

*2026 Republican Precinct Convention of
Precinct No. 332
Travis County, Texas*

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, the office of Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives is the most powerful political position in Texas State government whose occupant is NOT elected by the voters of Texas as a whole; and

WHEREAS, from 2003 to 2026, there have been only Republican Speakers of the Texas House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, a Republican House Speaker reaching across the political aisle to tap a House colleague of the opposition political party to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives—at a time when the body’s membership is, and has been since January 2003, majority Republican—constitutes a betrayal of the voters of Texas who, starting with the election of November 2002, have consistently, and without exception, chosen a Republican majority for the bicameral Texas Legislature’s larger chamber; and

WHEREAS, yet that is precisely what has occurred on SEVEN occasions from 2003 through the present 89th Texas Legislature; only in a minority of FIVE instances within that same 23-year time-frame, did a Republican Speaker actually appoint a Republican colleague to be second-in-command in leadership within the majority-Republican Texas House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, indeed, the current Speaker Pro Tempore (89th Texas Legislature, 2025-2026) is a member of the political party opposite from that of the current Speaker; and

WHEREAS, events transpiring during 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2019, 2021 and 2025 —78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 86th, 87th and 89th Texas Legislatures—have clearly demonstrated a need for BOTH of the two top leadership positions within the Texas House of Representatives to more closely reflect the statewide electorate’s clearly-expressed wishes over the course of 23 years; and

WHEREAS, in the event of the death or resignation of a Speaker, it is none other than the Speaker Pro Tempore who would replace the deceased, or resigned, Speaker and he or she would ascend to the Speakership of the Texas House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition, by choosing a Speaker Pro Tempore of the opposing political party, a Republican Speaker may, either deliberately or inadvertently, end up shielding himself or herself from proper and appropriate pressures to resign by virtue of the fact that such resignation would shift leadership control in the Texas House of

Representatives from the Republican Party to the opposition political party—all without any general election having intervened; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly clear from the aforementioned 23-year history (2003 to 2026) that Texas has had Republican House Speakers who simply cannot be trusted to always appoint Republican Speakers Pro Tempore in a majority-Republican Texas House of Representatives and steps should now be taken to greater ensure that—while not elected statewide—the leadership in the Texas Legislature’s “lower” house at least somewhat more closely mirror the desires of the statewide electorate; and

WHEREAS, having the Speaker Pro Tempore separately chosen directly by the members themselves of the Texas House of Representatives—rather than being selected by the Speaker himself or herself—would at least be a significant improvement over the status quo; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Platform of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) contained Planks Nos. 83 and 218 relative to the process of selecting a member of the Texas House of Representatives to preside over the body as its Speaker but neither 2018 Plank addressed the issue of the Speaker (or the membership of the body) choosing a Speaker Pro Tempore—who, in the MAJORITY of cases from 2003 through 2026, have been from the OPPOSITION political party; and

WHEREAS, starting with the 2020 RPT Platform, however, albeit in a disappointly weak effort to more directly confront the issue, that year’s Platform contained a very poorly-worded Plank No. 199 which only vaguely mentioned the Speaker Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, after 2020, the provision was redesignated as Subsection “a” of Plank No. 233 in the 2022 Platform; and it was then likewise designated as Subsection “a” but this time in Plank No. 213 of the 2024 Platform—and yet its wording, along with its introductory heading, still remains needlessly and unacceptably hazy; and

WHEREAS, in the RPT’s 2024 Platform—while the language indeed was improved very modestly over the 2022 wording—nevertheless Subsection “a” of the 2024 Plank No. 213 (and its introductory heading) continue to be woefully unclear and for which the very specific following verbiage upgrades are respectfully requested for the coming 2026 RPT Platform in order to achieve total and unambiguous crystal clarity:

“213. [Texas] Speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives, State Legislative [House] Committees, and State Legislative Quorum: In the Texas Legislature:

a) We oppose the use of pledge cards and we call for Republican Texas House of Representatives members to caucus after each November General Election—but prior to the start of the next regular session of the Texas Legislature—to determine, by secure secret ballot, their candidate for Speaker and their candidate for Speaker Pro Tempore. We also call for Republican House members to separately vote as a unified body for their selected Speaker candidate and for their selected Speaker Pro Tempore candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular session, provided that the individuals [individual] selected in caucus for Speaker and for Speaker Pro Tempore both [speaker] publicly pledge [pledges] to comply with the entirety of this plank.”

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Republican Precinct Convention of Precinct 332, Travis County, Texas, conducted on Saturday, March 7, 2026, that:

For the 2026 Platform of the RPT, Subsection “a” of the aforementioned 2024 Plank No. 213 (and its introductory heading) be respectfully requested to be generally retained--but with adjustments, upgrades, refinements and clarifications in the wording of the 2024 plank, as quoted above in this Resolution, and shown with key edits--to further clearly and unambiguously call for the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives to likewise be SEPERATELY elected by means of a block vote within a Republican Texas House caucus, rather than granting to the chosen Texas House Speaker himself or herself the discretion to appoint the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House.

(END)