

# REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS

## **Republican Party Convention Process Precinct, County/Senatorial District, State, National Conventions**

### Precinct Convention

The precinct convention is the first step in the Party process.

A precinct convention is held on the night of the primary election at each polling place after the polls close. If it is not held at the polling place, notice of where the convention will be held must be posted at the polling place.

Anyone voting in the Primary in that precinct may attend and will be considered a delegate to the precinct convention. If you want to attend your precinct convention, make sure the election clerk stamps your voter registration card with the Party name when you vote. If you do not have your voter registration card at the time, ask for a Certificate of Party Affiliation showing that you voted in the Party's primary. This will make it easier to get into the precinct convention.

The convention generally begins at 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., and is usually called to order by the precinct chairman. If the precinct chairman is absent, any delegate may open the meeting. There is no minimum number of people who must be present to hold the precinct convention. If you are the only person present, ask the election judge for the precinct convention packet, and hold the convention by yourself. The packet will have instructions, and the required paperwork that must be turned in to the local Republican Party headquarters by the date set forth in the packet to be valid.

Delegates to the precinct convention first elect permanent convention officers, usually a convention chairman and secretary. They then elect delegates and alternates to their county or state senatorial district convention. Finally, they consider and vote on any resolutions offered by the delegates.

Each precinct is allocated an equal number of delegates and alternates to the county or senatorial district convention. The number is based on the number of votes the precinct cast for the governor in the last gubernatorial election, taking into account any applicable boundary changes.

### County/Senatorial District Convention

A county convention is held when the county is completely within one state senatorial district. A senatorial district convention is held when the county is divided between two or more state senatorial districts. The incumbent county chairman (which may be different than the one elected in the primary election) serves as the temporary county convention chairman. The temporary senatorial district chairman is elected by the precinct chairs within that county's state senatorial district.

The county/senatorial district convention is the 3rd Saturday after the primary election unless there is a conflict with Easter or Passover then the Election Code has a provision that moves it to the fourth Saturday. Delegates to the county or state senatorial district convention elect permanent convention officers, elect delegates and alternates to the state convention, and consider and vote on resolutions.

Starting at this level, committees may be used to do some of the preliminary work for the convention. For example, a nominations committee may be elected to consider those wanting to be elected as delegates to the next convention, then present a slate of delegates and alternates for the convention body to vote on. Also, a resolutions committee may be elected to consider resolutions, then present a resolutions report for the convention body to vote on. Other committees may also be elected.

### State Convention

The state convention is held in June of even-numbered years. Delegates to the state convention meet both as a whole body and by state senatorial districts every convention as well as by congressional districts in presidential years

Meeting as a whole, delegates to the state convention ratify the Party rules, adopt a Party platform, and elect the State Chairman and State Vice Chairman. In presidential years, they also ratify all delegates and alternates to the national convention as well as the Presidential Electors and elect a National Committeeman and National Committeewoman.

Meeting in caucus by state senatorial district, delegates elect permanent caucus officers, permanent committee members, their State Republican Executive Committee members ("SREC") a Committeeman and a Committeewoman, and nominate candidates for State Chairman and State Vice Chairman.

Meeting by congressional caucus in Presidential years, state convention delegates elect delegates and alternates to the national convention and elect a member to sit on the National Nominations Committee, which selects at-large delegates to the national convention. In caucus,

the delegates also elect Presidential Electors and nominate candidates for National Committeeman and Committeewoman.

Because of the immense size of the RPT state convention, much work is done in temporary committees in the days leading up to the actual convention. At every state convention, there will be five temporary committees: Credentials, Organization, State Nominations, Platform, and Rules. The State Chairman appoints the committee chairmen. The SREC members appoint committee members. Each committee is comprised of the chairman and one member from each senate district. After the convention starts, senate districts will elect their permanent committee members, who will use the temporary committees' work as a starting point. All committee meetings are open to state convention delegates and alternates, who are encouraged to attend and testify on topics of particular interest to them.

#### National Convention

In presidential election years, a national convention is held in July or August. Delegates to the national convention ratify the National Republican Party rules, adopt a National Republican Party platform, and nominate candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.