

**SUPPLEMENTAL RULES
2020 STATE CONVENTION
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS**

Version as approved by Temporary Rules Committee, 1:59 p.m. CDT, July 15, 2020
(Unofficially) Approved without amendment by SREC, July 15, 2020
Amended by SREC, July 17, 2020
Clerical corrections to Rule No. 17 and Rule No. 24, 12:15 a.m. CDT, July 18, 2020

IN GENERAL SESSION

Rule No. 1

The Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, the General Rules of the Republican Party of Texas, and these Supplemental Rules shall govern the proceedings of this convention. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, shall be the parliamentary authority of this convention, insofar as it is applicable and not inconsistent with the Constitution and Statutes, Party Rules, or the Rules herein set forth.

Rule No. 2

Registered Delegates and alternates shall sign into the Zoom platform with the unique link or meeting identification information received from RPT. The Chairman shall assign Zoom hosts to ensure only registered delegates and alternates are admitted and assigned to the correct rooms as needed.

Rule No. 3

In an electronic convention platform, alternates may not participate in verbal interaction with their delegation via Zoom, due to the technology limitations imposed by a virtual convention. The delegates and alternates will be able to cast votes on all issues via a software determined by RPT Staff, but alternates' votes will only be counted if there is a deficit in the voting strength of the delegation. The video and voting software data shall be maintained as a permanent record of the convention. In voting, no one may exercise voting privileges on behalf of another delegate, except for persons assisting delegates who have disabilities or need technical assistance.

Rule No. 4

- a) Original motions and amendments which are not proposed amendments to the 2020 Republican Party of Texas Platform Committee Report or Legislative Priorities Committee Report shall be submitted digitally to the Convention Secretary at secretary@texasgop.org immediately upon being made and seconded.
- b) All resolutions offered by delegates for consideration by the Convention shall include the name and Senate District number of the delegate offering the resolution. The resolutions shall be filed with the Secretary of the Convention submitted digitally not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the first meetings of the permanent committees. The

Secretary of the Convention shall automatically and without debate cause the resolutions to be referred to the appropriate permanent committee.

c) Submitted platform and legislative priorities amendments shall be submitted digitally to the Convention Secretary.

Rule No. 5

To speak on any matter that requires recognition from the Chair, a delegate must type in the chat box to the chairman or enable the correct function to indicate his desire to await recognition by the Chair.

Point of Order or POO

Point of Information or POI

Make a motion or MOVE

Move to amend or AMEND

Speak in favor or FAVOR

Speak against or AGAINST

Second motion: enable the raise hand button

After being recognized but before otherwise addressing the convention, the delegate shall state the delegate's name, county of residence and the purpose for which the delegate seeks recognition.

Rule No. 6

Debate on any motion or resolution shall be limited to three (3) speakers in favor, and three (3) speakers against, with each speaker limited to two (2) minutes, except for the plank discussion, which shall be one and a half (1-1/2) minutes, provided that in his discretion, the Chair shall have the authority to extend debate.

Rule No. 7

The Chair shall present the platform section in the order it appears allowing an opportunity for statements from delegates on that section.

Rule No. 8

In order to be considered a declared candidate for the office of State Chairman, State Vice Chairman, National Committeewoman, or National Committeeman a person must file a written notice of candidacy digitally with the convention secretary at secretary@texasgop.org prior to the start of the General Session at which candidates for the office sought would be scheduled to speak. Only declared candidates may be nominated for such offices.

Declared candidates for the offices of State Chairman and State Vice Chairman shall be allotted ten (10) minutes each, during the First General Session, for the purpose of addressing the convention.

Declared candidates for the offices of National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be allotted five (5) minutes each, during the Second General Session, for the purpose of addressing the convention.

Any part of a candidate's time may be assigned to one or more surrogate speakers. Time with the separate speakers begins when they speak.

Rule No. 9 – Procedures for Adoption of Platform and Legislative Priorities Committee Reports

- a) The Platform and Resolutions Committee shall present its report with up to eleven (11) partial reports, divided as that committee may see fit. Debate on these reports shall be taken up one at a time, in the order which they appear in the combined platform committee report. A motion to call the question shall be limited in scope to a single report of this committee, and not the combined platform committee report. None of these separate reports may take more than twenty-five (25) minutes each to discuss on the floor.
- b) The Legislative Priorities Committee shall include in their report a list of no more than fifteen (15) resolutions defining legislative priorities for the Republican Party of Texas for the 87th session of the Texas Legislature. Debate on the Legislative Priorities Report may allow for debate and amendment from the floor. Legislative priorities shall be for specific changes, additions, and deletions from the law. The attendees shall cast a vote "Yes", "No", or "Abstain" for each of the fifteen (15). The top half, rounded up, shall become the Legislative Priorities of the RPT.
- c) After debate on the reports of the Permanent Platform and Resolutions and Legislative Priorities Committees has concluded (due to the effect of any motion, or expiration of limits of debate, or for any other reason), the Convention shall proceed to voting by ballot on adoption of the platform item-by-item, including the Platform Preamble, each of the Platform Principles, each of the Platform Planks, each of the Legislative Priorities, and any other Resolutions included in the Reports. Votes on an individual item shall be "include" (in favor), "do not include" (opposed), or the individual item may be left blank to abstain or be recorded as present not voting. The tally of the ballots shall be by delegation voting strength and shall be performed electronically.
- d) Platform planks shall be considered finally adopted if a majority voted in favor. The platform preamble, legislative priorities, and the platform principles shall be considered finally adopted if at least sixty (60%) voted in favor. The full provisional results including the voting strength weighted percentage in favor or opposed to each item shall be announced publicly when available and shall be certified by the SREC at their first regular meeting following the convention.

Rule No. 10

With the exception of those rules mandated by the Constitution or Statutes of the State of Texas, or the general Rules of the Republican Party of Texas, a Supplemental Rule governing a General session may be amended or suspended by majority vote of the convention.

Rule No. 11

In contested elections for the positions of State Chairman, State Vice Chairman, National Committeewoman, and National Committeeman the vote in each caucus shall be by secret ballot using software determined by RPT Staff. Each candidate may appoint a vote watcher. All candidates shall be permitted to appoint an equal number of vote watchers.

IN SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

Rule No. 12

The Chairman shall assign Zoom hosts to ensure only registered delegates and alternates are admitted and assigned to the correct rooms as needed.

Rule No. 13 – Nominations

At the time announced for nominations for any given position, nominations shall first be made without nomination speeches. After all nominations are made by and for delegates, then nominating speeches may be made in the order determined by lot. Nominating speeches, if any, shall be made for each candidate followed by seconding speeches, if any, followed by the candidate speaking in their own behalf, if any.

Nominating speeches, seconding speeches and time for the candidate to speak on his or her behalf shall not exceed an aggregate time of three (3) minutes to be used as the candidate so desires except that candidates for State Chairman and State Vice Chairman and candidates for the State Republican Executive Committee shall be provided not more than three (3) minutes to be used as the candidate so desires in the Second Senatorial District Caucus.

Rule No. 14

To speak on any matter that requires recognition from the Chair, a delegate must type in the chat box to the Chair or enable the correct function to indicate his desire to await recognition by the Chair.

Point of Order or POO

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Move to amend or AMEND

Make a motion: enable the raise hand button

Speak in favor: enable green YES button

Speak against: enable red NO button

Second motion: enable the go slower button

Rule No. 15 – Voting

In non-contested elections, voting may be by voice or by general consent via “Yes/No” in Zoom. Voting on issues or other matters shall occur as the caucus so chooses. However, a roll call shall be taken when the request meets the requirements of RPT Rule No. 7.

In all contested elections voting shall be by software determined by RPT Staff. In any election, a majority vote is required. If more than two persons are nominated for the same position and none receives a majority vote, there shall be a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the highest pluralities. Abstentions and blank ballots are not counted.

In multi-county caucuses, each county shall vote their full voting strength after seating qualified alternates. The Caucus Chair shall clarify the allocation of votes by districts pursuant to the Texas Elections Code.

Each Delegate or seated alternate shall have the right to cast their individual vote during a senatorial caucus.

1. Electronic voting shall be used.
2. The Caucus delegates shall use the electronic services approved by the Republican Party of Texas for all electronic votes.
3. Voting strength will be established prior to each vote by utilizing the “roll call” feature to establish voting strength.
4. Each seated delegate or alternate in a caucus shall be provided a means of voting via electronic services.
5. Each individual participant shall be registered and identified on the tabulation device with a unique username.
6. Voting members are each entitled to only one vote; therefore, voting members may vote only on the electronic services provided to them. No Delegate may vote for another Delegate under any circumstances except in the case of a seated alternate.
7. The polls shall be declared closed by the Caucus Chairman, unless there is objection, in which case a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required to close the voting period.
8. Every vote recorded is a secret ballot.
9. Vote results shall be made available to any Delegate that would like to confirm the accuracy of their recorded vote.
10. Where available, final results will be made available

Rule No. 16 – First Senatorial District Caucus

Each Senatorial District Caucus shall meet twice during the course of the Convention. The first meeting shall follow the First General Session for the purpose of electing a Permanent Caucus Chairman, and one member to each of the permanent committees (as defined in RPT Rule No. 34). Under the supervision of the Temporary Caucus Chairman, the voting body of this caucus shall be established prior to the conduct of any business. The Temporary Caucus Chairman shall appoint a Temporary Caucus Secretary and other temporary officers and assistants as needed. The first business in order shall be as follows:

AGENDA FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

- I. Call to Order by Temporary Chairman
- II. Appointment of Temporary Secretary (by Temporary Chairman)
- III. Roll Call – Seating of Delegates, and Alternates for Absent Delegates
- IV. Announcement of Order of Business
- V. Election of Permanent Chairman (if contested, voting shall be by ballot)
- VI. Appointment of Permanent Secretary and other permanent officers (by Permanent Chairman)
- VII. Reports of Temporary Convention Committee Members, each report to be limited to five (5) minutes.
- VIII. Election of One Member to Each Permanent Convention Committee (if contested, voting shall be by ballot)
 - a. Platform & Resolutions
 - b. Rules
 - c. Credentials
 - d. State Nominations
 - e. Legislative Priorities
- IX. Announcements, including the Candidate Resource Committee collection
- X. Adjourn to Meet Again

Rule No. 17 – Second Senatorial District Caucus

The second meeting of the Senatorial District Caucus shall be for the purpose of electing a District Committeeman and District Committeewoman to the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) and recommending one candidate for State Chairman and one candidate for State Vice Chairman, in that order. Under the supervision of the Permanent Caucus Chairman, the voting body of this caucus shall be re-established prior to the conduct of any business.

AGENDA FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

- I. Call to Order by Permanent Chairman
- II. Roll Call – Seating of Delegates, and Alternates for Absent Delegates
- III. Reading of Minutes of the First Senatorial District Caucus
- IV. Announcement of Order of Business
- V. Election of State Committeeman (if contested, voting will be by ballot)
- VI. Election of State Committeewoman (if contested, voting will be by ballot)
- VII. Recommendation of Nominee for State Chairman (if contested, voting will be by ballot)
- VIII. Recommendation of Nominee for State Vice Chairman (if contested, voting will be by ballot)
- IX. Announcements, including Grassroots Club membership announcement
- X. Adjournment of Caucus

Rule No. 18

Non-caucus business or speeches may occur at any time at the discretion to the Permanent Caucus Chairman, other than during the taking of a vote.

Rule No. 19

These supplemental rules hereinabove may not be amended or suspended by action of the caucus.

IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

Rule No. 20

The Chairman shall assign Zoom hosts to ensure only registered delegates and alternates are admitted and assigned to the correct rooms as needed

Rule No. 21

To speak on any matter that requires recognition from the Chair, a delegate must type in the chat box to the chairman or enable the correct function to indicate his desire to await recognition by the Chair.

Point of Order or POO

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Make a motion or MOVE

Move to amend or AMEND

Make a motion: enable the raise hand button

Speak in favor: enable green YES button

Speak against: enable red NO button

Second motion: enable the go slower button

Rule No. 22 – Voting

In non-contested elections, voting may be by voice or by general consent via “Yes/No” in Zoom. Voting on issues or other matters shall occur as the caucus so chooses. However, a roll call shall be taken when the request meets the requirements of RPT Rule No. 7.

In all contested elections voting shall be by secret ballot using software determined by RPT Staff. In any election, a majority vote is required. If more than two persons are nominated for the same position and none receives a majority, and if one candidate receives 20% or more of the vote, there shall be a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. Otherwise, there will be a runoff election between the three candidates receiving the most votes. Abstentions and blank ballots are not counted.

