Road to Convention

Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association

Texas Federation of Republican Women
Conventions

- A **MAJOR** function within the Party

- Precinct Convention
  - Each County determines when and where to be held
  - Must be AFTER polls close on March 1, 2016

- County/Senate District Convention – **March 19, 2016**
  - 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

- State Convention – **May 12th – 14th 2016** Dallas, TX

- National Convention – **July 18th – 21st** Cleveland, Ohio
Purpose of Conventions

- Elect Delegates and Alternates to attend the next convention
- Consider resolutions or statements on policy issues for possible inclusion into State Party Platform
- Determine State Party Rules
- Elect State Party Officers
  - State Chairman
  - State Vice Chairman
  - State Republican Executive committee (SREC) Members
- Elect National Representatives to RNC
  - National Committeeman
  - National Committeewoman
Who can Participate?

- Any registered voter in the precinct who either:
  - Voted in the 2016 Republican Primary Election;
  - OR -
  - Signed the Oath of Affiliation
    - This means the voter did not participate in another Party’s primary or convention process in 2016,
CEC Vote on Pct Conventions

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

  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 Pct Conventions

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

3. Same Day as County Convention
- NOTE: I would only recommend this option for smaller counties with lower population, otherwise logistics will be a nightmare.
- 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 for that precinct any single or group of Primary Election voters in that Precinct can still hold the meeting
    - If this happens, this person(s) might be good to fill the vacancy of Precinct Chair

- 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 is elected by voters in the Primary Election
  - The Precinct Chair can be elected as the Permanent Convention Chairman
    - The Permanent Precinct Convention Chair’s duties end when the convention as adjourned and they have submitted that convention materials to the County Chair.
      - They do not become the Precinct Chair
        - Unless the CEC votes to fill a vacancy
Precinct Convention Process

- 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**
    - Electronic format is preferable and acceptable.
Precinct Convention Guidelines

- No quorum is required
  - One person can hold a precinct convention meeting

- Minutes and other forms MUST be returned by the Permanent Convention Chair to the County Chair by the required time and date or the convention will not be valid

- Precinct Conventions can last from a few minutes to an hour or more
Submission of Records

• Permanent Chair of the Precinct Convention must submit the records of the convention (RPT Rule 22c)
  o To the County Chairman
  o On or before the 3rd 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
  o May invalidate the convention
  o May result in delegate/alternate credentials being in question or revoked by the Credentials committee
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
  o County headquarters
  o County courthouse courtroom
  o School auditorium or cafeteria
  o Churches
  o Local business
  o House

• Coordinate opening and closing of facility

• County/SD Conventions must be held the 3rd Saturday after the Primary Election – March 19, 2016
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
- Tasks
  - Assist at committee meetings
  - Act as a runner between the main convention and committees
- Can also assist with registration, set up and tear down
Appoint Temporary Committee 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 SD elect the Temporary SD Convention Chair from amongst themselves and the County Chair living in the SD (New Law)
  - Temporary Convention Secretary
    - May appoint assistants if necessary
  - Temporary Sergeant-at-Arms
    - May appoint assistants if necessary
  - Temporary Parliamentarian
Appoint Temporary Committee Chairman

- Must be 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 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 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
- Appoint an odd number of members to each committee to avoid tie votes
  - If your County/SD Convention has more than 25 delegates
    - Each committee shall be composed of at least 5 members but not more than 15
- **NOTE**
  - Resolutions should only include the “Resolved” section(s) not the “WHEREAS planks”
  - You do not need to pass the entire 2014 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
  - Set additional rules concerning time limits, as long as they do not conflict with State Law or Republican Party of Texas Rules

- **Party Organization** – shall recommend permanent officers for the County/SD Convention from among the delegates
  - Often 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 2016 Republican Primary Election
    - 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.

- REMIDNER: 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 2014 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)
1. Call to Order
  - Invocation
  - US Pledge
  - Texas Pledge
  - Temporary Committee Members – Exhibit A
    - This is simply a list of the committees, their chairmen and members
  - Appointment of Temporary Officers
    - Secretary
    - Sergeant-at-Arms
    - Parliamentarian
    - Others as needed
2. Roll Call of Temporary Roll of Delegates
   - Report
     - _____ Delegates present
     - Combined voting strength of_______
     - Total number of delegates at the start of the convention___________
   - Quorum – “A majority of the delegates registered as attending”

   - Credentials Committee Report – Exhibit B
   - Amendments to the Credentials Committee Report – Exhibit C
Process

4. Report of Rules Committee
   - Rules Committee Report – Exhibit D

5. Report of Party Organization
   - Report with recommendations for Permanent Convention Officers
   - Election of Permanent Officers
     - Open the floor for other nominations
       - If there are nominations a vote must then be taken
       - If there are NOT any other nominations those Permanent Convention Officers are approved without objection
   - The Permanent Officers
     - Moving forward the Permanent Officers lead the convention
6. Appointment of Committees and Parliamentarian by the Permanent Convention Chairman

- Parliamentarian
  - Does NOT have to be elected or appointed from the convention delegates

7. Precinct Caucuses

- If needed, the Permanent Convention Chair can call a recess to allow precinct delegations to caucus
- This also allows time for other committees to meet if needed
Process


- 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!!!
  - Delegates and Alternates from your county or SD CANNOT attend the State Convention if they are not submitted!!

- 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 into the State Party

- Resolutions NOT adopted – Exhibit H
10. Other Business

11. Announcements
   - Precinct Chair Vacancies
   - County Party Events and Meetings

12. Adjournment
Submission of Records

- **March 24th** – 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 after the convention

- Failure to submit by the deadline
  - May invalidate the convention
  - May result in delegate/alternate credentials being in question 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
2016 State Convention Process
Function of State Convention

• Every State Convention
  • Election of Party Officers
    ▪ State Chair
    ▪ Vice Chair
    ▪ SREC Members (every 2 yrs)
  • Adopt a State Party Platform
  • Adopt State Party Rules

• Presidential Years Only
  • Elect National Convention Delegates & Alternates
  • 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)
  o If both SREC Members agree on the same committee appointment that is who the State Chair must appoint to the committee.
  o If the members disagree the State Chair must choose between the two recommendations.
  o 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
  o State Nominations, Party Organization, Credentials, Platform & Resolutions, & Rules
State Convention – Appointments

- State Chairman Appoints a Temporary Caucus Chairman for each caucus (RPT Rule 33d)

- Rules concerning appointments
  - All individuals submitted must be delegates at the state convention
    - Alternates are not allowed to sit on committees
  - 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 Permanent Committees
  - Platform & Resolutions, Rules & Order of Business, Credentials, State Nominations Committee
- Each SD elects their State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) Members
- Each SD selects their picks for State Chairman and Vice Chairman
  - Requires support from 16 of the 31 SD Caucuses to win

**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

[Logos of the Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association (TRCCA) and the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW)]
Delegate & Alternate Qualifications

- Registered voter in represented area

- Affiliated with the Republican Party
  - Voting in the 2016 Primary Election
  - Take Oath of Affiliation
    - Cannot have voted in another party’s Primary Election or participate in another party’s convention process

- And has been elected to serve at the previous convention level
  - Excluding Precinct Conventions

- Judges, including Justices of the Peace, are prohibited from being a delegate to a political party convention
  - See “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
- A delegate may serve as a CD or SD Caucus temporary or permanent officer – an alternate cannot
- A delegate is included for purposes of a quorum – an unseated alternate is not
Guidelines: Alternates becoming Delegates

- Determined by either the Rules Committee or the Nominations Committee at your County/SD Convention
  - 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 County 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
County/SD Convention

The only way to be a delegate or alternate to State Convention:

ELECTED by

your County/SD Convention
The Process

- **How many spots?**
  - Each County Chair will receive a list from RPT
    - Same number of alternates slots as there are delegate slots

- **Two Opportunities**
  - Nominations Committee
    - Serve as a Nominations Committee Member
      - You MUST be a delegate at the County/SD Convention to serve on any committee
    - Submit an application
    - Interview
  - 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

*It is important to be active in the convention process, the county party and other Republican clubs*
Pop Quiz

You did NOT attend your precinct convention. . .
Do you still have a chance to be elected a delegate or alternate to State Convention?

Yes!

You were elected as a delegate to your County/SD Convention. . .
Are you automatically a delegate or alternate to State Convention?

No!

Can delegates or alternates be added after the convention has adjourned?
If you are not elected as a delegate or alternate to the County/SD Convention can you still be elected to the State Convention?

The only way to serve as a delegate or alternate at State Convention is to be elected by the County/SD Convention?

Are you required to be present at the convention to be elected as a delegate or alternate to the next convention level?
Pop Quiz

If you vote in the 2016 Democrat Primary can you participate in the REPUBLICAN convention process?

What is the only qualification to participate in the Republican Convention process?

- Registered voter in represented area
- Affiliated with the Republican Party
  - Voting in the 2016 Primary Election
  - Take Oath of Affiliation