

# **2020 Precinct Convention Training**

**PRESENTED BY RACHEL MALONE**

# AGENDA

- **Convention Overview:** “Why should I be a delegate?”
- **The Details:** Who, What, How
- **The Details:** When & Where
- **Practice Precinct Convention**

## CONVENTION OVERVIEW

**Why be a  
delegate?**

# WHY BE A DELEGATE?

- **Set the Party Platform, Rules & Priorities**
- **Elect Party leadership**
- **Effective way to make change happen**

# **POLITICAL PARTY:**

**A group of like-minded voters organized for the purpose of implementing their shared beliefs as public policy.**

# CONVENTION:

**A place for party members to:**

- **Define shared beliefs**
- **Decide how to implement them into public policy**

# **LEVERAGE YOUR VOICE & VOTE**

**2016 General Election: 9 million voters**

**2016 Rep. Primary Election: 2.8 million voters**

**2020 State Convention: 9,000 voters**

# LIKE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

The convention process is a tiered set of meetings that each primarily have the responsibility of electing delegates to the next level, until delegations from the entire state (or nation) come together in a group small enough to get work done

PRECINCT → COUNTY / SD → STATE



# DELEGATES . . .

- . . . are grassroots Republicans**
- . . . participate in the shaping of the party**
- . . . serve as volunteers**
- . . . must be elected to represent their districts**

THE DETAILS

# Who, What, & How

# WHAT IS A PRECINCT CONVENTION?

- **Your neighborhood**
- **Talk about two things:**
  - Your shared beliefs
  - Who will represent you at the next level

# WHAT IS A COUNTY / SENATE DISTRICT CONVENTION?

- **Your town**
- **Talk about same two things:**
  - Your shared beliefs
  - Who will represent you at the next level

# WHAT IS THE RPT STATE CONVENTION?

- **All districts from across Texas**
- **Discuss what you believe – set platform & rules & legislative priorities**
- **Elect Party leaders**
  - State Chair, Vice Chairman, SREC members
  - (Presidential years: national delegates, national committeeman & committeewoman)

# THE RULEBOOK

- **Constitution** (1<sup>st</sup> amendment: peaceably assembly and petition the government for redress of grievances)
- **RPT Rules**
- **Robert's Rules of Order**
- **Texas Election Code**

# THE REFEREE

- **Chairman: ensure a fair process**
  - Temporary Convention Chairman
  - Permanent Convention Chairman

# WHO CAN BE A DELEGATE?

**Any Texas Republican!**

- **Registered in your precinct**
- **Affiliated with the Republican Party**
  - Vote in the Primary
  - Sign oath of affiliation



# YOUR PRECINCT CONVENTION

- **Agenda (RPT Rule 21)**
  - Call to order, list of participants, announcements
  - Election of permanent officers
  - Announcement of next level convention
  - Election of delegates to the next level convention
  - Resolutions
  - Other business
  - Adjourn

# YOUR PRECINCT CONVENTION

- **Electing delegates to the next level**
  - Delegate slots
  - Who is eligible
  - Must be elected by your precinct convention
  - Get copies of documents

# YOUR PRECINCT CONVENTION

- **Resolutions: moving your ideas forward**
  - Write a resolution: statement of belief
  - No required format
  - Bring 3 copies
  - Discuss, consider amendments, vote
  - Elect people to carry it on

# RESOLUTIONS: THE NEXT STEP

**Moving your ideas forward at County/SD convention:**

- **Committee Meetings**
  - Temporary & permanent
  - Attend, speak in favor of your resolution
  - Ask ahead of time to be on the committee
- **Speak from the floor at convention**

# RESOLUTIONS: THE FINAL STEP

**Establishing your ideas at State convention:**

- **Committee Meetings**
  - Temporary (May 11-13) & permanent (May 14)
  - Attend, speak in favor of your resolution
  - Ask ahead of time to be on the committee
- **Speak from the floor at convention** (May 14-16)

# WHERE RESOLUTIONS GO

- **Precinct & County/SD conventions:**
  - All types ☐ Resolutions Committee
- **State Convention:**
  - Policy statement —> Resolutions Committee
  - Rule —> Rules Committee
  - Legislative Priority —> Legislative Priorities Committee

THE DETAILS

# When & Where

# PRECINCT CONVENTION: WHEN & WHERE

- **Set by your county party**
  - [www.texasgop.org/county\\_chairs/](http://www.texasgop.org/county_chairs/)
- **After polls close March 3**
- **Before County/SD convention starts  
March 21**



# COUNTY/SD CONVENTION: WHEN & WHERE

- **Saturday, March 21, 2020**
- **Temporary committees meet previously**
- **Location & time set by your county party**
  - [www.texasgop.org/county\\_chairs/](http://www.texasgop.org/county_chairs/)

# STATE CONVENTION: WHEN & WHERE

- **Monday through Saturday, May 11-16**
- **Houston, TX**

[texasgop.org/2020-state-convention/](https://texasgop.org/2020-state-convention/)

# **Practice Precinct Convention**

# ROBERT'S RULES

- **Tools, not magic**
- **Shared language to facilitate discussion**
- **Ensure that the majority is in control and the minority is always heard**
- **Civil society, allow conversations**
- **Various levels of formality**

# RPT RULES

- **General Rules for Convention: #10-18A**
- **Precinct Convention Rules: #19-22**
- **County/SD & State Convention Rules: #23-32**
- **State Convention Rules: #33-42**

**Sometimes modify Robert's Rules**

**[www.texasgop.org/rules](http://www.texasgop.org/rules)**

# PRECINCT CONVENTION AGENDA

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

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

1. Call to order at the appointed hour by the Precinct Chairman or other participant if the Precinct Chairman is not present.
2. Preparation of a list of and announcement of number of qualified participants present.
3. Announcement of agenda and basic rules of procedure.
4. Election of the permanent officers of the convention by majority vote.
5. Announcement of County or District Convention and of temporary committee meetings, if known.
6. Election of delegates and alternates to County or Senatorial District Convention, as the case may be, by majority vote, and certification of eligibility of each delegate and alternate by the Precinct Convention Secretary, where the primary voters list is available.
7. Resolutions.
8. Other business.
9. Adjourn.

# PRECINCT CONVENTION CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Records**
  - Minutes
  - Participants (& addresses)
  - Delegates & Alternates (& addresses)
  - Resolutions (passed & unpassed)

# PRECINCT CONVENTION RECORDS

**Must be . . .**

- **Prepared**
- **Available for inspection**
- **Transmitted**
- **Preserved**

(RPT Rule 22)



# MORE INFORMATION

**Info from RPT:**

[texasgop.org/2020-state-convention/](https://texasgop.org/2020-state-convention/)

**GOA-recommended gun rights resolutions:**

**Join the GOA Texas facebook broup!**