



Republican Party of Texas – State Republican Executive Committee

Second Quarter 2023 Minutes – June 17, 2023

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

Chairman Matt Rinaldi convened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. CDT.

Chaplain Jeremy Story gave the invocation. Hannah Weeks, Deputy Organization Director for RPT, led the SREC in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell led the Pledge to the United States flag. National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas,” and Scott Bowen, SD 6, led the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Andrew Eller, SD 24, Chair; Gwen Withrow, SD 4; and Dale Inman, SD 4. 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.

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| 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 | Dr. Jon Spiers |
| Chaplain | Jeremy Story |
| Finance Chairman | Sen. Mayes Middleton, absent |
| National Committeeman | Dr. Robin Armstrong |
| 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, by proxy Joanne Wilson Shofner |
| SD 3 | David Covey, by proxy Chris Breaux |
| SD 4 | Gwendolyn Withrow |

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| SD 4 | Dale Inman |
| SD 5 | Susan Lucas |
| SD 5 | Bill Fairbrother, present; then by proxy Rochelle Wornardt from 12:54 p.m. |
| SD 6 | Dawn McDonald, by proxy Scott Bowen |
| 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, by proxy Jill Glover |
| SD 13 | Dr. Milinda Morris |
| SD 13 | Dale Gibble |
| SD 14 | Jan Duncan, by proxy Fernando Treviño, Jr., then by proxy Ed Check from 10:37 a.m. |
| SD 14 | Fernando Treviño, Jr. |
| SD 15 | Gail Stanart |
| SD 15 | Rolando Garcia |
| SD 16 | Susan Fountain, by proxy Lillie Ralph |
| SD 16 | Matt Patrick |
| 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, by proxy Terry Harper |
| 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 |

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| SD 25 | Naomi Narvaiz |
| SD 25 | Chris Byrd |
| SD 26 | Karen Marshall |
| SD 26 | Quico Canseco |
| SD 27 | Morgan Graham, by proxy Carmen Calderone |
| SD 27 | Carmen Calderone |
| SD 28 | Lynda Hogue |
| SD 28 | Steve Evans |
| SD 29 | Robyn Cooper |
| SD 29 | Adolpho Telles, by proxy Robyn Cooper |
| SD 30 | Rachel Horton |
| SD 30 | Britton Brooks, by proxy Rachel Horton |
| SD 31 | Tisha Crow |
| SD 31 | Thomas Warren, by proxy Vance Snyder II |

A quorum having been determined, Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

Without objection, the SREC elected to forego the reading of the Minutes from the First Quarter SREC Meeting held March 3-4, 2023, 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 9:27 a.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 10:09 a.m.

When the open meeting resumed, the SREC heard the report from National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell. National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong followed with his report. Vice Chairman Dr. Dana Myers then gave her report.

Chairman Rinaldi delivered his report. As part of the report and without objection, the SREC ratified the following County Chair appointments:

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| La Salle | Durell Johnson |
| McMullen | Thomas Lansford, III |

The SREC then heard reports from standing committees. Robyn Cooper, SD 29, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee. Susan Wright, SD 10, gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee.

Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. As part of Ms. Fisher's report, Yosef Herrera, Chair of the Texas Federation of Teenage Republicans and Co-Chair of the High School Republicans of Texas, and Zander Guckian, Vice Chair for Public Relations for the Texas Federation of Teenage Republicans, 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 Condemning the Impeachment of Attorney General Ken Paxton.”

Tom Nobis, SD 7, moved with a second to strike “CONDEMNNS” from the *Resolved* clauses and replace it with “ABHORS.” The amendment failed. Jon Ker, SD 22, moved with a second to insert “failed to” before “comply” and before “adhere” and to insert “and committed an affront to the rule of law” after “precedent” in the *Resolved* clause. The amendment failed. With a second, Ken Moore, SD 11, moved to strike “that the articles of impeachment be dismissed with prejudice; and that Ken Paxton be allowed to promptly resume his duties as the duly elected Attorney General” in the *Resolved* clause. With a second, Chris Breaux, SD 3, moved the previous question on the amendment, and the motion passed. The amendment failed.

The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 53 Yes, 11 No.

Steve Evans, SD 28, with a second, moved the adoption of a “modified Jean McIver” rule to govern debate on any debatable question for the remainder of the Second Quarter 2023 SREC meeting: three speakers in favor, three speakers opposed, and three minutes each, with a given member permitted to address the body only once on each question. The motion was approved.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:18 p.m. and was called back to order at 12:54 p.m.

When the meeting resumed, lunch sponsor Joe Collins, III, candidate for Texas House of Representatives District 70, addressed the SREC.

Next, William Little, Political Director for Ted Cruz for U.S. Senate, addressed the SREC.

Donald J. Trump, the 45th President of the United States, addressed the SREC by video. The Donald J. Trump for President 2024 Campaign sponsored the SREC meeting.

Mr. Bowen resumed with the report of the Resolutions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Calling for a Special Session to Ensure Election Integrity.” Devvie Duke, SD 22, moved with a second to add “A remedy for the prosecution of election crimes beyond the county district attorney” to the end of the list in the second *Resolved* clause. The amendment was adopted. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Calling for a Special Session to Defend Texas.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution in Support of Bold Property Tax Relief and Reform.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Committing RPT Efforts to Promote School Choice.” With a second, Jill Glover, SD 12, moved to replace three instances of the phrase “universal school choice” with “school choice for all.” The amendment was approved. Karen Marshall, SD 26, moved with a second to strike “in accordance with Platform planks 101, 102, and 103” from the *Resolved* clause. The amendment failed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Reaffirming the Importance of RPT Local Endorsements.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 60 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Calling on the Texas Governor’s Border Authority.” Without objection, Chris Byrd, SD 25, moved to strike “awaiting the Governor’s signature” and replace it with “signed by Governor Abbott” in the tenth *Whereas* clause. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain.

Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Rules Committee. By direction of the Committee, and pursuant to Republican Party of Texas Rule 38, Section 2(c), Mr. Evans moved the adoption of the “Resolution Regarding the 2024 Presidential Primary in Texas.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, and pursuant to Republican Party of Texas Rule 38, Section 2(c), and the resolution just adopted, Mr. Evans moved the adoption of the official application for the office of President of the United States. The motion passed.

By direction of the Committee, and pursuant to Republican Party of Texas Rule 38, Section 2(c), and the resolution just adopted, Mr. Evans moved the adoption of the recommended form to be used for collecting signatures in lieu of a filing fee for the office of President of the United States. The motion passed.

By direction of the Committee, and pursuant to Republican Party of Texas Rule 38, Section 3(d), Mr. Evans moved the adoption of a sample ballot. The motion passed.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved the following:

Pursuant to Rule Number 38, Section 9(a) of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) General Rules for all Conventions and Meetings (the “RPT General Rules”), the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) prescribes the following process:

In Congressional District Caucus, each state convention delegate shall be entitled to cast a vote for presidential preference by secret paper ballot provided by RPT.

The motion passed.

The SREC continued with reports from standing and special committees. Jill Glover, SD 12, gave the report of the Legislative Priorities Committee. Devvie Duke, SD 22, gave the report of the Election Integrity Committee. Maggie Whitt, SD 8, 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 that SREC Standing Rule III(B) be amended as follows:

III. Use of RPT Staff and Resources for Campaigns

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 two ~~any individual~~ SREC members 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.

