



# DELEGATE WELCOME PACKET

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DEAR REPUBLICAN DELEGATE,

Congratulations on being elected to represent Republican voters from your district and on becoming part of the convention process - the most grassroots-driven effort in the Republican Party of Texas. This process shapes and molds the positions of our Party and provides direction for Party leadership, staff, and elected officials in the two years between conventions.

The Republican Party's purpose is to turn our beliefs and principles into a reality in our system of government. We do this by 1) defining our beliefs and principles at convention, 2) electing representatives who will uphold those beliefs and principles in every election at every level of government, and 3) consistently and visibly supporting the elected representatives who are working to advance those beliefs and principles at every opportunity.

The Republican Party is referred to as both "the big tent" and "the party of the open door." We will not always agree on everything that happens once inside that tent, and there will be healthy debates all throughout the convention process. But the ability to debate and not shut down conflicting ideas is part of what makes the Republican Party unique and ultimately grows our numbers as we keep the door open and continue to win hearts and minds on the issues.

I am grateful that you have chosen to give of your time and efforts and that you are willing to engage in the Party on the issues you care about. We welcome your input and look forward to your participation in this vital process to advance freedom and opportunity in our great state.

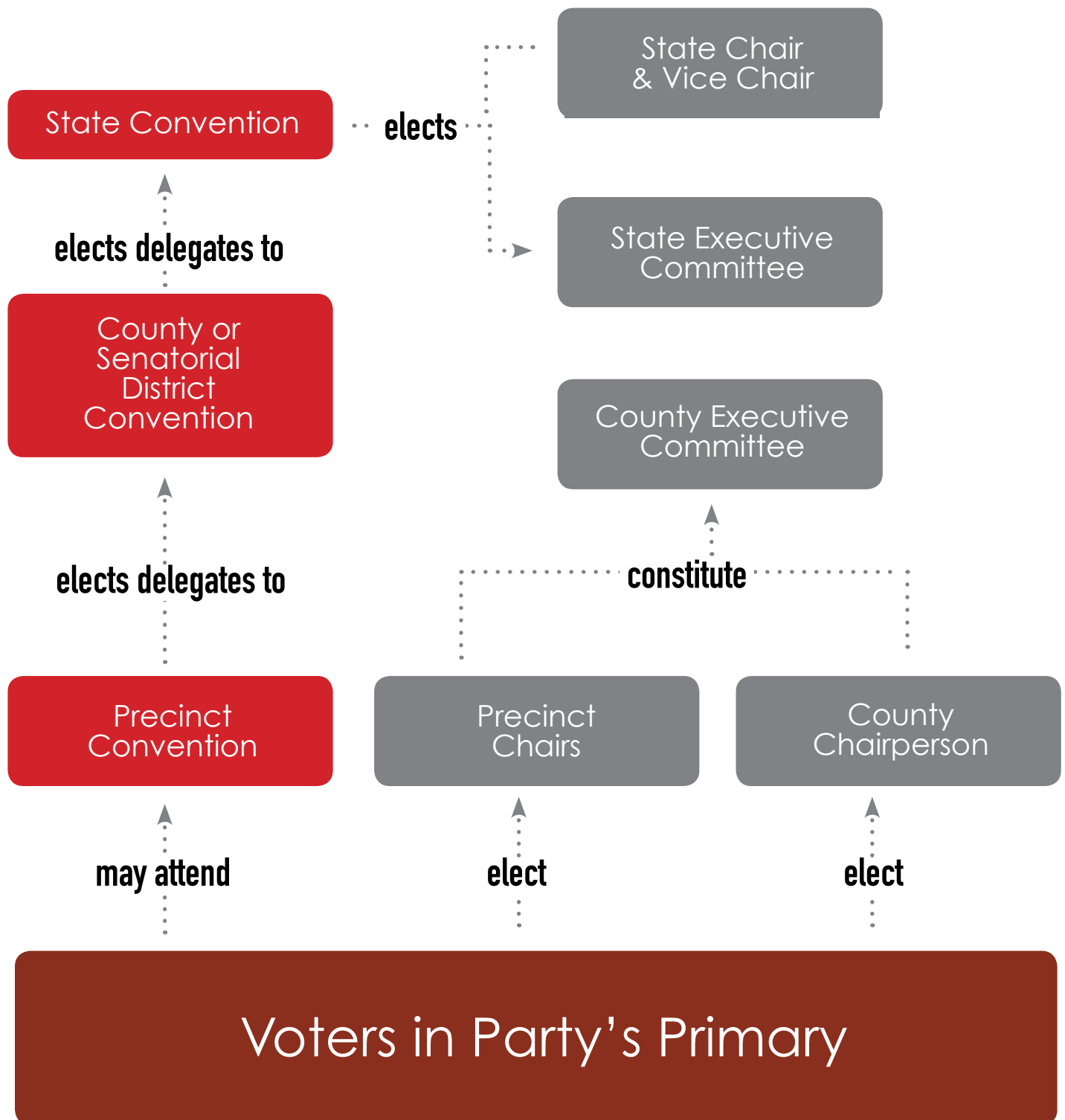
Thank you.

God bless you, and God bless Texas!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Dickey".

Chairman James Dickey

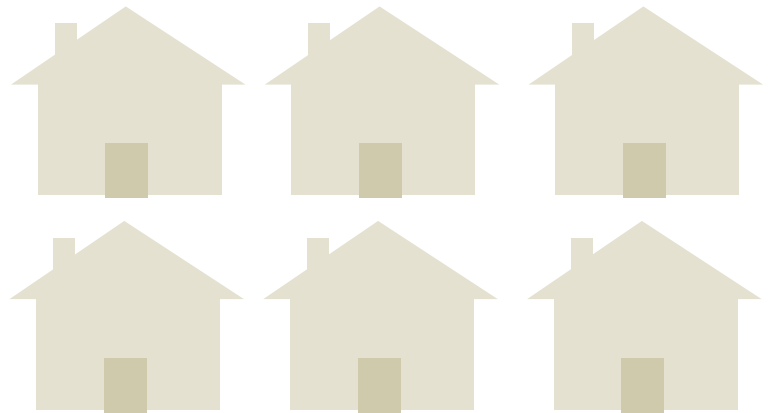
# OVERVIEW OF THE DELEGATE PROCESS



# PRECINCT CONVENTION

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- The Precinct Convention is the first of the conventions and will be closest to your home. Most counties hold their Precinct Conventions right after the polls close on Primary Election Day at your designated voting location. Other counties hold Precinct Conventions the following Saturday, or even the next Saturday right before the next level convention.
- While it is not required to attend your Precinct Convention in order to be a State Delegate, it is still an important part of the process and can help you meet or recruit your fellow Republican neighbors to also become delegates.
- During your Precinct Convention, you can submit and vote on suggestions for the Republican Party platform in the form of resolutions. If these resolutions pass at your Precinct Convention, they will move up to be considered at the next level's convention. ([See sample resolution.](#))
- To find out when and where your Precinct Convention is going to be, [contact your local county party.](#)
- For more information and to view our training videos, [visit our convention website.](#)



## RPT Rule No. 21 – Agenda for Precinct Conventions

The agenda for each Precinct Convention shall include the following order of business:

- a. Call to order at the appointed hour by the Precinct Chairman or other participant if the Precinct Chairman is not present.
- b. Preparation of a list of and announcement of number of qualified participants present.
- c. Announcement of agenda and basic rules of procedure.
- d. Election of the permanent officers of the convention by majority vote.
- e. Announcement of County or District Convention and of temporary committee meetings, if known.
- f. Election of delegates and alternates to County or Senatorial District Convention, as the case may be, by majority vote, and certification of eligibility of each delegate and alternate by the Precinct Convention Secretary, where the primary voters list is available.
- g. Resolutions.
- h. Other business.
- i. Adjourn.

# SENATE DISTRICT CONVENTION/ COUNTY CONVENTION

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- If there is only one Senate District in your county, you will have a County Convention. If there are multiple Senate Districts in your county, you will attend your Senate District Convention. This is where the delegates and alternate delegates for the state convention are chosen.
- The criteria to become a state delegate or alternate is to reside within the district and be affiliated with the Party. Many conventions at this level will have a nominating committee with additional criteria, but your only guarantee to become a state delegate is to be elected by the convention body. So bring friends or make friends.
- During your Senate District Convention or County Convention, you can again submit and vote on suggestions for the Republican Party platform in the form of resolutions. If these resolutions pass at your SD or County Convention, they will move up to be considered at the State Convention.
- For more information or to find out when and where your Senate District or County Convention is going to be, [contact your local county party](#).



# STATE CONVENTION

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- Delegates and alternate delegates come from all over the state to shape our Party. The State Convention is a week-long process that begins on the Monday of convention week, and the General Convention begins on Thursday. As a delegate or alternate delegate, you can participate in some or all of the process.
- Delegates and alternate delegates will vote on the Party Platform - our statements of belief; the Party Rules - our governing document for how and what business the Party conducts between conventions; and the Party Leadership - our Chair, Vice Chair, and a State Republican Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman from each Senate District.



For more information, visit the RPT Convention Website:  
<https://www.texasgop.org/2018-convention/>

# RULES, RESOLUTIONS, AND PRIORITIES:

## HOW YOU SHAPE THE PARTY

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The Republican Party of Texas Rules determine how the convention process happens and define the roles and responsibilities for the presiding officers of the State Party. The process matters because each delegate has the right to be heard.

The Republican Party of Texas platform contains planks built on principles, ideas, and issues that delegates have taken the time to champion and advance in our system of government by introducing resolutions at each convention level, advancing them to the Platform Committee, and approving as a body. Every delegate has at least one issue they care about, and in order for your convention experience to be meaningful, it is vital that you get involved early in the process and follow the track or course those resolutions are taking.

The Republican Party of Texas platform also contains a list of priorities that are decided by the Legislative Priorities Committee, voted on by delegates, and promoted by the Party at every given opportunity. The Party's promotion includes encouraging lawmakers to file, vote for, and support bills that will carry out the will of the delegates during the legislative session.

### **Current (from the 2016 Convention):**

[Republican Party of Texas Rules](#)

[Republican Party of Texas Platform](#)

[Republican Party of Texas Priorities](#)

— These are priorities that the Republican Party of Texas will promote during the legislative session.



### **Sample (can be used to promote ideas for rules, platform, or priorities):**

[Sample Resolution](#)



# OVERVIEW OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

- Robert's Rules of Order are the basic rules that govern the process at convention. Whenever a conflicting rule is found in the Party rules or bylaws, the Party rules take precedence.
- Be sure to either print this chart out or save it to your electronic device for easy access during convention.
- The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

**Part 1, Main Motions.** These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

**Part 2, Incidental Motions.** No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

**Part 3, Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.** No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority



# WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE SENATE DISTRICT/ COUNTY CONVENTION

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- Conventions can be very short or last all day, depending on what business the delegates decide they want to accomplish.
- RPT Rule No. 30 lays out the agenda for County or Senatorial District Conventions.
  - a. Call to order by the Temporary Chairman.
  - b. Roll call of temporary roll of delegates. (Roll call may be taken by name or by Precinct Delegation count. The delegate registration list may be used at the start of the convention to establish the temporary roll and a quorum for the convention, when approved by a majority voice vote of the delegates present. Delegates must provide proper identification upon registration to obtain their credentials, if this method is to be used.)

At the conclusion of roll call the Secretary shall announce:

1. the number of delegations present;
  2. the combined voting strength of those delegations; and
  3. the number of attending delegates at the start of convention.
- c. Report of the Credentials Committee (this report shall be acted on prior to any further business).
  - d. Report of the Rules Committee; adoption of supplemental rules.
  - e. Report of the Permanent Organization Committee; election of permanent officers from among the delegates.
  - f. Appointment of Permanent Nominations and Permanent Resolutions Committees.
  - g. Precinct Caucuses, if applicable.
  - h. Report of the Resolutions Committee; adoption of the report.
  - i. Report of the Nominations Committee; adoption of the report.
  - j. Other business.
  - k. Adjourn.

Provided, however, that such order of business, following item (c) may be changed by affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting.

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE SENATE DISTRICT/COUNTY CONVENTION

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## (CONTINUED)

- Conventions can be very short or last all day, depending on what business the delegates decide they want to accomplish.
- Required agenda items: call to order, roll call, report of three temporary committees (credentials, rules, and permanent organization committee), election of permanent officers, appointment of two permanent committees (nominations and resolutions), precinct caucuses (if applicable), report of Resolutions and Nominations committees, and adoption of reports
- Temporary committees meet between the precinct and SD/county conventions. The Temporary Chair of the SD or County Convention is responsible for appointing the Chairs and the members of these different committees. You're encouraged to attend or even ask to serve on a committee.
- Permanent committee members are selected by the delegates and meet during convention to review the work of the temporary committees and do additional work.
- Committees: As a delegate to the SD/County Convention, you have the right to appear before these committees. Here is the listing of committees and why you would want to attend or testify at the meetings. Note that all of these are temporary committees; only Resolutions and Nominations will also be permanent committees.
  - ❑ Credentials: challenge a delegate's status if you believe they were not rightfully elected as a delegate, or defend your status if it is being challenged by others
  - ❑ Rules: let them know what rules you want the SD/county convention to use (example: how delegates are elected to State, how resolutions are brought forward and debated)
  - ❑ Permanent Organization: give input on who will run the county/SD convention.
  - ❑ Resolutions: promote your resolutions so they get sent on to the State convention. These can be policy statements, proposed RPT Rules amendments, or legislative priorities
  - ❑ Nominations: let them know you would like to be a delegate to State convention and/or recommend others
- Where to Find More Information: [Check your County Party's FB page or website, or call your County Chair.](#)
- Check out the RPT's convention website: <https://www.texasgop.org/2018-convention/>

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE STATE CONVENTION

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## Schedule

### Committees (times subject to change – check website):

Monday:

11am - Temporary Rules, Platform, & Legislative Priorities

Tuesday:

8am - Temporary Rules, Platform, & Legislative Priorities

Wednesday:

8am - Temporary Rules, Platform, & Legislative Priorities

Wednesday:

11am - Temporary Credentials

Thursday:

4:30pm - Permanent Rules, Platform, Legislative Priorities, & Credentials

### General:

Thursday:

9:30am - First general session

11:30am - First SD caucus (election of permanent committees)

Friday:

8am - Second SD caucus (election of SREC members, State Chair, & Vice Chair)

10-11:45am - Second general session

1:30-6pm - Third general session (Rules)

Saturday:

9-11:30am - Fourth general session (Platform)

1:30-4pm - Fifth general session (Platform, Legislative Priorities)

## Committees

**Rules:** recommends supplementary rules for the convention

**Platform:** recommends to the Convention the platform and resolutions

**Legislative Priorities:** recommends to the Convention proposed legislative priorities and related resolutions

**Credentials:** hears any contest concerning delegates and recommends the permanent roll of the convention; checks to ensure that all delegates whose names are submitted did vote in the Republican Primary Election or have taken the Oath of Affiliation

**Permanent Organization:** recommends permanent officers for the convention from among the delegates; often the committee will simply recommend the temporary officers to be permanent officers

**NOTE:** The SREC members of each Senate District recommend one person from their district to serve on each of these committees at the State Convention. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, [contact your SREC members](#).

## Accommodations

Rooms will be released to state convention delegates after March 24. Check the RPT convention website for information: <https://www.texasgop.org/2018-convention>

Grassroots Club members get to reserve convention rooms first, so click this link to join GRC: <https://www.texasgop.org/grassroots-club/>

## More info

<https://www.texasgop.org/2018-convention>

# GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

**Affiliation:** Saying you are connected to or associated with a political party. You can affiliate by voting in that party's primary or by signing an oath of affiliation. Once you affiliate, you cannot participate in any other party's business during that convention cycle.

**Alternate Delegate:** Alternate delegates can attend the convention as a nonvoting member and step in as a voting member in the absence of delegates. It is common for alternates to be able to participate in RPT conventions.

**Bylaws:** The State Republican Executive Committee Bylaws govern the representatives on the SREC in conducting Party business.

**Chair:** The RPT Chair is elected in SD caucus at state convention for a term of 2 years and is the presiding officer of the state convention.

**Committee:** Convention committees compile information and present it to the full body as a report. The body can adopt the report, amend it, or reject it. See pages 9 and 10 (or the "What to Expect" sections) for names and description of convention committees.

**Convention:** A meeting of people who come together to talk about their shared work or other interests or to make decisions as a group.

**Credentials:** Each delegate and alternate delegate is given a nametag that shows their status as a member of the body and confers all the rights and privileges that come with that status. Credentials can be challenged through the Credentials Committee.

**Delegate:** RPT Convention delegates are grassroots Republicans affiliated with the Party who are elected by their districts to represent them at the next higher level convention.

**District:** Districts used for RPT conventions are precinct, counties, and senate districts.

**Parliamentarian:** At many conventions, a parliamentarian is appointed to advise the convention chair on fair processes and rules for the body.

**Platform:** A public statement of the principles, objectives, and policy of a political party.

**Precinct:** A subdivision within a county, typically a neighborhood, that is divided for voting purposes. You can find your precinct number on your voter registration card.

**Principles:** The RPT Principles are located at the beginning of the platform and are the party's fundamental doctrines or tenets.

**Resolution:** In conventions, a resolution expresses a proposed policy statement, rule, or legislative priority that can be sent on to the next higher level convention or adopted at the highest level (state convention) where it becomes part of the rules or platform.

**Robert's Rules of Order:** A guide for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group. Provides a shared language to facilitate discussion in a civil manner, ensuring that the majority is always in charge but that the minority is always heard.

**Rules:** The RPT Rules govern all levels of convention and also include general rules for meetings and candidates.

**State Republican Executive Committee (SREC):** The people elected by the convention to run the party between conventions -- a man and a woman from each Senate District; the RPT board of directors.

## Common Acronyms

**CD** - Congressional District

**CEC** - County Executive Committee

**RNC** - Republican National Committee

**RPT** - Republican Party of Texas

**SD** - Senate District

**SREC** - State Republican Executive Committee