

**19. Actions Recommended at the Statutory Meeting of the County Executive Committee in December of odd years and Required to be completed by January 31 of even numbered years.** A County Executive Committee (or Precinct Chairs within districts), pursuant to statute and these Rules shall:

- a. Determine and announce the time and location of the County Convention or Senatorial District Convention.
- b. Group precincts within the county or Senatorial district which did not contain sufficient votes for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election to qualify for a delegate to the state convention.
- c. In counties with multiple Senatorial districts, elect a Senatorial District Chair and Secretary if not previously done.
- d. In counties with multiple Senatorial districts, decide whether there will be a Senatorial District Convention held in each Senatorial district, or whether two or more districts will meet at the same location.

## **B. County and Senatorial District Conventions**

**1. Time and Place.** Each County and Senatorial District Convention shall be held on the third Saturday after the First Primary; however, if that date occurs during Passover or on the day following Good Friday, the Convention shall be held on the next Saturday that does not occur during Passover or on the day following Good Friday. The Convention shall be held in a place easily accessible to the public and large enough to accommodate all participants. (Optional in Texas Election Code §174.063).

a. County Conventions. A County Convention shall be held at a time of day and place set by the County Executive Committee pursuant to the timeframe in Art. IV (A) (19) and be posted on the State Party website calendar and local party websites where available.

b. Senatorial District Conventions. Pursuant to the timeframe in Art. IV (A) (19), the Precinct Chairs for the election precincts which will select Delegates to each Senatorial District Convention, or on their failure to act, the Senatorial District Chair shall determine the exact time and place where each respective Senatorial District Convention shall be held. Each Chair shall post such order electronically on the county and state party's internet website at least 10 days before the Convention. Should any Chair fail to post the order and to file the notice, any member of the County Executive Committee entitled to participate in the decision may post and file such notice. Should more than one do so, the first posting and filing in point of time shall prevail. (Required by Texas Election Code §174.064)

## **2. Conditions for Holding Senatorial District Convention**

a. When parts of one county belong to more than one Senatorial district, there shall be held, in lieu of a County Convention, a District Convention for each part of the county falling into a different Senatorial district.

b. Any county containing portions of two or more Senatorial districts may elect to combine the Senatorial District Conventions of two or more adjoining Senatorial districts into a single County or sub-county "Regional" Convention. The Precinct Chairs in each Senatorial district involved must, by majority vote, adopt a resolution to hold such Convention at a meeting for which 30 days prior notice has been mailed or sent by electronic mail to all members of the County Executive Committee.

c. Any such Convention [referred to in foregoing paragraph (b) above] shall:

- (1) Elect Convention Committees proportionately representative of each Senatorial district in attendance;
- (2) Group precincts solely within Senatorial districts; (
- 3) Elect At-Large Delegates and Alternates from each Senatorial district in such manner as to insure that each Senatorial district receives its proportionate number of Delegates and Alternates and that such Delegates and Alternates reflect the political preference if any (in non-presidential years) or the presidential preference (in presidential years) of that Senatorial district;
- (4) Allow only members of a Senatorial district to make nominations and vote on the election of AtLarge Delegates and Alternates from that senatorial district on the floor of the Convention

### **3. Qualifications and Eligibility to Participate.**

Any qualified Democratic voter 18 years of age or older who resides in the county or senatorial district (as applicable) where the convention will be held and who has voted in the Democratic Primary, whether early, by mail, or in person, or who signs an oath affiliation and has not voted in another party's primary, convention, or supported a candidate of another party, shall be eligible to attend, to participate in, and to be a candidate for any Party Office or for any Delegate or Alternate position to be filled at that convention. (Texas Election Code §174.021)

### **4. Temporary Roll.**

- a. A person attending a Precinct, County or Senatorial District Convention may preregister for the convention by electronic means through an online registration system maintained on the state party website. Precinct, County and Senatorial District Chairs shall advertise and make the registration site accessible through local websites.
- b. The online registration shall require the person's name, voting address, city, and zip code. The system shall require the county and voting precinct of each registrant and the voter's unique identification number (VUID) as assigned on their voter registration. However, failure to fill in one of these data items does not disqualify a participant from participating. It shall be the responsibility of the County or Senatorial District Chair or their designee to complete the registration form by adding missing data that is available through the Voter Action Network (VAN).

- c. In a presidential election year, the registrant will make a declaration of support for presidential candidates or a statement of uncommitted status. A person may change their presidential status until the beginning of a precinct convention.
- d. The online and in-person registration must include the statement described by Texas Election Code Section 162.004(a) and require a preregistering attendee to affiliate with the party by taking the oath described in Section 162.007(b). By preregistering online, the registrant shall affirm that they have read and attest to both oaths
- e. The preregistration shall open on January 2 of the voting year and close 48 hours prior to the county or senatorial convention.
- f. A person who does not preregister to attend a convention under this section may register in person at the convention and must have voting rights identical to those of a person who preregistered.
- g. Any person without access to the electronic registration may register in writing with the County Chair. Such registration shall contain all the data elements required in this section and shall include the statements required by subsection (d) and an affirmation to the oaths. Upon receipt of written registration, the Chair or their designee shall enter the registration into the online system.
- h. Each county chair or their designees shall have access to download the list of preregistered convention attendees for their county or Senatorial district convention.
- i. Each attendee at a county convention who has preregistered shall write their original signature on the list as they arrive at the convention. All eligible persons who did not preregister online shall have the right to register at their convention and provide all the required data in subsection (b) and an affirmation to the oaths.
- j. The list of persons who have placed their signature on the roster or registered on site shall become the temporary roll of the convention. Only those listed thereon may vote on the temporary organization of the Convention.
- k. If for any reason, the preregistration roll is not available or in a case of technology failure, the Chair shall allow on-site registration in writing for all attendees as long as all data elements to the extent possible from subsection (b) and the oaths in subsection (e) are maintained along with an original signature for each registrant.

## **5. Committees.**

Convention Committees shall be the Committees on Credentials, Nominations, Platform and Resolutions, and Rules and Procedures. Each committee shall be composed of between 5 and 15 members. These committees shall be appointed from among persons who have preregistered to attend the Convention by the County Chair or the Senatorial District Chair and ratified by the Precinct Chairs within the respective conventions at the statutory meeting after the First Primary.

## **6. Resolutions.**

- a. Any attendee to the Precinct, County or Senatorial District Convention may submit to the Chair or a designee a proposed resolution for consideration by the Convention. Resolutions may be submitted to the Chair for referral to the Resolutions Committee beginning on the date of the statutory meeting of the county executive committee after the First Primary.
- b. The Chair shall announce at the beginning of the convention where and with whom resolutions shall be filed. The period for filing resolutions shall be open for at least one hour from the time of said announcement. The Convention may waive this one hour period if there is no objection from any attendee.
- c. The Committee on Resolutions may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County or Senatorial District Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of submitted resolutions.

## **7. Rules.**

- a. Any attendee to the Precinct, County or Senatorial District Convention may submit to the Chair or a designee a proposed change to the Texas Democratic Party Rules for consideration by the Convention. Proposed rules may be submitted to the Chair for referral to the Rules Committee beginning on the date of the statutory meeting of the county executive committee after the First Primary.
- b. The Chair shall announce at the beginning of the convention where and with whom rules shall be filed. The period for filing proposed changes to the rules shall be open for at least one hour from the time of said announcement. The Convention may waive this one hour period if there is no objection from any attendee.
- c. The Committee on Rules may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County or Senatorial District Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of proposed changes to the rules.

## **8. Convention Officers.**

- a. The Chair of the Convention shall submit the names and information about Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention and all resolutions to the State Chair within five days after the Convention.
- b. The County Chair shall be the chair of the County Convention unless the County Chair is absent or declines the position. In such case, the delegates shall elect from among themselves a chair by majority vote.
- c. Chair at Senatorial District Convention. The Chair of the Senatorial District Committee shall be the Chair in a Senatorial District Convention composed of only part of one county. The Senatorial District Committee member (not to be confused with the SDEC member for the senatorial district) shall be the Chair of the Senatorial District Convention for a part of a county which is joined with another territory in a senatorial district. In the case that the Chair of the

Senatorial District Committee is absent or declines the position, the delegates shall elect from among themselves a chair by majority vote.

d. Submission of Delegate and Alternates. The County or Senatorial District Chair or their designee shall submit the minutes of the convention and the list of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention through an online electronic system on the website of the state party. The Chair shall retain a written copy of the minutes which shall contain signatures of the County or Senatorial District Chair and the Secretary of the Convention. The Chair or Secretary should bring this original copy to the State Convention in the event a challenge to the delegation occurs.

**9. Order of Business.** The order of business at County and Senatorial District Conventions shall be as follows:

a. Call to Order.

b. Establishment of Temporary Roll of Delegates. (Art. IV B 4.)

c. Report of Credentials Committee. The credentials report shall include recommendations regarding challenges of attendees and shall be considered according to the Rules in Article V, and shall be acted upon before other business is considered.

d. Report of the Rules and Procedures Committee and action on its report.

e. Election from among those present of a Convention Chair if the County Chair or Senatorial District Chair is absent or declines the position, a Permanent Secretary, and other officers necessary to conduct Convention business. (Texas Election Code §174.065)

f. In presidential years, completion of the presidential preference or uncommitted status poll. (Art. IV(B)8(h) ii.).

g. Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention by each Precinct or Grouped Precinct Conventions as set forth in Art. IV (B) 8.

h. Other Business: Committee reports, resolutions, etc.

i. Adjournment

**10. Election of Delegates and Alternates from County and Senate District to the State Convention**

a. Apportionment. The ratio for the selection of Delegates to the State Convention shall be one Delegate for each 300 votes or major fraction thereof cast in the county for the Party's candidate for Governor in the last General Election. Each County or Senatorial District Convention, however, shall elect at least one Delegate and one Alternate to the State Convention.

b. Number of Alternates. Each County and Senatorial District Convention shall elect one Alternate for each Delegate.

c. The County or Senatorial District Chair shall provide all required registration rolls and reporting forms to the Precinct Conventions. The Precinct Chair shall be responsible for all

documentation prior to the call to order and election of the Precinct Convention officers. In the case of Grouped Precincts, the Precinct Chair of the largest precinct by population shall have this responsibility. In the absence of that Precinct Chair, the attendees that are grouped in that precinct shall elect among themselves a Precinct Chair to represent their Grouped Precincts. In the event that no Precinct Chair is elected, then the County or Senatorial District Chair shall appoint the Precinct Convention Chair. If no appointment is made, any participant may assume this duty.

d. Duties of Precinct Officers. The Chair shall preside over the precinct convention. The Secretary shall complete precinct convention reports and return them in a timely manner to the County Chair or Senatorial District Chair or Convention Committees as designated by them. The Chair and Secretary shall jointly be responsible for and shall affix their signature to all reports and minutes to ensure that an accurate written record of convention proceedings is kept, including the list of persons present and a list of Delegates and Alternates elected to the State Convention. The lists shall include residence addresses and cities or towns and any other information as directed by these Rules. (Texas Election Code §174.027)

e. Participants in Precinct Convention. All attendees who reside in the precinct (or grouped precincts) are eligible to participate. Persons arriving after the list of participants is completed and who are otherwise qualified to participate shall have their names entered on the list and may participate in proceedings subsequent to their arrival. Such persons, however, may not vote on matters previously voted upon or on which a vote has been called for by the Chair. Their political preference shall not cause a change in the proportional allocation of Delegates if the same has been announced at the time calling for the election of Delegates and Alternates in the Order of Business prescribed by the Rules.

f. The Precinct Chair, if present, shall chair the precinct convention and call the convention to order. If the precinct convention consists of grouped precincts, the participants shall select a Chair by majority vote from among the various Precinct Chairs to lead the meeting. If no Precinct Chair is present, or the elected Precinct Chair(s) declines the position, the County or Senatorial District Chair may appoint any participant to preside over the election of the Convention Chair. If no appointment has been made, any participant may lead this election process. The attendees shall elect a person by majority vote to be Chair. If only one nomination is made, that nominee is elected automatically upon closing of nominations.

g. The convention shall elect a secretary to take notes and complete all required reporting forms. The Chair and the secretary shall jointly be responsible for timely submission of reporting forms or minutes to the Chair of the Convention or their designee.

h. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the convention to be elected a Delegate or Alternate. Although a precinct or grouped precincts might be allocated delegates, if no person is in attendance to participate in that convention, or if a precinct does not wish to elect delegates to fill any of their allocation, those delegate seats become automatically assigned to the Nominations Committee to fill as At-Large delegates and alternates.

i. Election Procedure In Precinct Conventions in Presidential Years. In presidential years, delegates and alternates are elected proportionately to the number of supporters for a

presidential candidate or uncommitted status. All qualified participants shall have entered their names, residence addresses, and cities or towns on the online preregistration or in person as they entered the Convention. In a presidential year, they shall also indicate their presidential preference or uncommitted status when they preregistered or signed in at the Convention. Any person who preregistered may change his or her presidential preference or uncommitted status at any point until the Chair of the County or Senatorial District Convention has announced that registration for precinct conventions has closed. This announcement must not occur earlier than the time the final person in line at the time the County or Senatorial Convention was called to order has completed their registration. When it is time in the Order of Business to elect Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention, the procedure shall be as follows:

(1) The Chair shall announce the number of eligible voting members on the roll, the number of Delegates and Alternates the convention is entitled to elect and the number and percent of each presidential preference or uncommitted status reflected on the roll.

(2) On the basis of such determination, those preferring each presidential candidate and those who are uncommitted shall caucus separately to elect the same proportion of County or Senatorial District Convention Delegates and Alternates as their group represents at the Precinct convention. Persons in a group comprising entitlement to less than one Delegate may proceed to the caucus of their second choice.

(3) The percentages then will be refigured, if necessary, and the new figures shall be used to allocate positions by preference.

(4) If a Delegate position remains unallocated to a presidential preference after the allocation above, that delegate shall be elected by majority vote of the entire precinct convention with each attendee casting one vote. The person with the highest vote total shall fill that Delegate position.

(5) Within each Presidential Candidate Group, participants may nominate themselves or any qualified voter in the precinct for the position of Delegate. Nominations shall be open from the floor of the Presidential Candidate Group until a motion is made, seconded, and passed by a two-thirds vote to close nominations.

(6) Each participant may cast a number of votes equal to the number of Delegates allocated to such Presidential Candidate Group. For example, if there are three positions to be filled, each participant may cast three full votes in any of the following manners:

(a) one vote for each of three candidates;

(b) two votes for one candidate and one vote for one other candidate: or

(c) three votes for a single candidate. Persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Delegates elected by the Group. The same number of nominees next highest in the voting shall be the Alternates. In the case of a tie vote for either Delegate or Alternate, the Delegate or Alternate shall be determined by lot or chance.

(d) If the number of persons wishing to be elected delegate is equal to or less than the number of delegates the precinct is entitled to elect, the voting requirement in

subsection (a) shall be suspended, and the slate of nominees may be elected by acclamation. If the attendees by consensus discussion develop a list of delegates and alternates to fill the precinct allocation, then said slate may be elected by unanimous consent without taking formal nominations and votes.

(e) The election of the entire body of Delegates and Alternates chosen by the Presidential Candidate Groups in this manner then shall be ratified by majority vote of the entire Precinct convention