing at risk if not returned by the required date.



# Submission of Records

- Permanent Chair of the Precinct Convention must submit the records of the convention** (RPT Rule 22c)
  - To the County Chairman
  - On or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after convention (if by mail, then must be deposited in mail by the 2nd day after convention)
    - Unless your county is holding precinct conventions the day before or on the date of the County/SD Convention
- Failure to submit by the deadline**
  - May result in delegate/alternate credentials being in question or revoked by the Credentials committee
- General Rules for all conventions - RPT**  
**Rules 10 - 18A**
- General Rules for Precinct Conventions - RPT**  
**Rules 19 - 22**

Thank you!



# Tier 2

## County & SD Conventions





# Date, Time, and Location

- ❑ **CEC should vote on location and start time of the County/SD Convention**
- ❑ **Location Suggestions – plan for your size**
  - County headquarters
  - County courthouse courtroom
  - School auditorium or cafeteria
  - Church
  - Local business
  - House
- ❑ **Coordinate opening and closing of facility**
- ❑ **County/SD Conventions must be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday after the Primary Election**



# Volunteers

- Delegates, Alternates and Party Officers can also help with these roles
- Tasks
  - Registration
  - Set up
  - Tear down
- **Pages** – High/Home school students are great resources
  - Assist at committee meetings
  - Assist at Registration
  - Assist with Ballot distribution, vote counting, etc.
  - Act as a runner between the main convention and committees

# Appoint Temporary Convention Officers

- Must be after the Primary Election
- Must be a Delegate to the County/SD Convention
- Officers
  - **Temporary Convention Chair**
    - County Convention - County Chair is automatically the Temporary Chair of a COUNTY Convention
    - SD Convention – Precinct Chairs who live in that Senate District elect the Temporary SD Convention Chair from amongst themselves and the County Chair living in the SD
      - For an SD fully contained within the county, first meeting is called by County Chair - body should elect a Temporary SD Chair at this meeting (TEC §171.053)
      - For an SD comprising part of a county and crossing a county line, the first meeting is called by the State Chair - body should elect a Temporary SD Chair at this meeting. Sec. 171.054(b)
      - May be a special meeting or can coincide with a CEC meeting





# Appoint Temporary Convention Officers

- **Officers (continued)**
  - Temporary Convention Secretary
    - May appoint assistants if necessary
  - Temporary Sergeant-at-Arms
    - May appoint assistants if necessary
  - Temporary Parliamentarian
    - May appoint assistants if necessary
- Must be appointed after the Primary Election but before the County/SD Convention
- Must be a **Delegate** to the County/SD Convention
- Once the Chairman and members of the committee are appointed, the committees should meet in ADVANCE (as needed) of the County/SD Convention to conduct their tasks and then be able to provide a report to the delegates at the County/SD Convention





# Appoint Temporary Committee Chairs

- ❑ Must be appointed after the Primary Election but before the County/SD Convention
- ❑ Must be a **Delegate** to the County/SD Convention
- ❑ Once the Chairman and members of the committee are appointed, the committees should meet in ADVANCE (as needed) of the County/SD Convention to conduct their tasks and then be able to provide a report to the delegates at the County/SD Convention
- ❑ Common Convention Committees:
  - Rules
  - Resolutions/Platform
  - Nominations
  - Organization
  - Credentials



# Appoint Temporary Committee Members

- May be done in consultation with Temporary Committee Chairman
- Must be after the Primary Election but before the County/SD Convention
- Must be a DELEGATE to the County/SD Convention
  - If your County/SD Convention has more than 25 delegates
    - Each committee shall be composed of at least 5 but not more than 15 members
- **NOTE**
  - Resolutions need only include the “Resolved” section(s) not the “WHEREAS planks”
  - You do not need to pass the entire previous platform, just the changes/edits/additions



# Temporary Committees & Function

- ❓ **Temporary Credentials** – shall hear any contest concerning delegates and shall recommend the permanent roll of the convention
  - This committee checks to ensure that all delegates whose names are submitted did vote in the Republican Primary Election or have taken the Oath of Affiliation
- ❓ **Temporary Rules** – shall recommend supplementary rules for the convention
  - They can set additional rules concerning time limits, as long as they do not conflict with State Law or Republican Party of Texas Rules
- ❓ **Organization** – shall recommend permanent officers for the County/SD Convention from among the delegates
  - These can and often will be the committee will simply recommend the temporary officers to be permanent officers



# Temporary Resolutions

- **Temporary Resolutions** – shall conduct preliminary deliberations for the purpose of making recommendations to the Permanent Resolutions Committee
  - With all the precincts submitting resolutions for consideration the committee combines and organizes these down to be put before the body for debate and possible adoption
  - The resolutions submitted through this process help form the State Party Platform
    - It is not necessary to pass planks of the current RPT platform
    - Some counties do use it to help organize the submitted resolutions and show delegates how those resolutions would impact the current State Platform



# Temporary Nominations

- **Temporary Nominations** – shall conduct preliminary deliberations for the purpose of making recommendations to the Permanent Nominations Committee
  - This committee compiles a list of eligible Delegates and Alternates to represent the County/SD/CD at the State Convention
    - RPT will supply the breakdown for the delegate/alternate allotment from each Congressional District in your SD or County
  - Eligibility Requirements
    - Must have voted in the Republican Primary Election of the current year of convention - OR
    - Signed the Oath of Affiliation
  - Depending on size some counties ask interested individuals to fill out an application and may even offer opportunities to vet individuals in face-to-face interviews



# Temporary Nominations

- **Individuals to consider**
  - County Chair
  - County Officers
  - Precinct Chairs
  - Party Volunteers
  - Elected Republican Officials/Nominees
- If both a Husband and Wife want to attend the State Convention, many counties ask one spouse to be a Delegate and ask the other spouse to be an Alternate to allow for more overall involvement
- **NOTE:** If you are holding a Senatorial District Convention, there are additional guidelines regarding selection of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention
- **REMINDER:** The list cannot be altered or supplemented once passed by the convention as a whole after the convention adjourns
  - Conventions cannot pass a motion to allow the chair to add to this list



# Guidelines

## ☐ **Voting Strength**

- Each Precinct is allotted a certain percentage of delegates depending on the turnout in the previous **gubernatorial**, election
  - RPT will send you the allotments
- Unless all delegates are present each delegate's vote will be a percentage
  - 20 delegates allowed with 10 in attendance = 2 votes per delegate

## ☐ **Candidate Literature**

- May be freely distributed in delegate and alternate seating areas as long as the items display name and address of the person or group (RPT Rule 15A)



# Important Process Steps!

## Report of Nominations Committee – Exhibits E & F

- After the report of recommended delegates and alternates to the State Convention are made, the report is up for debate and can be amended
- State Convention Delegates – Exhibit E
- State Convention Alternates – Exhibit F
  
- If nothing else TURN THIS IN to State Party!!! **IN A TIMELY FASHION!**
  - Delegates and Alternates from your county or SD CANNOT attend the State Convention if they are not submitted!!





# Important Process Steps

## Report of Permanent Resolutions Committee – Exhibits G & H

- ❑ Typically there are several printed copies of the proposed resolutions for consideration distributed to the convention delegates
- ❑ You can discuss each resolution or you can move to accept the report as a whole
- ❑ ADOPTED Resolutions – Exhibit G  
**Send these in to the State Party**
- ❑ Resolutions NOT adopted – Exhibit H



# Submission of Records

## Deadline to submit paperwork to RPT

- **Exhibit E** – Delegates elected to the State Convention
- **Exhibit F** – Alternates elected to the State Convention
- **Exhibit G** – Resolutions ADOPTED
- Permanent Chair of the Convention must submit the records of the convention (RPT Rule 32)
  - To RPT on or before the 5th day after the convention
- Failure to submit by the deadline
  - May invalidate the convention
  - May result in delegate/alternate credentials being in questioned or revoked by the Credentials committee



# Use Your Time Wisely

- **County Executive Committee**
  - Precinct Chair Vacancies
  
- **Meeting times and other events Promote Party Candidates and Elected Officials**
  - Speak to the convention
  - Sponsor portions of the convention
    - Meals
    - Bottled water
  - Attend and Campaign
    - Set up a table
    - Distribute campaign swag

Thank you!



# Tier 3

## State Convention





# Function of State Convention

- **Every State Convention** (every 2 yrs)
  - Election of Party Officers
    - State Chair
    - Vice Chair
    - SREC Members
  - Adopt a State Party Platform
  - Adopt State Party Rules
- **Presidential Years Only**
  - Elect National Convention Delegates & Alternates
  - Elect National Committeeman & National Committeewoman
  - Elect Presidential Electors from each CD



# Other Aspects of the State Convention

- **Speakers**

- Statewide Elected Officials
- Other prominent Republicans from around the nation

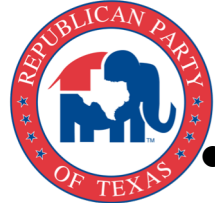
- **Breakout Sessions**

- Educational training
- Issue driven discussion groups
- Panel discussions with field experts

- **Events** – Elected Officials have events where you get to meet them, their campaign staff and other supporters

- **Exhibitors**

- Contact and literature from advocacy groups
- Swag – T-shirts, bumper stickers, pins, jewelry, etc.
- Candidates and Campaigns



## State Convention - Temporary Committees

- Each SREC Member recommends ONE delegate for each committee and SD Caucus. (RPT Rule 33b)
  - If both SREC Members agree on the same committee appointment that is who the State Chair must appoint to the committee.
  - If the members disagree the State Chair must choose between the two recommendations.
  - The State Chair may appoint any delegate from a SD that:
    - Does not submit any names for consideration
    - Submits names that are ineligible or unwilling to serve
- **Committee Appointments must be made within 20 days of the County/SD Conventions.**
- **Committees**
  - State Nominations, Party Organization, Credentials, Platform & Resolutions, & Rules





# State Convention - Appointments

- **State Chairman Appoints a Temporary Caucus Chairman for each CD caucus (RPT Rule 33d)**
- **State Chairman Appoints a Temporary Caucus Chairman for each SD caucus that is recommended by the two SREC members for that SD (if they submit different names, then the State Chairman chooses one of the two names submitted), unless the SD convention requests in writing that the Permanent Chair of the last SD Convention is appointed Temporary Chair (if the SD is fully within one county) (RPT Rule 33d)**



# State Convention - Appointments

- **Rules concerning appointments**
  - All individuals submitted must be delegates at the state convention
    - Alternates are not allowed be on a committee
  - The individual must be willing to serve
  - Ensure the appointee is aware of the additional time and financial commitments that serving as a committee member will incur
  - Their name and contact information will be posted on the RPT website
- **Committee Chairs are appointed by the State Chair**



# Caucuses

- **Senatorial District (SD)**

- Elects Permanent SD Caucus Chairman
- Elects one delegate to each of the Permanent Committees
- Credentials, Rules & Order of Business, Legislative Priorities, Platform & Resolutions, State Nominations Committee
- Each SD elects their State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) Members
- Each SD selects their picks for State Chairman and Vice Chairman

- **Congressional District (CD) (every 4 yrs)**

- Elects Permanent CD Caucus Chairman
- Elects one delegate to the National Nominations Committee
- Selects their picks for National Committee Man & Woman
  - Requires support from 19 of the 36 CD Caucuses to win
- Elects their National Convention Delegates (3) & Alternates (3)
- Elects their Presidential Elector

# Need to Know: Delegates & Alternates





# Delegate & Alternate Qualifications

- **Registered voter in represented area**
- **Affiliated with the Republican Party**
  - Voting in the current year of convention Primary Election
  - Take Oath of Affiliation
    - Cannot have voted in another party's Primary Election or participated in another party's convention process
- **And has been elected at the previous convention level to serve as a Delegate**
  - Excluding Precinct Conventions
- **Judges are prohibited from being a delegate to a political party convention**
  - Canons of Judicial Conduct



# Delegate vs. Alternate

- A delegate may vote – an unseated alternate cannot vote
- A delegate may serve on a temporary or permanent convention committee – an alternate cannot
- A delegate may serve as a temporary or permanent convention officer – an alternate cannot



## Guidelines: Alternates Becoming Delegates

Recommended by either the Rules Committee or the Nominations Committee at your County/SD Convention and the Convention can either adopt or amend/adopt.

- Pairing of Delegates to Alternates
  - Alternate 1 can only serve as a delegate if Delegate 1 is not present
- Replace by Alternate order
  - Alternate 1 serves as a delegate when the first delegate vacancy occurs
  - Alternate 2 serves either
    - When the second delegate vacancy occurs after Alternate 1 has been placed as a delegate
    - If Alternate 1 is not present then Alternate 2 takes the first open delegate spot
- The Caucus Chair or their designee is charged with ensuring that alternates are seated properly & timely throughout the various meetings during the State Convention
  - *If not you can raise a Point of Order*



# Selection

The **only way** to be a delegate or alternate to next level of the convention process:

***ELECTED*** by

your **Previous Convention**





# Perception vs. Reality

The way the process is designed to work...

*Depending on the size and interest in your county the minor details might be different*

# The Process of becoming a delegate



- **How many spots?**
  - Each County/SD Chair will receive their county/SD allotment from RPT
    - Same number of alternates slots as there are delegate slots
- **Two Opportunities**
  - ***Nominations Committee***
    - Submit an application to the nominations committee
    - Interview
    - Committee recommends you to the convention
  - ***Nomination from the Floor***
    - The Permanent County/SD Convention Chair of the Nominations Committee gives a report to the whole listing all the delegates & alternates.
      - The list/report can be amended from the floor

*Being active in the convention process, the county party and other Republican clubs, campaigns, etc. may help increase your chances of being elected as a delegate.*



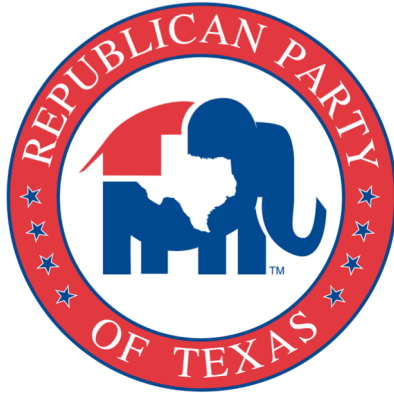
# Attending Convention?

**Pre-register now:**

**[www.TexasGOP.org](http://www.TexasGOP.org)**

**Convention  Convention  
Registration**

# National Convention





# National Convention

- How can you be a delegate or alternate?
  - Elected by your Congressional District Caucus at State Convention
    - Each CD elects 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates
  - Elected by the National Nominations Committee as a Delegate at Large
- Fun but can be expensive - be prepared to do a lot of walking and taking busses from designated hotel to Convention site.



Thank you!