The Secretary notes that, pursuant to SREC Standing Rule III(B), and initiated by proposal of the Local Government Committee, endorsements of the following candidates were approved by the SREC between the First and Second Quarter meetings of 2023:

| <u>Candidate</u> | <u>Office Sought</u> | <u>County/Counties</u> | <u>Date Endorsed</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Courtney Anderson | Spring Branch ISD | Harris | March 27 |
| Morgan Calhoun | Katy ISD | Harris/Fort Bend/Waller | March 27 |
| Mary Ellen Cuzela | Katy ISD | Harris/Fort Bend/Waller | March 27 |

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| <i>Mike Fletcher</i> | <i>Corsicana Mayor</i> | <i>Navarro</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Pete Lauzon</i> | <i>Clear Creek ISD</i> | <i>Harris/Galveston</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Shannon Mahan</i> | <i>Spring Branch ISD</i> | <i>Harris</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Amy Thieme</i> | <i>Katy ISD</i> | <i>Harris/Fort Bend/Waller</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Reed Bond</i> | <i>Frisco ISD</i> | <i>Collin/Denton</i> | <i>April 5</i> |
| <i>Samantha Buford</i> | <i>Ferris ISD</i> | <i>Ellis/Dallas</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Audra Deaver</i> | <i>Humble ISD</i> | <i>Harris/Montgomery</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Kenny Fernandez</i> | <i>Pasadena ISD</i> | <i>Harris</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Ed Harrison</i> | <i>Midlothian ISD</i> | <i>Ellis</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Marshall Kendrick</i> | <i>Pasadena ISD</i> | <i>Harris</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Vickie Morgan</i> | <i>Pasadena ISD</i> | <i>Harris</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Jay Saad</i> | <i>Collin College Trustee</i> | <i>Collin/Rockwall/Denton</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Tom Scherlen</i> | <i>Amarillo City Council</i> | <i>Potter/Randall</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Cole Stanley</i> | <i>Amarillo Mayor</i> | <i>Potter/Randall</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Cody Weaver</i> | <i>Plano ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Deborah Blackall</i> | <i>Peaster ISD</i> | <i>Parker</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Doug Dowd</i> | <i>Weatherford College Trustee</i> | <i>Parker</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Bill Foster</i> | <i>Red Oak ISD</i> | <i>Ellis</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Michael Grabowski</i> | <i>Humble ISD</i> | <i>Harris/Montgomery</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Zach Smith</i> | <i>Weatherford City Council</i> | <i>Parker</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Jason Southerland</i> | <i>Waxahachie ISD</i> | <i>Ellis</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Toby Taylor</i> | <i>Weatherford ISD</i> | <i>Parker</i> | <i>April 17</i> |
| <i>Allen Moorman</i> | <i>Midlothian City Council</i> | <i>Ellis</i> | <i>May 20</i> |
| <i>Paola Velasco</i> | <i>Pasadena City Council</i> | <i>Harris</i> | <i>May 20</i> |

The Secretary further notes that, pursuant to SREC Standing Rule III(B), and initiated by proposal of the Local Government Committee, endorsements of the following candidates were proposed between the First and Second Quarter meetings of 2023, but were not approved after objections were raised by Jim Pikl, SD 8:

| <u><i>Candidate</i></u> | <u><i>Office Sought</i></u> | <u><i>County/Counties</i></u> | <u><i>Date of Objection</i></u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Colleen Aguilar-Epstein</i> | <i>Plano City Council</i> | <i>Collin/Denton</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Greg Jubenville</i> | <i>Plano ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Susan Kershaw</i> | <i>Frisco ISD</i> | <i>Collin/Denton</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Clark Miller</i> | <i>Anna ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Lydia Ortega</i> | <i>Plano ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>March 27</i> |
| <i>Rachel Elliott</i> | <i>McKinney ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>April 8</i> |
| <i>Jim Westerheid</i> | <i>McKinney ISD</i> | <i>Collin</i> | <i>April 8</i> |

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.

Jim Pikl, SD 8, moved with a second that SREC Standing Rule III(B) be amended as follows:

III. Use of RPT Staff and Resources for Campaigns

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~~, but it also must be approved by two SREC members who represent 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.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved with a second to amend the main motion by striking “two” and inserting “one” in the penultimate sentence of the section.

Susan Wright, SD 10, moved with a second to postpone the question to the next quarterly meeting, and the motion passed.

Without objection, the Second Quarter 2022 SREC Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,



Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary