



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

First Quarter 2023 Minutes – March 3, 2023

Wyndham Garden Austin – 3401 South Interstate Highway 35, Austin, TX 78741

Chairman Matt Rinaldi convened the meeting at 5:15 p.m. CST.

Chris Byrd, SD 25, gave the invocation. Sarah Fields, President of the Texas Freedom Coalition, led the SREC in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and Donnie Wisenbaker, SD 1, led the Pledge to the United States flag. Former SREC member Rhonda Lacy led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas,” and Anne Gebhart, SD 9, led the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, Chair; Gwen Withrow, SD 4; and Carmen Calderone, SD 27. At the time of the roll call, eleven proxies were found to be in order.

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

State Chairman	Matt Rinaldi
State Vice Chairman	Dr. Dana Myers, absent
Secretary	Vergel Cruz
Treasurer	Fred Tate
General Counsel	Rachel Hooper
Parliamentarian	Steven Bolen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike McCloskey
Chaplain	Jeremy Story, absent
Finance Chairman	Sen. Mayes Middleton, absent
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong, absent
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell, absent
SD 1	Christin Bentley
SD 1	Donnie Wisenbaker
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Bruce Bishop
SD 3	Janis Holt
SD 3	David Covey, by proxy Janis Holt
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow
SD 4	Dale Inman, by proxy Eric Smith

SD 5	Susan Lucas
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother, by proxy Edward Youmans
SD 6	Dawn McDonald, absent
SD 6	Scott Bowen, absent
SD 7	Deborah Kelting Fite, by proxy Theresa Thomas
SD 7	Tom Nobis, absent
SD 8	Margaret Whitt
SD 8	Jim Pikel
SD 9	Anne Gebhart
SD 9	Dan Tully
SD 10	Susan Wright
SD 10	Matt Ticzkus, by proxy Susan Wright
SD 11	Gaylyn DeVine
SD 11	Ken Moore
SD 12	Jill Glover
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dr. Milinda Morris
SD 13	Dale Gibble
SD 14	Jan Duncan
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr., by proxy Jan Duncan
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	Roman Klein
SD 18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper, by proxy Susan Patrick
SD 18	Howard Barker, by proxy Paul Yamarick
SD 19	Kelly Perry
SD 19	Fernando Garcia
SD 20	Grace Jones
SD 20	Chuck Burnett
SD 21	Toni Treviño
SD 21	Mike Monreal
SD 22	Devvie Duke
SD 22	Jon Ker
SD 23	Elaine Cook
SD 23	Ed Zenner
SD 24	Mary Jane Avery
SD 24	Andrew Eller
SD 25	Naomi Narvaiz
SD 25	Chris Byrd
SD 26	Karen Marshall

SD 26	Quico Canseco, by proxy Karen Marshall
SD 27	Morgan Graham
SD 27	Carmen Calderone
SD 28	Lynda Hogue
SD 28	Steve Evans
SD 29	Robyn Cooper
SD 29	Adolpho Telles
SD 30	Rachel Horton
SD 30	Britton Brooks, by proxy Rachel Horton
SD 31	Tisha Crow
SD 31	Thomas Warren

A quorum having been determined, Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.

Without objection, the SREC elected to forego the reading of the Minutes from the Fourth Quarter SREC Meeting held December 10, 2022, and the Minutes stood approved as submitted.

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

Without objection, the SREC entered into executive session at 5:36 p.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 6:09 p.m.

When the open meeting resumed, the SREC heard the report from National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong, read in his absence by Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11. Chairman Rinaldi then gave his report.

The SREC then heard reports from standing committees. Robyn Cooper, SD 29, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee. Chairman Rinaldi gave the report of the Officials Committee.

Pursuant to SREC Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8(c)(12), Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following to the Candidate Resource Committee (CRC):

SREC members (12): Susan Wright (Chair), Becky Green (Vice Chair), Anne Gebhart, Mary Jane Avery, Jan Duncan, Bill Fairbrother, Robyn Cooper, Jim Pikel, Adolpho Telles, Cheryl Thompson-Draper, Bruce Bishop, and Carmen Calderone.

Non-SREC members (6): Rhonda Lacy, Marian Stanko, Vergel Cruz, Jill Tate, Harold Jenkins, and Steve Atwell.

Additional member: Fred Tate.

The appointments were approved without objection. The reappointed CRC Chair Susan Wright gave the Committee report.

Steve Evans, SD 28, with a second, moved the adoption of the “modified Jean McIver” rule to govern debate on any debatable question for the remainder of the First Quarter 2023 SREC meeting: five speakers in favor, five speakers opposed, and two minutes each for main motions, and three speakers in favor, three opposed, and two minutes each for amendments and other debatable motions. Fernando Garcia, SD 19, moved with a second to amend the motion to permit five speakers on each side of a question and three minutes each for main motions. The amendment failed. The main motion passed.

From 6:49 p.m. CST, without objection, the SREC stood at ease until 9 a.m. the following day.



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

First Quarter 2023 Minutes – March 4, 2023

Wyndham Garden Austin – 3401 South Interstate Highway 35, Austin, TX 78741

Chairman Matt Rinaldi called the meeting back to order at 9:12 a.m. CST.

Jim Pikl, SD 8, gave the invocation. Gwen Withrow, SD 4, led the Pledge to the United States flag. Dawn McDonald, SD 6, led the Pledge to the Texas flag.

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

State Chairman	Matt Rinaldi
State Vice Chairman	Dr. Dana Myers
Secretary	Vergel Cruz
Treasurer	Fred Tate
General Counsel	Rachel Hooper
Parliamentarian	Steven Bolen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike McCloskey
Chaplain	Jeremy Story, absent
Finance Chairman	Sen. Mayes Middleton, absent
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong, absent
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell
SD 1	Christin Bentley
SD 1	Donnie Wisenbaker
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Bruce Bishop
SD 3	Janis Holt
SD 3	David Covey, by proxy Janis Holt
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow
SD 4	Dale Inman, by proxy Eric Smith
SD 5	Susan Lucas
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother, by proxy Dwayne Wright
SD 6	Dawn McDonald, present; then by proxy Scott Bowen from 12:22 p.m.
SD 6	Scott Bowen
SD 7	Deborah Kelting Fite

SD 7	Tom Nobis
SD 8	Margaret Whitt
SD 8	Jim Pikel
SD 9	Anne Gebhart
SD 9	Dan Tully
SD 10	Susan Wright
SD 10	Matt Ticzkus
SD 11	Gaylyn DeVine
SD 11	Ken Moore
SD 12	Jill Glover
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dr. Milinda Morris
SD 13	Dale Gibble
SD 14	Jan Duncan
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr., by proxy Jan Duncan until 9:32 a.m.; then by proxy Edward Hauser
SD 15	Gail Stanart
SD 15	Rolando Garcia
SD 16	Susan Fountain, absent until 9:45 a.m.; then by proxy Matt Patrick
SD 16	Matt Patrick, from 9:45 a.m.
SD 17	Becky Green
SD 17	Roman Klein
SD 18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper
SD 18	Howard Barker
SD 19	Kelly Perry
SD 19	Fernando Garcia
SD 20	Grace Jones
SD 20	Chuck Burnett
SD 21	Toni Treviño
SD 21	Mike Monreal
SD 22	Devvie Duke
SD 22	Jon Ker
SD 23	Elaine Cook
SD 23	Ed Zenner
SD 24	Mary Jane Avery
SD 24	Andrew Eller
SD 25	Naomi Narvaiz
SD 25	Chris Byrd
SD 26	Karen Marshall
SD 26	Quico Canseco
SD 27	Morgan Graham, absent
SD 27	Carmen Calderone

SD 28	Lynda Hogue
SD 28	Steve Evans
SD 29	Robyn Cooper
SD 29	Adolpho Telles
SD 30	Rachel Horton
SD 30	Britton Brooks
SD 31	Tisha Crow
SD 31	Thomas Warren

Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, gave the report of the Proxy Committee: at the time of the roll call, four proxies were in effect.

The SREC heard reports from from National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell and Vice Chairman Dr. Dana Myers.

Chairman Rinaldi offered his gratitude to RPT Finance Chairman Senator Mayes Middleton (SD 11) for sponsoring the meeting.

The SREC then heard reports from standing committees.

Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. As part of Ms. Fisher’s report, Michael Salvo, Political Director for the Texas Young Republicans, addressed the SREC.

Without objection, former SREC Rep. Mark Dorazio (HD 122) addressed the SREC.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Supporting Educational Freedom.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution to Oppose Ranked Choice (Preferential) Voting.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Republican Party of Texas Resolution on Fossil Fuels.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Asking School Boards to Disassociate from TASB.” Jim Pikel, SD 8, moved with a second to move specific references to bills from the *Resolved* clause to a *Whereas* clause, and the amendment

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

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution to Terminate Membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).” With a second, Chris Byrd, SD 25, moved the following amendment:

1. Strike the second *Whereas* clause and insert the following, “WHEREAS, ERIC receives Personally Identifiable Information of citizens and minors regardless of voting status from those states’ departments of motor vehicles; and”
2. Strike the eighth *Whereas* clause and insert the following, “WHEREAS, during the 2019 session, the 86th Texas Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million taxpayer dollars, most of which is used to contact potential voters for Texas to join ERIC; and”
3. Strike the first *Resolved* clause and insert the following, “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas calls for the Texas Legislators to pass legislation that would allow for the prompt removal of Texas from the ERIC program and implement an auditable service reconcilable to Texas counties; and”
4. Strike the final *Resolved* clause and insert the following, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Republican Party of Texas supports the stated intent and both legal and legislative efforts, including, but not limited to, SB 399 submitted by Sen. Bob Hall, SB 1070 submitted by Senator Bryan Hughes, and HB 2809 by Representative Jacey Jetton to remove Texas from the ERIC program.”

The amendment passed. Jim Pikl, SD 8, moved with a second to move specific references to bills from the *Resolved* clause to a *Whereas* clause, and the amendment passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Opposing Casino Gambling in Texas.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 55 Yes, 5 No, 3 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Calling on City Council Candidates to Support Ending Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying.” Jim Pikl, SD 8, moved with a second to strike “who identify themselves as Republicans” from the *Resolved* clause. Without objection, Tom Nobis, SD 7, moved a secondary amendment to similarly strike “Republican” from the title. The amendment, as amended, passed.

Thomas Warren, SD 31, moved with a second to replace “on the May 6 uniform election date” with “in the 2023 uniform election dates” in the first *Whereas* clause and to strike “in the May 6 election” from the *Resolved* clause. With a second, Jim Pikl, SD 8, moved a secondary amendment to strike all references to elections in 2023, and the secondary amendment passed. The amendment, as amended, passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain.



By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution to Endorse Legislation to End Vaccine Mandates in Texas.” Jim Pikel, SD 8, moved with a second to move specific references to bills from the *Resolved* clause to a *Whereas* clause, and the amendment passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved with a second that the SREC enter into executive session. The motion passed, and the SREC entered into executive session at 10:55 a.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 11:58 a.m.

When the open meeting resumed, and in accordance with the terms of Republican Party of Texas Rule 44, the “Resolution Censuring Congressman Tony Gonzales by the Republican Party of Texas,” as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 57 Yes, 5 No, 1 Abstain.

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 8(f) be amended by adding language as follows:

***Rule No. 8 – Supplementary Executive Committee Rules and Meetings***

*f. Limitations on County Executive Committee (CEC) Meetings – No County Executive Committee meeting shall be held two (2) days prior, during, or two (2) days after the week of the biennial State Convention or during any calendar week in which committee meetings or general sessions of the quadrennial National Convention are scheduled. Once a County Executive Committee meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with these Rules and the Rules or Bylaws of the County Executive Committee, no other County Executive Committee meeting of any type, other than for statutory business, shall be held during the period that runs from two (2) days prior to two (2) days after the scheduled County Executive Committee meeting.*

Dwayne Wright, SD 5, rose to a point of order, citing the requirements under Republican Party of Texas Rule 1(c). The Chairman ruled that the point of order was not well taken.

Dwayne Wright, SD 5, moved with a second to substitute the following for the added language:

*In the event multiple CEC meetings are called, the meeting called by the County Chairman shall be recognized as the official meeting.*

Steve Evans, SD 28, rose to a point of order on the proposed substitute, citing conflicts with County Executive Committee Rules and Bylaws. The Chairman ruled that the point of order was not well taken. Matt Patrick, SD 16, rose to a point of order on the proposed substitute, citing the requirements under Republican Party of Texas Rule 1(c). The Chairman ruled that the point of order was well taken. The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 51 Yes, 8 No, 4 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that SREC Standing Rule III be amended to add the following language:

***III. Use of RPT Staff and Resources for Campaigns***

- A. With the exception of standing rule III (B), the staff and resources of the Republican Party of Texas may be made available to support the campaign efforts of Republican nominees in any way that is not in conflict with RPT Rules or SREC Bylaws. These resources may be made available in the same way to support the campaigns of Republican candidates in non-contested primaries and identifiable Republican candidates in non-partisan races where authorized by resolution of the SREC.*
- B. The local Government Committee may, in one or more meetings called in accordance with the SREC Bylaws, report proposed endorsements of candidates who have satisfied the requirements listed in the Standing Rules of the Local Government Committee and whose answers to questions are determined by the Committee to be aligned with the Principles of the Republican Party of Texas. Any endorsements proposed by the Local Government Committee shall be sent by email to all SREC members by RPT staff. SREC members shall have five (5) calendar days after the day each proposed endorsement is sent to object to any proposed endorsements. An endorsement of any candidate shall be considered approved by the SREC after the fifth calendar day unless it is objected to by one-fourth (1/4) of the total SREC membership or it is objected to by any individual SREC member who represents a Senate District that contains territory within the jurisdiction in which the candidate is running for election. Approved endorsements shall not take effect until the endorsed candidate signs and returns the endorsement disclaimer to the Secretary of the Republican Party of Texas.*

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 56 Yes, 0 No, 6 Abstain.

Without objection, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved that the Secretary be authorized to make spelling, grammatical, and clerical corrections to documents approved or amended by the SREC at this meeting.

At 12:53 p.m., Chairman Rinaldi announced that he was departing to attend an event. Vice Chairman Dana Myers assumed the role of presiding.

Next, Jill Glover, SD 12, gave the report of the Legislative Priorities Committee. Devvie Duke, SD 22, gave the report of the Election Integrity Committee.

The SREC then heard reports from special committees. Alma Jackson gave the report of the Engagement Committee.

Rolando Garcia, SD 15, gave the report of the Local Government Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Garcia moved the adoption of the SREC Local Government Committee Standing Rules as follows:

1. *Any candidate wishing to be endorsed must first be endorsed by at least one (1) County Executive Committee (CEC) with territory within the jurisdiction the candidate wishes to represent.*
2. *Candidates must complete the application provided by the Local Government Committee prior to an endorsement decision.*

The Standing Rules were adopted by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 1 No.

Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, gave the report of the Convention Planning Committee. Matt Patrick, SD 16, gave the report of the Platform Advocacy Committee. Bruce Bishop, SD 2, gave the report of the Candidate Development Committee.

The SREC then proceeded to New Business.

Vice Chairman Myers noted that the SREC Sergeant-at-Arms Mike McCloskey had submitted his resignation effective at the adjournment of this meeting. She expressed the gratitude of the SREC for his service, and Mr. McCloskey addressed the SREC.

Without objection, the SREC entered into executive session at 1:39 p.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 2:27 p.m.

When the open meeting resumed, Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, moved that the SREC adjourn, and without objection, the First Quarter 2023 SREC Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary