



Republican Party of Texas – State Republican Executive Committee

Third Quarter 2023 Minutes – September 23, 2023

Holiday Inn Downtown Marina – 707 North Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Immediately before the meeting convened, Congressman Michael Cloud, CD 27, addressed the SREC. Chairman Matt Rinaldi convened the meeting at 9:08 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 Chuck Burnett, SD 20, led the Pledge to the United States flag. Scott Bowen, SD 6, led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas,” and David Wylie, SD 12, led the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Andrew Eller, SD 24, Chair; Anne Gebhart, SD 9; and Cheryl Thompson-Draper, SD 18. 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	Dr. Jon Spiers, absent
Chaplain	Jeremy Story
Finance Chairman	Sen. Mayes Middleton, absent
National Committeeman	Dr. Robin Armstrong, absent
National Committeewoman	Toni Anne Dashiell, absent
SD 1	Christin Bentley, by proxy Christina Drewry
SD 1	Donnie Wisenbaker
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Bruce Bishop
SD 3	VACANT; Rhonda Ward elected 9:28 a.m.
SD 3	David Covey, by proxy Chris Breaux
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow

SD 4	Dale Inman
SD 5	Susan Lucas
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother, by proxy Sue DeVillez
SD 6	Dawn McDonald, by proxy Scott Bowen
SD 6	Scott Bowen
SD 7	Deborah Kelting Fite
SD 7	Tom Nobis, by proxy Deborah Kelting Fite
SD 8	Margaret Whitt, by proxy Jim Pikel
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, by proxy David Wylie
SD 12	David Wylie
SD 13	Dr. Milinda Morris
SD 13	Dale Gibble
SD 14	Jan Duncan
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr., by proxy John Andrusiak
SD 15	Gail Stanart
SD 15	Rolando Garcia
SD 16	Susan Fountain
SD 16	Matt Patrick
SD 17	Becky Green
SD 17	Roman Klein, by proxy Shayne Green
SD 18	Cheryl Thompson-Draper
SD 18	Howard Barker
SD 19	Kelly Perry
SD 19	Fernando Garcia
SD 20	Grace Jones, absent; then present from 10:13 a.m.
SD 20	Chuck Burnett
SD 21	Toni Treviño
SD 21	Mike Monreal
SD 22	Devvie Duke, by proxy Jon Ker
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, absent; then present from 9:39 a.m.
SD 26	Quico Canseco, absent; then present by proxy Karen Marshall from 9:39 a.m.
SD 27	Morgan Graham, absent; then present by proxy Carmen Calderone from 9:27 a.m
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

The Secretary notes one membership change since the last meeting: Janis Holt, SD 3, submitted a resignation by electronic mail at 9:50 p.m. on July 17, 2023, effective on September 21, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. CDT.

David Covey, SD 3, and candidate for HD 21, addressed the SREC.

Next, a presentation was made in memory of Bryan Taylor Kelting, son of Deborah Kelting Fite, SD 7, who passed away on March 6, 2023.

A quorum having been determined, Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved to forego the reading of the Minutes from the Second Quarter SREC Meeting held June 17, 2023, and, without objection, the Minutes stood approved as submitted.

Without objection, Mr. Evans then moved the adoption of a “modified Jean McIver” rule to govern discussion on any debatable question for the remainder of the Third Quarter 2023 SREC meeting: three speakers in favor, three speakers opposed, two minutes each.

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 3 Committeewoman vacancy. Chris Breaux, SD 3, nominated Rhonda Ward, and Ms. Ward was elected by acclamation.

Gail Stanart, SD 15, gave notice of amendments to the SREC Bylaws which would eliminate the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee.

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

Dale Gible, SD 13, moved that the SREC enter executive session, and without objection, the SREC entered executive session at 9:41 a.m. The SREC proceeded in executive session until 10:12 a.m.

When the open meeting resumed, Susan Fountain, SD 16, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee. Without objection, the SREC agreed to consider the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee report after the Officials Committee report.

Chairman Rinaldi delivered his report as part of the Officials Committee report. During the report, Karen Marshall, SD 26, rose to a point of order regarding the impartiality of the Chair's remarks. The point of order was not well taken, and Ms. Marshall appealed from the decision of the Chair. The decision of the Chair was sustained.

Next, Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved that Partnership status be approved for the Young Republicans of Texas. As part of Ms. Fisher's report, and without objection, Matt Dorsey, SREC Liaison for the Young Republicans of Texas, addressed the SREC.

Gail Stanart, SD 15, moved with a second to postpone the question to the Fourth Quarter SREC Meeting. The motion to postpone failed. The main motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 43 Yes, 18 No, 2 Abstain.

Susan Wright, SD 10, gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee.

Without objection, the SREC proceeded to hear the report of the Rules Committee. Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Article VII, Section 8(F), of the SREC Bylaws be amended to include a new fourth item as follows:

F. THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

4. Resolutions may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by:

a. An SREC member

b. A county chairman

c. Passage at a properly called County Executive Committee meeting

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 48 Yes, 7 No, 1 Abstain.

Kelly Perry, SD 19, gave the report of the Legislative Priorities Committee.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 11:49 a.m.

During the recess, lunch and meeting sponsor Congressman Jodey Arrington, CD 19, addressed the SREC.

Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting back to order at 12:50 p.m. He thanked Congressman Arrington, as well as Congressman Cloud, for their remarks. The Chair also expressed gratitude to Representative Todd Hunter, HD 32, for sponsoring an event for the SREC the previous evening.

The SREC continued with standing committee reports.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Asking Speaker Dade Phelan to Resign as Speaker or For the House to Vacate the Chair.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 58 Yes, 2 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Supporting Proposition 4.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 56 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Supporting a ‘Return to Excellence’ in Voting and Elections.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 59 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the “Resolution Thanking the Texas Senate for Acquittal of Attorney General Ken Paxton and Advocating For Reform.” The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

Andy Eller, SD 24, gave the report of the Election Integrity Committee.

The SREC proceeded to hear 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.

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 Second and Third Quarter meetings of 2023:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Office Sought</u>	<u>County/Counties</u>	<u>Date Endorsed</u>
Justin Ray	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Harris	September 5
Christine Kalmbach	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Harris	September 5
George Edwards	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Harris	September 5
Todd LeCompte	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	Harris	September 5
Fe Bencosme	Houston ISD	Harris	September 5
Fred Flickinger	Houston City Council	Harris/Montgomery	September 5

Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, gave the report of the Convention Planning Committee. By direction of the Committee, Ms. DeVine moved the adoption of the “Resolution on Uniform Submissions of

County and Senatorial District Convention Reports.” Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second to insert “and SREC members” before “in Texas” in the final *Resolved* clause. The amendment passed, and the resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. DeVine moved the adoption of “Policies and Procedures for 2024 State Republican Convention Exhibitors.” The proposal passed by electronic roll call vote of 60 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Ms. DeVine moved the following:

Pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 174.092, the State Republican Executive Committee sets the time and place of the biennial convention of the Republican Party of Texas State Convention to convene at 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas, with in-person meetings of the Temporary Convention Committees to begin at 11:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Monday, May 20, 2024 at the same location. Convention Temporary Committees may meet electronically to organize prior to convening in person.

The motion was adopted by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No.

Matt Patrick, SD 16, gave the report of the Platform Advocacy Committee.

Chairman Rinaldi asked the SREC to pause for a moment of prayer for the health of William Clayton “Bill” Young, III, father of Morgan Graham, SD 27.

Bruce Bishop, SD 2, gave the report of the Candidate Development Committee.

The SREC then proceeded to Unfinished Business and General Orders.

The SREC considered the motion by Jim Pikel, SD 8, as amended and postponed at the Second Quarter 2023 Meeting, to amend SREC Standing Rule III(B) 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.

At the Second Quarter 2023 Meeting, at the time the Bylaws amendment was postponed, an amendment by Scott Bowen, SD 6, was pending. Mr. Bowen's amendment was to strike "two" in the penultimate sentence and replace it with "one" and to correct the grammatical agreement accordingly. The amendment to the amendment passed.

Jim Pikel, SD 8, then moved to amend the amendment such that the Rule would read as follows:

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, provided that it has been approved by one SREC member who represents a Senate District that contains territory within the jurisdiction in which the candidate is running for election, and that it is not objected to by one-fourth (1/4) of the total SREC membership. 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 amendment to the amendment was adopted without objection, and the amendment to the Standing Rules, as amended, was adopted.

The SREC then proceeded to New Business.

Without objection, Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved with a second to suspend SREC Bylaws Article VII, Section 8(F)(3), in order to consider the "Resolution Commending Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson for Joining the Republican Party" and the "Resolution Calling for Action in Colony Ridge."

Matt Patrick, SD 16, with a second moved the adoption of the "Resolution Commending Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson for Joining the Republican Party." The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, with a second moved the adoption of the "Resolution Calling for Action in Colony Ridge." The resolution passed by electronic roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second to amend the Standing Rules to create a new Standing Rule V as follows:

V. Editorial Authority

The Secretary may make non-substantive and grammatical corrections to the SREC Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The motion was adopted by electronic roll call vote of 62 Yes, 0 No.

Without objection, the Third Quarter 2023 SREC Meeting adjourned at 2:10 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 initial "V".

Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary