



# Precinct Chair Handbook

updated in 2024 by the

**Republican Party of Texas  
SREC Party Organization Committee**

Paid for by the Republican Party of Texas  
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# What Is a Precinct Chair?

Simply put, a Precinct Chair is the central manager for the smallest unit in the Republican Party. As the only elected party official in the precinct, they have roles and responsibilities in and to the Republican Party. They also get to have a lot of fun and meet a lot of people!

As a Precinct Chair, you will organize your precinct, help with elections, go to conventions, become a member of the County Executive Committee, and, did we mention—have a lot of fun! So, let's find out more about it.

## What Does a Precinct Chair Do?

Your number one job as a Precinct Chair is to maximize the Republican vote in your precinct. You do this by:

- **Getting People in Your Precinct Involved**
- **Identifying Voters**
- **Registering Republican Voters**
- **Informing Voters**
- **Turning Out Our Voters**

**Getting people in your precinct involved.** It's almost always easier to do work with two or more people as opposed to doing things by yourself. This is particularly important as a Precinct Chair. Your main job as a Precinct Chair is to get as many voters in your precinct to vote for Republicans in elections. The best way for people to take action is by being invested in the election. Get people involved in the following areas where they have the most interest. They are volunteers, and volunteers usually start with something small and then make a larger commitment as they become more invested in something. Get them involved in any part of working your precinct that you can. And don't forget to ask them to help. Most people will help with something small. Get them involved, and then the most committed will keep asking for more things to help.

**Identifying Voters.** Get to know voters in your precinct. Be the first to welcome new neighbors and let them know you are their Republican Precinct Chair—this can be a good way to start a conversation that can determine their political leanings, too. Learn who your consistent Republican voters are to count on their support. Learn who is a “swing voter” or who does not usually vote so that you might persuade them to vote Republican. Also, know who the Democrats are so that you can make relationships and have conversations with them that might change their views or leave them alone when it comes to Republican Party politics. You can request lists of voters from your local elections office or utilize the “GOP Data Center” (see “Resources” in this manual) voter database to help with this process. Identifying voters and recording this information is also called “canvassing.”



**Registering Republican Voters.** Always be ready to register a Republican to vote by becoming a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR). VDRs take a short training course in person or online. An oath is administered by the county Voter Registrar, and you are then allowed to accept a completed voter registration application card from a new voter and take it to the Voter Registrar. Contact the local Voter Registrar for details.

**Informing Voters.** You must be the political leader in your neighborhood. Keep in touch with Republicans in your area and let them know of current political events, issues, upcoming elections, and opportunities for involvement with the local party, clubs, or campaigns. Distribute campaign literature, bumper stickers, and yard signs to decorate your precinct.

**Turning Out Our Voters.** All the prior steps mentioned lead up to this one. Once you have identified your voters, registered the Republicans to vote, and kept them politically informed, it's time to make all of that count – get them to the polls to vote Republican! The most common activities that remind voters to vote are walking door-to-door (block walking), sending text messages (GOTV Texting), and making phone calls (GOTV phoning). Assist those needing to vote early by mail (contact your County Clerk or Elections Administrator for help). Offer to accompany neighbors to their polling place or drive people who need a ride. Efforts to turn out voters are often referred to as “Get-Out-The-Vote” efforts or GOTV.

## **Serve On the County Executive Committee**

As Precinct Chair, you also sit on the County Executive Committee. The County Executive Committee (CEC) is made up of the County Chair and all the Precinct Chairs in the county. As the representative of your precinct, you should make every effort to attend each meeting. Your presence counts towards a quorum, enabling official business to be conducted. On those occasions you are not able to attend, you should have someone there who will collect any handouts and take notes for you. However, such a substitute is prohibited from voting as your proxy (Texas Election Code Sec. 171.026).

## **Role of the County Executive Committee**

The Election Code establishes County Executive Committees to run local political parties. The County Executive Committee (CEC) consists of the County Chair and the Precinct Chairs. Bylaws adopted by a CEC may permit the election or appointment of additional officers (i.e., Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). The Election Code permits only County Chairs and Precinct Chairs to vote on election code business. Officers may or may not be Precinct Chairs.

General statements concerning the operation of a CEC are difficult to formulate due to the extreme differences between counties in population, demographics, and Party strength. However, a few words of advice are common to all.



Every County Party should adopt and follow written bylaws or rules to govern its organization and procedures. Variations should be considered in order to meet local needs.

A key to many effective County Executive Committees is a committee system. Not every County Party will need a committee for every purpose; however, committees that fill vacancies for Precinct Chairs, recruit and assist candidates, and provide funding for Party operations can be highly beneficial.

The responsibilities of a committee should be clearly defined (often as a part of the bylaws), and accountability should be maintained. Committees should perform most of the study and deliberation involved in their area of responsibility and make recommendations for approval by the CEC.

Each committee should meet at least once between meetings of the CEC, and the chairman of each committee should present a report of the activities of his/her committee to the Executive Committee. A well-functioning committee system should result in relatively short and effective meetings of the CEC.

It is recommended that the County Executive Committee meet quarterly at a minimum. Meetings should include a report from the County Chair, reports from committee chairmen, brief reports from representatives of Republican clubs, remarks by any Republican officials or candidates in attendance, adoption of any action or appointments as required by the bylaws, and any new business items.

A social hour before or after the Executive Committee meeting is often an enjoyable and constructive event, facilitating informal discussion of business and the establishment of good working relationships among Party volunteers.

## **Be Involved in Your Local Elections**

***As Precinct Chair, you have responsibilities in your local elections.***

In addition to maximizing the Republican vote, ways to be involved include:

**Primary Election — Campaigning.** There is nothing in the Texas Election Code or RPT Rules prohibiting a Precinct Chair from getting involved in contested primary races or nonpartisan local elections. Be sure to check your County Executive Committee Bylaws to see if there is a provision that prohibits you from endorsing or becoming involved in contested primary races. You should become knowledgeable about your local situation before publicly taking sides in a contested primary race. Contested races sometimes create hard feelings or damage relationships. Becoming involved in a campaign may include going door-to-door (“block walking”), sending text messages (GOTV Texting), making phone calls (“GOTV Phoning”), or handing out campaign material for a candidate.



**Primary Election—Working at the Polls.** In Primary Elections, County Chairmen appoint Election Judges for each precinct in the county, and the Election Judges appoint clerks to assist them. Some County Chair require that their Precinct Chairs fill these positions as it can be difficult to recruit all the volunteers it takes to set up, run, and tear down the polling places on Election Day. Working the polls is also a great way to ensure ballot integrity for our Party and to get to know voters in your area. Note, however, that duties involved in closing the polls, completing the paperwork, and delivering the ballot box to the central counting station sometimes will conflict with the Precinct Chair’s duty to run the Precinct Convention (see “Convention Activity” below). This should be considered by the County Executive Committee when making arrangements for Election Day.

**General Election—Campaigning.** Precinct Chairs should be eager to assist Republican candidates in any way possible. Becoming involved in a campaign may include going door-to-door (“block walking”), sending text messages (“GOTV Texting”), making phone calls (“GOTV phoning), or handing out campaign material. It is particularly important for Precinct Chairs to be involved in these efforts as you know your precinct better than anyone.

**All Elections—Working at the Polls.** In every precinct where our Republican candidate for Governor in a gubernatorial election wins, we are eligible to have a Republican Election Judge in the following General Election. Precincts where our candidate for Governor came in second are entitled to have a Republican as Alternate Judge. Serving as a Judge or Alternate Judge is very important to our Party’s ballot integrity and reduces the need to appoint poll watchers. This is a further incentive to get-out-the-vote (GOTV)! Names for Election Judges must be submitted by the County Chair to the Commissioners Court the summer preceding the general election – remind them to submit your name!

## Be Involved in Conventions

As Precinct Chair, you have responsibilities in the convention process. These include:

**Precinct Convention.** The Election Code designates the Precinct Chair as the Temporary Chair of the Precinct Convention (Sec. 174.025). If the Precinct Chair is unable to serve, another eligible convention participant may do it (Sec. 174.025(b)). Instruction packets to run your precinct convention are provided by RPT or the County Chair prior to the convention. Also see TEC Chapter 174, Subchapter B.

**SD/County Convention.** Precinct Chairs are encouraged to not only participate in their Senatorial District or County Convention (you must be elected at your precinct convention) but to serve on one of the temporary convention committees (contact your County Chair or Temporary District Convention Chair who make these appointments).





**State Convention.** As grassroots leaders, a Precinct Chair should try to get elected as a delegate to the State Convention at their Senatorial District/County Convention. If you are interested in serving on a temporary convention committee, contact your SREC member, who recommends appointments to the state chair.

**National Convention.** Every four years, three delegates and three alternate delegates are elected at the state convention in their Congressional District caucuses or At-Large to attend the Convention of the Republican National Convention. They select the nominees for President and Vice President.

## How Do I Become a Precinct Chair?

It's easy! You get elected in your precinct or appointed by the County Executive Committee. So what does that entail?

### Methods of Becoming a Precinct Chair

**Election for Two-year Term.** Candidates for Precinct Chair run for office in the Primary Election each even-numbered year. A one-page notarized application shall be submitted to the County Chair within the filing period, usually September to December. Individuals may also apply as write-in candidates (Sec. 171.0231). If the CEC has authorized write-in candidates). If only one candidate applies to be on the ballot, there will be no election, and that candidate will be declared elected to the office (Sec. 171.0221). If there is more than one candidate, the winner is determined by a majority vote of those voting in the precinct in the Republican Primary or Runoff Election. The term of office begins twenty (20) days after the Runoff Primary Election is held, approximately mid-June.

**Filling a Vacancy.** Any eligible person may fill a vacancy for Precinct Chair for the remainder of the current term in your precinct at any time. Election is by majority vote of the County Executive Committee present at a properly called meeting with a quorum unless otherwise stipulated by the Texas Election Code (Sec. 171.024-171.025). The State Republican Executive Committee requires at least one-fourth of the voting members of the County Executive Committee be present to constitute a quorum.

### So, Who's Eligible?

Qualifications to be a Precinct Chair:

- Be a resident of the precinct (Sec. 171.023)
- Be a qualified voter in that county (Sec. 161.005)
- Not be a county, state, or federal public officeholder or candidate for such federal, state, or county public office.



- In a general election year only, be affiliated with the Republican Party by voting in the Republican Party Primary Election, Runoff Election, or by taking an oath of affiliation (Sec. 162.001 – 162.012).

### **What if I Need to Resign?**

We hope you will serve out your full term as Precinct Chair. However, some situations make it necessary to leave early, such as moving out of your precinct, losing your voting rights, or becoming a public officeholder or candidate. If so, immediately provide a letter of resignation so the Party can recruit a successor.

### **Role of the County Executive Committee**

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It is recommended that the County Executive Committee meet quarterly at a minimum. Meetings should include a report from the County Chair, reports from committee chairs, brief reports from representatives of Republican clubs, remarks by any Republican officials or candidates in



attendance, adoption of any action or appointments as required by the bylaws, and any new business items.

A social hour before or after the Executive Committee meeting is often an enjoyable and constructive event, facilitating informal discussion of business and the establishment of good working relationships among Party volunteers.

## Party Basics

Before we go into the best practices for organizing and working your precinct, it is important to have a general understanding of where the precinct fits in the Republican Party at the county, state, and national levels, as well as to understand the convention process, the Texas election cycle and to know what documents govern the party.

To the right is a graphic that shows how the foundation of everything in the Republican Party is the Grassroots Volunteers. There is no Republican Party without the local volunteer. There are no conventions or anything else.

## Republican Party Structure

### Republican National Committee (RNC)

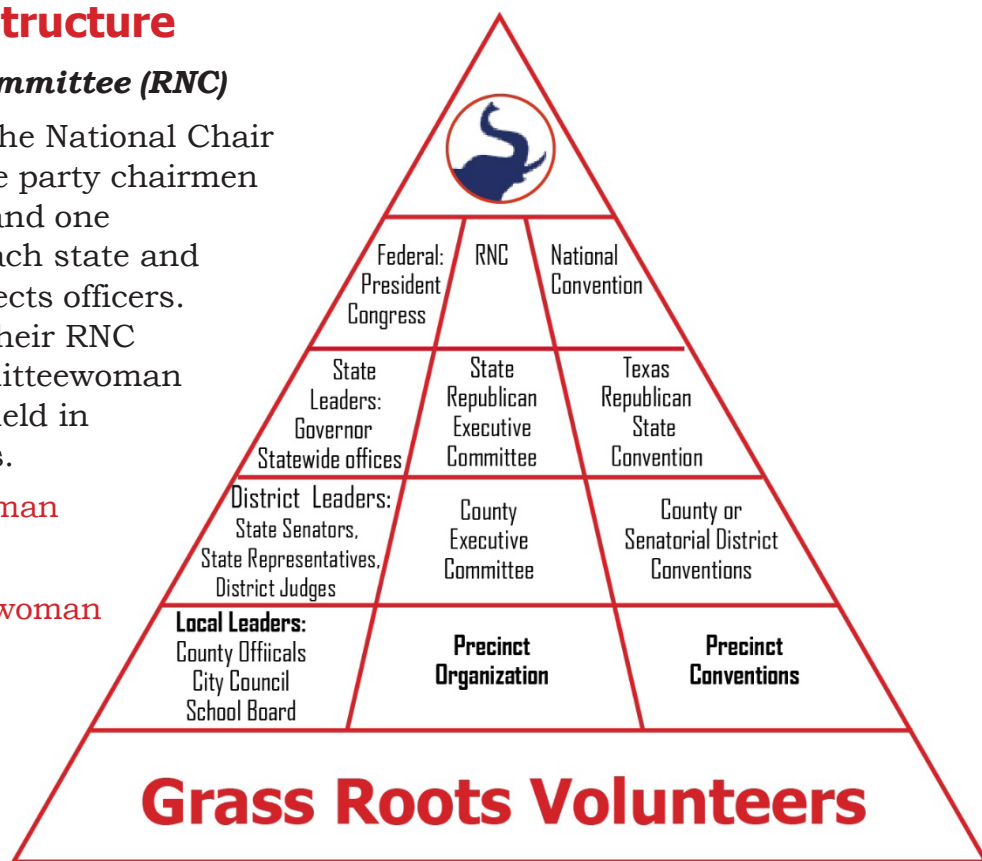
The RNC is composed of the National Chair and Co-Chair and all state party chairmen plus one Committeeman and one Committeewoman from each state and U.S. territory. The RNC elects officers. Texas Republicans elect their RNC committeeman and committeewoman at the state conventions held in presidential election years.

- ◆ National Committeeman
- ◆ State Chair
- ◆ National Committeewoman

### State Party Organization

#### State Republican Executive Committee (SREC)

The SREC is composed of the State Chair, Vice Chair, and one man and one woman from each of the 31 state senatorial districts (SDs). Delegates elect this committee at the state convention held in May or June of the even-



numbered years. All convention delegates elect the State Chair and a State Vice-Chair. Each SD elects a Committeeman and Committeewoman to represent their respective district. Officers are either elected or appointed, according to SREC bylaws. SREC members help organize and oversee Party activities in their respective SDs and at the state level.

State Chair ♦ State Vice Chair ♦ Committeeman & woman from each SD

## **County Party Organization**

### ***County Executive Committee (CEC)***

The County Chair and Precinct Chair are elected by popular vote at the Primary Election held in March of each even-numbered year. Together, they comprise the County Executive Committee. Republican Primary Election voters vote countywide for the County Chairman. Voters residing in each of the county's voting precincts elect their respective Precinct Chairmen. Officers are either elected or appointed, according to the CEC's bylaws.

County Chair ♦ Precinct Chair

## **Precinct Organization**

### ***Precinct Chair and the Grassroots Volunteers***

The only elected Party official in the precinct is the Precinct Chair. The Precinct Chair obtains volunteers and organizes them in the way most fitting to the precinct. The precinct is the smallest unit of our Party; however, it is the most essential unit. It is here, at the grassroots level, that voters are identified and turned out on Election Day.

Precinct Chair ♦ Volunteers

## **Precinct Auxiliary Organizations**

### ***Partnerships & Coalitions***

Organizations work in partnership with the formal Party organization to bring specific groups of citizens into the Republican Party. They often serve as an intermediary step in getting people to assume leadership positions with County Executive Committees or with campaigns. The Partners complement and add to the strength of the Party organization. For a list of current official RPT auxiliaries, visit [www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org) ("Partners" is at the bottom of the homepage under Resources).

# **Documents Governing Our Party**

## **Texas Election Code**

The Texas Election Code is the set of laws passed by the State Legislature governing Texas elections, voting systems, candidates, and political parties.

When you see "" referenced in this manual, it refers to the Texas Election Code (TEC). The code may be downloaded at [statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/SDocs/ELECTIONCODE.pdf](http://statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/SDocs/ELECTIONCODE.pdf). The Texas Election Code is also available online to research at [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov) (MyTLO), [capitol.state.tx.us](http://capitol.state.tx.us), or [statutes.legis.state.tx.us](http://statutes.legis.state.tx.us).



These websites also have a link to all of the Texas Statutes, as well as to the Texas Constitution.

## **Republican Party of Texas Rules**

Per the Texas Election Code, the Republican Party of Texas has adopted rules to govern the conduct of precinct, county/senatorial district, and state meetings and conventions. These rules continue in effect unless changed at a state convention. Therefore, the rules in effect at any given time will be dated as of May or June of the last state convention year. It is important to note that the RPT Rules do not, and cannot, conflict with the Texas Election Code. RPT Rules may be accessed online at [www.texasgop.org/rules](http://www.texasgop.org/rules).

## **Republican Party of Texas Platform**

The Republican Party of Texas has a statement of basic beliefs that outline its political philosophy. This platform is adopted at each state convention. The platform in effect at any given time will be dated as of May or June of the last state convention year. Additionally, the State Republican Executive Committee often passes resolutions that speak to current issues. The current RPT Platform may be accessed at [www.texasgop.org/platform](http://www.texasgop.org/platform).

## **State Party Bylaws and County Party Bylaws**

The State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) has adopted bylaws that direct the conduct of the State Party. Copies of the bylaws are distributed to each SREC Member.

County Executive Committees (CEC) also have the option of adopting bylaws or rules to direct the conduct of their County Party. Bylaws should address the special needs found in the individual county. Bylaws usually cover items such as the frequency of County Executive Committee meetings, who may convene a meeting, duties of officers, the number of precinct chairs necessary to constitute a quorum for conducting non-election code (non-statutory) business, and the establishment of permanent and special committees. As the local Republican Party grows, it is beneficial to have a clear outline for conducting Party business.



# Texas Election Cycle

## **Year 1 (odd-numbered year) 2021 & 2025**

January: Presidential Inauguration

January - May: Texas Legislative Session

November - December: Candidate Filing for Primary Election

September - December: Precinct Chair Filing for Primary Election

## **Year 2 (even-numbered year) 2022 & 2026**

March: Primary Election, Precinct & SD/County Conventions

June: State Convention

November: General Election (Gubernatorial)

## **Year 3 (odd-numbered year) 2023 & 2027**

January: Gubernatorial Inauguration

January - May: Texas Legislative Session

November - December: Candidate Filing for Primary Election

September - December: Precinct Chair Filing for Primary Election

## **Year 4 (even-numbered year) 2024 & 2028**

March: Primary Election, Precinct & SD/County Conventions

May: State Convention

July: National Convention

November: General Election (Presidential)

# Republican Conventions

***RPT Rules governing conventions may be found at [www.texasgop.org/rules](http://www.texasgop.org/rules).***

## Precinct Conventions

*Held between the Primary Election and the third Saturday after the Primary Election.*

Purpose: To elect delegates and alternates to the county/senatorial district convention and propose resolutions for the county/ senatorial district convention to consider.

Precinct conventions may take place on any date from the Primary Election date after the polls close until the date of the county or district convention. The date, place, and specific starting time within each county are to be set by the County Executive Committee on or before the day of the drawing for a position on the general Primary Election ballot. Conventions are usually held at the precinct polling location, but the County Executive Committee may set the location outside the precinct.



The Precinct Chair or, in their absence, any registered Republican voter from the precinct may convene the convention. Eligible participants must have voted in the Republican Primary or have executed an Oath of Affiliation with the Republican Party and reside in that precinct. Minutes of the proceedings (forms are distributed by the County Chair or RPT to Precinct Chairs) must be delivered to the County Chair within three days or mailed within two days.

If the precinct convention is held the same day or the day preceding the County Convention, the minutes must be delivered to the County Chair not later than 30 minutes prior to the County Convention. See Rule 22c of the RPT rules for more information. Instructional videos may be available about conducting a precinct convention. A script and the forms will be in the convention packet.

## **County/Senatorial District Conventions**

***Held on the third Saturday after the Primary Election.***

Purpose: To elect delegates and alternates to the state convention and propose resolutions for the state convention to consider for the Platform. The time and location are to be set by the County Executive Committee if there is only one senate district in the county.

A county convention is held when the county is completely within one senatorial district. A senatorial district convention is held when the county is divided between two or more senatorial districts. The incumbent county chairman (who may be different than the one elected in the primary election) is the temporary county convention chairman.

The temporary senatorial district convention chairman is to be elected by the precinct chairs within that county's senatorial district. Delegates are those elected from their precinct conventions. Minutes of the proceedings (forms are provided to the temporary county and SD convention chairmen by RPT) must be delivered to RPT within five days. Prior to or on the date of the drawing for the ballot position on the general election ballot, a County Executive Committee that contains multiple senate districts may vote to hold the district conventions in a consolidated location.

## **State Conventions**

Held in May or June of even-numbered years following a Primary Election.

Purpose: To elect one man and one woman from each state senatorial district to serve on the State Republican Executive Committee, to elect a State Chair and Vice-Chair, to adopt the Republican Party of Texas Rules, to adopt the State Party platform, and to select the Legislative Priorities. The specific date, time, and location are to be set by the State Republican Executive Committee.

In presidential election years, the state convention also elects one man and one



woman to serve on the Republican National Committee, elects delegates and alternates to the national convention, and elects representatives to the Electoral College. For an overview of RPT State Conventions, please visit [www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org).

## National Conventions

Held in June or July of Presidential election years. Purpose: to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and adopt the National Party platform. The specific date, time, and location are to be set by the Republican National Committee. Recruiting volunteers will help you to work your precinct. The precinct is the smallest political unit of registered voters. Many elections in the past have been won or lost by less than one vote per precinct. However, most elections can be won with effective precinct work — it is a proven fact! In order for your work to be most effective, you must have a strong organization within your precinct.

Many precincts contain too many voters to organize a whole precinct by yourself. You will benefit from having several volunteers to assist you. The goals of your volunteers are the same as yours — Identifying voters, Registering GOP voters, Informing voters, and Turning out GOP voters-All the information gained from these activities should be reported back up the chain to the Precinct Chair so that you can maintain data for your entire precinct.





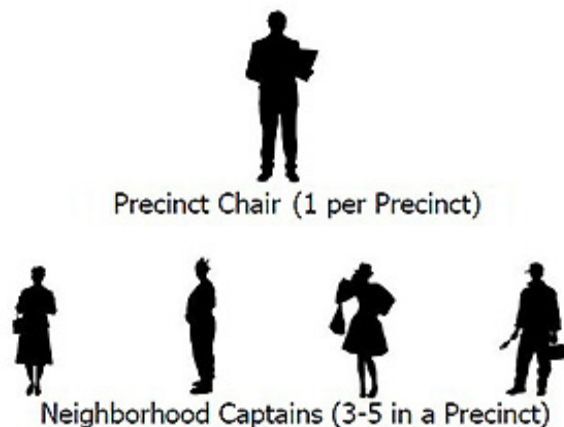
# Organizing Your Precinct

## Precinct Organization Chart

Here is a Precinct Organization Chart.

This method of organization has proved ideal in many precincts, but as Precinct Chair, you know your precinct best. Tailor it to fit your precinct's geography, needs, and availability of volunteers. You may also have volunteers who do not commit to the position of Block Worker or Precinct Captain but choose to help as they are available.

### Suggested Precinct Organization



#### Precinct Chairs

You are the central manager of the entire precinct.



#### Neighborhood Captains

(3-5 appointed per Precinct)

Break your precinct down

into its major sub-divisions, neighborhoods, or apartment complexes. Choose your most capable volunteers to serve as Neighborhood Captains and manage each of these divisions. Neighborhood Captains report directly to the Precinct Chairman.



#### Block Workers (3-5 per sub-division, neighborhood, or apartment complex)

Break your sub-divisions and neighborhoods down into blocks. Assign (or have your Neighborhood Captains assign) Block Workers to one or a few blocks each. Block Workers report directly to their Neighborhood Captain.

**Voters** Voters are the target of each member of the precinct organization. Reach voters in order to get to know them, register the Republicans to vote, inform them about candidates and issues, and get them out to vote. Recruit them to volunteer, too!



## Recruiting Volunteers

The most logical place to start recruiting volunteers is with those closest to you — family, friends, and close neighbors. Then spread your net a little wider to your church, community and service clubs, PTA, exercise class, retirees, and students. (Often, high school and college Government/Political Science teachers are willing to give their students extra credit for volunteering with a political party.)

You will be surprised at the number of people who want to help, but they just don't know how to get started. That is your job: to ask them to help, to make them feel welcome and important, and to teach them how to do their job. The #1 reason people don't volunteer is because no one ever asked them!

As you will read in the next section, identifying and canvassing the voters in your precinct will help you learn who will vote Republican. However, it is also a great way to learn who you can recruit to be part of your precinct team. Find out who you can count on to go door-to-door, GOTV Text, GOTV Phone, distribute yard signs, write newsletter articles, plan events and meetings, put bumper stickers on their vehicle, or contribute money to the county party. Precinct and County Chairs should work to find election workers, poll watchers, and donors from their precinct. These should be turned in to the County Chairs.

## Canvassing the Voters

Identifying voters and recording that information is called “canvassing.” Whenever you meet someone in your neighborhood, be sure to keep notes about their political affiliation and interests. You can also organize block walks, GOTV phoning, or GOTV Texting in your precinct to gather this information (these efforts are covered under GOTV but can be adapted for identifying voters). Using a canvass sheet is a great way to keep temporary notes until you are able to enter that information into a computer system. Two important places to enter this data on the computer are the “GOP Data Center” and your electronic spreadsheet.

There is also software available, such as GOTV, Advantage, or Campaign Sidekick, which can be installed on a smartphone or tablet and allows for canvassing electronically. This information can be downloaded into a voter database to keep up with Republican voters in each precinct.



Here is a sample script for any precinct worker to use when meeting people:

- a. "Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. We're taking a survey in our neighborhood. Do you have a few moments to help me complete my information? Do you plan to vote for (Republican candidate) for Governor?"
- b. If the person answers "no," thank them politely and leave.
- c. If the person answers "yes," ask if they are registered to vote. If not, give them a voter registration card.
- d. If you are a Deputy Voter Registrar, collect the voter registration card before you leave. NEVER MENTION REGISTRATION to a person who is not interested in supporting Republican candidates.
- e. Complete the information on your canvass sheet or card.
- f. When finished, thank them and move on. Do not take more than 5 minutes at a residence.
- g. Keep going back until you have contacted every family in your area.

You will also use canvass sheets when block walking, GOTV texting, and GOTV phoning for GOTV (discussed later in this handbook). Canvass sheets should be customized for those needs. But here is a sample canvass sheet for initial meetings with people in your precincts (or to record information you already know about people):

## Sample Canvass Sheet

Date canvass completed \_\_\_\_\_ Pct. \_\_\_\_\_

Area covered in precinct \_\_\_\_\_  
(sub-division, neighborhood or block(s))

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Block Worker's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood Captain's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Sample Canvass Data

ADDRESS	HOUSEHOLD	RESIDENTS FIRST NAMES	R	D	I	U	Reg?	Vol?	Yard	Stick	Comments
1234 Oak St.	Jones	Joe (husband)	x				Y		x		prop. tax issues
1234 Oak St.		Susan (wife)		x			Y		x		veteran
1234 Oak St.		Susie (daughter)				x		walk			student , age 15
1242 Oak St.	Smith	Bill (single)	x				N			x	gave reg. card
526 Reed Rd.	Wilson	Betty (widowed)	x				Y	phones			disabled / pro-life
R = Republican			D = Democrat			I = Independent			U = Undecided (or "Swing")		
Reg? = Are they registered to vote?						Vol? = Are they willing to volunteer?					
Yard = Would like yard sign						Stick = Would like bumper sticker					

In accordance with the Precinct Organization Chart suggested earlier in this manual, Block Workers should provide copies of their canvass sheets to their Neighborhood Captains. Neighborhood Captains should provide copies of their canvass sheets and their Block Workers' canvass sheets to the Precinct Chairman so that all the information ends up in one place where it can be organized and maintained and sent to County Chairs for further action.

## Maintaining Records

The Precinct Chair is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date permanent record of information on all voters in the precinct.

### GOP Data Center

The first place you want to enter voter information is in the GOP Data Center, the master Texas voter file. GOP Data Center is a product of the Republican National Committee but is administered by each State Party. You may contact the RPT HQ and request access to the voter file for your precinct and instructions on how to log in. GOP Data Center training sessions are available upon request. For questions, contact the GOP Data Center Texas GOP Data Administrator at 512-477-9821.

### Electronic Spreadsheets

The easiest way to keep track of your precinct's registered voters is to maintain a computerized database. Microsoft Excel© is an excellent program for creating and maintaining data in a spreadsheet. Excel provides the spreadsheet template, and you simply create a walk list by following the easy steps below:



- Log in to GOP Data Center
- Click on Tools
- Click on Basic Counts
- Click on Precinct Criteria
- Click on By County
- In the gray bar, type in your county name (or scroll down)
- Where it says “Filter Results,” type in your precinct #, and underneath that, put a check where it only says ‘select.’
- Then, in the bottom left-hand corner, click ok.
- Next screen, choose “voter info criteria”
- Check the boxes in ‘Calculated Party.’
- Click on ‘Preview Count’ top left corner
- On the next screen, click on (left side) Individual voters
- On the right side, click on “by precinct in street order.”
- At the bottom left, click on Create List.
- On the next screen, a blue download button will appear next to your precinct number. Click on it.
- Your Call List will appear (you cannot print from here)
- Find the tiny blue square directly above your precinct number. (You may need to make your screen larger)
- Click on the drop-down arrow next to the blue square and pick the format in which you would like to download your file: Excel, pdf, or csv.
- It will make a ‘call list’ file. Open it up and save it to your hard drive. We suggest naming the file “Pct\_NUMBER\_WalkList ELECTION\_DATE ” to note how fresh the data is. You can print a walkbook from this spreadsheet.

## Sample Spreadsheet

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ST. #	ST. NAME	AGE	VOTE	OCC.	VOTE BY MAIL	YARD SIGN	BUMP. STICK.	VOL	COMMENTS
Jones	Julia	1003	Oak St.	48	RPV	secretary	N	N	Y	Y	phonebank
Jones	Randy	1003	Oak St.	52	--	plumber	N	N	N		
Smith	Cecilia	4828	Cedar St.	19	--	student	Y			N	out of town
Smith	Mary	4828	Cedar St.	43	RPV	CPA	N	Y	Y	Y	mailings
Smith	Tom	4828	Cedar St.	44	RPV	banker	N	Y	Y	N	donates \$
Telez	Margaret	1116	Elm St.	65	RPV	retired	Y	Y	N	N	
Telez	Xavier	1116	Elm St.	67	RPV	retired	Y	Y	N	Y	distribute lit.
Thomas	Bill	1276	Elm St.	40	DPV	lawyer					
Thomas	Deborah	1276	Elm St.	38	DPV	teacher					



## Utilizing the Data

Once you have collected and saved your data — use it! Be sure to let campaigns know what households want yard signs, bumper stickers, or campaign literature (or offer to pick it up and distribute it for them). Follow up with anyone who requested a voter registration card or needed extra time to fill it out. Put those who said they would be willing to volunteer to work—whether as a block worker, neighborhood captain, phone banker, GOTV Texter, election worker, poll watcher, etc. Inform the county party if you find any possible donors. Keep in touch with “undecided” voters whom you might be able to persuade to vote Republican. All of the information you have canvassed is incredibly valuable to Republican campaigns in your county and the state.

## Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV)

GOTV efforts happen right before and during the Early Voting period, especially during the 72-hour count-down period before and on Election Day. The three most common GOTV efforts are block walking, GOTV Phoning, and GOTV Texting.

### Block Walking

Block walking is the most effective form of volunteer voter contact. It can take up several hours of your day but gives voters the opportunity to connect with you face-to-face and ask questions. Voters are often impressed that you took the time to come visit them in person.

Block walking involves organizing a group, or several groups, to walk door-to-door and remind Republican voters to vote (don't remind Democrats to vote!). Block walks usually happen during the two months before the general election and during the Early Voting period. (Block walking can also be useful for canvassing voters, as mentioned earlier in this handbook).

Many times, local campaigns or county parties will arrange block walks and just ask you to recruit volunteers and be a part of it. However, there is no reason you cannot take the initiative to host one of your own. This is a perfect example of where the Precinct Organization Chart (see “Organizing Your Precinct” ) can be of great help. If you can divide up your precinct into neighborhoods and then blocks, with volunteers to cover each , you've got your ground covered. You may join up with other precincts if you like, especially if there are targeted races that cover a few precincts.

Arrange one central location and a time for everyone to meet before and after the walk. You can arrange shifts if you like. Two-hour increments are usually appropriate. Assign leaders (preferably Neighborhood Captains or other experienced participants who know your precinct well) to lead each group. Remember to walk in pairs for safety. You will need to put together a “walk packet” for each leader.



Walk packets should be provided on a clipboard with a pen and need to include:

- List of targeted Republican addresses and maps to those houses.
- Canvass sheet to record new information about these voters.

The easiest way to get your list is through the GOP Data Center, which can pull an organized list with maps for you according to those you have flagged as Republicans. Or you may do this individually via your canvass records. Organize the addresses into the appropriate blocks and perhaps print maps yourself from online sources such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, or WAZE.

Today, many block walks are organized by campaigns or counties that have access to applications such as Campaign Sidekick. Block walkers can access the application or app on their cell phones or tablets. The apps can generate maps with the targeted addresses marked. If you are working with a campaign, the app will have the script they want you to follow when speaking with voters. The apps also give you the ability to immediately update information about the household, such as whether there is a new voter, if a member of the household has died, if you left literature, if the voter will not be supporting your candidate, if the address is gated, etc.

If you do not have access to an application to help with block walking, maps can be generated individually via your canvass records. Organize the addresses into the appropriate blocks and perhaps print maps yourself from online sources such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze.

If you have not been provided with a script by the candidate or group organizing the walk, you can use the script provided earlier in this handbook for canvassing voters and customize it for a block walk, or you can create canvass sheets specifically for the walk sheets you pull from GOP Data Center. Include Name and Phone Number. Were they home, or did you leave literature at their door? Have the people voted yet? Will they vote for your candidate? Include a space for additional comments. Have cars available to drive each group to its walk location. Consider providing water, coffee, and/or snacks before and after the walk.

Literature, including sample ballots, push cards, polling locations, and times, are excellent items to distribute to voters when walking. It may be helpful to put precinct-specific literature into a bag, which can be left hanging on the door. Many times, local campaigns or your local election office will have items like these. Some campaigns and local Parties will have QR Codes with information such as polling locations that can be given to voters. Otherwise, consider creating some yourself (you can get polling locations and times from your County Chair or local elections office). Only distribute these items by hand to the voter or leave them at their doorstep; **NEVER PUT ANYTHING IN OR ON THE MAILBOX — THIS IS ILLEGAL.**



Be prepared to answer basic questions about the candidate(s) or issues you are supporting or being a Republican in general. If voters ask questions you cannot answer, direct them to particular campaigns or the county party or local election office.

If you are using an app during your block walk, the app will save the information you enter as you do your walk. If you are not using an app, the Precinct Chair, the County Chair, or the organization in charge of the block walk, should receive all the completed canvass sheets from the walk.

Reviewing this data can inform you who you can stop visiting (wrong or gated addresses, those who have voted, or those who will not be supporting your candidate) or who to visit again during your next block walk (anyone who was not home or who has not voted yet). You may also learn other information, like who may be interested in helping you in ways other than voting (they may want a yard sign or walk for you next time).

## **GOTV Phoning**

Studies have repeatedly shown that having an informed, motivated volunteer talking with fellow voters over the phone is very effective for reaching many voters in a short amount of time. It's great for those who don't want to walk or don't feel comfortable on the computer, and they can come and go on their own time or even phone from home.

GOTV Phoning can be done in several ways. Many organizations and campaigns use web-based applications to target calls to particular groups of people, including those who are interested in particular issues or those who may not be registered to vote. Advantage Red Dialer is such a web-based application. If the campaign or organization you are working with is utilizing Advantage Red Dialer or a similar program, you can make dozens of targeted calls in a short period of time just sitting in front of your computer. You can recruit others in your precinct to register and help from their own homes at whatever time is convenient for them as long as it is a respectable time for your target. The web-based application will provide the script for you to use, and the program or app will store and save all of the information you enter as you talk to the target and make notes before the next call.

Phone banking involves having a group of volunteers scheduled to arrive at a particular place where phones are set up (hard lines, VOiP, or mobile phones) with call lists and phone scripts that are available. Many local campaigns or county parties will arrange these and just ask you to recruit volunteers and be a part of it. However, there is no reason you cannot take the initiative to host one on your own. Phone banking can be an excellent way for you to canvass voters.





This will take a few people from your precinct team to prepare, and at least one will oversee the activity and be available to answer questions. You may join up with other precincts, especially if there are targeted races that cover a few precincts.

Possible phone bank locations are the county Party headquarters, campaign headquarters, or local (non-corporate) businesses. Try to use a place that has easy access and parking for volunteers.

Depending on the space you are using, hard lines may be accessible. Mobile phones can often be borrowed from local campaigns.

The best place to pull call lists is from an application used by a candidate or your County Party GOP Data Center or from your canvassing records. You only want to pull the names and phone numbers of those voters who have been identified as Republican voters, which means they have voted in a Republican Primary election. Divide the call list among your volunteers. Create canvassing sheets (using the model provided earlier in this handbook, or GOP Data Center can create call lists you pull) for them to record the results of each call. (Include Name and Phone Number. Did they answer, or did you reach a voicemail? Have the people voted yet? Will they vote for your candidate? Include a space for additional comments.)

Below is a sample phone script for your volunteers to use either at the door or on the phone. Customize this to the election or campaign to which you are referring and to whether you are calling during Early Voting or the 72-hour period.

**Walk Volunteer:** Hello, Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a volunteer for (candidate's name or county party). I am stopping by to remind you to vote in the \_\_\_\_\_ election on \_\_\_\_\_ (dates and times). Your polling location \_\_\_\_\_." (Hand them literature.)

**Voter:** "Thank you."

**Walk Volunteer:** "Will you need a ride to the polls?" (see Note below)

**Voter:** "Yes" or "No".

**Walk Volunteer:** "If you need a ride, we'll be glad to have someone call you and make arrangements."

**Voter:** "Thank you."

**Walk Volunteer:** "Thank you for your support and have a great day."

NOTE: You can obtain polling locations from your County Chairman or local elections office. Communicate with the local party or local campaigns about possibilities for rides to the polls before offering this.



Be prepared to answer basic questions about the candidate(s) or issues you are supporting or being a Republican in general. If voters ask questions you cannot answer, direct them to particular campaigns or the county Party or local elections office.

The Precinct Chair, the County Chair, or the organization in charge of the phone bank should receive all the canvass sheets filled out during the phone bank. Reviewing this data can inform you who you can stop making phone calls to (wrong phone numbers, those who have already voted, or those who will not be supporting your candidate) or who to call again during your next phone bank session (anyone you did not reach or who has not voted yet). You may also learn other information, like who may be interested in helping your cause in ways other than voting (they may ask for a yard sign or to come make calls with you next time).

## **GOTV Texting**

Smartphones are capable of texting jpg images of flyers or text messages embedded with website URLs for easy look-up. All that is necessary is a list of first names and cell phone numbers. Have a pre-formatted message ready. Just enter your message by cutting and pasting, add the cell phone number, and hit *send*. So easy.

## **Early Voting vs. 72-Hours**

The main difference between communicating with voters during the Early Voting period and the 72-hour period is urgency. During the Early Voting period, voters usually have one to two weeks to get to any of the nearby polling locations. During the 72-hour period, voters only have one day (Election Day) and maybe one location left where they can make their voices heard. Many counties have opted to allow countywide voting centers on Election Day. Remember to incorporate this into any scripts you use for your block walkers, GOTV texting, or GOTV phoning.

## **Thank Your Volunteers!!!**

Be sure to thank your volunteers in person or in writing for their sacrifice of time and resources. Invite them to victory celebrations that campaigns may be putting on, or host one yourself. (And be sure to keep their contact information for future reference.)

### **Without volunteers, the work cannot be done.**

We hope that your volunteers will continue to be involved in future Republican efforts. We want them to have a pleasant and rewarding experience and to feel that they have made a difference.



# Voting Requirements

Keep this information in mind or on hand when encouraging voter registration.

## Qualifications for Voting

### (Texas Election Code Section 13.001-13.002):

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election.
- You must be a resident of the county.
- You must not be a convicted felon (unless the sentence is complete).
- You must not be declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.
- You must be registered to vote.

## How to Register to Vote

### (Texas Election Code 13.001-13.002, 13.143):

- Complete a voter registration application available at any government office and mail or present it in person to your county Voter Registrar's office.
- Complete a voter registration application and give it to a Volunteer Deputy Registrar to deliver to your county Voter Registrar's office.
- A person may register to vote at any time, but the application must be received by the Voter Registrar at least 30 days before an election in order to vote in that election.
- A person may register to vote at 17 years and 10 months of age but may not vote until age 18.

## How to Vote Early by Mail

### (Texas Election Code 84.001-84.002, 82.001-82.008):

- A person 65 and older or disabled may apply for all of the mail-in ballots during the year on an Annual Application. You must submit by mail an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM). We recommend applying in January of every year.
- Send a request for a mail-in ballot to your county Early Voting Clerk by mail.
- The application must be in writing and signed by the applicant. It must have the name of the applicant, the address at which the applicant is registered to vote, the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, for which election the application is being made, and the reason for needing to vote by mail (out of town during the entire voting period, over age 65, disabled, involuntary confinement, sick, expecting



birth within 3 weeks of election day or sick). A driver's license, personal ID card, and/or the last 4 digits of your social security number are required also. Using an official form is not required but is highly recommended.

- Upon approval, a ballot will be mailed to you with instructions on how to mail back the completed and marked ballot.

## **Tools of the Precinct Chair**

### **Items Needed Throughout The Year**

*These items are good to have on hand throughout the year:*

#### **Republican Platform**

All good Republicans should know what they believe. Copies of the Republican State Party platform are available at [www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org) (under "About the Party").

#### **Democrat Platform**

All good Republicans know what they don't believe. Copies of the Democrat State Party platform are available at [www.texasdemocrats.org](http://www.texasdemocrats.org) (at the date of publishing, under "Our Party").

#### **Precinct Convention Attendance List**

Voters who attend their precinct convention are a prime source for volunteer recruitment.

#### **Voter Registration Cards and Change of Address Cards**

Always be ready to register a Republican to vote by becoming a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR). VDRs take a simple oath from the county Voter Registrar and are then allowed to accept a completed voter registration application card from a new voter and take it to the County Voter Registrar.

#### **Historical General Election Results by Precinct**

This can be found through your local elections office via a Public Information Request (PIR). By keeping track of this data over several election cycles, it can be determined if the precinct is improving for Republicans, declining in strength, or staying the same.



## Items Needed During the Election Season

These items are particularly important during the election season:

### Canvassing Sheets

Use these to keep notes when you meet new people or walk your neighborhood. A sample canvass sheet is found in this handbook.

### Sample Ballot

Get acquainted early with the races on your ballot. It will surprise you how many people do not know the offices for which they can vote. You may get this from your local elections website or FB page.

### Poll Locations List

Voters frequently do not know where they can go vote (and it is common for locations to change). Contact your County Chairman or local elections office for this list.

### Precinct Map

You can find your precinct map from your County Party or [dvr.capitol.texas.gov](http://dvr.capitol.texas.gov).

### Candidate Contact List

This list should include each candidate's name and the contact information for their campaign office. This will be useful for you and also to direct people in your precinct who have questions or are interested in certain issues. They may also want to volunteer for the campaign.

### Applications for Ballot by Mail

You will encounter people who say they will support Republican candidates but will be away on Election Day and during the early voting period. Also, anyone who is 65 years of age or older on Election Day is eligible for early voting by mail. By providing these people with a mail-in application, you will gain a vote that likely would not otherwise be cast. You can get one of these from your local elections office and make copies.

## Resources for the Precinct Chair

Please do not hesitate to utilize the many resources that are available to you!

### County Party Staff and Officers

Your County Chair should be your main point of contact. In addition, the staff at the headquarters will be the best resource to answer questions about local issues. If your County Executive Committee has elected officers, they may be good resources for specific inquiries like attaining copies of minutes (Secretary), questions about funds (Treasurer), or legal questions (General Counsel).



## **Local County Elections Office – Local Precinct Maps and Voter Lists**

Your local county election office can provide you with detailed maps of your precinct and the most recent list of registered voters for your county.

## **Republican Party of Texas Staff**

If you have questions regarding statewide issues, the RPT staff is available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. RPT Headquarters is located at 807 Brazos, Ste. 701, Austin, TX 78701, and the phone number is 512- 477-9821. The RPT may be available to hold Campaign, Grassroots/Activist, Communications, Campaign Sidekick, Advantage Mobile, and “GOP Data Center” training in your area upon request.

## **[www.TexasGOP.org](http://www.TexasGOP.org)**

The RPT website hosts a wealth of information on Party news and activities, as well as contact information for elected officials and party leadership organizations. Other resources include RPT Rules, the RPT Platform, the Party Structure, and the Convention Process. Visiting and directing others to our website is a great way to stay informed.

## **GOP Data Center, Campaign Sidekick, and Advantage**

GOP Data Center and Campaign Sidekick are voter database systems that were developed by a private vendor on a contract with the RNC, and the RNC is the national administrator. The data is updated by the RPT to assist grassroots volunteers, Party leaders, and candidates in contacting voters. The system allows you to access information about all registered voters in your area and also to identify voters you have met by Party and ideology affiliations. As a precinct chair, you can request access forms from RPT Headquarters to be granted access. See more information under the “Maintaining Records.”

Campaign Sidekick is smartphone apps or web-based candidate-paid subscriptions to be used for block walking , GOTV phoning, and GOTV texting in order to canvass unidentified voters and get our vote out to the targeted voters during campaigns. It is also being used to register new Republican voters who moved to your county from other counties and states. Users can access the list of addresses with key info about the voter, a map of the area, and the script.



## **State Republican Executive Committee (SREC)**

Each state senatorial district is represented by one man and one woman who oversee the Party organization in that area. They are volunteers who assist your county Party with personal, hands-on attention. Their contact information is available at [texasgop.org/Leadership-Directory](http://texasgop.org/Leadership-Directory).

## **Texas Legislative Council (TLC) – District Maps**

TLC serves the Texas Legislature and legislative agencies but also serves as an information resource for state agencies and the citizens of Texas. You may view and print election district maps from their website, [www.tlc.state.tx.us](http://www.tlc.state.tx.us), or contact them at (512) 463-1155 to order detailed maps of your precinct.

Also, see the “Governing Documents.”

## **Statutory Requirements of the CEC**

Executive Committee members are to spend most of their time promoting the Republican Party and working to elect Republican candidates to office. However, the Election Code does mandate certain other responsibilities.

### **Overseeing Primary Election**

The County Executive Committee (CEC) shall oversee the conduct of the Primary Election and Primary Runoff Election (Sec. 172.111(b)). In larger counties, it may be possible to hire a Primary Elections Administrator and staff to be paid with state government funds. See the Texas Administrative Rules published by the Texas Secretary of State (SOS).

### **Conducting Conventions**

Every two years, Executive Committee members shall set the date, time, and locations for their Precinct Conventions as well as the time and location for their county conventions (if there is only one SD). (Secs. 174.022 & 174.063). The Senate District Executive Committees shall set the time and place for district conventions. See Chapter 174 of the Texas Election Code for more information.

### **Filling Vacancies on the County Executive Committee**

Any time there is a vacancy in the office of County Chair or Precinct Chair it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. Appointment is by majority vote of Executive Committee members attending a properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. For the selection of the County Chair, a quorum shall be a majority of the membership. The Secretary calls the meeting to fill a County Chair vacancy. The Vice-Chair does not automatically assume the role of Chair. The County Chair appointed serves until the end of the executive committee’s term of office. (TEC 171.024 & 171.025).



For the selection of a Precinct Chair to fill a vacant precinct, a quorum depends on the CEC's Bylaws, which shall be at least one-fourth (1/4) of the membership excluding vacancies.

## Making a Nomination for a Vacancy

Following a Primary Election, it sometimes happens that a nominee of the Republican Party withdraws from the ballot, passes away, or is declared ineligible to serve. Depending on the office and circumstances, it may be the duty of County Executive Committee members to appoint a replacement nominee. Members eligible to make the replacement nomination are determined by the type of district affected (TEC 145.036).

**A Precinct Office covering a portion of one county — Precinct Executive Committee:** The Precinct Chair in that part of the county (TEC Chapter 171, Subchapter D). Examples are County Commissioner or Justice of the Peace.

**Offices covering only one entire county — District Executive Committee:** The County Chair and all Precinct Chairs of the county (TEC 171.052). Examples are Sheriff or County Clerk.

**A District Office covering a portion of one county — District Executive Committee:** The Precinct Chairs in that part of the county (TEC 171.053). Examples are US Representative, State Senator, or State Representative.

**Office covering more than one county — District Executive Committee:** The County Chairs of entire counties and/or the Precinct Chairs of partial counties (TEC 171.054). Examples are the Court of Appeals or the Board of Education. Please consult with the RPT prior to filling a vacancy.

## Making a Nomination for an Unexpired Term

Following a Primary Election, it sometimes happens that an incumbent officeholder, whose office is not to be on the ballot that year, leaves office (voluntarily or involuntarily). Depending on the office and circumstances, it may be the duty of County Executive Committee members to appoint a Republican nominee to run in the November General Election. Please consult with RPT prior to filing.

Members eligible to make a nomination are the same as in the above for making a replacement nomination. (TEC 202.006)





## Glossary of Political Terms

These are terms either used in this handbook or that you may hear used by campaigns or other field workers.

**BANK YOUR VOTE** — A method by which voters can register with a candidate or with the party as a promise or pledge to vote, and a reminder to vote early is sent to the voter.

**BENCHMARK POLL** — Conducted by a candidate early in a campaign to establish name identification, determine areas of demographic strength (and weakness), and identify key issues to be emphasized throughout the effort. This is usually the largest poll of the campaign and will also have the first “ballot test.”

**BLOCKWALK** — A form of voter contact where supporters are organized and go door-to-door in precincts to visit with voters, collect information about their beliefs, and advocate for a candidate or political party. This is considered one of the most effective forms of voter contact when done using informed, enthusiastic volunteers. Some campaigns may hire paid walkers in order to cover more ground, but this should be done only when volunteer resources are not sufficient.

**BRUSHFIRE POLL** — Conducted by a candidate in the middle of a campaign to determine progress in establishing name identification and any movement in the ballot test. It is also an opportunity to spot-check any new issues that may have arisen.

**CAMPAIGN MANAGER** — Campaign managers are appointed by political candidates to manage their campaigns. The campaign manager is responsible for the smooth functioning of the candidate’s campaign, leaving the candidate free to run for election instead of seeing the details of his/her campaign. Specific responsibilities include keeping the campaign on track and on plan, managing finances, recruiting volunteers, producing and distributing campaign literature and ads, scheduling appearances and events, fundraising, and providing the candidate with pertinent information on issues.

**CAMPAIGN PLAN** — The most important document a campaign creates detailing the strategy, structure, message, budget, and timeline. It is the roadmap to victory and keeps the campaign accountable and on track.

**CANVASS** – The initiation of direct contact with individuals, often through block walking, texting, or phoning, to identify potential voters, volunteers to campaign for a candidate, etc. This term also applies to the procedure performed by the governing body to certify the election results in that area.

**CAUCUS** — For our Party’s purposes, a caucus is a meeting by district during a convention. At the State Convention, delegates caucus by Senatorial District to elect the permanent members of the different convention committees to elect a State Committeeman and State Committeewoman and to recommend a man and a woman for State Chair and State Vice Chair. In presidential years,



delegates also caucus by Congressional District to elect delegates to the National Convention and Presidential Electors and nominate a National Committeeman and a National Committeewoman.

**COLLATERAL** — A term used to describe campaign materials that support the candidate, such as push cards, door hangers, signs, bumper stickers, etc.

**COUNTY ELECTION BOARD** — A County Election Board is established in each county for the General Election for state and county officers, a Special Election for an officer regularly elected at the General Election, and any other election ordered by a county authority held at county expense. The Board consists of the County Clerk as Chair, County Judge, Voter Registrar, Sheriff, and County Chair of each political party required to nominate candidates by Primary Election. The Election Board appoints the members of the Signature Verification Committee from a list submitted by the County Chairs of the parties holding Primary Elections and approves the procurement of election supplies necessary to conduct elections.

**COUNTY ELECTIONS COMMISSION** — The County Elections Commission consists of the County Judge as Chair, the County Clerk as Vice Chair, the County Tax-Assessor Collector as Secretary, and the County Chair of each political party that made nominations by Primary Elections for the last General Election for state and county officers. The Commission is tasked with administering the election. If a county chooses to employ an Elections Administrator, that person is appointed by the Elections Commission.

**ELECTION INTEGRITY** — Election integrity efforts are those that ensure that proper voting rules and procedures are maintained at polling places in order to prevent fraudulent voting. Election integrity committees are often put together at the state and local levels and send volunteers to monitor polling places.

**ELECTION (PRESIDING) JUDGE, GENERAL ELECTION** — At the recommendation of the County Chair, a voter of the precinct carried by that party's candidate for Governor in the last general election is appointed by the County Commissioners Court to serve for a one or two-year term as Election Judge of that precinct. The Election Judge conducts the election within the precinct, selects the election clerk, and maintains the sanctity of the ballot. Because of the high responsibility of the Election Judge, he/she is accorded the powers of a State District Judge while conducting the election.

**ELECTION (PRESIDING) JUDGE, PRIMARY ELECTION** — The County Chair, with approval of the County Executive Committee, appoints the Primary Election Judge for each precinct. The Election Judge of the Primary Election has all the powers and duties of the General Election Judge.

**GENERAL ELECTION** — General elections are held in even-numbered years for county, state, and federal offices. The elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. Nominees for these positions are chosen the previous spring in Party primaries.



**GET-OUT-THE-VOTE (GOTV)** — Describes campaign activities during early voting and the final 72 hours of a campaign that focus on turning out all identified supporters through US mail, email, texting, phones, block walking, etc.

**GRASSROOTS** — This is a common term used in Republican politics to refer to local Party activists. These volunteers are the building blocks of the Party.

**GUBERNATORIAL** — This word means of or relating to a governor. A “gubernatorial election” is an election where the Governor is elected.

**HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION CLERK** – A student 16 years of age or older may be eligible to serve on election day with full parental and school principal approval.

**MICROTARGETING** — Micro-targeting is a new tool for candidates and campaigns that allows them to reach voters with tailored messaging using a combination of consumer data, advanced marketing techniques, and traditional political targeting. Various methods include GOTV Phoning, GOTV Texting, GOP Data Center, Advantage, Red Dialer, and Campaign Sidekick.

**NOMINEE** — A nominee is a candidate selected by voters in a Republican or Democrat party Primary Election to seek election in the general election. In Texas, a nominee must receive a majority of votes cast in the Primary Election.

**O.R.V.S.** — “Optimal Republican Voting Strength.” This is a formula based on past election results to predict how a district will perform for Republican candidates in upcoming elections.

**OVERVOTE** — A ballot showing the selection of more candidates or choices than are allowed in a given race or referendum.

**PLATFORM** — Platforms are statements of grassroots sentiment and historic party principles. Platforms are adopted at State and National Conventions. At the State Convention, the permanent Platform Committee is charged with recommending the Party Platform to the full Convention for debate, amendment, and ultimate adoption by the delegates. To review our platform, go to <https://texasgop.org/platform/>.

**PRIMARY ELECTION** — Primary elections in Texas are organized and conducted by the Republican and Democrat Parties and are financed by the State of Texas. Texas holds its primaries the second Tuesday in March in even-numbered years. Primary elections determine each party’s nominee for county, state, and national General Elections. A majority of the vote is required to win a Primary Election. If no majority is obtained, a Primary Runoff is held between the two candidates receiving the most votes.

**PHONE BANK** — An organized phone center where volunteers gather to make calls to potential voters to identify their political beliefs, advocate for a candidate or party, or turn out the vote. Phone banks can be done by a paid vendor or by supporters from home, but they are most effective when done using informed, enthusiastic volunteers at a central location and supervised by the campaign.



**PRECINCT (PCT)** — The voting precinct is the smallest political subdivision within a county. A secondary use of the word “precinct” refers to the divisions of a county from which the County Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, and Constables are elected.

**REPUBLICAN** — Texas has no voter registration by Party preference. A person affiliates with the Republican Party most often by voting in a Republican Primary Election. Information is gathered at the Primary Election site to designate in which Party’s Primary the voter participated. Affiliation may also be accomplished by taking the oath designated in Election Code 162.007.

**SWING VOTER** — A voter who does not commit to voting for one Party but is swayed by different candidates and issues. Each Party works to have these voters “swing” in their direction during elections.

**TRACKING POLL** — These are conducted near the end of the campaign. They will measure the ballot test and determine if the money being spent on media and campaign activities is working and getting the desired effect.

**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**— [ethics.state.tx.us/](http://ethics.state.tx.us/)

**UNDERVOTE** — A ballot that has been cast but shows no legally valid selection in a given race or referendum.

**UNIVERSE** — The group of voters that you are targeting for various mail or grassroots activities when pulling a list from the voter file.

**VOLUNTEER DEPUTY VOTER REGISTRAR** — A Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar is a person officially authorized to register people to vote and to deliver signed applications to the County Voter Registration office. A Volunteer Deputy Registrar may never have been convicted of a felony and may work only in the county and only for the year in which he or she is sworn.

**VOTER UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION (VUID)** - A number issued to each new voter registrant unique to them and remaining constant while registered within the State of Texas, regardless of county of residence.

**72-HOURS** — An effective 72-hour program should be the most intense period of the campaign for grassroots activities and should continue right up until the polls close on Election Day.

