



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

Fourth Quarter 2020 Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2020

Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center

1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, Texas 78628

Chairman Allen West called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Chaplain Rich Stoglin gave the invocation. Mark Dorazio and Kris Coons, SD25, led the Pledge to the United States flag. Dwayne Wright, SREC Liaison and Executive Director of the Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association, played “The Star Spangled Banner” on the soprano saxophone. Gwen Withrow and Chris Breaux, SD 4, led the Pledge to the Texas flag and the singing of “Texas, Our Texas.”

Without objection, Chairman West appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Carroll Precure, SD 31, Chair; Devvie Duke, SD 22; David Wylie, SD 12.

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

State Chairman	Allen West
State Vice Chairman	Cat Parks
Secretary	Vergel Cruz
Treasurer	Tim O’Hare
General Counsel	VACANT
Assistant General Counsel	Susanna Dokupil
Parliamentarian	Richard Hayes
Sergeant at Arms	Walter West
Chaplain	Cmdr. Rich Stoglin, US Navy, Ret.
Finance Chairman	Ed Trevis, absent
Historian	Dr. Tim Westley
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell, absent
SD 1	Rhonda Anderson
SD 1	Dr. Charles Blankenship
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Stephen Stanley

SD 3	Janis Holt
SD 3	David Covey; by proxy Janice Holt, from 2:49 p.m.
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow
SD 4	Chris Breaux
SD 5	Jo Miller
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother, by proxy Jo Miller until 9:31 a.m.; then present himself
SD 6	Dawn McDonald, by proxy Marga Matthews; then by proxy Chris McDonald, from 3:41 p.m.
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, from 9:26 a.m.
SD 10	Warren Norred, from 9:29 a.m.
SD 11	Tanya Robertson
SD 11	H Scott Apley
SD 12	Jill Glover
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dawn Elliott
SD 13	Roy Morales, by proxy Jeremiah Mbong
SD 14	Olga Lasher, by proxy Fernando Treviño, Jr. until 2:23 p.m.; then present herself
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
SD 18	Joe Walz
SD 19	Dr. Alma Arredondo-Lynch
SD 19	VACANT; Frank Lopez, Jr. elected 10:58 a.m.
SD 20	Grace Jones
SD 20	Carmen Calderone, by proxy Jim Barnes
SD 21	Naomi Narvaiz
SD 21	Terry Harper
SD 22	Devvie Duke
SD 22	Jon Ker

SD 23	Leslie Thomas, by proxy Troy Jackson
SD 23	Stephen Broden
SD 24	Ruth Cremin, by proxy Janice Carter
SD 24	Jack Barcroft, by proxy Andrew Eller
SD 25	Kris Coons; by proxy Mark Dorazio, from 3:18 p.m.
SD 25	Mark Dorazio
SD 26	Marian Stanko, by proxy Fred Rangel until 9:18 a.m.;
	then present herself
SD 26	Fred Rangel
SD 27	Morgan Graham
SD 27	Carlos Cascos
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	Debi Hays
SD 31	Carroll Precure

Proxy Committee Chair Carroll Precure, SD 31, gave the report of the Committee: at the time of the roll call, nine proxies were found to be in order.

Janis Holt, SD 3, moved with a second that debate on motions during the meeting be limited to three proponents and three opponents, with each speaker permitted no more than two (2) minutes. The motion passed.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second to adopt the agenda as written, “with the following exceptions: that consideration of the proposed Bylaws amendments, tentatively scheduled for 12:40 p.m., be considered as part of the Rules Committee report and that resolutions from counties regarding SD 19 Committeewoman Alma Arredondo-Lynch, tentatively scheduled for 2:00 p.m., be considered as part of the report of the Resolutions Committee.” The motion passed.

Steve Atwell, SD 9, moved with a second to forgo the reading of the September 19, 2020 SREC meeting Minutes. The motion passed, and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

The SREC heard reports from the following Officers: Tim O’Hare, Treasurer; Dr. Robin Armstrong, National Committeeman; Susanna Dokupil, Assistant General Counsel; Cat Parks, State Vice Chairman; and Allen West, State Chairman. As part of his report, Chairman West introduced RPT Historian Dr. Tim Westley, who made a presentation on 150 F.I.R.S.T. Black Men of Texas.

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 19 Committeeman vacancy. Without objection, the SREC approved the use of the same Bylaws, as relevant, that govern the election of the Officials Committee. Terry Harper, SD 21, nominated Frank Lopez, Jr. Marian Stanko, SD 26, nominated Rafa Bejar. Without objection, Chairman West appointed three members to a Tellers Committee: Edee Sinclair, SD 18, Chair; Robyn Cooper, SD 29; and Warren Norred, SD 10. Frank Lopez, Jr. was elected by vote of 40 to 21.

Barbara L. Thompson, data consultant to the RPT, presented an analysis of the 2020 General Election in Texas and took questions from members. Next, the SREC heard Standing Committee Reports.

The Officials Committee reported a proposed 2021 Republican Party of Texas Budget. Fernando Treviño, Jr., SD 14, moved with a second to amend the budget by reducing “Security” to \$50,000 and moving the remaining \$74,000 to “RPT Salary,” by adding \$74,000 to “Security” in the Pending Funds sheet (wish list), and by moving staffers to budget. The amendment passed by electronic roll call vote of 31 Yes, 30 No. The 2021 RPT Budget, as amended, was approved.

Chair Steve Atwell, SD 9, joined by Vice Chair Edee Sinclair SD 18, Anne Gebhart, SD 9, and Vergel Cruz, gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee.

RPT Political Director Mitch Carney presented the Steve Munisteri Award to Rhonda Lacy for her distinguished service in electing Republicans in Texas. Val Verde County Chair Frank Lopez, Jr. and Jim Wells County Vice Chair April Rodriguez were also recognized for their efforts.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and was called back to order at 1:00 p.m.

Judge Michelle Slaughter of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8, gave some brief remarks.

Susan Fountain, SD 16, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee.

Stephen Broden, SD 23, gave the report of the Auxiliaries and Coalitions Committee. By the direction of the Committee, Mr. Broden moved to designate the Texas Asian Republican Assembly (TARA), Texas Federation of College Republicans (TXFCR), and Texas Young Republicans (TYR) as 2020-2022 RPT Auxiliaries and to designate the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas (TXRLC) as a 2020-2022 RPT Coalition. Rolando Garcia, SD 15, moved with a second to postpone the motion until the Rules Committee report, and the motion passed.

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

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of the “Resolution Expressing Disagreement with a Member’s Actions.” Dr. Alma Arredondo-Lynch, SD 19, the member

named in the resolution, moved with a second to suspend the rules to allow herself five (5) minutes to address the SREC, and the motion passed. Without objection, time was also extended for Terry Harper, SD 21, and Naomi Narvaiz, SD 21, to read a letter from Marian Knowlton, 2020 Republican nominee for Texas House District 31.

Carroll Precure, SD 31, moved with a second to add the following clause to the end of the resolution: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should Dr. Alma Arredondo-Lynch, Committeewoman from SD 19 refuse to resign, that the Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas remove her from all of her committee assignments.” The amendment passed by electronic roll call vote of 54 Yes, 7 No, 1 Abstain.

Chris Breaux, SD 4, moved the previous question with a second, and the motion passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 1 No. Dr. Arredondo-Lynch addressed the SREC again, stating that she would not resign. Dr. Arredondo-Lynch was removed from her SREC Committee assignment (amending the confirmation of Committee appointments previously adopted).

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of the “Open Our Texas Capitol Without Restrictions” resolution. Chris Breaux, SD 4, moved with a second to strike “strongly encourages” and insert “demands” in the *Resolved* clause. The motion passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 58 Yes, 3 No.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of the “Resolution Regarding Medical Freedom and Individual Liberty” The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 53 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of the “Resolution Congratulating Dade Phelan on His Selection as the Endorsed Speaker Candidate of the Texas House Republican Caucus.” Scott Apley, SD 11, moved with a second to strike the two *Resolved* clauses and replace them with two others, and the motion passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 57 Yes, 6 No.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved adoption of the “Resolution on Election Integrity.” Jon Ker, SD 22, moved with a second to strike the phrase “American Voice” and replace it with “Constitutional Republic” in the *Resolved* clause. The motion to amend passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

Next, Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Rules Committee.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that the SREC concur with Chairman West’s clarification of Republican Party of Texas Rules 8(p) and 42 as follows:

*(1) The plain text of RPT Rule No. 42 supersedes any inferred ambiguity in RPT Rule No. 8(p): "SREC Committeeman and Committeewoman are ex-officio members of their SD Counties Executive Committees, without the right to make motions or vote."*

*(2) From RPT Rule No. 8(p), "The County Party may adopt rules allowing an SREC member who does not live in the same County to be a non-voting ex-officio member." However, the failure of a County Executive Committee to do so does not prevent SREC members from exercising their rights under RPT Rule No. 42. Furthermore, a County Executive Committee may not adopt rules or bylaws which would restrict SREC members who represent the same county but who reside in a different county from exercising their rights as non-voting, ex-officio (or honorary) members.*

The motion to concur passed.

Rolando Garcia, SD 15, moved with a second to amend the Rules Committee report by striking Article VII, Section 8(E) of the SREC Bylaws. The motion to amend failed.

David Wylie, SD 12, moved to approve the designations, postponed from the Auxiliaries and Coalitions Committee report, of the Texas Asian Republican Assembly (TARA), Texas Federation of College Republicans (TXFCR), and Texas Young Republicans (TYR) as 2020-2022 RPT Auxiliaries, and of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas (TXRLC) as a 2020-2022 RPT Coalition. The motion passed.

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.

Steve Atwell, SD 9, asked that the SREC pray in support of State Representative Stephanie Klick, Chair of the Texas House Elections Committee, whose daughter recently passed away.

Next, Deon Starnes, SD 30, gave the report of the Election Integrity Committee.

The SREC proceeded to Unfinished Business and General Orders.

Without objection, the SREC ratified Chairman West's appointment of Jerry Blankenship as San Saba County Chair.

Mark Dorazio, SD 25, moved with a second to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7(F)(3), in order to consider the "Defending the Integrity of Our Election" resolution. The motion to suspend passed.

Chris McDonald, SD 6, moved with a second to strike the following *Resolved* clause from the resolution: “THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Republican Party of Texas thanks Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton for fighting for fair and honest elections, and.” The motion to strike passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 50 Yes, 8 No, 3 Abstain.

Chris Breaux, SD 4, moved with a second to create an ad hoc Committee on Executive Overreach, the membership to be appointed by the State Chairman. The motion passed.

Deon Starnes, SD 30, moved with a second to confirm the Chairman’s appointment of Marian Stanko, SD 26, to the Special Committee on Election Integrity. The motion passed.

Chairman West appointed Chris Breaux, SD 4, to serve as Chair of the ad hoc Committee on Executive Overreach.

Chairman West noted the resignation of General Counsel Wade Emmert, effective November 3, 2020, and expressed gratitude for Mr. Emmert’s service to the RPT. He elevated Assistant General Counsel Susanna Dokupil to General Counsel, and the appointment was confirmed. Chairman West then appointed Rachel Hooper to Assistant General Counsel, and the appointment was confirmed by the SREC. Ms. Hooper briefly addressed the SREC.

The Chairman then proposed that the First Quarter 2021 SREC meeting be held in Laredo, Texas, the weekend of March 26-27, 2021. The motion was approved.

Without objection, the Fourth Quarter 2020 SREC Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary