

# **You can be a Precinct Chair!**

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# Today's agenda:

1. What is a Precinct Chair (& a political party)?
2. What does a Precinct Chair **have to do**?
3. What does a Precinct Chair **get to do**?
4. How do I become a Precinct Chair?

# What is a Precinct Chair?

(& what is a political party and how does it work?!)

# Precinct Chair: what is it?

- Structural support for a political party
- Soil in which the grassroots grows
- A **volunteer – elected or appointed** – who **coordinates** political involvement in his own **neighborhood** within his own **party**

# A Precinct Chair can affect . . .

- Election integrity
- Voter turnout
- Candidates winning
- Party brand
- State policy
- The area's influence with lawmakers

# Political Party: what is it?

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

## Divisions:

Precincts —> Counties —> State —> National

# Republican Party of Texas

“We are committed to advancing limited government, lower taxes, less spending and individual liberty. Our specific goals are to grow the Republican Party by reaching new voters, advance the Platform, which is grounded in conservative principle, and to keep Texas prosperous and free.”

# Party Organization

- State Party
  - Managed by SREC (State Republican Executive Committee)
- County Party
  - Managed by CEC (County Executive Committee)
  - CEC = County Chair & all the **Precinct Chairs** in that county!



# Does your precinct have a Precinct Chair?

- Identify your County & Precinct #
  - VoteTexas.gov —> “Am I Registered To Vote?”
- Go to county party website or contact county chair
  - Info: [www.texasgop.org/county\\_chairs/](http://www.texasgop.org/county_chairs/)
  - Some county party websites list Precinct Chairs

# If your precinct already has a Precinct Chair:

- Ask if he/she is active
- Ask if he/she plans to run again
- If possible, before running against him/her:
  - Get to know your precinct chair
  - Ask if you can help him/her

# **Precinct Chair Obligations**

**(What do I have to do if I become  
Precinct Chair?)**

# Rulebooks

- US and State Constitutions
- State law — Election Code
- RPT Rules

# Main Obligation: Participate in the CEC

- CEC = County Executive Committee
  - Runs the business of the County GOP
- Attend meetings
  - At least quarterly
  - Usually more frequently in larger counties
- Vote; participate in debate
- Can serve on committees

# Main Obligation: Participate in the CEC

**NO PROXIES!**

**You cannot delegate this responsibility.**

# CEC Responsibilities

- Elections:
  - Oversee primary elections (county chair is responsible; precinct chairs help)
  - Sometimes, select Republican nominee for ballot
- Conventions:
  - Set time for precinct conventions
  - Pick SD convention chair; set time & location

*CECs often fill many additional roles to grow the party*

# Precinct Chair Opportunities

(What do I get to do if I become  
Precinct Chair?)



# Guidelines & Suggestions

- RPT Precinct Chair Handbook
- Your County Chair
- Other Precinct Chairs
- Be creative – effect change
  - Party of the grassroots

# General

- Get to know your precinct
- Recruit volunteers
- Grow the party
- Obtain voter data
  - County elections office
  - GOP Data Center

# In general: **ORGANIZE YOUR PRECINCT!**

- Neighborhood captains
- Walk / group leaders
- Recruit volunteers
- Give people tasks
  - Share tools & skills to achieve common goals!

# Elections

- GOTV!
- Work the polls
- Support Republican candidates
- Blockwalk, phone bank

*And / or recruit volunteers to do all of the above!*

# Q: “May I be involved in contested primaries?”

- State law doesn't prohibit
- RPT Rules don't prohibit
- Check your own CEC bylaws

# Conventions

- If present, serve as temporary precinct convention chair
- Educate your precinct, recruit delegates
  - Party Rules
  - Party Platform
  - Party Leadership

# Auxiliaries & Coalitions

- TYRF is an official Auxiliary organization!
- Recruit members
- Act as liaison: support TYRF on your CEC
- Connect people & resources to achieve common goals

# Policy

- Resolutions committee
- Testify in the legislature — represent your CEC if authorized
  - RPT legislative priorities
  - RPT platform items
- Other — ex., Straus censure resolutions



**“But I don’t like what the (county / State) party is doing.”**

- Be the change
- Use position of precinct chair to improve structure, brand, outreach, tools

**How do I become Precinct  
Chair?**

# Qualifications

- Resident of the precinct
- Qualified voter in that county
- NOT officeholder or candidate
  - County, state, or federal public office
- Be affiliated with Republican Party
  - Vote in R primary election or runoff
  - Or give oath of affiliation
  - Must NOT participate in another party process

# Disqualifications

- Finally convicted of a felony
- Affiliate with another political party  
(vote/convention/oath)
- Cease to be a resident of the precinct from which elected
- Abandonment of Office
  - miss 4 consecutive meetings & CEC follows process

# Can be ...

- Elected

or

- Appointed

# Elected

- Primary Election
  - March 3, 2020
- 2-year term
  - Begins June 15 (20 days after Primary runoff)
- If nobody else is running for your precinct chair position:
  - Your name is not listed
  - You are declared elected

# Apply to run for Precinct Chair

- 1-page application at [Texas Secretary of State](#)
  - Get it notarized
- Give to your county chair or county party secretary
  - Contact info: [www.texasgop.org/county\\_chairs/](http://www.texasgop.org/county_chairs/)
- **Deadline: Dec. 9, 2019**

# Write-in Exception

- If you don't file in time, can run a “write-in” campaign
- But it's better to actually file (apply) to run!



# Be Appointed

- CEC can appoint
  - By majority vote of CEC
  - CEC bylaws can set additional procedures (some have a committee process for this)
  - If no CEC, county chair can appoint
- To fill vacancy or replace disqualified chair
- Term: remainder of the current 2-year term

# More Resources

- Talk with county chair / read county party site
  - List of precinct chairs
  - Meeting schedule / location
  - Your CEC bylaws
- RPT [Precinct Chair handbook](#)
- RPT [one-pager on Precinct Chairs](#)
- Precinct Chair [election application](#)
- [RPT Rules](#)