What's a Convention? Why do we hold them?
Electing Delegates to the State Convention

Why do Texas Democrats hold conventions? Every two years we hold a state Democratic Party Convention. At the convention in years we elect the Governor, we elect a State Party Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for four year terms. In the years we elect the President, we elect members of the Democratic National Committee.

At every state convention, delegates elect a man and a woman from each senate district to serve on the State Democratic Executive Committee. We write a Party Platform. We update our Party Rules. And we pass resolutions on various topics of public policy or party affairs. Additionally, there are general session speeches by our elected officials, candidates, and national figures. There are lots of interest group caucuses and trainings held.

This convention will consist of up to 12,000 delegates from every county in Texas. County Chairs and current party officials (SDEC, DNC, etc.) are automatic delegates. Each county also elects delegates based on the the number of Democratic votes in the last governor's election. Every county gets at least two. (So with the County Chair and the two delegates, each county has at least three votes)

Each County (or SD within a county with multiple SD's) elects delegates to the state convention on their convention on March 21st. The allocation of delegates is based on the vote for the Democratic nominee's vote in the last election. For this convention, that's the Lupe Valdez vote in a precinct, county, and senate district. For each full 300 votes for Valdez, delegates get to elect one delegate.

Delegates to the state convention from each precinct are one delegate for each full 300votes. You do NOT round up.

Delegates to the state from the county are one for each full 300 or major portion thereof. This means you'll have some delegates not allocated to a precinct and those are elected at large at the county/SD convention. The convention uses these to ensure that there are at least one-third of the group of the opposite gender of the majority and that there are people under 35, older folks over 65, and minority ethnic groups represented in your delegation.

If precincts don't have 300 votes, those precincts are grouped with other smaller precincts until the total votes exceeds 300. Those grouped precincts are allocated one delegate to that grouping.

During the convention, when the agenda says to caucus to elect delegates, each precinct or grouped precinct attendees meet to elect their allocation to the state convention.

NOTE: This process is time consuming and chaotic at the convention. The Rules allow the Chair to ask at the beginning of the convention "Who wishes to attend the state convention in June in Fort Worth?" If the number of people wishing to attend is smaller than the number of delegates the county or SD is entitled to elect, the convention can simply suspend the rules and elect those people as the delegation.

If the convention doesn't fill up the delegation, the county/SD still gets to vote county / SD full delegate strength at the convention. In other words, if a county has 10 delegate slots, but only five people show up, they each cast two votes. If nobody comes to the state convention from your county, then your county's votes on any issue are voted in the same ratio as the others in your senate district. Example: Your senate district votes 60-40% for a motion. Your county has ten votes, but nobody is there from the county, then votes of the county are cast 6 to 4 on the motion.

The State Convention begins on Thursday, June 4th with a meeting of the State Democratic Executive Committee. A statewide welcome party / fundraiser happens Thursday night.

Credentialing of delegates will begin on Thursday and resume at 8 am on Friday. All during the morning Friday there are caucuses and interest group meetings.

In 2020,the first General Session will occur on Friday afternoon at approx. 3 p.m. This is the first thing for which delegates must be in attendance. Delegates should arrive early enough to get your credentials before this session. At this session, keynote speaker's address the convention and delegates hear from lots of great Democrats!

One hour after the general session, (approx. 7 pm) delegates in each of the 31 senate districts will caucus. These caucuses recommend or elect: One male SDEC person, one female SDEC person, and one member to be on the Nominations Committee for Party Officers, Resolutions Committee, Rules Committee, and Platform Committee.

Delegates will also cast ballots for National Delegate Recommendation Committees and for each districts National Delegates won by presidential candidates in the March Democratic Primary.

After these caucuses, there are plenty of sponsored parties by groups, candidates, and elected officials.

On Saturday the Convention holds the Lady Bird Breakfast fundraiser. At 8:00 a.m. the standing committees meet. Concurrently, there will be lots of sessions to train activists on campaign activities, party building, and data management, etc.

At approx. noon, the Convention will go back into General Session to conduct party officer elections, adopt the platform, and vote on resolutions. Depending on lots of

factors (number of contested elections, etc.) this session usually ends no later than 5 p.m. Sometimes after parties are held on Saturday night.