The caucus shall vote the actual number of delegates in attendance.

Each Delegate or seated alternate shall have the right to cast their individual vote during a Congressional District Caucus.

1. Electronic voting shall be used.
2. The Caucus delegates shall use the electronic services approved by the Republican Party of Texas for all electronic votes.
3. Voting strength will be established prior to each vote by utilizing the “roll call” feature to establish voting strength.
4. Each seated delegate or alternate in a caucus shall be provided a means of voting via electronic services.
5. Each individual participant shall be registered and identified on the tabulation device with a unique username.
6. Voting members are each entitled to only one vote; therefore, voting members may vote only on the electronic services provided to them. No Delegate may vote for another Delegate under any circumstances except in the case of a seated alternate.
7. The polls shall be declared closed by the Caucus Chairman, unless there is objection, in which case a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required to close the voting period.
8. Every vote recorded is a secret ballot.
9. Vote results shall be made available to any Delegate that would like to confirm the accuracy of their recorded vote.
10. Where available, final results will be made available

Rule No. 23

AGENDA FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

- I. Call to order by Temporary Chairman
- II. Appointment of Temporary Secretary and sergeant-at arms (by Temporary Chairman)
- III. Roll call – Seating of delegates and alternates for absent delegates
- IV. Announcement of order of business
- V. Election of Permanent Chairman
- VI. Appointment of Permanent Secretary and other permanent officers (by Permanent Chairman)
- VII. Election of National Nominations Committee member
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjourn to meet again

Rule No. 24 – Second Congressional District Caucus

The second meeting of the congressional district caucus shall be for the purpose of selecting national delegates and alternate delegates, recommending one candidate for National Committeewoman, and recommending one candidate for National Committeeman. Under the supervision of the permanent caucus chairman, the delegates qualified to vote in the caucus shall be identified and their number determined prior to the conduct of any business.

AGENDA FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CAUCUS

- I. Call to order by Permanent Chairman
- II. Roll call – Seating of delegates and alternates for absent delegates
- III. Reading of minutes of the First Congressional District Caucus
- IV. Announcement of order of business
- V. Election of three (3) national delegates and three (3) alternate delegates (if contested, voting shall be by secret ballot)
- VI. Recommendation of an at-large delegate and/or at-large alternate to be considered by the National Nominations Committee (Optional)
- VII. Nomination of one (1) Presidential Elector for the congressional district (if contested, voting shall be by secret ballot)
- VIII. Recommendation of nominee for National Committeewoman (if contested, voting shall be by secret ballot)
- IX. Recommendation of nominee for National Committeeman (if contested, voting shall be by secret ballot)
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment of caucus

Rule No. 25 – Nominations

At the time announced for nominations for any given position, nominations shall first be made without nominating speeches. After all nominations are made by and for delegates, order of nominating speeches will be determined by lot. Nominating speeches may be made for each candidate, followed by seconding speeches, followed by each candidate speaking on his or her own behalf, if the nominee desires to do so.

Nominating speeches, seconding speeches and a speech by the candidate shall not exceed an aggregate time of two (2) minutes, to be used as the candidate determines.

Rule No. 26 – Election of National Delegate and Alternate Delegate

Elections for each delegate to the National Convention and alternate delegate to the National Convention shall be conducted one at a time, with elections for delegate positions held first, followed by elections for alternate delegate positions, as outlined in RPT Rule No. 38, Section 6(b).

Participation in the state convention is not a prerequisite for election as a delegate to the National Convention or alternate delegate to the national convention.

Pursuant to RPT Rule No. 38, Section 8, each delegate and alternate shall be pledged to a presidential candidate. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in the order of the primary vote received by each presidential candidate who is entitled to pledges in descending vote order beginning with the presidential candidate who received the most votes and continuing until all delegates and alternates are elected.

Rule No. 27 – Credentialing

All delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention and all presidential electors must provide the accurate spelling of their name, their current mailing address, their current telephone number and their current email address to the Chairman of the National Nominations Committee. This information will become a part of the official minutes of the committee meeting and will be submitted to the Republican National Committee for credentialing as a delegate or alternate delegate to the national convention.

Rule No. 28

These supplemental rules hereinabove may not be amended or suspended by action of the caucus.