

# TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY RULES -

## Last Updated February 15, 2024

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## PREFACE

For the September 8, 2023 version of the Rules:

Beginning with the 2024 convention processes, all mentions of Senatorial or Senate Districts, when discussing the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) or electorates, are now read as Congressional Districts. ([Due to this Rule Proposal approved at the 2022 Texas Democratic Convention](#))

For the July 16, 2022 version of the Rules:

The Rules were clerically revised:

- subsections are placed in more appropriate sections and articles;
- the ordering and sectioning is more appropriate;
- and grammar, spelling, and formatting updates are applied.

The citation of a section in Rules from a previous version may now appear in a different article, section, and subsection.

Clarification on the Meaning of Rules, Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, and Standing Rules:

- The Texas Election Code makes multiple references to "party rules" or "rules" for party and electoral affairs. This is why the Texas Democratic Party's bylaws document is called "Texas Democratic Party Rules." They are still in the nature of bylaws, and they live on past multiple State Democratic Executive Committee terms and State Conventions.
- For all other executive committees, it is understood that the document that lives on is called bylaws. This is so that if there are Special Rules of Order or Standing Rules that are limited to the life of a term, it is clear that there is a difference between the bylaws and the rules.
- Special Rules of Order relate to procedure or to the duties of officers within meetings and Standing Rules relate to details of the administration of a body.
- For the Texas Precinct, County/CD, State, National Convention Processes, there are Standing Rules on those Conventions referred to as the Call to Convention approved in advance of the convention for procedure by a governing body, SDEC & DNC, respectively. Additionally, there are Standing Rules or Special Rules of Order for Convention if adopted by the state convention — These may be recommended by the SDEC to the state convention.



# TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY RULES

## Article I. NAME

The name of this Party shall be the “Texas Democratic Party” or simply the “Democratic Party” or just the “Party.”

## Article II. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Texas Democratic Party hereby adopts the following Statement of Principles as the foundation for Party activities at all levels:

### A. Beliefs.

We believe that the Democratic Party, with its great diversity, its flexibility of organization, its historic adaptability to fruitful change, and its instinctive responsiveness to human needs and aspirations, can provide the leadership required in these challenging times. We further believe:

1. That we must join together with a renewed faith in our country, in our state, and in our Party to provide our people with responsive, responsible government;
2. That government functions best when it is closest to the people;
3. That our government is and should be of laws and not of favoritism or of arbitrary caprice, and therefore we condemn any resolution of conflicts, save through legal processes;
4. That the Texas Democratic Party stands for law and order, for total and unceasing war against crime, for strengthening law enforcement agencies, and for justice under law;
5. That all citizens, no matter what their religion or race or how humble or exalted their origin or station, have the duty to participate fully at every level of government and are entitled to an equal voice and to equal treatment at its hands;
6. That all Democrats are bound to defend, to protect, and to honor our nation, our state, and our Party, and that when they are right, it is our privilege to sustain them, but when they err, it is our duty to correct them; and
7. That, as Democrats, we are proud and upright citizens of the United States, that we are determined not only to serve our country, but also to stand shoulder to shoulder with citizens of other states in providing meaningful, responsible, and constructive leadership for our great nation.
8. That the Democratic Party stands against sexual harassment and abuse within its ranks.
9. That retaliation, in any form, express or implied, against any person who reports sexual harassment or abuse within the Democratic Party ranks is not tolerated.
10. That the Texas Democratic Party should endeavor to raise all funds for its operations and campaigns from entities and individuals who are aligned with the platform and values of the Party.

### B. Declarations.

To achieve these principles, we hereby make these declarations and adopt the following Rules to govern Party activities at all levels:

1. No test of membership in, nor oaths of loyalty to, the Texas Democratic Party shall be required or used if it has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability. Further, discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity,



economic status or disability in the conduct of the Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.

2. The Democratic Party at all levels shall support the broadest possible voter registration and participation without discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability.
3. It shall be the duty of the State Chair and Party Officers at all levels to take affirmative steps to encourage young people, women and minorities to seek selection as Delegates to Party Conventions and as members of Party Committees so that they shall be represented in reasonable relationship to their presence in the state.
4. Every person who accepts a Party office at any level (including the position of Convention Delegate) must agree to support all of the Party's nominees or shall be removed.
5. Public meetings at all levels of the Texas Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Party, regardless of race, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, philosophical persuasion or disability.
6. The time and place of all meetings of the Texas Democratic Party at all levels shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.
7. The Texas Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications and procedures for selecting Democratic Party Officers and Representatives at all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done timely and in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party and all prospective candidates or applicants will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at each level of the Democratic Party organization and to compete for any elected or appointed position.
8. The Texas Democratic Party requires that all headquarters, conventions, events, and meetings of the Democratic Party at all levels meet the provisions of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.
9. The Texas Democratic Party at all levels shall address in its employment policies sexual harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
10. It is a basic and fundamental precept of the Texas Democratic Party that always, and at all levels, there shall be no secret ballots, there shall be no fees charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open.
11. The Texas Democratic Party shall maintain on its website, a permanent record of official actions taken at any State Democratic Executive Committee meeting and at its biennial State Convention. This record shall include:
  - a) State Democratic Executive Committee meetings.
    - (1) notices of meeting,

- (2) agenda of meeting,
- (3) any proposed agenda or minutes of any committee of the State Democratic Committee,
- (4) roll of meeting,
- (5) rules proposed for adoption at a future meeting,
- (6) rules adopted at a meeting,
- (7) nominations committee report,
- (8) any resolutions adopted, and
- (9) approved minutes of meetings.

Any materials listed above that are considered confidential and proprietary may be withheld from posting on the TDP website by motion of the SDEC at the meeting at which those materials are distributed or discussed. That motion should include a description of the withheld materials and the reason for withholding their posting.

- b) State Democratic Convention.
    - (1) List of known candidates for state party offices, Democratic National Committee members, State Democratic Executive Committee and convention committees,
    - (2) List of persons who were elected as State Party Executive Officers, State Democratic Executive Committee, Democratic National Committee members and convention committees,
    - (3) Report of the Rules Committee,
    - (4) Resolutions adopted by the convention, and
    - (5) Convention officers.
  - c) Allied and Auxiliary Groups on the State Democratic Executive Committee.
    - (1) All organizations who have representation on the State Democratic Executive Committee shall file their bylaws with the State Chair and the bylaws shall be posted on the state party website.
    - (2) If the bylaws of the organization do not state how the organization's officers or representatives to the State Democratic Party Executive committee are elected, the organization will also post an explanation of their SDEC representative selection.
  - d) Any local bylaws adopted by any County Democratic Party Executive Committee.
12. Any Democrat who wishes to receive the announcements or notices or other general communications sent to the SDEC or County Chairs, may request to be placed on those distribution lists by notifying the Director of County Affairs of the Texas Democratic Party.

### **Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** Any qualified Texas voter 18 years of age or older unless otherwise spelled out in these rules who supports the foregoing “Statement of Principles” of the Democratic Party may participate fully in any Party meetings and may be elected to any Party Office, except where specifically prohibited by law or by Party Rules.
- B.** Any other persons who support the foregoing “Statement of Principles” of the Democratic Party are encouraged to participate in Party activities but may not vote.

## Article IV. PARTY OFFICERS

### A. Included Officers.

The Party Officers covered by this provision include any person elected or appointed to a position within the party, which includes but is not limited to precinct chair, county chair, SDEC representative, State Chair, convention delegates, and members of temporary convention committees.

### B. Residency.

All Party Officers shall be residents of the precinct, district or other political subdivision which they represent, and moving residence outside the precinct, district or other political subdivision shall constitute an automatic vacancy.

### C. Support of Nominees.

Acceptance by any person of a Party Office and participation in that capacity constitutes an agreement to the provision in the Statement of Principles that “every person who accepts a Party Office at any level (including the positions of Convention Delegate and member of a temporary convention committee) must agree to support all of the Party’s nominees or shall be subject to removal.”

### D. Terminology.

#### 1. **Statutory Term for State Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman; and inclusive terms for delegate elections; use of Gender Neutral Terms for Party Officers.**

Anywhere in these rules where the statutory term “Committeeman” or “Committeewoman” are used the terms: “Committeeman” means SDEC Committeeperson/Committeemember/Member (Man, Transgender, Gender Fluid, Intersex or Non-binary) and “Committeewoman” means SDEC Committeeperson/Committeemember/Member (Woman, Transgender, Gender Fluid, Intersex or Non-binary).

#### 2. **Delegates.**

Anywhere in these rules where the terms “male delegate” or “female delegate” or “either gender” is used to describe a category of election or gender identity balance, the terms are inclusive of transgender, intersex or non-binary identified persons. When listing the terms above on ballots for election or in communications about these positions, the inclusionary definitions shall be used and spelled out.

#### 3. **Inclusion.**

In cases where these rules refer to binary gender terms, unless required by statute or national party rule, the gender neutral term should be read or inferred. When listing the terms above on ballots for election or in communications about these positions, the inclusionary definitions shall be used and spelled out.

## Article V. MEETINGS

### A. General Requirements.

Committee meetings shall be held as required by law or by these Rules and called by the Committee Chair or by a petition in writing signed by at least 51% of the Committee membership.

### B. Quorum.

At all Party Committee meetings other than Conventions, County Executive Committees and Convention Caucuses, 40% of the Committee membership shall constitute a quorum. If the meeting is to fill a vacancy in the office of precinct chair, the quorum shall be 25% of the committee membership. A majority participation of the Committee membership shall be required for a quorum to fill a vacancy in the office of county chair, as specified in State law.

### C. Method of Voting.

The method of voting at all Party Committee meetings may be by voice vote, by (standing) division of the house, by signed written ballot, or by roll call vote. The method used shall be left to the discretion of the Chair, except that on request of any member (who need not be recognized by the Chair to voice such request), a standing division must be held, and the request of 10% of the members present shall require a roll call vote. Any vote that results in a tie shall be decided by a coin toss.

### D. Ballots.

At all times and at all levels of the Democratic Party, no secret ballots shall be used, no fees shall be charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open.

### E. Minutes.

Minutes of each meeting shall be furnished to each Committee member at or prior to the next Committee meeting.

### F. Proxy Voting.

Proxy voting shall be permitted at SDEC meetings; provided, however, no person may hold or vote more than one proxy. Proxy holders for Congressional district representatives on the SDEC must reside in the same district as the member assigning the proxy. Proxy holders for representatives of organizations must be members of the organization. No proxy voting shall be permitted at meetings of any County, District or Precinct Executive Committee [As prohibited by §171.026]

### G. Subcommittee Authority.

No action of a subcommittee or any standing committee shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the Committee as a whole, and any actions by subcommittees shall be subject to review and revision by the superior authority of the full Committee at its subsequent meetings.

### H. Minority Report.

Upon the vote of 20% of the members of any Party Committee, a minority report can be prepared and presented. A minority report may be submitted for consideration either by way of amendment or as a substitute for a majority report.

### I. Non-Public Sessions.

All Party Executive Committees and Subcommittees are permitted to conduct non-public sessions to consider financial, legal, strategic, *\*personnel*, or *\*disciplinary*

matters or to review information proprietary to other groups or individuals. However, no votes or formal action may be taken except in public meetings.

\*Note: “personnel” & “disciplinary” was adopted by the 2018-2020 SDEC temporarily ([txdem.co/Rules-All](https://txdem.co/Rules-All)) and by the 2020 Texas Democratic Convention permanently ([txdem.co/Committee-Reports](https://txdem.co/Committee-Reports)), but was erroneously removed from the TDP Rules. The original author pointed the error out in 2023 and it was clerically corrected in the December 2, 2023 version of the rules.

## Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

### A. Duties of Executive Committee Members.

#### 1. Duties of SDEC Members.

All SDEC members are strongly encouraged to take specific and ongoing actions to maintain a strong Democratic presence throughout the state. It is requested that all SDEC members voluntarily perform as many of the duties listed below as possible, as well as other such activities not enumerated; this is not a mandate.

- a) Actively promote the TDP Platform, Democratic nominees, and straight Democratic ticket voting.
- b) Serve as liaison to County Chairs and help Party leadership organize and conduct Primary Elections, County/Congressional District Conventions, and State Conventions.
- c) Participate in Congressional District meetings, County Executive Committee meetings, and other local Democratic club meetings, TDP events, and activities.
- d) Participate in TDP committee meetings, workshops, conference calls, webinars, and training sessions.
- e) Help create and put forth Party messaging and other communications to and solicit input on the same from the Democratic grassroots.
- f) Assist local, county, and state Party officers in identifying, recruiting, training, and supporting candidates.
- g) Work with County Chairs to develop lists of every public office holder in the Congressional District for future targeting and keep the state Chairman informed of changes.
- h) Assist TDP fundraising efforts to the greatest extent possible.
- i) Understand the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and the TDP Rules.
- j) Provide an email address and telephone number for listing on the state Party website.
- k) Be responsible for their own personal travel and ancillary expenses to SDEC meetings either through personal funds or legally raised donations.

#### 2. Duties of Other Executive Committee Members.

Other executive committees acting at the County level, the District level or any other level shall discharge their duties in compliance with the law and with the Party Rules.

#### 3. Removal From Office For Endorsing Opposing Party or Candidate.

- a) A Party Officer shall be removed from office if during the current term of office such officer publicly supports or endorses an opposing party or nominee of an opposing party, a person seeking the nomination of an opposing party, or a non-Democratic candidate seeking an office in an election in which candidates may file by party affiliation and a Democrat is seeking the office in question.
- b) The terms "publicly supports" and "endorses" shall include, but not be limited to, serving on a campaign committee; giving financial support, including contributing money or its equivalent such as equipment loans, services or supplies; willingly and knowingly allowing the officer's name to be used in any

kind of letter, public endorsement, news release, or advertisement; or actively soliciting votes by making a public appearance or a door-to-door solicitation of votes.

c) Procedure for Removal.

The following procedure shall be used for removal of a Party Officer:

- (1) A complaint may be filed only by a qualified voter who must be a Democrat and who resides in the political subdivision represented by the subject officer.
- (2) Complaints concerning a State Party Executive Officer or SDEC member, a National Committee member, or a Congressional District Chair or a County Chair shall be filed with the State Chair. Complaints concerning other Party Officers (except convention delegates) shall be filed with the County Chair.
- (3) Immediately upon receiving a written complaint, together with specific evidence that a Party Officer has violated this rule, the appropriate Chair shall notify the subject Party Officer by certified mail, return receipt requested, deliver to addressee only, stating the nature of the complaint and the evidence submitted and providing a copy of these rules. The subject Party Officer shall be advised that unless he or she delivers to the appropriate Chair within ten (10) days after receiving the notice a written denial signed by the Party Officer specifically denying the claims, the appropriate Chair shall declare the office held by such Party Officer vacant.
- (4) If the Party Officer fails to deliver the written response as required above, the Chair immediately shall declare the office held by such Party Officer to be vacant.
- (5) If the Party Officer delivers a written denial to the appropriate Chair within the time prescribed above, the Chair within five days thereafter shall determine whether the denial fairly and specifically denies the allegations in the complaint.
- (6) A Chair who determines that the denial does not fairly and specifically deny the allegation shall declare the office held by such Party Officer to be vacant, and the Chair immediately shall mail written notice of such decision to the Party Officer and the complaining person.
- (7) Either party may seek review of the decision or action taken by a County Chair by filing a written request with the State Chair within 10 days after receiving notice of the County Chair's decision. If the County Chair fails to mail a notice of the decision required above within 21 days from the date the notification of the complaint was mailed to the Party Officer, the complaining party may seek review by the State Chair by filing a written request within 10 days after the 21-day period.
- (8) No vacancy shall be filled during the time allowed to request review or while a review is under consideration.
- (9) Within 10 days after receiving a request for review, the State Chair shall determine whether the action or inaction of the County Chair shall be sustained or reversed. The only grounds for review shall be:



- (a) Whether the complaint against the Party Officer fairly and specifically states an allegation of conduct violating these Rules;
  - (b) Whether the response filed by the Party Officer fairly and specifically denies the allegations in the complaint; and
  - (c) Whether there are procedural deficiencies, including failure to follow the notice requirements, involving handling the complaint.
- (10) The State Chair immediately shall mail written notice of the decision regarding the review to the County Chair, to the Party Officer, and to the complaining person. If the State Chair's decision declares a vacancy, the County Chair shall initiate the steps necessary to fill it.
  - (11) If a County Chair fails to send the original notice required above within three days after receiving a complaint, the complaining person may present the complaint to the State Chair, who, upon receiving the complaint, shall assume the duties of the County Chair prescribed above.
  - (12) Any Party Officer so removed shall be ineligible to serve as a Party Officer for the remainder of that term.

**B. Requirement for Majority Vote.**

In any election to replace a county chair (or other party office) or for the nomination of the Party for any vacant office on the ballot, a majority vote of the applicable county, district, or precinct executive committee is required for election to the Party office or receive the Party's nomination for a place on the general election ballot. If no candidate for such Party office or Party nomination (as the case maybe) receives a majority vote of members voting in the first vote of the applicable executive committee, a runoff vote shall be conducted immediately and the procedures described in Texas Election Code § 2.023 shall be employed to govern the runoff vote and determine the Party officer or Party nominee, as the case may be.

**C. Meetings Around Conventions.**

No meeting of any executive committee at any level (county, district, or precinct) shall be conducted on a date when any Democratic Party Convention (including the Democratic National Convention) is being held and if such convention is in a county other than the county where the executive committee meeting is to occur, the executive committee meeting shall not occur on the day before or the day after the convention. Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit the holding of Congressional district caucuses held in connection with and as a part of a State convention, or meetings of the State Democratic Executive Committee at any time such meetings shall be called and scheduled.

[Note: [\*limited exceptions\*](#) listed for County Executive Committees below]

**D. Conflict of Interest.**

- 1. Prior to making any comments or voting on a motion before an executive committee, any member who has received or will receive compensation or remuneration of any kind for advocating or opposing the adoption of such motion shall disclose this information to said executive committee. This rule also applies when compensation or remuneration has been received or will be received by the close family (spouse, domestic partner, parent, child or sibling) of

a member. For the purposes of this section, “compensation or remuneration” would include if the member or their previously defined close family:

- a) is a candidate for a public office under consideration for nomination or endorsement;
  - b) is a paid employee or independent contractor of a political committee or owner, paid employee or independent contractor of a consulting firm which is taking a position for or against an item under consideration;
  - c) is an employee who serves or works in paid employment at the pleasure of a person standing for election to an office under consideration for nomination or endorsement;
  - d) is an employee for a company under consideration for hire or contract; or
  - e) otherwise receives monetary compensation for the purposes of taking a position for or against an item under consideration.
2. Such disclosures shall be included in the executive committee’s minutes of the meeting.
  3. If this rule is violated, the presiding officer shall inform the executive committee of the violation and, if the concerned member’s vote changes the outcome of the decision, declare the vote of the concerned member was improper and the vote was invalid. The vote must then be retaken.

**E. Additional Information Collected During Primary Filing.**

1. As the primary election filing authority, the State Chair, County Chairs, and/or their designee(s) shall collect the following optional information and forms during the primary filing period when filers file in-person or by mail or electronically:
  - a) Demographic information, direct and/or private contact information of candidates for public office, as well as contact information for campaign staff;
  - b) If a County Chair or Precinct Chair applicant does not list their email and phone number(s) on their application, the applicant may fill out an additional form with email and phone number(s) so that they may be contacted for any statutory or campaign organizing needs if elected; and
  - c) Since party affiliation resets at the beginning of the filing period, all candidates for public and party office may take an oath of affiliation and fill out a form attesting as such.
2. Email and phone number(s) for candidates for party office and persons elected to party office in the primary are not publicly listed on the Secretary of State website and only the Secretary of State, County Party, and State Party have access to this contact information. Forms for this information collection will be provided to the primary filing authorities and publicly accessible by candidates for public and party office. Failure of a candidate for public or party office to provide this information is not a valid reason for rejection of the application.

## Article VII. STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The State Democratic Executive Committee (the “SDEC”) shall carry on the activities of the Party between State Conventions in compliance with the law and with the directives of the Convention.

### A. SDEC Members.

#### 1. Committee Composition.

The SDEC shall be composed of two statutory members elected from every Congressional district and the following additional members:

- a) two from the Texas Democratic County Chairs Association,
- b) two from the Texas Young Democrats,
- c) one from the Senatorial Democratic Caucus (non-voting),
- d) one from the House Democratic Caucus (non-voting),
- e) two from the Texas Democratic Women,
- f) two from the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats,
- g) two from the Hispanic Caucus,
- h) two from the Non-Urban/Agriculture Caucus,
- i) two from the Texas Stonewall Democrats,
- j) two from the Texas Environmental Democrats,
- k) two from the Democrats with Disabilities,
- l) two from the Asian American Democrats of Texas,
- m) two from the Texas Veterans Organization,
- n) two from the Texas College Democrats,
- o) two from the Texas AFL-CIO as a representative of labor unions.

#### 2. Auxiliary Organization Governance.

The Texas Democratic Party recognizes each entity, and any local chapters of those entities, listed in subsection (1) as an auxiliary organization of the Texas Democratic Party. Each auxiliary organization is governed by their individual bylaws, which must include provisions related to the time and method for electing officers and the duties thereof, which have been approved by vote of their membership. As necessary, the SDEC:

- a) may designate additional entities as auxiliary organizations; and
- b) shall ascertain that each entity granted auxiliary organization status remains a viable and active organization compatible with the Party.

#### 3. Definition of Auxiliary Organization.

As used in these Rules, an “auxiliary organization” means a statewide group that is not a part of the statutory party structure, which as a group, subscribes to the beliefs and principles advocated by the Texas Democratic Party and which offers opportunities for the growth and development of the Party, the primary purpose of which is to promote the principles of the Party stated in Rule I and to support Democratic nominees and priorities. The Hispanic Caucus shall be defined as any groups and the local chapters thereof that have held a caucus at the Democratic State Convention for at least two consecutive conventions. Designation of an entity that is not listed in Subsection (1) as an auxiliary organization. does not automatically entitle that entity to voting or non-voting representation on the SDEC.

#### 4. **Temporary Alliance.**

As necessary, the SDEC may designate as a temporary alliance between the Texas Democratic Party and one or more groups to work with each other on issues on which the Party and the group(s) agree as a coalition. A coalition is not part of the statutory Party structure. Inclusion of a group in a coalition does not grant that entity any official standing or privileges within the Texas Democratic Party, including voting or non-voting representation on the SDEC.

#### 5. **Requirements to Maintain SDEC Membership.**

To maintain their membership on the SDEC, these caucuses and groups must hold or sponsor a caucus at the State Convention. If the group is an independent membership organization, the organization shall:

- a) post its current bylaws on the Texas Democratic Party website;
- b) allow for at-large memberships if the group consists of chapters and allow all members to vote in officer elections;
- c) invite all convention delegates of the most current or the most recent state convention who meet the qualifications of the group to join and give notice of elections in a timely manner before elections are held; and
- d) If elections are not held at the time listed in the bylaws, the SDEC representative shall be ineligible to serve on the committee and shall be removed until new elections are held and the State Chair is given notice of the new officers.

#### 6. **Election from Congressional Districts.**

The two members from every Congressional district shall be elected by the State Convention held in even-numbered years. Two persons who identify as different genders from each Congressional district shall be recommended by the Delegates from the counties composing the respective Congressional districts. Each county shall vote its full Convention strength divided proportionately among its Delegates present. In a multi-county Congressional district, the Delegates should strive to provide geographical representation by recommending their committee members to be from different counties; this is not a mandate.

#### 7. **Auxiliary Organization Representatives.**

The chair or president and the next highest ranking officer of the organization who identifies as a different gender (except Texas Democratic Women) providing additional members on the SDEC shall serve as the representative members of the SDEC. For the Hispanic Caucus, the representative members shall be two representatives elected by the Hispanic Caucus at the State Convention. In the event that any such person already is a member of the SDEC, the next highest ranking officer who identifies as a different gender than the remaining SDEC Member shall be the additional member. They shall participate in the proceedings of the SDEC insofar as the Texas Election Code will permit.

#### 8. **Legislative Caucus Representatives.**

The members representing the Senatorial Democratic Caucus and the House Democratic Caucus shall be non-voting, automatic members selected by their respective caucuses.

#### 9. **Terms.**

SDEC members shall serve until their successors take office, which shall be on adjournment of the State Convention at which the new members are elected.

**10. Congressional District Vacancies.**

- a) When a vacancy occurs for a Congressional District committee position on the SDEC, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the members of the SDEC. The new member shall be an eligible person who identifies as a different gender from the district's other committee member and from the same Congressional district as the vacating member.
- b) The Congressional District Committee of the affected district shall meet to nominate a person for such position. The State Chair shall mail written notice of the meeting to consider such nomination to the members of the Congressional District Committee and, if known, the Chair of the affected district's Congressional District Caucus at the last State Convention, at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The Committee shall report its nominee to the SDEC.
- c) A vacancy shall be filled no later than the next meeting of the SDEC following written notice of the vacancy by at least five weeks.

**11. Caucus/Organization Representative Vacancy.**

When a Caucus/Organization Representative vacancy occurs, then:

- a) If representing an organization, the organization can name a replacement with a different gender identity than the remaining member; or
- b) If representing a caucus that only meets at State Convention and a vacancy occurs between State Conventions, a majority of the members of the SDEC shall elect a successor who is a member of the caucus and identifies as a different gender than the remaining member. Members shall receive written notice issued by the State Chair at least four weeks prior to the meeting at which an election will be held. Any member of the SDEC may nominate a candidate for the vacant office. Members of the caucus from the last state convention will be notified of the vacancy and may contact an SDEC member to be nominated.

**B. Officers.**

**1. Officer Elections.**

The State Convention in gubernatorial years shall elect a State Chair. The Convention also shall elect a First Vice Chair who identifies as a different gender from the State Chair, a Vice Chair for Finance, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These shall be the executive officers of the SDEC, and they shall be elected for a four-year term at the state convention held in gubernatorial election years or until their successors are elected. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.002(c) )

**2. Qualifications for Office.**

In order to be qualified for any Texas Democratic Party office enumerated in Article III, D.1 (a) a candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy for the specific office no later than 62 days prior to the Call to Order of that year's Texas Democratic Convention.

**3. Filing.**

- a) The filing must be received by the Texas Democratic Party headquarters office no later than 6 PM in the time zone of that office, on the 62nd day. Should the 62nd day fall on a weekend or holiday the filing period shall be extended to 6 PM on the next regular business day.
- b) There shall be no filing fee or petitions associated with a Declaration of Candidacy for any office subject to this section.

**4. Uncontested Election.**

Should there be only one candidate appropriately filed for any office subject to this section and that candidate withdraws, becomes incapacitated or is disqualified prior to the State Convention the declaration period shall be reopened for 30 days, from the date of official notice of the change in status or through the State Convention whichever comes first.

**5. Voting in Meetings.**

On statutory matters, only the State Chair and First Vice Chair may vote; otherwise, on all other matters all executive officers may vote.

**6. Duties of Executive Officers.**

a) State Chair.

The State Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SDEC, shall have all of the authority and duties implied by such title and expressed or implied by these Rules, and shall have the authority to establish and to appoint committees with the advice and consent of the SDEC and deal with the affairs of the Party.

b) First Vice Chair.

The First Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair and shall have the duties and authority implied by such title or assigned by the Chair or by the SDEC. The First Vice Chair shall preside over meetings of the SDEC in the absence of the State Chair and shall fill any automatic position created for Party Vice Chairs, including membership on the National Committee.

c) Vice Chair for Finance.

The Vice Chair for Finance shall have responsibilities for fundraising under the direction of the State Chair and shall have other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Chair or by the SDEC.

d) Secretary.

The Secretary shall have the duties and authority implied by such title.

e) Treasurer.

The Treasurer's duties shall be to present a financial report at each SDEC meeting and to perform duties assigned by the State Chair. The disbursement of funds shall be the responsibility of the State Chair or of the Chair's designee(s), provided that the designee(s) be approved by the SDEC.

**7. Executive Officer Vacancies.**

When a vacancy occurs in any of these offices between State Conventions, a majority of the members of the SDEC shall elect a successor, who need not be a current member of the SDEC. Members shall receive written notice issued by the State Chair or, if that office is vacant, by the First Vice Chair, at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which an election will be held. Any member of the SDEC

may nominate a candidate for the vacant office. When an interim vacancy in the office of the State Chair is filled by the SDEC, the term of office for the interim Chair shall be for the duration of the unexpired term.

**C. Removal of SDEC Members & Executive Officers.**

1. In addition to the procedures for removal for endorsing an opposing party or candidate, any State Party Officer, including a member of the SDEC, may be removed for good cause by a two-thirds vote of the SDEC membership. All members must receive written notice from the State Chair at least 30 days before any meeting at which a removal will be considered. Balloting may not be done by mail.
2. For removal of an SDEC member, one-third of the members of the SDEC or one-third of either the Congressional District Committee or the Delegates to the State Convention from the Congressional District at which the member was last elected must petition for removal of the SDEC member before proceedings shall be brought before the SDEC.
3. A member of the SDEC who misses two SDEC meetings without sending a proxy, shall be removed and a vacancy shall occur.
4. For removal of other State Party Officers, either one-third of the members of the SDEC or one third of the County Chairs, or one-third of the Delegates to the State Convention at which the Officer was last elected must petition for the removal of the State Party Officer before removal proceedings shall be brought before the SDEC.
5. In the event that the State Chair is subject to petition for removal under this section, then the First Vice Chair shall give notice of said petition to the SDEC and give proper notice by mail of said meeting.
6. Any Party Officer so removed shall be ineligible to serve as a Party Officer for the remainder of the term.

**D. Meetings.**

1. There shall be four quarterly meetings of the SDEC each year.
2. The Chair may call in-person special meetings with emailed notice of at least 14 days. The Chair may call video or telephone conference call special meetings with emailed notice of at least 72 hours, if, in their judgment, extraordinary or emergency circumstances require them.
3. A quarterly meeting or a special meeting may be conducted electronically by video conference or telephone conference call or electronic web platform.
4. SDEC Committee meetings may be conducted by video conference or telephone conference call or electronic web platform.

**E. Standing SDEC Committee Membership.**

Members of standing SDEC committees will be appointed by the State Chair with the advice and consent of the SDEC. The State Chair will appoint one chair and one vice co-chair who will be gender balanced, and the members of each of the committees will elect a second vice co-chair.

**F. Operating Budget.**

The State Chair shall submit an annual operating budget to the SDEC Finance Committee for approval by the full SDEC at the first SDEC meeting following January



1st of each year. In no event shall any TDP staff or officer, other than the State Chair, incur any debt on behalf of the Texas Democratic Party not authorized by the operating budget. In addition, any expenditure, proposal or project which would exceed a line item in the submitted annual operating budget by \$10,000, including but not limited to additional staff or pay raises, requires a majority vote of the State Chair, First Vice Chair, Vice Chair for Finance, Secretary, Treasurer, SDEC Finance Committee Chair, and SDEC Finance Committee Co- Chair before the funds may be expended or the obligation incurred.

**G. Audit.**

The State Chair shall cause an audit of the financial records of the SDEC to be made by a certified public accountant at least once each calendar year. A copy of the report of such an audit shall be furnished to each member and executive officer of the SDEC.

**H. Quadrennial Strategic Plan.**

Staff shall prepare a strategic plan for the Texas Democratic Party. The plan shall cover a period of at least four years (two election cycles) and shall be updated at least every four years. Updates may take place more frequently or may cover a longer period at the discretion of the SDEC. The SDEC shall consider, revise as necessary, and approve the strategic plan after each update.



## Article VIII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### A. Members.

#### 1. **Composition.**

Each county shall have a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and of one Precinct Chair from each election precinct in the county. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.022)

#### 2. **Election.**

The County Chair shall be elected by majority vote and precinct chairs shall be elected by plurality vote in the Party Primary Election held in even-numbered years. The County Chair shall be elected by the qualified voters of the county, and the Precinct Chairs by the qualified voters of their respective precincts. . (Allowed by Texas Election Code §171.022)

#### 3. **Term of Office.**

The term of office for members of the County Executive Committee shall begin on the twentieth day following the Runoff Primary and shall continue for two years or until their successors are elected and certified. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.022(c))

#### 4. **Qualifications.**

Democrats 18 years of age or older are eligible for the offices of Precinct Chair or County Chair, provided they meet the following criteria:

- a) They are qualified voters (Required by Texas Election Code §161.005 (a)(1)) and voted in the most recent Democratic Primary, not including runoffs, or signed an oath of affiliation:

Oath of Affiliation:

"I swear that I have not voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of another party during this voting year. I hereby affiliate myself with the \_\_\_\_\_ Party."; and

- b) They are not candidates for, nor holders of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government (Required by Texas Election Code §161.005(a)(2)); and
- c) They are residents of the precinct or county from which they seek election (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023(a) and §161.005(a)(1)).

#### 5. **Filing Procedure.**

- a) A qualified Party member may become a candidate for County or Precinct Chair by filing a written application in the county using a form which shall be provided by the County Chair upon request.
- b) In addition, qualified Party members filing for the office of County Chair in a county with a population of 1 million or more shall include a petition containing the signatures of 10 percent of the current, incumbent Precinct Chairs serving on the County Executive Committee in the county using a form which shall be provided by the State Party. The petition shall contain the candidate's sworn oath that the signatures thereon are valid and that each was signed in the presence of the candidate or candidate's representative. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021(f)).

- c) The application, and petition, if applicable, shall be signed and duly acknowledged by the candidate and then filed with the County Chair or with the Secretary of the County Executive Committee if there is one. (Required by Texas Election Code §§171.022(a) (2), 172.021 and 172.023). A copy of the petition (if applicable) also shall be filed with the State Chair.
  - d) The application shall state the candidate's occupation, county of residence, post office address, date of birth, and the office sought. The petition (if applicable) shall include the Precinct Chair's signature, name, post office address and precinct number. A Precinct Chair may not sign the petition of more than one candidate for the same office in the same election. (Required by Texas Election Code 141.066) By signing the petition, the Precinct Chair is supporting the County Chair candidate's appearance on the primary ballot, not the actual candidate.
  - e) Applications, and petitions, if applicable, shall be filed no later than 6 p.m. on the deadline for candidate filing for the Primary Election. This deadline shall be extended until the next working day if it falls on a weekend or a holiday.
  - f) An application filed by mail is considered to be filed at the time of its receipt by the appropriate authority. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021(c).
  - g) No later than the day before the filing deadline, the County Chair shall post on the county or state party's Internet website, a notice of the address at which the County Chair or the Secretary will be available to receive applications on the last day of the filing period. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.022(b))
  - h) No later than 20 days after the local canvass, the County Chair shall post on the Texas Secretary of State website the name, address, and precinct number of each Precinct and County Chair elected. (Texas Election Code §172.118)
- 6. Vacancies.**
- a) When a vacancy in the office of County Chair occurs or is anticipated due a stated intent to resign on a future date or upon the election of a successor, the Secretary of the County Executive Committee shall call a meeting to fill the vacancy at any time after it occurs or is anticipated. Upon the written request of any Committee member, however, the Secretary shall call a meeting for a date not more than 20 days after receiving the request, giving each member notice of the time, place and purpose. The County Executive Committee shall accept the resignation of the County Chair to be in effect on the effective date of the resignation or upon election of a successor, based on the language and intent of the resignation.
  - b) If the committee does not have a Secretary or should a Committee Secretary fail to act after being requested in writing to do so, the State Chair shall call the meeting in like manner. The officer calling the meeting shall designate a committee member Temporary Chair who shall call the meeting to order and preside until the new Permanent Chair is elected. (Texas Election Code §171.025)
  - c) An application of candidacy shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to the election. A majority of the committee's membership must participate in filling a vacancy in the office of county chair. To be elected, a person must receive a

favorable vote of a majority of the members voting. (Texas Election Code 171.024)

- d) A County Chair may appoint a person to fill a precinct vacancy at any time. The appointed chair shall assume the position upon appointment. The County Executive Committee shall confirm those appointed at the next business meeting of the committee. Any appointment by the County Chair to fill a precinct chair vacancy shall be ratified by majority vote of the County Executive Committee at a meeting at which a 25% of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
- e) The Executive Committee, when a business quorum is present, may call for a vote by mail, listing the precinct chairs to be appointed on a published ballot sent to all of its membership, to be signed and returned by a stated deadline (in keeping with the requirement that the Texas Democratic Party does not permit secret ballots) and provided that the vote will not be valid unless 25% of the membership have returned their signed ballots. The results of the votes shall be published within 7 days after the stated deadline. [Optional by Texas Election Code §171.024]
- f) If there is an additional candidate at the time of a ratification vote, then the County Executive Committee shall default to conducting a precinct chair election per its rules, and not conduct a ratification vote of the County Chair's appointment.
- g) Notice of the replacement chair's name and address shall be promptly posted on the Secretary of State website after ratification by the executive committee if one exists. Until confirmed by the County Executive Committee, the appointed precinct chair has only the non-statutory responsibilities of a precinct chair.

## **B. Duties and Responsibilities.**

1. Statutory duties of the County Executive Committee include collecting filing fees (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021 and §172.022); appointing watchers (Required by Texas Election Code §33.03); determining the order of names on the ballot (Required by Texas Election Code §172.082 and §172.084); canvassing primary results (Required by Texas Election Code §172.116); and setting and publicizing times and places for Precinct and County and Congressional District and State Conventions (Required by Election Code §174.022 and §174.063). Additional required responsibilities are outlined in the Texas Election Code in Chapters 171, 172, 173, and 174 as well as Sections 31.032, 32.006, 32.034, 32.093, 32.111, 34.007, 42.009, 43.003, 51.002, 51.003, 51.035, 52.002, 123.001, 123.033, 124.065, 125.031, 143.033, and 145.036.
2. In addition to its statutory duties, the County Executive Committee shall have primary responsibility for planning and for coordinating the General Election campaigns of the Democratic Party's nominees within the county. In the case of nominees running for office in districts which include areas outside of the county, the County Executive Committee shall work with the Congressional District Committee (as described in these rules). This responsibility shall include raising funds for conducting local campaigns, supporting the statewide effort for the

entire ticket, producing materials and coordinating local services for all Democratic campaigns.

3. The County Executive Committee may establish such committees as it deems appropriate to carry out its non-statutory duties and may elect or appoint committee members who are not members of the County Executive Committee. Unless the County Executive Committee's continuing rules provide for an alternative method of selecting committee chairs and members, those Chairs and members shall be elected by the CEC. The term of office for the Chair, like the committees themselves, shall run concurrently with the term of office of the County Executive Committee.

**C. Acting Precinct Chair Appointment Upon Failure of the Elected Chair to Perform Duties.**

1. If an incumbent Precinct Chair has failed to perform their duties for an extended period of time or missed three consecutive county executive committee meetings, the County Chair may appoint an Acting Precinct Chair. The County Chair may determine if such lack of performance of the incumbent Precinct Chair's duties or the incumbent Precinct Chair's three consecutive absences rise to a level to give written notice to the incumbent Precinct Chair to start the process of appointing an Acting Precinct Chair.
2. The incumbent Precinct Chair must be given written notice by registered mail that an Acting Precinct Chair will assume the duties of the Precinct Chair for the remainder of the Precinct Chair's term.
  - a) The written notice must include:
    - (1) the specific performance of duty for an extended period of time that the incumbent Precinct Chair is alleged to have neglected or failed to perform or the specific three consecutive county executive committee meetings the incumbent Precinct Chair has missed,
    - (2) an outline of how the County Chair came to his or her determination that it warranted an Acting Precinct Chair's appointment,
    - (3) that if an Acting Precinct Chair were to be appointed the incumbent Precinct Chair would still maintain his or her statutory responsibilities,
    - (4) must specifically include the mailing address where a response to the written notice may be made,
    - (5) must also specifically note that the incumbent Precinct Chair has ten business days to respond,
    - (6) that the incumbent Precinct Chair may at any time notify the County Chair that the incumbent Precinct Chair will resume performing any of the duties of the Precinct Chair, and
    - (7) must include a copy of this section of the Party Rules.
  - b) A defect in the written notice would invalidate the process and require the County Chair to reissue correct written notice and restart the ten business days response time in order to cure such defects.
3. If the incumbent Precinct Chair does not respond in writing within ten business days of the written notice, the Acting Precinct Chair may be appointed by the County Chair and shall assume the non-statutory responsibilities of the

- incumbent Precinct Chair, including participation in executive committee meetings and votes. These duties, however, shall not include participating in any votes or actions required by state statute. A County Chair can only appoint an Acting Precinct Chair if the incumbent Precinct Chair does not respond to the written notice within ten business days. An Acting Precinct Chair must meet all the qualifications by statute of a Precinct Chair.
4. If the incumbent Precinct Chair notifies the County Chair within ten business days of the written notice, then the County Chair cannot appoint an Acting Precinct Chair and the incumbent Precinct Chair still retains all duties and responsibilities of a precinct chair. Any written response, short of the incumbent Precinct Chair's resignation, would be a sufficient response to the written notice.
  5. The incumbent Precinct Chair shall always have voting authority over the Acting Precinct Chair.
  6. If the incumbent Precinct Chair notifies the County Chair any time after the ten business days of the written notice, even after the appointment of an Acting Precinct Chair, that that incumbent Precinct Chair will resume performing his or her duties, then the Acting Chair shall defer to the elected incumbent Precinct Chair in all duties and responsibilities and the position of Acting Precinct Chair shall be vacated. The County Chair shall notify the Acting Precinct Chair in writing that the Precinct Chair is resuming his/her duties.
  7. The County Chair shall encourage a volunteer formerly serving as Acting Precinct Chair to continue any activity related to voter education, registration, voter identification, and get-out-the-vote effort in the precinct and make available to the volunteer any material, data system, or similar information or material.

**D. Eligibility to Vote on Replacements of County Chair or Candidate on the Ballot.**

1. When due to the death, resignation, withdrawal, declaration of ineligibility, creation of a new office, or any other reason, a vacancy occurs or is anticipated in the office of County Chair or for the nomination of any office on the ballot and a county, district, or precinct executive committee is permitted or required by law to elect a new County Chair or nominate a replacement candidate for the ballot for the other office, the precinct chairs eligible to vote in the executive committee meeting to fill the vacancy are only those precinct chairs who are posted on the Secretary of State website on the date the vacancy occurred or is anticipated or on the twenty-fourth day after the last preceding runoff primary election day, whichever date is later.
2. Any precinct chairs appointed after the date of the vacancy and before the vote to fill the vacancy may participate in any discussion or debate but are ineligible to vote in the replacement election.
3. When an executive committee meets to appoint a person to fill a vacancy, the meeting to select the new County Chair or candidate on the ballot must be at least ten days after the date of the vacancy to the extent possible in relation to the final deadlines for appointment.

**E. Changes to Precinct Boundaries.**

- a) When the precinct boundaries are changed between primary elections and only one Precinct Chair resides within the new precinct, that Chair shall continue to serve in the new precinct until the end of the term of office.
- b) If no chair or two or more chairs reside within the new precinct, the office automatically shall become vacant and shall be filled as provided herein. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023)
- c) Changes in precinct boundaries made by the Commissioners Court shall not become effective to alter membership of the County Executive Committee until February 1 after the changes are ordered. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023)

**F. Removal of precinct chair or county chair for abandonment of office.**

1. A Precinct or County Chair who has failed to perform statutory duties provided by this code or failed to attend four or more consecutive meetings of the County Executive Committee may be removed for abandonment of office as provided by this section.
2. If authorized by a resolution passed by the County Executive Committee, a County Chair may send a notice to a Precinct Chair that states that the Precinct Chair is considered to have abandoned the office of Precinct Chair and the duties of the office. The notice must:
  - a) state the reasons the County Executive Committee believes the Precinct Chair has abandoned the office;
  - b) be sent by certified mail; and
  - c) request a response from the Precinct Chair not later than the seventh day after the date the Precinct Chair receives the notice.
3. If authorized by a resolution passed by the Democratic State Executive Committee, the State Chair may send a notice to a County Chair that states that the County Chair is considered to have abandoned the office of County Chair and the duties of the office. The notice must:
  - a) state the reasons the state executive committee believes the County Chair has abandoned the office;
  - b) be sent by certified mail; and
  - c) request a response from the county chair not later than the seventh day after the date the county chair receives the notice.
4. A Precinct or County Chair must respond to a notice on or before the seventh day after the date the chair receives the notice and state whether the Chair wishes to continue in office. A Chair's failure to respond and affirmatively state that the Chair wishes to remain in office results in a vacancy in the office of Precinct or County Chair, as applicable. The vacancy shall be filled as provided by these Rules.

**G. Officers.****1. Secretary.**

- a) The County Executive Committee shall elect a Secretary. If the County Executive Committee has not done so, the County Chair may appoint a Secretary until the committee acts. The Secretary need not be a member of the committee.

- b) The term of office of the Secretary, if one is elected or appointed, shall run concurrently with the term of office of the County Executive Committee.
- c) The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes of any County Executive Committee meeting.
- d) The Secretary legally is authorized to receive applications for a place on the Primary ballot, and an application received by the Secretary shall be filed officially.

### **2. Additional Executive Officers.**

County Executive Committees may vote to create additional executive officer positions and assign duties. Unless the County Executive Committee's continuing rules provide otherwise, the offices may be filled either by appointment by the County Chair and ratification by the CEC at the next meeting, or by an election by the CEC.

### **3. Updating Secretary of State Website.**

A County Chair or Precinct Chair who has been elected by the voters or has been appointed to fill a vacancy must be posted to the website of the Secretary of State. The County Chair, County Executive Committee Secretary, or their designee shall add any Chair who is appointed and remove any Chair who resigns, dies or is removed from office during the term of their office. The list as posted on the Texas Secretary of State website shall be the official members of the County Executive Committee for all purposes outlined under these Rules and Texas statutory requirements.

- a) After the CEC fills the vacancy, the County Chair or Secretary of the CEC shall notify the State Party Chair or that person's designee of the effective date the vacancy was filled.
- b) A County Chair shall delete from the Secretary of State website the name of any County Executive Committee Member who resigns, dies, or vacates the position.

## **H. Meetings.**

- 1. A statutory meeting of the County Executive Committee shall be held in October, November, or December of odd numbered years for the purposes of actions required for conduct of the primary and organizational matters for conducting conventions.
- 2. At County Executive Committee (CEC) meetings, the quorum for conducting non-statutory business shall consist of not less than 25% of the membership, excluding vacancies.
- 3. The County Executive Committee (CEC) shall meet at least quarterly throughout the two year term between elections. Statutory meetings called for by the Texas Election Code may be counted toward the quarterly meeting requirement of the CEC.
- 4. The County Executive Committee (CEC) meetings shall not be scheduled during the week of the biennial state convention and county/Congressional district convention, except to:
  - a) fill a ballot vacancy,
  - b) endorse a candidate in a special election, or



- c) if the nature of the business is such that it cannot wait until the adjournment of that convention.
- 5. Precinct Chairs and the secretary of the executive committee shall be notified by written or electronic mail at least five days in advance of all meetings, which shall include minutes of the previous meeting and a proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting, excluding emergency situations.
- 6. If a county chair fails to issue a written call for a County Executive Committee meeting within six months of the previous County Executive Committee meeting, 25% of the members of the CEC may call a CEC meeting by written demand. Notice of such meeting, including an agenda of the business to be considered, shall be mailed or sent by electronic mail to all members of the county executive committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting and shall state the time, date and place and the names of the persons issuing the call.
- 7. The County Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the County Chair. If the County Chair is not present, then the Secretary or any qualified Democrat may conduct the meeting.
- 8. Each County Executive Committee or other executive committee (district, precinct, committees of a CEC or otherwise) may meet via telephone conference, video conference or electronic web platform. All precinct chairs participating in such committee meetings shall be counted toward the meeting quorum.

**I. Compensation from Primary Fund.**

The combined amount of any compensation paid from the Primary fund to the Secretary and the Chair for their services shall be more than \$300.00 but in no case exceed the lesser of \$8,000.00 or 5% of the amount actually spent for necessary expenses in holding the Primary Election for that year, exclusive of the compensation paid to the Chair and Secretary. (Required by Texas Election Code §173.004)

**J. Expenditure of Funds.**

Expenditure of funds by the County Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified by law, shall require the approval of at least 51% of its members present.

**K. Authorization for Adopting Rules.**

The County Executive Committee may, by majority vote, adopt continuing rules for the conduct of its business, so long as they are not prohibited by law or are not inconsistent with these Party Rules. Such rules shall be filed with the State Chair.



## **Article IX. DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Membership.**

Each Congressional district shall have a Congressional District Executive Committee, sometimes referred to as the "District Committee," to be formed as follows:

1. In a Congressional district composed of only a part of one county, the Precinct Chairs within the district shall constitute the District Committee. No later than the statutory meeting of the County Executive Committee in December of odd years, such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their numbers to serve as Chair of their District Committee. (Texas Election Code §171.053)
2. For a Congressional district composed entirely of one whole county, the County Executive Committee shall constitute the District Committee, and the County Chair shall be the District Chair. (Texas Election Code §171.052)
3. For a Congressional district made up of more than one county or parts of more than one county, the District Committee's membership shall be composed of the members of each county executive committee who reside in the district.

### **B. Meetings.**

1. The state chair shall call a meeting of the district executive committee to convene either as a whole in one location or separately in each county in the district at any time after the precinct chairs take office to fill a vacancy in a nomination or to transact any other business by the committee. The state chair shall notify the members of the district executive committee in advance of the meeting of the time, place, and purpose of any meeting or meetings.
2. If the district executive committee is meeting as a whole in one location, the members of the committee shall elect a chair at the committee's first meeting from among the committee membership. If the district executive committee is meeting separately in each county, the members meeting in each county shall elect a chair at the committee's first meeting from among the committee membership in that county.
3. For the purposes of filling a vacancy in a nomination, the state chair shall canvass the votes of the district executive committee when meeting separately in each county and make the certification required by Section 145.037 of the Texas Election Code.
4. A quorum of any executive committee shall be 25% of the number of chairs posted on the secretary of state website at the time of the meeting.

### **C. Officers.**

1. A District Committee may elect executive officers in order to accomplish its business. Any Democrat qualified to hold Party office may hold any District Committee office other than that of Chair. Chairs must be either a Precinct or County Chair.
2. Within 3 days after the meeting of each County Executive Committee at which District Committee members are elected, each County Chair shall forward to the State Chair the names and addresses of the District Committee members and of the District Chair selected at the meeting. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.053(a) and §171.054(b))

3. If a vacancy exists in the office of Congressional district chair for a county immediately before the date for conducting the regular drawing for a place on the general primary ballot, the appropriate county executive committee members shall convene on that date at the hour and place specified by the county chair to elect that officer.

**D. Duties.**

1. District Committees shall have those responsibilities assigned by Texas statutes, such as filling certain vacancies in nominations for District officers. (Required by Texas Election Code, Chapter 145) They also shall be responsible for any duties in connection with Party activities which may be assigned by the SDEC. They may and should, on their own initiative, undertake such efforts on behalf of the Party and its candidates which are appropriate on the district level.

## Article X. OTHER “DISTRICT COMMITTEES”

Certain statutory provisions occasionally may require specific action by a “District Committee,” other than those based on Congressional districts. The membership of such District Committees shall be determined by the same general rules applying to the formation of Congressional District Committees, except that the geographical boundaries used shall be those pertaining to the relevant district.

### A. Meetings.

When a District Committee composed of more than one county or of parts of more than one county must meet and organize before it has a permanent District Chair as provided in these Rules, the State Chair shall designate one member of the District Committee to serve as Temporary Chair to call the meeting to order and to preside until the Committee elects its own Chair. The permanent District Chair so elected shall serve for the remainder of the term of office and shall call any subsequent meetings held during that time. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.054(1)(e))

### B. Precinct Executive Committee For the Purpose of Filling a Commissioner or Justice or Constable Precinct Candidate Vacancy.

At a meeting called by the County Chair to fill a Commissioner Precinct or Justice Precinct vacancy, the Precinct Chairs in each Commissioner precinct and each Justice precinct shall select one of their number to serve as Chair of a Precinct Executive Committee for each respective Commissioner precinct and Justice precinct. The Precinct Chairs of the election precincts within the Commissioner precinct or Justice precinct shall constitute the Precinct Executive Committee. However, if any such precinct contains fewer than three county election precincts, the County Executive Committee shall be the Precinct Executive Committee and the County Chair shall serve as Chair of the Committee. (Required by Texas Election Code §§ 171.071, 171.072, and 171.073)

### C. Duties of District Committees in Special Elections.

1. When for any reason a vacancy occurs in an office requiring a special election, the appropriate District Committee shall meet at the call of the State Chair for the purpose of considering the endorsement of a candidate for the open office. A District Committee may endorse a candidate in a special election, even if more than one Democrat is seeking election.
2. The District Committee shall be composed of the same members who would convene to fill a statutory ballot vacancy for the open office. The State Chair or the State Chair’s designee shall preside over the meeting, and a Secretary shall be elected by the Committee to keep and prepare minutes.
3. The Chair shall provide at least 72 hours notice of the meeting after learning a vacancy has occurred or shall occur. In no case shall a meeting be called later than 14 days after the actual occurrence of the vacancy.
4. As the first order of business, balloting for or against an endorsement shall be conducted by recorded roll call vote or signed paper ballot. If an endorsement is approved, the same procedure shall be utilized in voting on candidates for the endorsement.
5. A candidate receiving a two-thirds vote of those present shall become the endorsed Democratic Party candidate in the special election. If no candidate

receives a two-thirds vote on the first ballot, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a two-thirds vote. If no candidate has received a two-thirds vote after the fifth ballot, the low vote getter will be removed from the list of eligible candidates before the sixth ballot is taken and this procedure will continue with every succeeding ballot until one candidate receives a two-thirds vote. If a tie shall occur between the bottom two vote-getters on or after the fifth ballot, there will be a coin flip with the loser being removed from the eligible list before the next ballot. In the event that five ballots between only two candidates does not result in one candidate receiving a two-thirds vote, the candidate receiving the majority vote shall be endorsed. If an unresolvable tie occurs (one lasting through five ballots) between the top two vote-getters, then the meeting shall be adjourned and there shall be no formally endorsed Democratic Party candidate.

6. A majority of the District Committee can petition the State Chair to re-convene the Committee at any time up to ten days prior to the election.
7. The District Committee's endorsed candidate will receive the help and support of the Democratic Party as if he or she were the Democratic nominee in the General Election. The provisions of the Party Rules allowing for removal of Party Officers for failure to support the Democratic nominee shall not apply to an officer supporting a Democrat other than the one endorsed through this process.

## Article XI. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL CONVENTIONS

### A. Compliance with Rules.

Delegates to all Party Conventions shall be selected in accordance with state law and with these Party Rules, as well as in compliance with the rules, regulations, and official directives of the previous National Convention and of the Democratic National Committee, as such directives pertain to the next National Convention.

### B. Accessibility.

If needed, a convention attendee may bring attendants, assistants, or language interpreters of their choice. The attendants and interpreters do not need to meet any residency or affiliation requirements or be a delegate to the convention.

### C. Briefing on Governing Documents.

It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at the opening of a convention or caucus to briefly explain the documents governing that convention and the ways in which convention actions will influence important Party actions and decisions at subsequent convention levels.

### D. Eligibility to Participate.

Any qualified Democratic voter who will be 18 years of age or older on the date of the of the General Election in November who resides in the precinct for which 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 to the Democratic Party and has not voted in another party's primary, convention, or supported a candidate of another party that year, shall be eligible to be a delegate, attend, to participate in, and to be a candidate for any Party Office to be filled at that convention unless otherwise specified by law or a governing document.

### E. Quorum.

A quorum of a convention or convention committee shall be 40%. Each level of convention or caucus has different outlined quorum definitions.

### F. Voting and Meetings.

#### 1. Methods of Meeting.

Each convention committee may meet via telephone conference, video conference or electronic web platform that allows for simultaneous communication, including prior to a convention.

#### 2. Methods of Voting.

- a) The methods of voting that may be used in all conventions, caucuses, and convention committees are: voice vote, (rising) division of the house, roll call vote, or signed written ballot.
- b) Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the presiding officer may determine the voting method to be used on each particular question, except that on request of any qualified participant (who need not be recognized by the chair to voice such request), a rising division vote must be held, and the request of one-fifth of the qualified participants shall require a roll call vote.
- c) When a voting method calls for standing, delegates may hold up their delegate credentials (or another type of voting card provided by the

convention) instead of standing, if that process is outlined by a presiding officer. Such votes shall be counted exactly as if they were standing.

- d) Delegates with disabilities who need assistance voting during a standing vote may use the help of an assistant or by notifying the chair that they are not able to physically vote and they will need to vote by another communication method.
- e) Any vote that results in a tie shall be decided by a coin toss unless it can be broken by the Chair if the Chair had abstained from the vote.
- f) All convention voting methods may be done electronically.
- g) Elections may employ instant runoff voting methodologies if winners are to be declared by majority votes, to the extent practicable.
- h) Secret ballots are specifically prohibited.

### 3. **Guidance and Procedures.**

Guidance and procedures on these convention matters will be provided to convention chairs and delegates by the State Party Chair or their designee(s). Guidance and procedures may include alternate actions and activities such as: alternate or regional meetings on other dates or times; or online or mail ballots in the place of in-person voting at meetings.

### 4. **Roll Call Votes.**

The entities on the roll shall be:

- a) In a Precinct Convention, the list of all qualified Party members present;
- b) in a County or Congressional District Convention, the County or Congressional District convention delegate list of all precincts within that county or congressional district;
- c) in a Congressional District Caucus, the state delegate list of all counties within that congressional district; and
- d) in the State Convention, the state delegate list of congressional districts within the state.

### 5. **Unit Rule.**

The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegations shall not be permitted.

## **G. Media.**

Representatives of the news media shall have the right to attend all conventions for purposes of reporting the proceedings. (Required by Texas Election Code §174.002)

## **H. Minority Reports.**

Upon the vote of 20% of the Delegates to any convention or the members of any convention committee, a minority report shall be prepared and presented to the convention as a whole.

## **I. Resolutions.**

1. A resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intention which, if adopted, becomes the official position of the Party. Resolutions are vehicles for expressing a request for action on a matter of concern, for sending a message to a person or organization regarding policy or actions, or for recognizing contributions of an individual or group to the purposes the Party's serves.

2. In order to be considered at the State Convention, a written resolution must either have passed at a county or congressional district convention or have been referred favorably to the Convention through the petition process.

**J. Rules Changes.**

In order to be considered at the State Convention, a proposed rule change must either have passed at a county or congressional district convention or have been referred favorably to the Convention through the petition process.

**K. Petition Requirements.**

A petition signed by 20% of the Delegates attending any convention, other than the State Convention, shall automatically place a specified item of business on that Convention's agenda.

**L. Presidential Preference.**

In presidential years, all persons nominated for Delegate or for any Party Committee dealing with the Delegate selection process shall make known their presidential preference or uncommitted status to the relevant assembly prior to their election.

**M. Balancing Delegations.**

In selecting Delegates and Alternates at all levels, the Nominations Committee and the Convention itself shall make every effort to select persons in the district or state so that the delegation as a whole shall reasonably reflect the presidential preferences (in presidential years), include young people and people with disabilities, and reflect diversity in race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. No more than two-thirds of the delegates elected at any convention level shall identify as the same gender.

**N. Automatic Delegates.**

1. Members of the Democratic National Committee; Executive Officers, Appointed Officers and members of the SDEC; Democratic County Chairs; and former Texas State Democratic Party Chairs shall serve as automatic voting Delegates to all conventions held by the Texas Democratic Party.
2. Any county chair who is retiring at the end of their term shall be eligible for automatic delegate status to the state convention immediately following their term or preceding the end of their term.
3. Any County Chair who is elected in the primary or primary runoff election but has not yet been seated is eligible for automatic delegate status.
4. These automatic Delegates shall be added on as a part of the County or Congressional District delegation in addition to the allocated delegates.
5. In years when district boundaries and numbers have changed, SDEC members shall have the option of having their automatic delegate position be to either the district in which they were elected or to their new geographic district.
6. When district boundaries have changed, automatic delegates will inform the State Chair of their Congressional District choice by no later than the SDEC meeting immediately preceding the State Convention.
7. Any Democratic nominee for or holder of an office of any county, state or federal government or any local office holder that is member of the party may attend any Democratic Convention governed by these Rules, at any level, without being a Delegate, and may exercise all floor privileges except voting. These floor privileges

shall include speaking on any question and serving as a Convention Officer.  
(Required in part by Texas Election Code §174.097)

**O. Public Officers.**

No person shall be ineligible to run for the position of Delegate by reason of holding any public office.

**P. Nominations.**

1. From the Floor.

- a) In case there are eligible floor nominations to fill an office that is to be held by more than one person (such as National Committeemember or At-Large Delegate to a higher Convention), a person making a floor nomination shall identify both the floor nominee and nominee of the Nominations Committee whom the floor nominee will be replacing.
- b) Proportional representation mandated shall not be violated by the nomination or election of floor nominees.

2. Closing Nominations.

Unless otherwise stated, nominations may not be closed until either no further nominations are forthcoming from the floor or a motion to close nominations has passed by a two-thirds vote.

**Q. Non-Attendance at Prior Convention.**

No one shall be barred from election as a Delegate to any convention because of nonattendance at that or any preceding convention, if such nominee otherwise qualifies for the post.

**R. Appearing at Committees.**

1. Any Delegate attending any convention shall have the right to appear before any Convention Committee to make recommendations, either orally or in writing, before the Committee takes final action on its report.
2. The Committee may establish by majority vote reasonable time limits for such presentations and shall allot equal time to all wishing to appear.

**S. Establishment of Districts.**

The respective districts from which the members of Party Committees and Convention Delegates at all levels are elected in any given voting year shall be the same as the corresponding districts used in the Primary and General Election of that voting year.



## **Article XII. PRECINCT CONVENTIONS**

### **A. Date, Time & Place.**

1. Precinct conventions shall be held at a date, time, and place as determined by the County Executive Committee by the day following the filing deadline of the year prior to voting, or by another date set by the State Party Chair. The choice must be reported to the State Party no later than the day following the filing deadline. The date chosen must be on or after the date of the primary election and on or before the date of the County and Congressional District Conventions.
2. If there is no action taken by the day following the filing deadline by the CEC or by the State Party Chair, then Precinct Conventions will be held on the same date and at the same location as the County and Congressional District Conventions.
3. If precinct conventions are held on general primary election day, the hour set for convening the conventions may not be earlier than 7 p.m. or later than 9 p.m., but a convention may not convene until the last voter has voted at the precinct polling place. If conventions are held on a day other than general primary election day, the county executive committee shall set the hour for convening or a time frame in which the conventions must convene.
4. The place selected for a convention must meet the same requirements for access by the elderly and persons with physical disabilities as a polling place under Texas Election Code §43.034(a).
5. The date, time, and location chosen should permit the greatest possible attendance, taking into consideration delegates with disabilities, work, and family care obligations, as well as taking into consideration budgetary, logistical, and contractual constraints.
6. Multiple separate Precinct Conventions may be held at the same location simultaneously.

### **B. Notice.**

Notice of the Precinct Conventions shall be posted in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Texas Election Code (currently §174.023) and elsewhere in applicable governing documents.

### **C. Quorum.**

Quorum at a Precinct Convention shall be those qualified Party members present.

### **D. Precinct Convention Officers.**

1. The officers of the Precinct Convention shall be a Chair and a Secretary. The convention may select any other officers considered necessary to conduct the convention's business.
2. The Precinct Chair shall preside over the precinct convention.
3. The convention shall select a convention secretary to take minutes and complete all required reporting forms.
4. If the convention consists of grouped precincts, and there is more than one Precinct Chair present, the convention shall select a Chair from among the present Precinct Chairs.
5. If no Precinct Chair is present, or any Precinct Chairs decline the position, the convention shall elect a Chair from those qualified Party members present. The County or Congressional District Chair may appoint an eligible participant to

preside over the election of the Convention Chair. If no appointment has been made, any eligible participant may lead this election process. If only one nomination is made, that nominee is elected automatically upon the close of nominations.

**E. Convention Business.**

1. If the Precinct Convention is held prior to the County/CD Convention, the convention business shall consist of:
  - a) discussion of precinct issues,
  - b) recruitment for attendance at the County/CD Convention, and
  - c) organizing the precinct for the November general election.
2. If the Precinct Convention is held during the County/CD Convention, the convention business shall consist of:
  - a) discussion of precinct issues,
  - b) organizing the precinct for the November general election, and
  - c) the Precinct Caucus, as described in the County & Congressional District Convention section.

**F. Submission of Documents.**

1. The Secretary shall complete precinct convention reports and return them in a timely manner to the appropriate County or Congressional District Chair or their designee.
2. The Chair and the Secretary shall jointly be responsible for timely submission of reporting forms or minutes.

## **Article XIII. COUNTY & CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

### **A. Type of Convention and Purpose.**

1. A convention shall be held to select the delegates to the state convention and conduct any other convention business. This convention may be organized by county or congressional district, determined by the following:
  - a) If the county is situated in only one congressional district, a county convention shall be held;
  - b) If the county is situated in more than one congressional district:
    - (1) a district convention shall be held in each part of the county that is situated in a different congressional district; or
    - (2) a joint county convention shall be held with all parts of the county that are situated in different congressional districts combined; or
    - (3) a regional convention shall be held when two or more, but not all, parts of the county that are situated in different congressional districts elect to combine their conventions.
2. It is possible to have more than one regional convention in a county. If a district does not elect to combine their convention, they shall hold a District Convention by default.
3. The Precinct Chairs in each congressional district involved must, by majority vote, decide to hold a Joint County or Regional Convention. The vote must be taken 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 residing in the congressional districts under consideration.

### **B. Date of Convention.**

Each County/CD Convention shall be held on the third Saturday after the First Tuesday in March; 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.

### **C. Time & Place.**

1. A County Convention shall be held at a time of day and place set by the County Executive Committee by the day following the filing deadline of the year prior to voting, or by another date set by the Texas Democratic Party Chair. The choice must be reported to the State Party by the day following the filing deadline.
2. The Precinct Chairs in each congressional district involved in a particular convention, or on their failure to act the Congressional District Chair, shall determine the exact time and place where each respective Congressional District Convention shall be held by the day following the filing deadline of the year prior to voting, or by another date set by the Texas Democratic Party Chair or their designee. The choice must be reported to the State Party by the day following the filing deadline.
3. Should any Chair fail to post the order and to file the notice, any member of the 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. A notice of the hour and place for convening each county and congressional district convention shall be posted electronically on the county or

state party's Internet website or on the bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of the commissioners court. The notice must remain posted continuously for the 10 days immediately preceding the date of the convention. (Texas Election Code §174.064)

4. The Convention shall be held in a place easily accessible to the public and large enough to accommodate all participants. (Texas Election Code §174.063)

#### **D. Notice & Publicity.**

1. The State Party, in conjunction with County Parties, shall develop a plan to publicize the County and Congressional District Conventions prior to the Primary and on the day of the Primary Election.
2. The notice shall be posted at the polling place on election day and include the time, place and purpose of the convention. Such notice shall also contain the URL of the State Party website for preregistering to attend the precinct convention at the county or congressional convention.
3. In years where the County and Congressional District Conventions occur prior to the primary, or due to an emergency, the State Party Chair or their designee shall develop and give notice of an adjusted plan.
4. Notice of the County/CD Conventions shall be posted in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Texas Election Code (currently §174.064) and elsewhere in applicable governing documents.

#### **E. Organizational Limitations for Joint County Conventions and Regional Conventions.**

Any Joint County or Regional Convention shall:

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

#### **F. Eligibility to Participate.**

All persons preregistering for the convention or registering in person at the convention who reside in a precinct (or grouped precincts) are eligible to participate. Persons arriving late who are otherwise qualified to participate 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 begun.

#### **G. Quorum.**

Quorum for the general session shall be a majority of those checked-in delegates on the most recent roll of the convention. If delegates depart before the close of convention, the delegate may check out with the designated official(s). The committee shall revise the roll of delegates and make a supplementary report as

needed. It is understood that the roll will be altered as delegates arrive late or leave early.

## **H. County/CD Convention Officers.**

1. Convention Chair
  - a) At a county convention or joint county convention, the County Chair shall be the chair of the Convention.
  - b) At a District convention, the Congressional District Chair shall be the Chair.
  - c) At a Regional Convention where the County Chair is a resident of the combined districts, the County Chair shall be the Chair.
  - d) At a Regional Convention where the County Chair is not a resident of the combined districts, if only one Congressional District Chair is present, that District Chair shall be the Chair. If more than one Congressional District Chair is present, the convention shall select a Chair from among the present District Chairs.
2. If the default Chair is absent or declines the position, the convention shall elect a Chair from those qualified Party members present.
3. If it is known in advance that the default chair will not be able to fulfill the position, the State Party Chair or their designee shall fill the position in consultation with the SDEC and CEC Members of the convention.

## **I. Convention Business.**

The County/CD Conventions shall follow the order of business as listed in the Call to Convention.

## **J. Convention Committees.**

1. **Committees.**  
Convention Committees shall be the Committees on Credentials, Nominations, Platform and Resolutions, and Rules.
2. **Committee Composition.**  
Each committee shall be composed of enough members to fairly represent the diversity of the county or congressional district(s) participating. The committee chair and members shall be appointed by the Convention Chair and ratified by the Precinct Chairs in the districts making up the convention at an executive committee meeting. If not completed prior to the opening of the County/CD Convention, it may be done at the County/CD Convention.
3. **Option To Operate As Committee Of The Whole.**  
County/CD Conventions may be so small that they may want to operate as a committee of the whole. It may make sense in a convention with few attendees to try to function as a committee of the whole for each committee.
4. **Committee Duties.**  
Committees may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County or Congressional District Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of presubmitted items or those filed online with the state party.
  - a) Credentials. It is the job of the Credentials Committee to be sure each convention attendee is a qualified participant and is assigned to the correct precinct. In order to be eligible, a person must be a Democratic voter who

resides in the jurisdiction where the convention is being held and has either voted in the Democratic Primary or signs an oath of affiliation with the Democratic Party and has not voted in another party's primary or convention or supported a candidate of another party. In presidential years, the Credentials Committee might also be called on to resolve any disputes between presidential caucuses within a precinct caucus. The Credentials Committee Report certifying both the delegates in attendance and the precincts in attendance is the first report delivered to the convention.

- b) Platform and Resolutions. The Committee on Resolutions may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County or Congressional District Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of submitted resolutions or those filed online with the state party.
- c) Rules. The Committee on Rules may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County/CD Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of proposed changes to the rules.

#### **K. Submissions to Committees.**

1. Any person eligible to participate in the Precinct or County/CD Convention may submit to the County/CD Convention Chair or a designee a proposed resolution or rules change for consideration by the Convention. Resolutions or rules changes may be submitted to the Chair for referral to the appropriate Committee beginning 15 days before the date of the convention.
2. The State Party shall maintain an online submission system and a resolution or rules change may be submitted through that system according to the process for that system.
3. Resolutions or rules changes shall be printed on the form available on the TDP website, in the Appendix of these rules, or from the County or Congressional District Chair. Instructions for preparing resolutions or rules changes are available from the same sources.
4. The Chair shall announce at the beginning of the convention where and with whom resolutions or rules changes shall be filed. The period for filing 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.
5. For resolutions or rules changes submitted for the first time during a convention, after adoption by the convention they shall be entered into the state party online submission system. If the resolution or rules change was one that was posted on the state party website prior to the convention, the Chair shall simply notify the State Chair through an online system that the item was adopted.

#### **L. Precinct Caucus.**

1. After the Precinct Convention is organized, the Precinct(s) shall caucus to select Precinct delegates to the State Convention and conduct any other convention business.
2. If the precinct has held a convention prior to the County/CD Convention, the officers elected for the convention will be the officers of the caucus. If a previous officer is not present, a replacement may be selected using the process for Precinct Conventions.

3. The County or Congressional District Chair shall provide all required registration rolls and reporting forms to the Precinct Caucuses.
4. The business of the precinct caucus shall be the election of delegates to the State Convention, following the procedure in these rules.

**M. Election of State Delegates.**

In presidential years, delegates are elected proportionately to the number of supporters for a presidential candidate or uncommitted status at the County/CD Convention and if there are remaining slots unfilled, those may be filled by any presidential preference. In gubernatorial years, delegates are elected without regard to any candidate preference.

1. 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.
2. Any person who preregistered may change their presidential preference or uncommitted status at any point until the Chair of the County/CD Convention has announced that precinct caucuses are convening. This announcement must not occur earlier than the time the final person in line at the time the County/CD Convention was called to order has completed their registration.
3. When it is time in the Order of Business to elect Delegates to the State Convention, the procedure shall be as follows:
  - a) The Precinct Convention Chair shall announce the number of eligible voting members in attendance and the number of Delegates the caucus is entitled to elect to the State Convention.
  - b) Participants may nominate themselves or any qualified voter who resides in the precinct for the position of Delegate. Nominations shall be open from the floor until a motion is made, seconded, and passed by a two-thirds vote to close nominations. In presidential years, each nominee for delegate must disclose their presidential preference and the chair of the Precinct Caucus will confirm the preference from the roll.
  - c) Each participant may cast a number of votes equal to the number of Delegates allocated to such Precinct (or grouped Precinct) Convention. For example, if there are three positions to be filled, each participant may cast three full votes in the following manners:
    - one vote for each of three candidates;
    - two votes for one candidate and one vote for one other candidate: or
    - three votes for a single candidate.
  - d) Persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Delegates elected by the Precinct Convention. In the case of a tie vote for Delegate, the Delegate shall be determined by lot or chance.
  - e) 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 requirements shall be suspended, and the slate of nominees may be elected



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

- f) Only a full vote may be cast; fractions of a vote are prohibited.
- g) Adjournment of caucus (and convention, if being held at the County/CD Convention).

#### **N. Determination of At-Large Delegates.**

1. All convention preregistration and on-site registration shall include all known presidential preferences and uncommitted status of registrants in presidential years, but shall not limit the right of any registrants or group of registrants to indicate their preference in any manner which they choose.
2. Upon the Chair's announcement of the closing of the period for registration for the Convention, results shall be tabulated by a committee appointed by the Convention Chair and composed of at least one person for each known presidential preference or uncommitted status. The Chair then shall announce the tabulation results to the convention by number and percentages of votes received by each presidential preference, including uncommitted. The tabulation then shall be written into the permanent records of the Convention and shall be reported as part of the minutes.
3. The results of the presidential preference tabulation shall be used by the Nominations Committee and by the Convention as a whole as the basis for nominating and for electing At-Large Delegates so as to ensure the fairest possible representation of the Convention participants as a whole within the total delegation, without disturbing the Precinct Caucus election results. The threshold will be the lowest allowed by the National Committee (which at present is 15%).
4. The delegate nominations made by the precinct caucuses shall be forwarded immediately to the Nominations Committee and shall be included in the list of Delegates to the State Convention.
5. The Nominations Committee shall select other nominees for At-Large Delegates to bring the total to the full number authorized for the county or Congressional district.
6. Following any additional nominations for At-Large Delegates which may be made from the floor subsequent to the Nominations Committee report, the Convention as a whole shall ratify the election of Delegates recommended by the precincts and shall elect the At-Large Delegates needed to complete the delegation.
7. The preregistration and on-site registration documents shall be retained by the County or Congressional District Chair as part of the official files of the Convention for at least six months. Such records shall be open to public inspection at reasonable hours upon request.

#### **O. Election of Delegates to State Convention by Acclamation.**

1. When the Chair closes registration, and the Credentials Committee has made their report and the convention has accepted the roll of the convention, the Nominations Committee will announce the number of persons who have indicated upon signing in that they wish to attend the state convention. If that number is less than or equal to the number of delegates the county is allocated,



then a motion may be made to suspend the precinct caucuses and the selection of at-large delegates and to elect all persons who have indicated a desire to attend the state convention by acclamation.

2. If the delegation is still not filled after elections as set out in these rules, the Chair may entertain a motion to add the names of any person who preregistered for attendance at the convention but is not present to the list of delegates to the state convention.

**P. Changes to State Delegation.**

Additional persons may be added for 23 days to complete the state delegation after adjournment of the convention by the convention chair until the number of allocated persons is reached. In a presidential year, the balance of presidential preference must be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Additional names submitted after the initial list shall be sent to the staff of the state party in electronic format including the delegate's name, address, and phone and email if available. Amendments after the deadline may be made under the process outlined in the Call to Convention. The State Chair or their designee may temporarily remove a candidate for State Convention office, as well as temporarily remove, add or replace a State Delegate. This may only be done no earlier than 23 days after the County/Congressional District Conventions and ratified by the Temporary or Permanent Credentials Committee for the Convention. The Permanent Credentials Committee may reconsider such ratification by the Temporary Credentials Committee. Both Credentials Committees possess the authority to act on such matters without the State Chair or their designee initially acting by making permanent removals, additions or replacements.

**Q. Appointment of State Delegates by State Chair Where No Convention Held.**

1. If there is no county chair or if a county chair or a local person fails to hold a convention, the State Chair shall list all preregistered persons as delegates to the state convention from the county. The chair shall give first priority to those persons who indicated they wished to attend the state convention on their preregistration.
2. If there are more preregistered persons than delegate slots, the State Chair shall inquire, after the deadline for minutes to be submitted to the state party, by email to determine which person wishes to attend the state convention. If there are still more applicants than delegate slots, the State Chair or their designee shall conduct a drawing by gender to determine as equal as possible those to be appointed delegate.

**R. Delegation Chair.**

The County/CD Convention shall elect a Delegation Chair or shall assign this responsibility to the delegation, either by action or inaction. In a county holding a joint county convention or regional convention, each congressional district shall elect a delegation chair from among the delegates selected by that congressional district.

**Article XIV. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT PRECONVENTION CAUCUSES****A. Preconvention Caucus Composition.**

The Congressional District Preconvention Caucus is composed of the state delegates from each congressional district at the time of a Preconvention Caucus, similar to the Congressional District Caucuses during the State Convention. The Caucus shall be chaired by the Chairs of the Congressional District Caucus.

**B. Order of Business.**

The caucus meetings shall follow the order of business outlined in the Call to Convention.

**C. Purpose.**

The Congressional District Preconvention Caucus shall meet virtually or in-person to:

- a) Provide training and overview for the state and national convention;
- b) Allow candidates for convention office to speak and meet state delegates; and
- c) To organize for the general election in November in even years.

**D. Quorum Not Required.**

This is no quorum for the Congressional District Preconvention Caucus. No votes shall be taken at the Congressional District Preconvention Caucus.

**E. Date, Time, & Location.**

The date, time, and location of the Congressional District Preconvention Caucus shall be decided by the Chairs of the Congressional District Caucuses. The Congressional District Preconvention Caucus shall meet virtually or in-person on a date that is after the second Wednesday after County/CD Conventions, but is before the sixth Sunday after County/CD Conventions or the third Monday prior to the State Convention, whichever is earlier. If the Chairs of the Congressional District Caucuses cannot come to an agreement on the date, time, and location of the caucus by the fifth Monday prior to the County/CD Conventions, the State Chair or their designee shall decide.

**F. Notice.**

Notices for the Congressional District Preconvention Caucuses shall be sent electronically to state delegates of the Congressional District listed at the time of the notice, as well as any preregistered County/CD Caucus or registered County/CD Caucus attendees listed. The Chairs of the Congressional District Caucus shall ensure notices are sent. Notice shall be sent per applicable governing documents.

## Article XV. STATE CONVENTION

### A. Date, Time, Place, & Site Selection.

The Texas Democratic Party shall hold its biennial State Convention at a site selected by the State Democratic Executive Committee. The site of the State Convention shall be selected by the SDEC in advance of the prior State Convention. A request for proposal shall be made available three years prior to the convention and responses must include one or more available convention dates. The State Chair or their designee shall select the time and location of the state convention during contract negotiations with the convention bureau of the state convention site selected by the SDEC.

### B. Purpose.

The purpose of the biennial State Convention shall be:

1. to elect the Executive Party Officers of the SDEC: State Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chair for Finance, Secretary, and Treasurer (only in gubernatorial years);
2. to elect the statutory members of the SDEC from their respective congressional districts;
3. to adopt a platform which embodies the basic principles of the Democratic Party and which sets forth its positions on current issues of statewide significance for the November General Election;
4. to conduct constituency and interest caucus business;
5. elect Delegates and Alternates to the Party's National Convention (only in presidential years);
6. elect the Party's official nominees from Texas for the Democratic National Committee (only in presidential years);
7. select the official slate of Presidential Electors (only in presidential years); and
8. to attend to any other appropriate business.

### C. Quorum.

Quorum for the general session and congressional district caucuses shall be a majority of those delegates on the most recent roll of the convention. If delegates depart before the close of convention, they shall notify their delegation chair, who shall notify the credentials committee of the departure. If the delegation chair is unavailable, the delegate may check out with the designated official(s). The committee shall revise the roll of delegates and make a supplementary report at the beginning of each day and as called upon by the Convention Chair. It is understood that the roll will be altered as delegates arrive late or leave early. At the state convention, quorum for caucus meetings where an election for an auxiliary seat on the SDEC or a recommendation election for Democratic National Committee will be held shall be those qualified Party members present..

### D. Related to Rules.

1. The State Chair, any Permanent Standing Committees, or any duly-elected Party Officer shall be empowered to charge a nominal fee, which is to be no greater than the unit cost of printing and postage, for any materials required by these Rules to be provided to interested persons on request.
2. The State Chair may adapt any rule concerning the conduct of the state convention in virtual, electronic aspects that is minor in nature to the extent

necessary to achieve the spirit of the rule if the convention was happening as it did in the past with pure in-person conventions. All deviations from these rules must be approved by the State Party Parliamentarian(s) and Chair and Vice Chairs of the SDEC Rules Committee, or their designees.

3. A copy of all TDP Rules which pertain to the conduct of the State Convention, approved of by the State Chair or their designee, shall be printed in the official program of such Convention to be distributed to each Delegate during registration and shall be posted on the State Party website.

**E. Accessibility.**

The TDP will make all convention activities accessible to persons with disabilities to the greatest extent possible. All live-streamed convention wide general sessions shall be captioned for persons with disabilities.

**F. Delegates.**

The voting delegates of the State Convention shall be those Delegates duly-elected from County and Congressional District Conventions, automatic delegates, or as otherwise stated.

**G. Proxies.**

A proxy may be qualified to state how an expected vote may be cast or unqualified. Proxy voting may only be used in one of the following cases:

1. An absent county delegation.  
When a county delegation is unable to send any delegates to convention, they may file a proxy in writing with the State Chair or their designee before convention is called to order.
2. The departure of the last remaining delegate in a county delegation.  
The last remaining delegate from a county delegation may file a proxy before their departure. The proxy should be in writing and filed with the Convention Chair or their designee, or the delegation chair for their Congressional District.
3. A present delegate who is unable to be seated with their delegation for a period of time.  
A delegate who is unable to be seated with their delegation for a period of time may assign a temporary proxy for the duration of their time away. This could include, but is not limited to, permanent committee members, convention officers, convention staff or volunteers, candidates or campaign staff, delegates with small children, or delegates with accommodation needs. The proxy should be in writing and filed with the Convention Chair or their designee, the delegation chair for their county delegation, or the delegation chair for their Congressional District.

**H. Notice.**

The notice of the Convention shall be posted on the state party website along with a copy of the Party Rules, any supplemental rules which may apply, and the proposed Convention agenda. The State Chair or their designee shall give notice by emails to all delegates, postings on the Texas Democratic Party website, and through social media the date, times and schedule for the programmatic presentations of the convention and directions for accessing said programming online.

## **I. Call to Convention and State Convention Standing Rules.**

The SDEC shall approve of the Call To Convention and State Convention Standing Rules ([txdem.co/24-Call-to-Convention](http://txdem.co/24-Call-to-Convention)). The convention may amend State Convention Standing Rules when they are announced in the first general session or as proscribed in the parliamentary authority.

## **J. Convention Officers.**

### **1. Temporary Officers.**

The State Chair or their designee(s) may designate such Temporary Officers and assistants deemed necessary to plan, to arrange, and to conduct the necessary work of the Convention until Permanent Officers are elected. These appointees shall have those duties which are assigned to them.

### **2. Permanent Convention Officers.**

- a) The Permanent Convention Officers shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Parliamentarian(s). The Convention may elect additional Permanent Convention Officers as the SDEC may recommend to carry on Convention business.
- b) The State Chair shall serve as the Permanent Chair of the State Convention. The Permanent Convention Chair may temporarily relinquish the role of presiding officer to any of the Permanent Officers.
- c) The State Chair shall select Honorary Co-Chairs who serve as primary fundraisers for the Convention.
- d) The SDEC shall nominate a Permanent Vice Chair of a different gender of the State Chair, a Permanent Secretary, and a Parliamentarian(s) and any additional Permanent Convention Officers before the State Convention. The SDEC may nominate State Party Executive Officers as Permanent Convention Officers. If the State Chair is absent or has declined to Chair the State Convention, the SDEC shall also nominate a Permanent Chair. The report of these nominations shall be provided to all delegates at the first general session.
- e) Additional nominations, who must be verified state delegates, may be made by petition of at least one percent of the duly-elected Delegates to the Convention. A petition shall be submitted to the State Chair or their designee(s) at least four hours before call to order of the first general session. No Delegate may sign more than one nominating petition for any given office. Petition forms shall be made available online and from the State Chair of their designee(s).
- f) The Permanent Officers of the Convention shall be elected by a majority of the State Convention Delegates. Each Permanent Officer shall be voted on separately and not as part of a slate. If there is only one nominee for an office, the candidate may be declared elected.

## **K. Temporary Committees.**

### **1. List of Committees.**

The temporary committees of the State Convention shall be Credentials, Resolutions, Rules, and Platform.

### **2. Committee Composition.**

- a) Each temporary committee shall be composed of a chair (additional chairs may be selected for Temporary Platform Committee), a vice chair, and a secretary that are members of the committee and selected by the State Chair.
- b) The State Chair shall select the remaining twelve members of the Temporary Credentials Committee.
- c) The State Chair shall select any number of members as the remaining members of the Temporary Platform Committee, who shall be subject matter experts.
- d) The statutory members of the SDEC in a Congressional District shall select, from their Congressional District, one member on the Temporary Rules and one member on the Resolutions Committee. If the statutory members of the SDEC in a Congressional District cannot come to a consensus on a selection or do not provide a selection by a date set by the State Chair or their designee, the State Chair shall select from the Congressional District. The State Chair and statutory SDEC Members shall make selections to help ensure that each committee is broadly representative of the state's population in terms of geography, age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic identity, race and philosophical persuasion.

### **3. Committee Duties.**

- a) The Temporary Credentials Committee shall consider challenges to a delegate or delegation. The Committee may hold such preliminary meetings and hearings as it deems necessary to gather facts about challenges to the credentials of individual Delegates or delegations to the State Convention. The committee shall report their recommendations to the Permanent Credentials Committee.
- b) The Temporary Resolutions Committee shall sort all resolutions passed out of County/CD Conventions and consider them following the process listed in the Call to Convention.
- c) The Temporary Rules Committee shall receive all rules changes passed out of County/CD Conventions and consider them following the process listed in the Call to Convention.
- d) The Temporary Platform Committee shall hold such preliminary meetings, working meetings, electronic correspondence, and hearings as it deems necessary to construct a draft platform to present to the Permanent Platform Committee. In addition to its own work, it shall receive recommendations from the State Chair or their designee, and items forwarded from the Temporary Resolutions Committee.

## **L. Permanent and Additional Committees.**

### **1. List of Committees.**

The permanent committees of the State Convention shall be Credentials, Platform, Resolutions, and Rules. In Presidential years, the additional committees shall be a Nominations Committee for Democratic National Committee Members "Nominations (DNC)", a Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates to the National Convention "Nominations (Delegates)" and Presidential Preference

Delegate Recommendation Committees for each qualified presidential candidate.

**2. Committee Composition.**

Each committee shall be composed of three members selected by the State Chair, and

- a) the Presidential Preference Delegate Recommendation Committees shall consist of one member per presidential candidate per Congressional District that is electing at least one National Delegate for that presidential candidate,
- b) the Nominations (Delegates) Committee members elected from the Presidential Preference Delegate Recommendation Committees, and
- c) The remaining committees shall consist of one member elected from each Congressional District or each qualified Congressional District.

In a multi-county Congressional District, the Delegates should strive to provide geographical representation by recommending their committee persons to be from different counties.

**3. Committee Officers.**

The Permanent Convention Chair shall designate one member of each committee to be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, unless stated otherwise. The Temporary Credentials Committee Chair shall serve as an automatic member of the Permanent Credentials Committee, but shall not hold a vote unless that person is one of the members elected by a Congressional District or one of the members selected by the State Chair. The Temporary Platform Committee Chair(s) shall be the Permanent Platform Committee Chair(s).

**4. Committee Member Selection.**

- a) Members of the Presidential Preference Delegate Recommendation Committees shall be elected during the Presidential Preference caucuses at the Congressional District Caucus the second day of the state convention.
- b) Members of the Nominations (DNC) Committee shall be chosen at the Congressional District Caucus the second day of the state convention.
- c) For the remaining committees, unless stated otherwise, members shall be elected electronically by the state delegates in their congressional districts in advance of the state convention. Electronic voting shall begin at 6 PM, local time of state party headquarters, the day of the last scheduled Congressional District Preconvention Caucus and shall close 72 hours later.
- d) A person may run for multiple positions in their congressional district caucus. If a person wins more than one Permanent and Additional Committee position, the person must announce which committee they will serve on, and the person with the next highest vote total shall assume the other committee position.
- e) The process for holding the elections shall be outlined in the Call to Convention.

**5. Committee Duties.**

- a) The Permanent Credentials Committee shall make recommendations to the SDEC Convention as to the final resolution of all challenges regarding the credentials of Delegates to the State Convention in advance of the temporary



roll. The committee shall also present the permanent roll to the state convention and any necessary revisions. The committee will hear any challenges at convention as outlined in the Call to Convention.

- b) The Permanent Platform Committee shall edit and recommend to the Convention a Party Platform for the November General Election.
- c) The Permanent Resolutions Committee shall consider and make a recommendation on all resolutions submitted to the Permanent Resolutions Committee.
- d) The Permanent Rules Committee shall consider and make a recommendation on all proposed rule changes submitted to the Convention.
- e) In presidential years, the Nominations (DNC) Committee shall nominate the DNC representatives.
- f) In presidential years, the Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates to the National Convention and Presidential Preference Delegate Recommendation Committees shall attempt to meet the Texas Democratic Party's affirmative action goals from the Delegate Selection Plan by nominating At-Large Delegates, PLEOs, or any district National Delegate vacancies accordingly.

**6. Committee Meetings.**

The permanent committees elected in advance of the convention shall meet virtually in advance of the convention. All committees with remaining business at the convention will meet as needed in person at the convention.

**M. Congressional District Caucuses.**

**1. Caucus Composition.**

The Congressional District Caucus is composed of the State Delegates from each congressional district. The caucus shall be chaired by at least two statutory SDEC Committeemembers. When there is a vacancy in a default chair position, or a default chair is absent, plans to be absent, or declines to serve as a chair, the State Chair shall select a replacement chair.

**2. Order of Business.**

The caucus meetings shall follow the order of business outlined in the Call to Convention.

**N. Constituency and Interest Caucuses.**

- 1. Constituency caucuses of the convention shall be those sponsored by auxiliary organizations represented on the State Democratic Executive Committee and the Hispanic Caucus.
- 2. Interest caucuses are those groups that wish to caucus at convention but are not represented on the SDEC.
- 3. Constituency and Interest caucuses may, if desired, host an online caucus meeting prior to the State Convention. Scheduling of said caucuses must be agreed upon by the State Chair and the caucus leadership to ensure no conflicts occur. Constituency and Interest Caucuses shall be wholly responsible for the speakers, content, and program of their meetings.
- 4. Constituency caucuses that hold an election at convention for officers, SDEC representatives, or any other recommendation may ask the Convention Chair or



their designee to conduct said election under the same guidelines and processes as used for other elections at convention.

5. If there are delegates listed for a particular caucus by that characteristic (ethnicity, age, orientation, etc.) and delegates signed up to attend that caucus, both lists shall be provided to caucus leadership and to candidates who file online for elections held by the caucus.

**O. Order of Business.**

The convention shall follow the order of business listed in the Call to Convention.

**P. Election of National Committeemembers.**

At the State Convention held in presidential years, the Convention shall elect, by majority vote, the Texas nominees to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), during the Convention Permanent Nominations Committee for Democratic National Committee Members "Nominations (DNC)". The number of these members shall be set by the DNC, and their election shall be subject to formal ratification by the National Convention, as provided by the Rules of the National Committee.

**1. Qualifications.**

The qualifications for National Committeemen and National Committeewomen shall be the same as those prescribed for Party membership in these Rules.

**2. Pledge of Support.**

The National Committeemen and Committeewomen must declare affirmatively in favor of the Party's nominees for President and Vice President within one month after the National Convention or they shall be subject to removal from office by the National Committee.

**3. Terms.**

The term of office for National Committee members shall begin immediately following the National Convention which ratifies their selection or following ratification by the National Committee if a member is elected to fill an unexpired term. The regular four-year term shall extend through the first National Convention held subsequent to the election of such members or until their successors are elected and qualified.

**4. Nominations.**

In presidential years, the Nominations (DNC) Committee shall consider all recommendations made to it by Convention Delegates and all nominations made by Committee members for National Committeemembers. The Committee's report to the Convention may include more than one nomination for any position on the National Committee.

**5. Elections.**

After the Nominations (DNC) Committee presents its report to the Convention, minority reports which comply with Party Rules shall be presented, followed by additional nominations, if any, from the Convention floor. The Convention as a whole then shall elect each of its National Committee members by majority vote.

**6. Vacancies.**

Any vacancy in these offices which occurs after a National Convention and before the next presidential State Convention shall be filled promptly by a majority of the SDEC, provided that members receive written notice at least 30 days before the

meeting at which the election will be held. Any member of the SDEC may nominate a candidate for the vacant office.

**Q. General Voting.**

1. Each multi-county congressional district shall vote the full Delegate strength to which it is entitled, divided proportionally among the counties in attendance according to each county's voting strength within the district. (Texas Election Code §174.096)
2. Each unit at each Convention shall vote the full Delegate strength to which it is entitled, divided proportionally to the vote of its Delegates in attendance. (Texas Election Code §174.068 and §174.096)
3. The voting strength of each county in the Congressional District or County Caucus shall be the same as the vote of that county on the floor of the Convention.
4. For any county which has no Delegates present in person or by proxy, those votes shall be apportioned based upon the vote of the Congressional District so that the Congressional District can vote its full Delegate strength.

**R. Voting For Executive State Party Officers.**

1. Voting for the Executive State Party Officers of the SDEC, if there is more than one nominee, shall be by voice vote, roll call, or by signed written ballot.
2. A written ballot shall record each delegate's name, county, Congressional district and delegate's choice of candidate.
3. Each Executive State Party Officer shall be voted on separately and not as part of a slate. If there is only one nominee for an office, the candidate shall be declared elected.
4. If instant runoff voting is not used and if no candidate for a Statewide officer position receives a majority vote of Delegates voting in the first vote, a runoff vote shall be conducted immediately and the procedures described in Texas Election Code Section 2.023 shall be employed to govern the runoff vote and determine the Statewide officer.

## Article XVI. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

[\[See Appendix H for links to Disciplinary Committee Forms & Examples\]](#)

### A. Disciplinary Committee.

#### 1. Duties of the Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have authority over any complaint regarding the governing documents of the Texas Democratic Party and those of its subordinate executive committees and conventions.

#### 2. Committee Composition.

The Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of nine members selected according to the following guidelines:

- a) Four members of the Rules Committee of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and who are duly appointed by the State Party Chair.
- b) Two members of the State Democratic Executive Committee who are duly appointed by the State Chair, with the advice and consent of the SDEC.
- c) Three Democrats who are not members of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and who are duly appointed by the State Chair, with the advice and consent of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

#### 3. Committee Officers.

The Disciplinary Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from within its membership.

#### 4. Initial Reviewer.

The committee shall appoint, for a one-year term, one person to make initial review of all filed complaints. The initial reviewer may or may not be a member of the Committee. The Chair shall serve as the Initial Reviewer in the absence of an appointed reviewer.

#### 5. Committee Meetings.

The committee may meet in-person or by any means of simultaneous electronic communication.

#### 6. Options for Closed Meetings.

Deliberations made by the Disciplinary Committee are exempt from the open meetings requirement in the Texas Democratic Party Rules.

#### 7. Committee Term.

The term of the committee members shall run concurrently with the term of the SDEC but shall continue until their successors are appointed and approved. This may result in members serving into the new term.

#### 8. Vacancies.

Resignations from the committee should be submitted to the State Party Chair, who has the authority to accept. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the State Party Chair, in the same manner as the committee is composed. The member filling the vacancy has full rights of membership if awaiting SDEC approval.

### B. Complaint Process.

Any person affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party per Texas Election Code Chapter 162 may bring forth a complaint before the Disciplinary Committee

regarding the governing documents of the Texas Democratic Party and those of its subordinate executive committees and conventions.

**1. Filing Complaints.**

All complaints must be commenced by the filing of a written complaint with the Texas Democratic Party Chair or their designee no later than 21 calendar days after the alleged violation occurred. Upon verifying that the complaint has been properly submitted, the Texas Democratic Party Chair or their designee shall promptly deliver the complaint to the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, Vice Chair, Initial Reviewer, and the subject of the complaint ("respondent").

**2. Exceptions to Filing Time Limits.**

In the event of a sustained and ongoing breach of Party rules, the submission may be submitted more than 21 days after the breach began, but no longer than 21 days after it ends. Upon a showing of good cause, sustained by unanimous vote, the Disciplinary Committee may waive the 21-day requirement but in no event shall a grievance be considered that concerns conduct that occurred more than one year before the filing of the grievance.

**3. Content of Complaint.**

The written complaint shall be submitted on a Complaint Form provided by the Texas Democratic Party and it must contain the following:

- a) The individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed;
- b) A description of the decision, action, or failure to act from which the complaint arises and when it occurred;
- c) Citations of which Party Rules have been violated or disregarded; and
- d) What relief, correction or other action is sought by the complainant.

**4. Initial Review.**

Upon the receipt of a grievance from the Texas Democratic Party, the Initial Reviewer shall determine whether the grievance has sufficient grounds for an investigation. The Initial Reviewer must make such a determination no later than 21 days after receiving the grievance.

**5. Results of Initial Review.**

Complaints found to have sufficient grounds (whether by the Initial Reviewer or by review of the Committee) shall be forwarded to the Committee for investigation. Complaints with insufficient grounds will be returned to the complainant with no action taken by the Committee.

**6. Request for Full Review.**

If the initial review finds insufficient grounds for investigation, the complainant then has 21 days after the date the Initial Reviewer's report is issued to request a review by the full Committee. The Committee has 30 days to review the complaint and decide whether to uphold or overturn the decision of the Initial Reviewer. If the Committee affirms the decision and agrees that there are insufficient grounds, the complaint is returned and no further consideration is permitted.

**7. Confidential Investigation.**

The Disciplinary Committee shall meet to begin their investigation within 30 days of the date of the Initial Reviewer's report. The committee shall discuss the complaint and determine which questions they would like answered by the

complainant, the respondent, or other parties who may be able to provide information related to the complaint.

**8. Request for Information Form.**

The Committee shall send out their questions on a Request For Information form provided by the Texas Democratic Party. The RFI may be sent to any addressed parties in a manner deemed reasonable by the Committee. These parties may submit a written response to the Committee no later than 21 days after notice was given. Other Democrats may also submit a response to a complaint using the same RFI form no later than 21 days after notice was given to the original parties. All responses must be submitted in writing. There will not be any opportunity to speak before the committee.

**9. Review of Findings.**

After the deadline for submission of responses, the committee shall meet to review the responses and decide on the outcome of the complaint. If the Committee feels they need additional information, they may send an additional round of RFIs in the same manner as the initial round.

**10. Report of Findings & Recommendations.**

The Committee shall have the power and authority to take such actions as are necessary to provide a fair and just remedy, insofar as such remedy is permitted by the Texas Democratic Party Rules, state law, and/or federal law. Decisions regarding suspension or removal shall be referred to the SDEC for a final decision. Upon completion of its investigation, the Committee shall take action, including, but not limited to, one or more of the following actions:

- a) Dismiss as untimely any allegations of violations that occurred more than one year prior to the date of the complaint;
- b) In challenges and disputes involving internal operations, processes and procedures of affiliated caucuses, where no TDP Rules have apparently been violated, dismiss the charges and refer the challenges and disputes to the affiliated organization for resolution;
- c) Dismiss the complaint, or any portion thereof, if it arises out of substantially the same circumstances as an earlier-filed complaint (including a member discipline complaint) against the same respondent;
- d) Dismiss the complaint, or any portion thereof, as frivolous, inconsequential, or as not attaining the required level of proof;
- e) Find that the respondent acted properly and exonerate the respondent; or
- f) Find that the respondent did not act properly and uphold the complaint.

**11. Final Report.**

The committee shall submit a final report to the SDEC. The report shall be submitted on a form supplied by the Texas Democratic Party. It should include at minimum:

- a) A summary of the complaint,
- b) A summary of the investigation's findings, and
- c) The final ruling of the committee or the committee's recommendation to the SDEC.

**12. Complaint Summary.**

- a) The committee shall also provide a summary for publication, sanitized to avoid identifying or providing details that could be used to identify the people or organizations involved in the complaint, that provides sufficient details to understand what violation was alleged, what the Disciplinary Committee decided, and what facts and reasoning led to the decision.
- b) Complaint summaries shall be published to the public in a manner determined by the State Party Chair or their designee to be appropriate and accessible. Published complaint summaries will only include the name of a respondent if they were suspended or removed by the SDEC.

**13. Appeal Process.**

The SDEC may alter an action of the Disciplinary Committee using the process to Amend Something Previously Adopted.

**14. Disclaimers.**

- a) Duty of the Party.  
The Texas Democratic Party shall have no duty to expend money or resources defending in Court, a ruling by the Disciplinary Committee unless required by the State Chair or a majority vote of the State Democratic Executive Committee.
- b) Right of Review.  
Nothing herein grants the right of judicial review to any decision derived from this process including any complaint concerning the administration of this process. The Texas Democratic Party specifically denies that state or federal courts have subject matter jurisdiction to consider a petition of complaint concerning this process.

## Article XVII. AMENDMENT

### A. Adoption and Status.

1. These Rules shall continue in force until rescinded or permanently changed by action of the State Convention, or as temporarily amended by the SDEC as provided herein, and are enforceable by mandamus proceedings as provided under Texas law.
2. Notwithstanding anything in these Rules to the contrary, the laws of the State of Texas take precedence over these Rules in the event of a conflict, so long as application of those laws does not infringe on the Party's rights of self-government under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas.
3. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any statute that burdens the Delegate selection process in such a way as to create a conflict with National Party Rules relating to Delegate selection or instruction shall not be given effect if, in the opinion of the SDEC, such statute would imperil the participation of the Texas Democratic Party in National Party affairs. Such determination shall be made by the SDEC after 30 days notice and by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

### B. Amendment.

1. These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a majority vote of the State Convention.
2. Between State Conventions, they may be temporarily changed for good cause by three-fourths vote of the SDEC; provided, however, that the vote to amend shall constitute three-fourths of the entire Committee membership and also provided that each member of the SDEC receive written notice, including the full text of any proposed amendments, at least one month in advance of a meeting held for this purpose. All such amendments shall be presented to the next State Convention for approval, although they shall be in effect and binding until such Convention is held.
3. If any amendment attached by the SDEC is rejected by the State Convention, it may not be proposed again until the following State Convention.

### C. Rules Proposal Filings.

[Template at [txdem.co/Rules-Template](https://txdem.co/Rules-Template)]

1. Any proposed change to the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party shall be formally filed in advance of an SDEC quarterly or special meeting.
2. The proposal shall be filed in electronic format with the State Party Chair or that person's designee with a copy to the Rules committee chair and the Rules committee TDP staff liaison.
3. Initial filings must be made at least sixty days in advance of an SDEC regular meeting. However, an emergency filing of a rule may be made up until seven (7) days before a regular or special meeting of the SDEC if it is sponsored by thirty (30) members of the SDEC.
4. The filings must contain the following format and information:
  - a) a short title sufficient to state the topic of the proposal
  - b) The name of the SDEC member(s) proposing the rules change

- c) An SDEC Rules Committee sponsor who will present the proposal who may be the same as (b) above
- d) A succinct description of the rationale for the proposal
- e) Rules proposal language with
  - (1) underlining of amendments for adding language at the end of a sentence or phrase or inserting words within the text and
  - (2) strike-through of existing Rules language proposed to be stricken. A sample of how to draft Rules proposal language will be provided to the proposal maker.
- 5. The Chair of the Rules Committee or the Staff Liaison will ensure the proposal language is presented in 3 column format (Current Rule; Proposal Language; Rule if proposal language is adopted) to the Rules Committee and full SDEC.
- 6. After filing of the proposal, it shall be assigned a unique number to be used throughout the adoption process as a referral number of the proposal.
- 7. The State Party Chair may refer the proposal to the standing SDEC committee of jurisdiction for consideration for 30 days before the proposal is submitted to the Rules Committee.
- 8. The proposal shall be posted within 72 hours in a manner that allows any member of the SDEC or other Party members to review all filed proposals at any time.
- 9. The status and actions taken on the proposal shall be posted at the top of the proposal as they are taken in date order, with the most recent being listed first, of actions of subsection (10) below and subsequent subsections. The posting system should allow the SDEC Committee Secretary or staff to post these actions in real time as proposals are considered.
- 10. Actions must include:
  - a) Proposal number (Rules Proposal No. \_\_\_\_)
  - b) Proposal Title
  - c) Proposal author(s) as required by subsection 4 (b) above
  - d) Proposal committee sponsor as required by subsection 4 (c) above
  - e) Date filed with the State Party Chair
  - f) Date of first presentation in SDEC Rules committee
  - g) Dates of any committee action (Passed to full SDEC, postponed, defeated)
  - h) Date and results for any votes on the proposal or resolution
  - i) Date presented to the full SDEC
  - j) Date and final action and the vote for adoption or rejection by the SDEC
- 11. A committee chair shall retain the ability to set the agenda of any meeting for the orderly transaction of business.
- 12. Upon adoption of a new Rule, the State Party Chair's designee shall post the history of the adopted proposal on the TDP public website and incorporate the language in the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party
- 13. All changes to the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party made between the biennial convention of the Texas Democratic Party shall be automatically placed on the agenda of the Rules Committee of the Texas Democratic Party Convention.



**D. Publicizing of Rules.**

1. The State Party shall post the most current copy of these Rules on its website within thirty days of the adoption of changes. The State Chair, County Chairs and members of the SDEC shall make every effort to publicize the Rules well in advance of each Convention and to explain them summarily at the opening of each Convention.
2. A copy of any amendment to these Rules shall be filed promptly with the Secretary of State and shall be included in all sets of Rules distributed from the State Headquarters.

**Article XVIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The parliamentary authority of the Texas Democratic Party, its clubs and affiliated organizations shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The parliamentary authority shall govern all meetings, committees and conventions except where superseded by federal and state laws and these Rules.

1. Unless otherwise required by statute or by these Rules, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority governing all Party Committee meetings and procedures.

**Article XIX. NATIONAL DELEGATE SELECTION RULES**

The latest Texas Delegate Selection Plan, made available to [txdem.co/Delegate-Selection-Plan](https://txdem.co/Delegate-Selection-Plan), governs the selection of National Convention Delegates and Alternates; Standing Committee Members; Delegation Chair and Convention Pages; Presidential Electors; and Presidential Candidate Filing Deadlines.

## **Article XX. JUDICIAL OFFICEHOLDER AND CANDIDATE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Pursuant to Section 253.1611 (e-1), Election Code, (e-1) a judicial candidate or judicial officeholder may make a political contribution, for the purpose of sponsoring or attending an event, to a political committee affiliated with:

- A.** an organization that is hereby designated as an auxiliary, coalition, or county chair association of the Texas Democratic Party as provided by these rules or
- B.** a local chapter of an organization described by subdivision (1).
  - 1. Those organizations are those groups listed in Article VII and their local chapters. The Hispanic Caucus shall be defined as any groups and the chapters thereof that have held a caucus at the Democratic State Convention for at least two consecutive conventions.

**Article XXI. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

This section becomes operable upon a vote conducted in person, online or by telephonic call of two thirds of the statutory members of the State Democratic Executive Committee upon notice by the state chair or his designee. After receiving an affirmative vote, the Chair may propose alternative language to any current standing rule as allowed by this section.

**A. Alternate Actions or Activities Proposal.**

In the event that a natural disaster or public health emergency, or orders by authorities resulting from such events, significantly inhibits or prohibits the conduct of any procedures, actions, meetings or conventions required under the rules, the Chair may propose alternate actions or activities and shall notify the members of the State Democratic Executive committee by email or telephone. The Chair shall request the State Democratic Executive Committee to adopt the alternate solution(s) by a majority vote conducted at a meeting, by telephone or video conference, or by an online vote at the discretion of the Chair.

**B. Emergency Rules In Effect.**

When emergency rules are adopted they shall take precedence over any other rule of the Texas Democratic Party. These emergency rules shall be posted online.

## APPENDIX

### A. Parliamentary Cheat Sheet.

TO DO THIS <sup>1</sup>	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT THE SPEAKER?	MUST BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?	WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?
Adjourn the meeting	I move that we adjourn.	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	MAJORITY vote required
Recess the meeting	I move that we recess until ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	AMENDABLE	MAJORITY vote required
Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.	Point of privilege	MAY interrupt the speaker	NO second needed	NOT debatable <sup>2</sup>	NOT amendable	NO vote required; Chair decides.
Suspend further consideration of something	I move we table it.	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	MAJORITY vote required
End debate	I move the previous question.	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	TWO-THIRDS vote required
Postpone consideration of something	I move we postpone this matter until ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	MAJORITY vote required
Have something studied further	I move we refer this to a committee.	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	MAJORITY vote required
Amend a motion	I move this motion be amended by ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	MAJORITY vote required
Introduce business (a primary motion)	I move that ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	MAJORITY vote required
Object to procedure or to a personal affront	Point of order	MAY interrupt the speaker	NO second needed	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	NO vote required; Chair decides
Request information	Point of information	If urgent, may interrupt speaker	NO second needed	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	NO vote required
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	I call for a division of the house.	May NOT interrupt the speaker <sup>3</sup>	NO second needed	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	NO vote required unless one objects <sup>4</sup>
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	I object to consideration of this question.	MAY interrupt the speaker	NO second needed	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	TWO-THIRDS vote required
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move we take from the table ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	MAJORITY vote required
Reconsider something already disposed of	I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to....	MAY interrupt the speaker; motion is debatable	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE if original	NOT amendable	MAJORITY vote required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and consider ...	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	NOT debatable	NOT amendable	TWO-THIRDS vote required
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	I appeal the Chair's decision.	May NOT interrupt the speaker	MUST be seconded	DEBATABLE	NOT amendable	MAJORITY vote required

<sup>1</sup> **ABOVE** thick line: The motions or points above are listed in established order of precedence. When any of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below it, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

**BELOW** thick line: The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering either a motion to adjourn, a motion to recess or a point of privilege.

<sup>2</sup> In this case, any resulting motion is debatable. <sup>3</sup> But division must be called for before another motion is started. <sup>4</sup> Then majority vote is required.

## B. Rules Passed By SDEC In Between 2022 & 2024 Conventions, Temporary Rules.

These are the Temporary Rules in effect, and applied to these rules, until ratification at the next State Convention, under [Article XIII. Amendment](#).

1. **AMENDMENT 22-2S** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article XI, Party Conventions, C. State Convention, 5. Officer and Committees, g. Selection of Party Officers, Democratic National Committee members, permanent convention committee members, presidential electors, Statutory, and certain Non-Statutory State Democratic Committee Persons, and candidates for National Delegates, (7) by striking "until the" and inserting "for a period of sixty days after".
2. **AMENDMENT 22-3** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article XI, Party Conventions, C. State Convention, 5. Officers and Committees, h) Permanent Committees, (5) Duties, by adding, "(e) The Rules Committee shall consider and recommend all proposed rule changes submitted to the Convention."
3. **AMENDMENT 22-4** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article XI. Party Conventions, A. General Rules Governing All Party Conventions, 5. Voting and Methods, d) Voting for Officers, to add "(4) If no candidate for a Statewide officer position receives a majority vote of Delegates voting in the first vote, a runoff vote shall be conducted immediately and the procedures described in Texas Election Code Section 2.023 shall be employed to govern the runoff vote and determine the Statewide officer."
4. **AMENDMENT 22-5a** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article VIII. County Executive Committees, E. Changes to Precinct Boundaries, b) by striking "resides" and inserting "or two or more chairs reside".
5. **AMENDMENT 22-5b** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article VIII. County Executive Committees, E. Changes to Precinct Boundaries, by striking c) and d).
6. **AMENDMENT 22-7** - [txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022](https://txdem.co/Rules-Proposals-Dec-2022) - Amend Article VII. State Democratic Executive Committee, C. Removal of SDEC Members and Officers, to add "6. Any Party Officer so removed shall be ineligible to serve as a Party Officer for the remainder of the term."
7. **AMENDMENT 23-1** - [txdem.co/2023-Q2-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q2-Rules-Proposals) - Amend Article XV, National Delegate Selection Rules by striking A.-D. and replacing with "The latest Texas Delegate Selection Plan, made available to <https://txdem.co/Delegate-Selection-Plan>, governs the selection of National Convention Delegates and Alternates; Standing Committee Members; Delegation Chair and Convention Pages; Presidential Electors; and Presidential Candidate Filing Deadlines."
8. **AMENDMENT 23-2S** - [txdem.co/2023-Q2-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q2-Rules-Proposals) - Amend Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, by adding D. Conflict of Interest
9. **AMENDMENT 23-3: Grievance Commission Reform** (as amended - [txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
10. **AMENDMENT 23-4: Changing Official to Officer** - [txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)

11. **AMENDMENT 23-5:** [Non-Mandated Data Collection During Primary Filing - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
12. **AMENDMENT 23-6:** [Cleanup to reflect that there are more than two gender identities - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
  - a) **AMENDMENT 23-6a:** [Conforming Amendment - Cleanup to reflect that there are more than two gender identities - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
13. **AMENDMENT 23-7:** [Filling a vacancy for a caucus that only meets at State Convention - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
14. **AMENDMENT 23-8:** [Time Zone Clarification - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
15. **AMENDMENT 23-9:** [Striking Advisory Committee - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
16. **AMENDMENT 23-10:** [Clarifying committee term length at county level - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
17. **AMENDMENT 23-11:** [Clarifying CEC power to have additional Executive Officers - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
18. **AMENDMENT 23-12:** [Clarifying Executive Officers From General Party Officers - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
19. **AMENDMENT 23-16:** [Emergency Rule Proposal: Convention Rules Revision - txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q3-Rules-Proposals)
20. **AMENDMENT 23-14:** [County Chair Vacancy Election Reform - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
21. **AMENDMENT 23-16a:** [Edits to Statutory CEC Meeting for Conventions - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
22. **AMENDMENT 23-16b:** [Edits to Statutory CEC Meeting for Conventions - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
23. **AMENDMENT 23-17a-S:** [Committee Substitute] [Edits to Statutory CEC Meeting for Conventions - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
24. **AMENDMENT 23-17b-S:** [Committee Substitute] [Edits to Statutory CEC Meeting for Conventions - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
25. **AMENDMENT 23-17a-S:** [Committee Substitute] [Edits to Statutory CEC Meeting for Conventions - txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2023-Q4-Rules-Proposals)
26. **AMENDMENT 23-18:** [County Chair Vacancy Procedures II - txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals)
27. **AMENDMENT 23-18a:** [County Chair Vacancy Procedures II - txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals)
28. **AMENDMENT 23-19-S:** [Committee Substitute] [CEC Committee Membership - txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals](https://txdem.co/2024-Q1-Rule-Proposals)

### **C. Election Matters.**

1. Certification of Candidates.  
The SDEC shall certify the name of each candidate to appear on the primary ballot or delegate such certification to the State Chair. At the close of the filing period for candidates to be on the primary ballot, the State Chair shall certify to each County the listing on the Secretary of State website of the name of each



candidate certified to appear on the primary ballot in that county. (Required in Texas Election Code §172.028)

2. Referendum Issues.

- a) Qualified voters may by petition require a referendum issue to be placed on the primary election ballot. Such petitions must be filed with the State Chair during the same filing period applicable to candidates for federal, state, and county office. In addition to the requirements mandated by state law (Required by Texas Election Code §172.088), all petitions must contain the following wording and information:

- (1) An oath or affiliation to the Party as part of the petition statement to read as follows:

"If I sign this petition, I hereby affiliate myself with the Texas Democratic Party, and I swear or affirm that during [insert election year] I will support the nominees of the Democratic Party and that I will not vote in a primary election or participate in a convention of another political party during [insert election year].

I further acknowledge that the purpose of this petition is to require the Texas Democratic Party to place the proposal described below on the ballot for the [election date] Democratic Primary Election."

[signatures]

"Sworn to (or affirmed) and signed before me the (undersigned authority on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of person administering oath

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of person administering oath

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of person administering oath

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone # of person administering oath

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of office and county of residence of person administering oath."

- b) The person administering the oath may be either: a judge, clerk or commissioner of any court of record; a notary public; a justice of the peace; the Secretary of State of Texas; any member of the SDEC; any member of the County Executive Committee for the county in which the person signing the petition resides; or a person expressly authorized in writing to administer the oath by the State Chair or a County Chair for the county in which the person signing the petition resides. The State Chair and any such County Chair shall keep as a permanent part of party records a true copy of any such authorization. Each person administering the oath must sign in the place shown, and print his or her name, address, office and county of residence.
- c) The form of the petition, including a description of the proposal that is to be submitted, the spacing and type-size and instructions to comply with this Rule

must be approved by the State Chair. The oath of the petition signer and the description of the proposal shall be in bold type.

- d) The State Chair is hereby delegated all other authority necessary to effectuate this Rule.
- e) The SDEC shall prescribe the wording of the proposition submitting a proposal. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.088(g)).
- f) The petition shall be in both English and Spanish.
- g) Any referendum placed on the general primary election ballot by the SDEC pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 172.087 may be excluded from said ballot within a particular county by a majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

#### **D. Provisos.**

Treasurer's Reports.

- a) The Treasurer's September 2021 quarterly report to the SDEC shall contain the following financial information: Monthly Expenses by category as detailed in the 2020 Review Committee recommended Spend Tracker; Monthly revenues by category as detailed in the 2020 Review Committee recommended Revenue Tracker; Monthly staff compensation summaries by department; and monthly payments to Vendors as detailed in the 2020 Review committee recommended Vendor tracking report. Vendors owned and operated by people of color, women, veterans, members of the LGBTQI+ community, and people with disabilities will be specifically noted in the Treasurer's report where discernible. Each subsequent Treasurer's report will model the most recent Treasurer's report submitted to the SDEC.
- b) Each subsequent Treasurer's report will model the most recent Treasurer's report submitted to the SDEC. Additions to the Treasurer's Report need not be approved by the body. Any subtractions or omissions from the Treasurer's Report must be explained by the Treasurer, the Finance Committee Chair, and the Executive Director(s) and be voted on by the entire SDEC. A majority vote is required to accept the changes.
- c) Passage of this rule will fulfill all requirements of any rule proposals related to the Treasurer's report currently in front of any committee or the general body.

#### **E. Harassment-Free Environment Pledge.**

Harassment in any definition is a form of discrimination that is antithetical to the beliefs and principles of the Texas Democratic Party. The Texas Democratic Party and campaigns are committed to maintaining a harassment-free environment that encourages and fosters appropriate conduct and respect for individual values among the Texas Democrats that is free from harassment in any form. Texas Democrats includes but is not limited to elected officials, party officials, employees, campaign staff, consultants, volunteers, and candidates.

Texas law defines harassment as an act meant to annoy, torment, embarrass, abuse, alarm, or harass another person. Harassment is a tool of discrimination, and has the effect of nullifying a person's rights or impairing a person from benefiting from their rights.

I pledge to commit to take action in order to eliminate acts of harassment, abuse and violence in all Democratic Party activities and interactions.

By signing below, I pledge the following:

1. To dismantle discrimination and intolerance in my own behaviors and those around me.
2. To not tolerate, condone, or ignore harassment of any kind from anyone.
3. To take action to prevent harassment and create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.
4. To educate ourselves and others about harassment.
5. To take all reports of harassment seriously and support those who are seeking remedy.
6. To ensure that all Texas Democrats are aware of how harassment should be reported and investigated.

Online Form: [txdem.co/HFE-Pledge](https://txdem.co/HFE-Pledge)

PDF Version: [txdem.co/HFE-Pledge-Paper](https://txdem.co/HFE-Pledge-Paper)

### **C. Special Rules of Order.**

1. Debate Limits.

Debate on an item or motion shall be limited to six speakers: three in the affirmative and three in the negative. The first speaker, or their designee, shall be the maker of the motion speaking in the affirmative for adoption. The second speaker shall be recognized to speak in the negative and alternated afterwards. The floor debate on amendments shall be limited to two speakers, including the proposer of the amendment. All speeches shall be limited to 2 minutes unless time is extended by a majority vote of the assembly. This will apply to the SDEC at all levels.

### **D. Standing Rules for the Term.**

1. Resolution Filing Process and Notice.

Resolutions must be filed with the State Chair (or their designee) and the Resolution Committee Chair 15 calendar days prior to a regularly scheduled SDEC meeting. The Resolutions Committee Chair must ensure that all properly submitted resolutions are sent to committee members at least 10 days prior to the committee meeting. The State Chair must ensure that any properly submitted resolutions are provided to the SDEC members at least 5 days prior to the SDEC meeting at which they are to be considered for adoption. Memorial resolutions are exempt from these notice requirements and may be filed at any time.

### **E. Helpful Links.**

1. Current National Delegate Selection Plan.  
[txdem.co/Delegate-Selection-Plan](https://txdem.co/Delegate-Selection-Plan)
2. Dropbox link for Democratic National Convention/Democratic National Committee reference materials.  
[txdem.co/DNC-Delegate-Selection-Docs](https://txdem.co/DNC-Delegate-Selection-Docs)  
a) includes all DNC governing documents, sample plans, timetables, and guides
3. Texas Election Code link.  
[txdem.co/election-code](https://txdem.co/election-code)

4. TDP SDEC Disciplinary Committee's Complaint Form and Example.  
[txdem.co/Complaint-Form](https://txdem.co/Complaint-Form)  
[txdem.co/Complaint-Form-Example](https://txdem.co/Complaint-Form-Example)
5. TDP SDEC Disciplinary Committee's Request for Information Form and Example.  
[txdem.co/RFI](https://txdem.co/RFI)  
[txdem.co/RFI-Example](https://txdem.co/RFI-Example)
6. 2024 TDP Call to Convention & State Convention Standing Rules  
[txdem.co/24-Call-to-Convention](https://txdem.co/24-Call-to-Convention)