



**Republican Party of Texas – State Republican Executive Committee**

Third Quarter 2021 Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2021

Hilton Garden Inn – 6027 45th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407

Chairman Matt Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. CDT.

Mark Dorazio, SD 25, gave the invocation. Chris McDonald, SD 6, led the SREC in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and Devvie Duke, SD 22, led the Pledge to the United States flag. David Wylie, SD 12, led the Pledge to the Texas flag, and Rhonda Lacy, SD 31, led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas.”

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Steve Evans, SD 28, Chair; Abraham George, SD 8; and Becky Green, SD 17. The appointments were approved.

Secretary Vergel Cruz called the roll. Members were present unless otherwise noted in the Minutes.

State Chairman	Matt Rinaldi
State Vice Chairman	Cat Parks, by proxy Glynis Chester
Secretary	Vergel Cruz
Treasurer	Fred Tate, confirmed at 10:21 a.m.
General Counsel	Rachel Hooper, confirmed at 10:21 a.m., absent
Assistant General Counsel	Emily Cook, confirmed at 10:21 a.m., absent
Parliamentarian	Richard Hayes, re-confirmed at 10:21 a.m.
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Robertson
Chaplain	Jeremy Story, from 11:19 a.m.
Finance Chairman	Rep. Mayes Middleton, absent
Historian	Dr. Tim Westley, absent
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong, absent
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell, absent
SD 1	Rhonda Anderson
SD 1	Dr. Charles Blankenship
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Stephen Stanley, by proxy Jerry Fisher
SD 3	Janis Holt
SD 3	David Covey, by proxy Janis Holt

SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow
SD 4	VACANT; Walter West elected 9:40 a.m.
SD 5	Jo Miller, by proxy Sue DeVillez
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother
SD 6	Dawn McDonald
SD 6	Chris McDonald
SD 7	Deborah Kelting Fite
SD 7	Tom Nobis
SD 8	Margaret Whitt
SD 8	Abraham George
SD 9	Anne Gebhart
SD 9	Steve Atwell
SD 10	Susan Wright
SD 10	Warren Norred, by proxy Dan Tully
SD 11	Tanya Robertson
SD 11	VACANT; Peter Lauzon elected 10:17 a.m.
SD 12	Jill Glover
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dawn Elliott, by proxy Jason Vaughn
SD 13	Roy Morales
SD 14	Olga Lasher
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr.
SD 15	Gail Stanart
SD 15	Rolando Garcia
SD 16	Susan Fountain
SD 16	Matt Patrick
SD 17	Becky Green
SD 17	Sean Cheben
SD 18	Edee Sinclair, by proxy Joe Walz
SD 18	Joe Walz
SD 19	Dr. Alma Arredondo-Lynch
SD 19	Frank Lopez, Jr., by proxy Marian Knowlton
SD 20	Grace Jones
SD 20	Carmen Calderone, by proxy Grace Jones
SD 21	Naomi Narvaiz
SD 21	Terry Harper
SD 22	Devvie Duke
SD 22	Jon Ker
SD 23	Leslie Thomas
SD 23	Stephen Broden, by proxy Leslie Thomas
SD 24	Mary Jane Avery
SD 24	Jack Barcroft
SD 25	Kris Coons

SD 25	Mark Dorazio
SD 26	Marian Stanko, present, then by proxy Fred Rangel, from 3:48 p.m.
SD 26	Fred Rangel
SD 27	Morgan Graham, by proxy Jeneria Lewis
SD 27	Carlos Cascos, absent
SD 28	Robin Hayes
SD 28	Steve Evans
SD 29	Robyn Cooper
SD 29	Mark Dunham
SD 30	Deon Starnes
SD 30	Britton Brooks
SD 31	Rhonda Lacy
SD 31	Carroll Precure

Proxy Committee Chair Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Committee: at the time of the roll call, eleven proxies were found to be in order.

Tanya Robertson, SD 11, moved the adoption of the “Resolution Honoring H Scott Apley.” Without objection, Ms. Robertson also moved to amend the resolution by striking “Melissa Apley and her family” and replacing the phrase with “Melissa and Reid Apley and their family” in the final *Resolved* clause. Jason Vaughn, SD 13, Rolando Garcia, SD 15, and Tanya Robertson read the resolution, and, without objection, Ms. Robertson moved that the roll call be waived. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Steve Atwell, SD 9, Anne Gebhart, SD 9, Jill Tate, CRC member, and Jerry Fisher, SD 2, read the resolution “Honoring Congressman Ron Wright” previously adopted unanimously on March 27, 2021, and presented the resolution to the late Congressman’s widow Susan Wright, SD 10, who thanked the SREC and asked the body to continue working for the conservative principles that her late husband championed.

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 4 and SD 11 Committeeman vacancies. Without objection, the SREC adopted the same election supplemental rules that were used to fill the SD 24 Committeewoman vacancy on March 26, 2021. Without objection, Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to a Tellers Committee: Tom Nobis, SD 7, Chair; Matt Patrick, SD 16; and Sean Cheben, SD 17.

Gwen Withrow, SD 4, nominated Walter West to fill the SD 4 Committeeman vacancy. Without objection, the election supplemental rules requiring paper ballots were suspended, and Mr. West was elected.

Tanya Robertson, SD 11, nominated David Wilson to fill the SD 11 Committeeman vacancy. Janis Holt, SD 3, nominated Peter Lauzon. Mr. Lauzon was elected by a vote of 32 to 30.

During the tallying of the vote, Congressman Jodey Arrington, CD 19, addressed the SREC.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved without objection to forgo the reading of the June 4-5, 2021, and July 11, 2021, SREC meeting Minutes. Without objection, the Minutes stood approved as submitted.

Chairman Rinaldi announced his appointment of Jeremy Story as Chaplain, Mike Robertson as Sergeant at Arms, Representative Mayes Middleton as Finance Chairman, and Dr. Tim Westley as Historian.

Chairman Rinaldi also appointed the following officials and requested confirmation from the SREC: Fred Tate, Treasurer; Rachel Hooper, General Counsel; Emily Cook, Assistant General Counsel; and Richard Hayes, Parliamentarian. Without objection, the SREC confirmed the four appointments.

Next, the SREC heard the report from Fred Tate, Treasurer.

The SREC proceeded to hear the reports of two audit committees. Marian Stanko, SD 26, Chair of the 2020 Audit Committee, delivered the report, and Ronny Armstrong of Atchley & Associates appeared by video to provide additional information. By direction of the Committee, Ms. Stanko moved that the SREC accept the audit report, and the motion was adopted.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2(D) of the SREC Bylaws, in the event of a vacancy in the office of State Chairman, the following had been named to an Interim Audit Committee: Mark Dorazio, SD 25, Chair; Fernando Treviño, Jr., SD 14; and Gail Stanart, SD 15. Mr. Dorazio gave the report of the Interim Audit Committee, and by their direction recommended that the SREC waive the interim audit. The motion passed (two-thirds affirmative vote required for passage).

Dr. Tim Westley, Historian, delivered his report by video, and Tanya Robertson, SD 11, read a report from Dr. Robin Armstrong, National Committeeman.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 11:19 p.m. and was called back to order at 12:46 p.m.

Without objection, the SREC ratified the following County Chair appointments made by Chairman Rinaldi:

Jeff Davis	Bob Gray
Motley	Gary Stone
Starr	Claudia Alcazar
Terry	Geoff Cooper

Without objection, the SREC confirmed Chairman Rinaldi's appointments to SREC Committees as follows: Deborah Kelting Fite, SD 7, and Stephen Broden, SD 23, to the Legislative Priorities Committee; Rhonda Lacy, SD 31, to the Engagement Committee; and Dr. Alma Arredondo-Lynch, SD 19, to the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. The Chairman also named David Wylie, SD 12, Chair and Sean Cheben, SD 17, Vice Chair of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee.

Without objection, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved the creation of a Special Committee on Long-Term Strategic Planning to be charged with proposing a three- to five-year strategic road map for Party operations and SREC Committee structure, developing metrics to measure the three- to five-year performance against the strategic road map, and measuring SREC Committee performance by metrics developed by the Committee.

Without objection, the SREC confirmed Chairman Rinaldi's appointments to Special Committee on Long-Term Strategic Planning as follows: Sean Cheben, SD 17, Chair; Jill Glover, SD 12; Deon Starnes, SD 30; Steve Evans, SD 28; Mark Dorazio, SD 25; Matt Patrick, SD 16; and Morgan Graham, SD 27.

Chairman Rinaldi continued his report and, without objection, the SREC went into executive session. The SREC proceeded in executive session from 12:56 p.m. until 1:02 p.m.

When the open meeting resumed, Chairman Rinaldi provided an update on the 2022 Republican Party of Texas Convention and named the following members to a convention team: Deon Starnes, SD 30; Rena Peden, former SREC, SD 30, and former SREC Secretary; Brandon Moore, RPT Chief Operating Officer; and Jen Hall, RPT Organization Director. The Chairman also named Grace Jones, SD 20, Chair of a working group to study viable contingencies for the 2022 Republican Party of Texas Convention.

Next, the SREC heard remarks from Lubbock County Chair Cole Shooter.

The SREC proceeded to reports from the Standing Committees. Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Rules Committee.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that the SREC Standing Rules be amended to add the following new rule:

#### *IV. Location of SREC Meetings*

*All meetings of the SREC shall be held at the same location in Travis County or in an adjacent county, with the exception of one (1) annual meeting at the discretion of the Chairman. Staff shall consider space, microphones, video screens, internet bandwidth, firearm policy, and mask and vaccine requirements when recommending a location.*

Mr. Evans moved, without objection, that the motion be amended to add “regular” before meetings in the first sentence. The main motion, as amended, was adopted by electronic roll call vote of 47 Yes, 15 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 27A be amended as follows:

***Rule No. 27A – Date, Time and Place for County and Senatorial District Conventions (Permanent State Executive Committee Rule)***

*County and Senatorial District Conventions shall be held on the fourth Saturday in March ~~third Saturday after general primary election day~~. However, if that date occurs during Passover or on the day following Good Friday, the conventions shall be held on the next Saturday that does not occur during Passover or is not the day following Good Friday. The County Executive Committee in each county shall set the hour and place for convening County and Senatorial District Conventions in that county.*

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 1 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 19 be amended as follows:

***Rule No. 19 – Date, Time and Place for Precinct Conventions (Permanent State Executive Committee Rule)***

*On or after the first Tuesday in March ~~day of the General Primary Election~~ for each even numbered year, Precinct Conventions shall be held for each precinct at the date, time and place designated by the County Executive Committee or, in its failure to act, the County Chairman; provided that the place of such convention shall be large enough to accommodate the expected number of participants and must meet the same requirements for access by the elderly and persons with physical disabilities as a polling place.*

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 1 be amended by striking the entirety of (e) as follows:

~~*Pursuant to Section 163.006, TEC, any amendments made to these Rules and contained herein which govern or affect the Republican Party of Texas’ general or runoff primary elections, conventions, or nominees, are effective January 1 on the odd numbered year following adoption.*~~

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 1 No.

Next, Steve Atwell, SD 9, gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee (CRC). Susan Fountain, SD 16, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee.

David Wylie, SD 12, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Wylie moved adoption of the document entitled “Procedure/Policies for 2022 RPT Convention Exhibitors.” Without objection, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved to strike the final paragraph of the document and replace it with the following sentence:

*All applications, denials, and appeals will be handled in accordance with RPT Rule No. 37.*

The main motion, as amended, was approved.

Next, Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved the adoption of the “Resolution Calling for the Removal of Derelict Democrat Legislators,” and the resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved the adoption of the “Resolution Defending Medical Freedom and Personal Responsibility.”

Leslie Thomas, SD 23, moved with a second to add the following as the final *Resolved* clause of the resolution: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton, House Speaker Dade Phelan, and all Republican Senators and House members.” Without objection, Carroll Precure, SD 31, moved a secondary amendment to strike “Republican” from the proposed clause. The amendment, as amended, passed.

Sean Cheben, SD 17, moved with a second to strike “and private” from the penultimate *Resolved* clause. The motion failed.

Tom Nobis, SD 7, moved without objection (1) to strike “public mask mandates and thanks” in the first *Resolved* clause and replace the phrase with “mask mandates by public entities and private entities receiving public funds, thanks him for adding prohibition of public vaccine mandates to the special session call, and thanks both” and (2) to strike “this issue” in the penultimate *Resolved* clause and replace the phrase with “a ban on private vaccine mandates.”

Sean Cheben, SD 17, moved with a second to add “COVID” before the three instances of “vaccine mandates” in the penultimate *Resolved* clause. With a second, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved the previous question on the amendment and the main motion, and the motion passed. The amendment failed.

The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 56 Yes, 2 No, 2 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved the adoption of the “Resolution Opposing Proposition 2,” and the resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved the adoption of the “Resolution Recommending a Legislative Change to Election Code 174.063.” Matt Patrick, SD 16, moved with a second to postpone the resolution indefinitely, and the motion passed.

Next, Jill Glover, SD 12, gave the report of the Legislative Priorities Committee.

Reports of the Special Committees followed.

Alma Jackson gave the report of the Engagement Committee. Deon Starnes, SD 30, gave the report of Election Integrity Committee and as part of her report introduced Melissa Conway, the Republican National Committee’s Texas State Director for Election Integrity.

The SREC then proceeded to New Business.

Tanya Robertson, SD 11, moved without objection to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7(F)(3), in order to consider the “Texas Election Trigger Bill” resolution, and the resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 60 Yes, 0 No.

Chris McDonald, SD 6, moved with a second “that the Chairman of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee send an application for Partnership status to the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW). If the application is not received and approved prior to the next regular SREC meeting, any reference to the TFRW shall be removed from the RPT website. If subsequently approved, all references may remain.” Without objection, the motion was withdrawn.

Without objection, the SREC confirmed Chairman Rinaldi’s appointment of Becky Green, SD 17, and Nate Crain (under expansion members) to the Candidate Resource Committee.

Steve Atwell, SD 9, rose to a question of privilege to note the passing on August 26, 2021, of Pastor Jim Borchert, former SREC, SD 10. Mr. Atwell asked the SREC to remember Pastor Jim for his spiritual leadership, Christian conservative principles, and dedicated service to the Republican Party, and to extend the sincere condolences of the Republican Party of Texas to Pastor Jim’s widow Peggy and her family. The SREC paused for a moment of prayerful silence in his memory.



Jack Barcroft, SD 24, rose to a question of privilege to congratulate Chairman Matt Rinaldi and to thank the RPT staff and officers for a well-run meeting.

Chaplain Jeremy Story gave the benediction.

Without objection, the Third Quarter 2021 SREC Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vergel B. Cruz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'V'.

Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary