



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

Fourth Quarter 2023 Minutes – December 2, 2023

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

Chairman Matt Rinaldi convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. CST.

Chaplain Jeremy Story gave the invocation. The SREC sang “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and Matt Patrick, SD 16, led the Pledge to the United States flag. Anne Gebhart, SD 9, led the SREC in singing “Texas, Our Texas,” and Jim Pikel, SD 8, led the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to the Proxy Committee: Susan Wright, SD 10, Chair; Jerry Fisher, SD 2; and Cheryl Thompson-Draper, SD 18. At the time of the roll call, five 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
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, by proxy David Stein
SD 2	Jerry Fisher
SD 2	Bruce Bishop
SD 3	Rhonda Ward present; then by proxy Lori Breunig from 12:31 p.m.
SD 3	VACANT; Chris Breaux elected 9:28 a.m.; Chris Breaux present; then by proxy Daniel L. Miller from 9:49 a.m.
SD 4	Gwendolyn Withrow, by proxy Dale Inman

SD 4	Dale Inman
SD 5	Susan Lucas
SD 5	Bill Fairbrother
SD 6	Dawn McDonald
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, present; then by proxy Dan Tully from 1:18 p.m.
SD 9	Dan Tully
SD 10	Susan Wright
SD 10	Matt Ticzkus
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, present; then by proxy Edward Hauser from 3:03 p.m.
SD 14	Fernando Treviño, Jr., present; then by proxy Will Lutz from 3:40 p.m.
SD 15	Gail Stanart
SD 15	Rolando Garcia
SD 16	Susan Fountain
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	VACANT; Robert Casias elected 10:04 a.m.
SD 20	VACANT; Melissa Knerr elected 9:27 a.m.
SD 20	Chuck Burnett
SD 21	Toni Treviño
SD 21	Mike Monreal
SD 22	VACANT; Leslie Thomas elected 9:47 a.m.
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; then present from 10:40 a.m.
SD 27	Carmen Calderone, by proxy Jeneria Lewis
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, absent
SD 31	Thomas Warren, by proxy Daniel L. Rogers

The Secretary notes four membership changes since the last quarterly meeting: David Covey, SD 3, submitted a resignation by electronic mail on September 28, 2023, effective on September 30, 2023 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT; Fernando Garcia, SD 19, submitted a resignation by electronic mail on November 10, 2023, effective on November 10, 2023 at 2:40 p.m. CST; Devvie Duke, SD 22, submitted a resignation by electronic mail on October 22, 2023, effective on October 22, 2023 at 12:57 p.m. CDT; and Elizabeth Grace Petersen, SD 20, of blessed memory, died on September 26, 2023.

A quorum having been determined, Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved to forego the reading of the Minutes from the Third Quarter SREC Meeting held September 23, 2023, and, without objection, the Minutes stood approved as submitted.

Mr. Evans, SD 28, then moved, without objection, the adoption of supplemental rules to govern the elections to fill the four membership vacancies as follows:

1. *ELECTION ORDER. Elections shall be conducted one at a time. Election order will be the order the vacancies were recorded by the Secretary.*
2. *NOMINATION. Nominations shall be made by a SREC member from the floor.*
3. *SPEAKING. After nominations have been made, the nominees shall draw numbered lots to determine speaking order. Each nominee shall have a total of three (3) minutes to speak, including those who wish to speak on behalf of the nominee(s).*
4. *VOTING. After all nomination speeches have concluded, voting shall be conducted by secret paper ballot. A majority vote is required for election. The Chairman will appoint five (5) members of the SREC to distribute, collect, and tally the ballots. Each candidate may appoint one Observer to observe the counting of the ballots. In the event no*

*nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, repeated balloting will occur until a majority vote is achieved. Uncontested races shall be declared by acclamation after nominations close for that seat.*

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

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 20 Committeewoman vacancy. Chuck Burnett, SD 20, nominated Melissa Knerr, and Ms. Knerr was elected by acclamation.

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

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 22 Committeewoman vacancy. Jon Ker, SD 22, nominated Leslie Thomas, and Jerry Fisher, SD 2, nominated Kathy Ponce.

The Chairman appointed Dale Inman, SD 4; Matt Patrick, SD 16; Mike Monreal, SD 21; Ed Zenner, SD 23; and Naomi Narvaiz, SD 25, as tellers.

Ms. Thomas was elected by a vote of 43 to 17.

The SREC proceeded with the election to fill the SD 19 Committeeman vacancy. Quico Canseco, SD 26, nominated Robert Casias. Jeneria Lewis, SD 27, nominated Art Brown. Mr. Casias was elected by a vote of 43 to 17.

Next, SREC heard reports from Officers, beginning with Treasurer Fred Tate.

Without objection, the SREC entered executive session at 10:26 a.m. and proceeded in executive session until 11:14 a.m.

When the open meeting resumed, National Committeewoman Toni Anne Dashiell and National Committeeman Dr. Robin Armstrong delivered their reports.

Without objection, Representative Brian Harrison (HD 10) addressed the SREC.

Next, Vice Chairman Dr. Dana Myers gave her report.

Without objection, Representative Tony Tinderholt (HD 94) and Representative Nate Schatzline (HD 93) addressed the SREC.

Without objection, the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:01 p.m.

Chairman Rinaldi called the meeting back to order at 12:32 p.m.

Without objection, State Board of Education Member Julie Pickren (District 7) addressed the SREC.

Without objection, the SREC moved the Officials Committee report before the Chairman's report.

Chairman Rinaldi delivered the report of the Officials Committee. During the report, Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, moved with a second to adopt the proposed 2024 Republican Party of Texas Budget, and the motion passed.

During the report, Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, moved with a second to ratify Chairman Rinaldi's appointments of County Chairs as follows:

Borden County	Diedra Parks
Burleson County	Karen Bolt
Jeff Davis County	Matt Blackman
King County	Lindsey Criswell
Lee County	Shann Turner
Sterling County	Judith Williams
Swisher County	Jan Roper
Yoakum County	Kyle Stephens

The motion to ratify passed.

Chairman Rinaldi appointed the following members to committees:

Chris Breaux, SD 3	Resolutions, Rules
Dale Inman, SD 4	Rules
Robert Casias, SD 19	Legislative Priorities, Engagement
Melissa Knerr, SD 20	Engagement, Election Integrity
Leslie Thomas, SD 22	Rules, Election Integrity

Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, moved with a second to confirm the appointments, and the motion passed.

The SREC continued with reports from standing committees.

Susan Wright, SD 10, gave the report of the Candidate Resource Committee. Susan Fountain, SD 16, gave the report of the Party Organization Committee.

Jerry Fisher, SD 2, gave the report of the Partnerships and Coalitions Committee. By direction of the Committee, Ms. Fisher moved that Coalition status be approved for the Bulverde Spring

Branch Conservative Republicans. As part of Ms. Fisher's report, Matt Dorsey of the Young Republicans of Texas, addressed the SREC.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. By direction of the Committee and in accordance with the terms of Republican Party of Texas Rule 44, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the "Resolution Censuring Representative Andrew Murr by the Republican Party of Texas." Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second to recommit the resolution to the Resolutions Committee. The motion to recommit failed. The resolution passed by manual roll call vote of 61 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the "Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Grace Petersen." The resolution passed unanimously by electronic roll call with 63 Yes votes.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of the "Resolution Supporting Israel's Right to Exist, Advocating the Destruction of Hamas, and Mourning the Innocent Who Were Murdered." Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved with a second to insert "the Texas Democratic Party," after "the Administration's Palestinian Affairs Office" in the third *Resolved* clause, and the motion passed. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of "A Resolution Affirming the Commitment of the Republican Party of Texas to Combatting Anti-Semitism and to Supporting Our Honorable U.S. Military Members and Texas Military Heroes." Rolando Garcia, SD 15, moved with a second to amend the final Resolved clause to add "or tolerate" after "espouse." Mr. Garcia then moved a secondary amendment to insert "such as employing, appointing to boards, empowering, or furthering the influence of such individuals in Republican politics" after "or tolerate." Steve Evans, SD 28, rose to point of order that the secondary amendment was not germane to the primary amendment, and the Chairman ruled that the point of order was well taken. The amendment failed.

Jim Pikel, SD 8, moved with a second to strike the entirety of the final *Resolved* clause. Ken Moore, SD 11, with a second moved the previous question on all pending questions, and the motion passed. Rolando Garcia, SD 15, requested a roll call vote on the amendment. Fernando Treviño, Jr., SD 14, rose to a point of order based on the required threshold for a roll call vote in Article V, Section 5, of the SREC Bylaws, and the Chairman ruled that the point of order was well taken. The amendment passed by electronic roll call vote of 32 Yes, 29 No, 2 Abstain. The resolution, as amended, passed by electronic roll call vote of 63 Yes, 0 No.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Bowen moved the adoption of ten primary ballot propositions in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 172.087.

Leslie Thomas, SD 22, moved with a second that the question be divided by proposition. The motion failed.

Steve Evans, SD 28, moved with a second to strike the entirety of the following proposition:

*The Texas Legislature should require the use of E-Verify by all employers in Texas to protect jobs for legal workers by preventing the hiring of illegal aliens.*

The motion failed.

Jeneria Lewis, SD 27, moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*Texas should eliminate all property taxes, using every means available to the Legislature, with exception to an income tax, and without increasing Texans' overall tax burden.*

With a second, Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved a secondary amendment to strike words such that the proposition would read as follows:

*Texas should eliminate all property taxes without increasing Texans' overall tax burden.*

The secondary amendment passed. Scott Bowen, SD 6, with a second moved the previous question on the amendment, and the motion passed. The amendment, as amended, passed.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, moved with a second to strike "necessary" from the following proposition:

*Texas should create a Border Protection Unit and deploy additional necessary state law enforcement and military forces to seal the border, to use physical force to prevent illegal entry and trafficking, and to deport illegal aliens to Mexico or to their nations of origin.*

The amendment passed.

Chris Byrd, SD 25, moved with a second to strike "Texas" and insert "The Texas Constitution should be amended to" in the following proposition:

*Texas should restore authority to the Texas Attorney General to prosecute election crimes.*

The amendment passed.

Dr. Milinda Morris, SD 13, moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*The Texas Constitution should be amended to require that the office of the Secretary of State be an elected position.*

The amendment failed.

Karen Marshall, SD 26, moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, and the funding should follow the student.*

Scott Bowen, SD 6, with a second moved the previous question on the amendment, and the motion passed. The amendment passed.

Vice Chairman Dr. Dana Myers moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*The Texas Constitution should be amended to require proof of citizenship before any individual can be registered to vote.*

The amendment passed.

Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, with a second moved the previous question on the adoption of the primary ballot propositions. The motion failed.

Rachel Horton, SD 30, moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*The State of Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation.*

With a second, Britton Brooks, SD 30, moved a secondary amendment to insert words such that the proposition would read as follows:

*Do you believe that the State of Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation?*

The secondary amendment passed. The amendment, as amended, failed.

Daniel L. Rogers, SD 31, moved with a second to amend the report to include the following proposition:

*The Constitution should be amended to define a ballot as a hand-marked, self-authenticated, tangible document that can be verified.*



The amendment failed.

Scott Bowen, SD 6, with a second moved the previous question on the adoption of the primary ballot propositions, and the motion passed.

The adoption of thirteen primary ballot propositions in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 172.087 passed by electronic roll call vote of 57 Yes, 3 No, 2 Abstain.

With a second, Steve Evans, SD 28, moved the following:

*Under the direction of the State Chair, a review team including, but not limited to Secretary Vergel Cruz, Executive Director Jennifer Hall, and Resolutions Committee Chair Scott Bowen shall be authorized to make any non-substantive grammatical and spelling corrections to the ballot propositions prior to forwarding to the Secretary of State.*

The motion passed.

The SREC continued with reports from standing committees.

Steve Evans, SD 28, gave the report of the Rules Committee. By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved that Article III, of the SREC Bylaws be amended to include a new Section 3 and to renumber the subsequent sections in the same rule. The new section would read as follows:

***Section 3. Disclosure.***

*In accordance with RPT Rule No. 42, all members shall disclose to the SREC whether or not they receive compensation from any elected official, registered lobbyist, or political action committee, using a form created by and filed with the Secretary.*

The motion passed by electronic roll call vote of 53 Yes, 4 No, 2 Abstain.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved to approve the disclosure form in accordance with the SREC Bylaws and proposed by the Secretary. The motion passed.

By direction of the Committee, Mr. Evans moved to amend the Standing Rules to create a new Standing Rule VI as follows:

***VI. SREC Bylaws – Article III Disclosure***

*The Secretary will publish the disclosures to the SREC and will maintain those records.*

The motion passed.

David Wylie, SD 12, gave the report of the Legislative Priorities Committee. Andy Eller, SD 24, gave the report of the Election Integrity Committee.

The SREC proceeded to hear reports from special committees. Maggie Whitt, SD 8, 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 Third and Fourth Quarter meetings of 2023:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Office Sought</u>	<u>County/Counties</u>	<u>Date Endorsed</u>
Mary Nan Huffman	Houston City Council	Harris	September 29
Meg Seff	Houston ISD	Harris	September 29
Terrance Gilmore	Princeton City Council	Collin	October 22
Ryan Gerfers	Princeton City Council	Collin	October 22
Steven Deffibaugh	Princeton City Council	Collin	October 22
Ben Long	Princeton City Council	Collin	October 22
Carolyn David-Graves	Princeton City Council	Collin	October 22
Cyndi Darland	Princeton ISD	Collin	October 22

Gaylyn DeVine, SD 11, gave the report of the Convention Planning Committee.

Bill Fairbrother, SD 5, moved with a second that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed, and the Fourth Quarter 2023 SREC Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Vergel B. Cruz, Secretary