



Republican Party of Texas – State Republican Executive Committee

First Quarter 2022 Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2022

Radisson Hotel Austin North – 6121 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78752

Chairman Matt Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. CST.

Chaplain Jeremy Story gave the invocation. Chris McDonald, SD 6, led the SREC in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and Jon Ker, SD 22, led the Pledge to the United States flag, Rhonda Lacy, SD 31, led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas,” and Emily Cook, SD 3, led the Pledge to the Texas flag,

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

State Chairman	Matt Rinaldi
State Vice Chairman	Cat Parks
Secretary	Vergel Cruz
Treasurer	Fred Tate
General Counsel	Rachel Hooper
Assistant General Counsel	Emily Cook
Parliamentarian	Richard Hayes, absent
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Robertson, absent
Chaplain	Jeremy Story
Finance Chairman	Rep. Mayes Middleton, absent
Historian	Dr. Tim Westley
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell, absent
SD 1	Rhonda Anderson
SD 1	Russ Langas
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	VACANT; Donnie Wisenbaker elected 10:44 a.m.
SD 3	Emily Cook
SD 3	David Covey, by proxy Chris Breaux
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow
SD 4	Walter West, present; then by proxy Gwendolyn Withrow from 3:12 p.m.

SD 5	Jo Miller, by proxy Sue De Villez
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	Jim Pikel
SD 9	Anne Gebhart
SD 9	Steve Atwell, by proxy Anne Gebhart
SD 10	Susan Wright
SD 10	Dan Tully
SD 11	Tanya Robertson, by proxy Gaylyn DeVine
SD 11	Peter Lauzon
SD 12	Jill Glover
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dawn Elliott
SD 13	Roy Morales, by proxy Dawn Elliott
SD 14	Olga Lasher
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr., by proxy Will Lutz
SD 15	Gail Stanart
SD 15	Rolando Garcia
SD 16	Susan Fountain, by proxy Matt Patrick
SD 16	Matt Patrick
SD 17	Becky Green
SD 17	Sean Cheben
SD 18	Edee Sinclair
SD 18	Joe Walz, by proxy Edee Sinclair
SD 19	Kelly Perry, present; then by proxy Fernando Garcia
	From 1:10 p.m.
SD 19	Fernando Garcia
SD 20	Grace Jones
SD 20	Carmen Calderone
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	VACANT; Andrew Eller elected 9:48 a.m.
SD 25	Kris Coons, present; then by proxy Chris Byrd

	From 1:39 p.m.
SD 25	VACANT; Chris Byrd elected 10:27 a.m.
SD 26	Marian Stanko
SD 26	Quico Canseco
SD 27	Morgan Graham, by proxy Roman Perez
SD 27	VACANT; Rey Gonzalez elected 11:02 a.m.
SD 28	Robin Hayes, by proxy Douglas Offermann
SD 28	Steve Evans
SD 29	Robyn Cooper
SD 29	Mark Dunham, by proxy Robyn Cooper
SD 30	Deon Starnes
SD 30	Britton Brooks
SD 31	Rhonda Lacy, present; then by proxy Carroll Precure
	From 1:31 p.m.
SD 31	Carroll Precure

The Secretary notes four membership changes since the last meeting. Stephen Stanley, SD 2, submitted a resignation by electronic mail on November 22, 2021, at 2:49 p.m., effective upon the close of business of the Fourth Quarter SREC meeting (4:18 p.m., December 4, 2021). Mark Dorazio, SD 25, submitted a resignation by electronic mail on December 2, 2021, at 11:30 p.m. and by an identical letter in person in San Marcos, Texas, on December 4, 2021, effective December 6, 2021 (12:01 a.m.). Jack Barcroft, SD 24, submitted a resignation by electronic mail at 3:25 p.m. on December 13, 2021, effective immediately. Carlos Cascos, SD 27, vacated his SREC office when he became a candidate for Cameron County Judge.

Without objection, the SREC heard the report of National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, Chair; Jim Pikl, SD 8; Olga Lasher, SD 14. At the time of the roll call, twelve proxies were found to be in order.

Without objection, the SREC chose to forgo the reading of the December 3-4, 2021, SREC open meeting Minutes. Without objection, the Minutes stood approved as submitted.

The SREC proceeded with elections to fill the SD 2 Committeeman, SD 24 Committeeman, SD 25 Committeeman, and SD 27 Committeeman vacancies.

Without objection, the SREC adopted the same election supplemental rules that were used to fill SREC vacancies on August 28, 2021, except with three (3) minutes allotted to each candidate.

Without objection, Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to a Tellers Committee: Jill Glover, SD 12, Chair; Kelly Perry, SD 19; and Devvie Duke, SD 22.

Chairman Rinaldi designated that Mark Seale, acting Parliamentarian, draw lots, and the following election order was determined: SD 24 Committeeman, SD 25 Committeeman, SD 2 Committeeman, and SD 27 Committeeman.

Mary Jane Avery, SD 24, nominated Chip Howell to fill the SD 24 Committeeman vacancy. Jill Glover, SD 12, nominated Andrew Eller. Mr. Eller was elected by a vote of 33 to 24.

Will Lutz, SD 14, nominated Will Conley to fill the SD 25 Committeeman vacancy. Carmen Calderone, SD 20, nominated Michael Deffendall. Walter West, SD 4, nominated Chris Byrd. Steve Evans, SD 28, nominated Chris George. On the first ballot, the results were: Byrd – 30, Conley – 18, George – 8, Deffendall – 4. Mr. George and Mr. Deffendall withdrew. On the second ballot, Mr. Byrd was elected by a vote of 39 to 19.

Jerry Fisher, SD 2, nominated Donnie Wisenbaker to fill the SD 2 Committeeman vacancy. Jill Glover, SD 12, nominated Russ Bafford. Mr. Wisenbaker was elected by a vote of 41 to 21.

Walter West, SD 4, nominated Rey Gonzalez to fill the SD 27 Committeeman vacancy. Rhonda Anderson, SD 1, nominated Roman Perez. Mr. Gonzalez was elected by a vote of 36 to 24.

Next, the SREC proceeded to fill a vacancy on the Officials Committee. Chris McDonald, SD 6, nominated Steve Evans, SD 28. Rhonda Anderson, SD 1, nominated Sean Cheben, SD 17. Deborah Kelting Fite, SD 7, nominated Matt Patrick, SD 16. On the first ballot, the results were: Evans – 23, Patrick – 20, Cheben – 19. Mr. Patrick withdrew. On the second ballot, Mr. Cheben was elected by a vote of 32 to 30.

Without objection, Chairman Rinaldi appointed Bruce Bishop to serve as acting Sergeant at Arms.

Next, the SREC heard Officer Reports from Chairman Rinaldi; from Fred Tate, Treasurer; from Dr. Tim Westley, Historian; and Rachel Hooper, General Counsel.

Without objection, the SREC entered into executive session at 12:01 p.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 12:13 p.m.

When the open meeting resumed, the SREC ratified, without objection, Chairman Rinaldi's appointment of David Scott as Culberson County Chair.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:14 p.m. and was called back to order at 1:10 p.m.

After the recess, the SREC heard two presentations related to the selection of a location for the 2024 Republican Party of Texas Convention. Melanie Hoover, Assistant Vice President of Meeting Sales and Services at Visit Fort Worth, appeared via Zoom.

Vice Chairman Cat Parks gave her report between the two presentations.

Next, Alysia Roden, Director of Sales for Visit San Antonio, gave a presentation in person.

With a second, Steve Evans moved the adoption of the “Jean McIver Rule” to govern debate on any question for the remainder of the First Quarter 2022 SREC meeting: three speakers in favor, three speakers opposed, and three minutes each. The motion passed.

The SREC proceeded with reports from Standing and Special Committees.

Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Rules Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 8A be amended by striking it entirely:

~~**Rule No. 8A—Petition Required for County Chairs in Certain Counties**
(Permanent State Executive Committee Rule)—Persons filing for the office of County Chair in a county with a minimum of eight (8) incumbent precinct chairmen shall include a nominating petition containing the signatures of at least 10 percent of the incumbent precinct chairs serving on the County Executive Committee, or two (2)—whichever is greater, using a form of promulgated by the Republican Party of Texas. The nominating petition shall contain the candidate’s sworn oath that each of the signatures thereon is of an incumbent Precinct Chair and was signed in the presence of the candidate. Any county executive committee of a county with a population of fewer than 300,000 may, by majority vote, opt out of this requirement.~~

The motion failed by electronic roll call vote of 27 Yes, 34 No, 2 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that the SREC Bylaws be amended to add the Election Integrity Committee as a Standing Committee under Article VII, Section 8, as follows:

I. THE ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

1. Membership

- a. The voting membership of the Election Integrity Committee shall be composed of a chairman and no fewer than four (4) members of the SREC, nominated by the Chairman and subject to confirmation by the SREC.
- b. Non SREC members necessary to complete the work of the Committee.

2. Appointment, Eligibility, and Vacancies

- a. The committee chairman shall be appointed by the Chairman, subject to confirmation by the SREC.
- b. Non-voting members shall be appointed by the Chairman, subject to confirmation by the SREC no later than the first regular meeting following their appointment, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairman.
- c. The following persons are ineligible to be appointed voting members of the Election Integrity Committee:

1. A person who holds any elected federal, state, or county public office, or who is a candidate for any elected federal, state, or county public office elected public office and has filed for the appointment of a campaign treasurer.
 2. A person who is a registered lobbyist.
 3. A person who is the spouse of a person described in (1).
 - d. The term of office for the voting membership shall run until the end of the term of the current SREC unless a voting member becomes ineligible to serve due to a change in status under (c), in which case a vacancy is created.
 - e. Vacancies in the voting membership shall be filled promptly by the Chairman in the same manner as the original appointment.
3. Duties
The Election Integrity Committee shall be authorized to work with Party Staff, Republican members of the Texas State Government, County Republican Party Committees, and elected officials of counties and municipalities to safeguard the integrity of Texas elections by:
- a. Educating the Republican voting public of recommended techniques to safeguard election integrity, including the development and administration of training classes.
 - b. Assisting in the recruitment and training of Republican poll watchers, election clerks, and election judges.
 - c. Coordinating Election Day operations to monitor the integrity of elections and to respond to potential violations, and to guide local and county Republican efforts with legal expertise.
 - d. Directing the Chairman's designee(s) to make recommendations to the Legislature to advocate for legislation to safeguard the integrity of Texas elections.
 - e. Reviewing bills filed in the Texas Legislature pertaining to election integrity.
 - f. Making recommendations to the SREC or its other committees for other actions to take to safeguard and strengthen the integrity of Texas elections.
4. Committee Meetings
During legislative session and within 60 days before or after any election within the state of Texas, the party Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Committee Chairman may call for meetings, including those via telecommunications, with two hours' notice. Notice will be given as far in advance as is practical. A quorum is one-third of voting committee members.

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that SREC Standing Rule IV be amended by striking as follows:

IV. Location of SREC Meetings

All regular 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.

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 23A be amended by adding language as follows:

- d. In the event of boundary changes among precincts or districts, or the creation or deletion of precincts or districts since the most recent gubernatorial election, the following rules shall govern the allocation of gubernatorial votes to the changed or newly created precincts or districts.*
 - 1. The apportionment of gubernatorial votes to the newly created or changed precincts or districts shall be made using any fair and equitable method for making such determination.*
 - 2. The County Executive Committee shall apportion to each precinct the number of votes to be used in allocating the number of delegates and alternates which may be elected by such precincts using any fair and equitable method for making the determination.*
 - 3. When the boundaries of a Senatorial District or Congressional District have changed or a new district formed causing a boundary change in an election precinct, the apportionment of gubernatorial votes to each precinct shall be used in allocating the number of delegates to be elected in each affected district.*
 - 4. If the County Executive Committee fails to act before the first (1st) day of candidate filing for a place on the General Primary ballot for public office, the SREC shall make such apportionment of the gubernatorial vote to precincts. In an election cycle in which redistricting due to the decennial federal census is required, the following shall apply:*
 - (a) Reallocation of precinct delegates by the County Executive Committee shall be completed as soon as practicable after the precinct redistricting information is available.*
 - (b) The SREC, in conjunction with RPT staff, shall approve allocations for the new precinct boundaries based on available information and provide the respective allocations to each affected County Executive Committee. Any County Executive Committee which has not made precinct allocations by the time the SREC-approved precinct allocations are received, shall use the SREC-approved precinct allocations.*

(c) In the event that precinct redistricting information for any county(ies) is not available prior to the SREC meeting immediately preceding the earliest date for Precinct Conventions, the SREC may authorize a formula to be used by RPT staff to be applied to any subsequently acquired precinct redistricting data for said county(ies) and provide the allocation data to the county(ies) which shall be used if the County Executive Committee has not already approved precinct allocations by the time such data is received from RPT.

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 60 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Republican Party of Texas Rule 19 be amended by adding language 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 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. If a County Executive Committee fails to allocate its precinct delegates or to send the precinct redistricting data to Republican Party of Texas five (5) days prior to the precinct convention, then the chair of each precinct convention shall call the convention to order, recess to the call of the chair, and immediately notify the Republican Party of Texas for further instructions.

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 60 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain.

Via Zoom, the SREC heard testimony counties from Karl Schmidt, RNC Data Director for Texas, about the preparation of gubernatorial vote allocations to new precinct boundaries in seventeen counties. In accordance with the newly adopted provisions of 23A, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second that the SREC adopt allocations in the following counties: Brazoria, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Fort Bend, Grayson, Harris, Kaufman, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, San Patricio, Tarrant, Travis, Waller, and Williamson. The motion was adopted.

Next, Susan Wright, SD 10, Vergel Cruz, and Jill Tate gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee. Tom Nobis, SD 7, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee. David Wylie, SD 12, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee.

Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved the adoption of the “Resolution Opposing United Nations International Baccalaureate Organization.” Chris Breaux, SD 3, moved, without objection, to strike the first instance of “and Senators.” Gail Stanart, SD 15, moved, without objection, to strike the second instance of “and Senators.” The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 59 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of “A Memorial Resolution Honoring Eugene ‘Gene’ Pack.” The resolution passed unanimously by electronic roll call vote of 59 Yes, 0 No.

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

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the SREC Bylaws, Chairman Rinaldi announced the appointment of the following to the Audit Committee: Fernando Treviño, Jr., SD 14, Chair; Susan Wright, SD 10; and Gail Stanart, SD 15.

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. Grace Jones, SD 20, presented the report of working group to study viable contingencies for the 2022 Republican Party of Texas Convention. Becky Green, SD 17, gave the report of the Special Committee on Vaccine Mandates. Sean Cheben, SD 17, delivered the report of the Special Committee on Long-Term Strategic Planning. Rolando Garcia, SD 15, gave the report of the Special Committee on Local Government.

The SREC then proceeded to New Business.

Will Lutz, SD 14, moved with a second to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7(F)(3), in order to consider a “Resolution on the Authority of the Attorney General to Prosecute Election Crimes,” and the motion passed. Chris Breaux, SD 3, moved to amend to strike the penultimate *Resolved* clause, and the motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 32 Yes, 25 No, 5 Abstain. Without objection, Chris McDonald, SD 6, moved a typographical correction in the final *Resolved* clause. The resolution, as amended, failed by electronic roll call vote of 28 Yes, 30 No, 1 Abstain.

Rolando Garcia, SD 15, moved with a second to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7(F)(3), in order to consider the resolution titled “Republican Party of Texas Endorses Scott Bowen for Re-Election to Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees.” The motion to suspend passed, and the resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 39 Yes, 12 No, 8 Abstain.

Matt Patrick, SD 16, moved with a second to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7(F)(3), in order to consider the resolution titled “Republican Party of Texas Endorses Carol McGuire for Re-Election to Coppell ISD Board of Trustees.” The motion to suspend passed.

Without objection, Mr. Patrick moved to delete the reference to “Denton County Republican Party” and make the associated grammatical corrections. Without objection, Mr. Patrick moved to delete references to “re-election” as Ms. McGuire is not the incumbent. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 40 Yes, 14 No, 6 Abstain.

Chairman Rinaldi thanked Mark Seale for his service as acting Parliamentarian during the meeting.

Without objection, the First Quarter 2022 SREC Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m. CST.

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 'V' and 'C'.

Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary