

Republican State Convention

2022 - Houston, TX

Overview

Before I get into the overall summary of experiences, I want to bring everyone reading this up to speed on the processes involved in being active in the Republican State Convention. This is a biennial event in which all dedicated Republican Primary voters may influence the trajectory of the party by entering in specific language that might be adopted into the Party's platform. The benefit of this is having sway over candidates who intend to run on the Republican ballots, as they must adhere to the Party's platform in order to have support from the Party and their delegates and other primary voters, as well as all potential supporters in a general election cycle.

Before this year I had no understanding of the purpose and relevance of becoming a Delegate, and you might not either, which is totally fine. I was encouraged to become one due to my tendency to issue Hot Sports Opinions over legal and political issues in Texas, to all of my local representatives and online. If that is where you find yourself today, you may be interested in becoming a Delegate as well.

Resolutions are drafted by local patriots, usually in the form of "Whereas" statements, concluding in a "Be It Resolved" statement summarizing the desired action based on the issues outlined. Practice drafting these and emailing them out to other patriots, asking if the wording can be strengthened or improved. These will be vital to your effectiveness in the Convention Process, if you can get it sharp and distributed appropriately. Here is one of my resolutions as an example:

Resolution to Draft a Bill Adding an Enforcement Mechanism for Texas Election Codes to Prevent and Prosecute the Violation Thereof

Whereas conventional American philosophy dictates that unless there is a law prohibiting a given activity, then the activity is arguably legal to conduct generally, and

Whereas Article 1, Section 4 of the National Constitution states that the legislature of each State is the entity responsible for prescribing the time, manner and places of our elections, and

Whereas Article 6, Section 2(c) of the Constitution of the Great State of Texas states that the practice of free suffrage shall be protected under due penalties from all undue influence in our elections, naming possible examples as Bribery, Power, Tumult, or other improper practice, and

Whereas Keith Ingram from the Texas Secretary of State's Elections Department has issued advisory codes, and even less formal opinions, to county elections officials which effectively waive or circumvent Texas Election Codes which were drafted, debated and passed through the State legislature, and

Whereas these authorized waivers and methods of circumvention of Texas Election Codes have weakened the ability to conduct a full, forensic audit of county election processes across the state, and

Whereas this issue must necessarily be taken up with the State Legislature in the very next session, so that the Legislature might reclaim their authority over the election processes they have deemed appropriate, and

Whereas there does not appear to be an entity responsible for enforcing the Texas Election Codes,

Be it Resolved that the State Legislature must draft a bill to establish and codify that it is the responsibility of each county's Sheriff and Sheriff's deputies to enforce, investigate and refer for prosecution, the violation of Texas Election Codes which have been drafted, debated and passed by the State Legislature.

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SD22 - State Delegate

There are a few prerequisites to becoming a State Delegate for the Convention, and they are covered on the following page.

Precinct, Senate District and State Conventions

1. Precinct Conventions

- (a) Contact your Precinct Chair or County Party to ask when the next Precinct Convention is scheduled.
- (b) You may be the only attendee, or you may be one of many attendees headed up by your Precinct Chair, or your PC may not be involved at all. Mine was not.
- (c) Paperwork will be made available to you, and you may be appointed to a figurative role, or (as in my case) you may be appointed to every role if you are the only attendee. I was my own Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, and Treasurer, etc.
- (d) Bring resolutions that you wish to bring to higher Republican Authorities, which you may pass out of your Precinct Convention. I passed all of mine, of course as I was in charge.
- (e) All of your paperwork and copies of your resolutions will be packed into an envelope and sent to the party HQ for distribution to the Senate District Committees. Upon adjournment, you should inquire about becoming a Senate District delegate.
- (f) Your Senate District will have convened a Credentials Committee where your primary voting history will be reviewed for consideration to allow you to appear as a delegate. You may appear as a "Hard" or "Soft" Republican, "Swing" or "Hard" or "Soft" Democrat based on your voting history and will be interviewed accordingly. Not to brag, but I am a 33yr old Hard Republican.

2. Senate District Conventions

- (a) After approval as a delegate, attend your Senate District Convention. This is a miniature version of the State Convention, where you can make motions from the floor, amend resolutions, adopt items by voice vote, and sign up to become a State Delegate to do the same.
- (b) Be sure to bring at least FIVE copies of the resolutions you passed out of your Precinct Convention, as well as any new resolutions. These will be submitted to your Senate District's Resolution Committee, who will have convened several times before the SD Convention. Feel free to attend these meetings to submit your language in plenty of time for revision. Ask your Party about when and where these meetings will be held.
- (c) Participate in the SD Convention by regularly asking the Chairman to recognize you for a motion or point of order or point of information.
- (d) **Point of Informations:** Clarification on any given issue.
- (e) **Point of Order:** Items you believe may not have been properly handled or addressed by the Chairman.
- (f) **Motion:** When you wish to enter in certain wording, to call the question, or appeal the ruling of the Chair.
- (g) **Calling the Question:** When you feel as though further debate will waste time, or when you do not wish to debate an item at all, this forces a vote on whether to end debate to move on to voting to adopt an issue.
- (h) Always have a "second" for any motion you wish to make, just in case the Chair claims that you have no support for the given motion. This is simply another delegate saying "SECOND" to back up your motion.

3. State Conventions

- (a) You will need to submit emails and physical copies of all resolutions and language to the three most important committees: Platform, Resolutions and Legislative Priorities Committees. Expect to send upwards of 90 emails, and print the same amount of physical copies. All committee member emails will be on the TX GOP website so you may copy/paste them all at once.
- (b) Sign up to testify in each committee you have submitted language to, and these committees will be convened in the week prior to the actual day of Convention. This is vital to convincing the committee to adopt the language you wish to enter in.
- (c) Organize like-minded delegates to occupy the microphones on the Convention floor to hammer in the agenda you wish to see adopted into the platform. This will require you to position yourself in front of the microphones at the opening of the Convention on the day of. Lines will form, so prepare to occupy the space for several hours. Coordinate a coffee and lunch runner for this day. This is game-time.
- (d) Make your motions to amend, suspend the rules if necessary, appeal the ruling of the chair, and call the question, strategically. Do not be too disappointed if the momentum turns against your efforts, as the RINOs have this game tied up pretty tightly. However, I always apply one bit of advice to my life when I feel disadvantaged:
"You can't win if you don't play the game."

Experience Overall

I should admit, despite the need to remain focused on the vital aspects of influencing the TEXAS GOP party platform, and despite the overall disdain regarding the unnecessary showmanship by elected leaders of the State (many of which have displayed lackluster performances in recent sessions), that I had a lot of fun. I appreciate the help I received in order to attend in the first place from a local Argentinian-American woman, one of our local patriots who has an abundance of patience and generosity in her heart. Despite her kindness, she is very aggressive when she needs to be, and never has an issue giving her own Hot Sports Opinions to anyone who needs to be straightened up. Without her help, I would not have been able to have this experience which I will always cherish. Thank you, Lucila!

I learned so much from this experience and at times felt a bit mixed-up about the amount of effort put into the event. There was a focus on the social aspect of the event, not by attendees, but by the organizers who didn't show as much respect for the actual Convention process as the attendees did.

The best part of the actual Convention was definitely when a commercial for Senator John Cornyn was played for the delegates and the crowd absolutely erupted in jeers, hisses and mockery of the man. If it wasn't so funny and appropriate, it might have been sad. But no. He should consider himself censured. If he has no intention of representing the platform he campaigns on, the next best thing is for him to be silent and make no movement at all, rather than moving to totally abandon the values he purports to represent.

Iron Sharpens Iron

I had the opportunity to meet many representatives and network with so many like-minded patriots. We had goals in mind and whipped up a strategy to obtain our desired results. This kind of team work was healing and invigorating. Working with so many good Americans was life-giving and strengthened our resolve. We now have a much better plan for the next rounds, and I imagine our plans will become even more surgical as we work together in the future. Please sign up to the CCDF and Taking Back Texas websites, follow as many patriots as you can on any platform you may use, this will strengthen our numbers and resolve even further. We will maintain momentum.

Events Prior to Convention Day

Prior to the actual Convention, many committees convened and I was sure to send my emails to as many of the members as I could identify, though I wasn't able to afford to print ninety-plus copies of my resolutions this time. I will next time, even if I have to save up just for that.

Signing up to testify in multiple committees can be exhausting and you might have to choose one, or coordinate with other like-minded delegates who can represent your resolutions in committees which are convened at the same time. It can take hours to get to the testimony, and there may be many delegates lined up to speak on a number of issues before you. You also have the option of returning in the late hours (8-11pm) to make yourself heard when final amendments are being made, but honestly most of the delegates were attending various events at those times and are not willing to return for further deliberation. I was one of those delegates who went to events in the evening, and did not return for deliberation. Next time, I may do something differently.

Rule 44 Amendment - The Empire Struck Back

In my personal opinion, and in the opinion of most others attempting to reign in our Party's representatives, the most important item we needed added to the Party's official platform was the amendment to RPT Rule 44. This amendment added a provision to the existing Rule 44, known as the "Censure Rule" colloquially, which aimed at allowing the GOP of a local county and district to formally BAN a censured representative from appearing on the Party's next primary ballot. This provision was eliminated from the Rules Committee's "Majority Report" which is formally presented at the Convention for adoption into the platform. This forced delegates to draft a "Minority Report" which is identical to the Majority, but with the provision allowing for a Primary Ballot BAN for censured representatives. This could be substituted for the Majority Report on the Convention Floor by a voice vote from all convened delegates. There was a motion to substitute the Minority Report for the Majority Report, but just then a motion was made to call the Question to adopt the Majority Report as is. This was a strategic move by the RINOs who opposed the BAN on censured republican representatives. They organized and lined up front and center to the microphones to call this Question before the delegates could debate verbiage and clarify the need for the provision. There was an active push to establish fake concern over county chairs being sued for enacting any theoretical ban on candidates under censure, bankrupting the Party and allowing Democrats to take control of a given district. This obviously would not hold up in court, there are several examples of case law, including a Supreme Court Ruling, which negates this concern. The RINOs held the position and effectively eliminated the provision from the platform. We have no recourse to address representatives who choose to abandon the Party and the values of their electorate.

Platform Items Adopted - Not All Bad!

Delegates were unable to have all of our Election Integrity amendments adopted, as RINOs continued to Call the Question and force votes before the needed debate could be held, which was very frustrating. The language is nearly perfect, but with such an important aspect to preserving our Republican form of Government, we did not expect such blatant tyranny in our own Party.

Overall, the Republican Party of Texas's platform is very strong. Language was adopted which clarified our positions on Election Integrity, January 6th, Child Gender Modification, Parental Rights, School Choice, Constitutional Rights, Sovereignty, Medical Freedom, and many other items.

Each of these items needs a bit more hewing to become the exact message the Party needs to espouse, and hold to account any candidate wishing to run on the Republican ballot.

Despite discussion being deliberately limited by a motion, which effectively kills lively debate on important and nuanced subjects, overall our platform is much preferred to what I imagine the Democrat or Libertarian platforms to depict. Thinking of these possibilities always makes me laugh out loud, awkwardly, usually in public.

You Did It, You Read My Report. You Total Patriot.

Thank you for reading and please consider joining me in my efforts to solidify the game plan for the next State Convention by becoming a Precinct and Senate District Delegate in your area. I met some amazing patriots and had a lot of fun, even though we didn't get the result we wanted related to Rule 44 and other items we think would truly empower Republican voters to hold to account those we lend our power to.

I have a linktree on my website for all of my social media platforms, where most of my work is made available for free. There are two subscription sites where you may sign up to support my work for \$7/month, these are at Locals.com and Substack. Both have items which are more in-depth opinion, analysis, interviews and live-streams. I also accept one-time donations if subscribing to a monthly plan isn't your thing.

I offer occasional Poll Watcher Trainings which cover Constitutional Philosophy and context, Texas Election Codes, Advisory Codes, which items to Open Records request and how to record the necessary information at any level of observation from Ballot Board room to Polling Locations, Rally Sites and Central Count. These trainings are always free, but donations are accepted.

All of my previous reports are available on TakingBackTexas.org and are in downloadable PDF format form.

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