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ARTICLE I
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Texas Democratic Party hereby adopts the following Statement of Principles as the foundation for Party activities at all levels:

A. Beliefs

We believe that the Democratic Party, with its great diversity, its flexibility of organization, its historic adaptability to fruitful change, and its instinctive responsiveness to human needs and aspirations, can provide the leadership required in these challenging times. We further believe:

1. That we must join together with a renewed faith in our country, in our state, and in our Party to provide our people with responsive, responsible government;

2. That government functions best when it is closest to the people;

3. That our government is and should be of laws and not of favoritism or of arbitrary caprice, and therefore we condemn any resolution of conflicts, save through legal processes;

4. That the Texas Democratic Party stands for law and order, for total and unceasing war against crime, for strengthening law enforcement agencies, and for justice under law;

5. That all citizens, no matter what their religion or race or how humble or exalted their origin or station, have the duty to participate fully at every level of government and are entitled to an equal voice and to equal treatment at its hands;

6. That all Democrats are bound to defend, to protect, and to honor our nation, our state, and our Party, and that when they are right, it is our privilege to sustain them, but when they err, it is our duty to correct them; and

7. That, as Democrats, we are proud and upright citizens of the United States, that we are determined not only to serve our country, but also to stand shoulder to shoulder with citizens of other states in providing meaningful, responsible, and constructive leadership for our great nation.

B. Declarations

To achieve these principles, we hereby make these declarations and adopt the following Rules to govern Party activities at all levels:

1. No test of membership in, nor oaths of loyalty to, the Texas Democratic Party shall be required or used if it has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability. Further, discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability in the conduct of the Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.

2. The Democratic Party at all levels shall support the broadest possible voter registration and participation without discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability.

3. It shall be the duty of the State Chair and Party Officers at all levels to take affirmative steps to encourage young people, women and minorities to seek selection as Delegates to Party Conventions and as members of Party Committees so that they shall be represented in reasonable relationship to their presence in the state.

4. Every person who accepts a Party office at any level (including the position of Convention Delegate and Alternate) must agree to support all of the Party’s nominees or shall be removed.

5. Public meetings at all levels of the Texas Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Party, regardless of race, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, philosophical persuasion or disability.

6. The time and place of all meetings of the Texas Democratic Party at all levels shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

7. The Texas Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications and procedures for selecting Democratic Party Officers and Representatives at all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done timely and in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party and all prospective candidates or applicants will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at each level of the Democratic Party organization and to compete for any elected or appointed position.

ARTICLE II
NAME, MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

A. Name

The name of this Party shall be the “Texas Democratic Party” or simply the “Democratic Party” or just the “Party.”

B. Membership

1. Any qualified Texas voter 18 years of age or older who supports the foregoing “Statement of Principles” of the Democratic Party may participate fully in any Party meetings and may be elected to any Party Office, except where specifically prohibited by law or by Party Rules.

2. Any other persons who support the foregoing “Statement of Principles” of the Democratic Party are encouraged to participate in Party activities but may not vote.

C. Party Officers

1. All Party Officers shall be residents of the precinct, district or any other political subdivision which they represent, and moving residence outside the precinct, district or other political subdivision shall constitute an automatic vacancy.

2. The Party Officers covered by this provision include precinct chair, county chair, SDEC representative, State Chair, convention delegates and alternates, and any other officer elected by a Party committee or convention.

3. Acceptance by any person of a Party Office and participation in that capacity constitutes an agreement to the provi-
sion in the Statement of Principles that “every person who accepts a Party Office at any level (including the positions of Convention Delegate and Alternate) must agree to support all of the Party’s nominees or shall be subject to removal.”

ARTICLE III
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

It is a basic and fundamental precept of the Texas Democratic Party that always, and at all levels, there shall be no secret ballots, there shall be no fees charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open.

A. Duties of Executive Committees

1. The State Democratic Executive Committee (the “SDEC”) shall carry on the activities of the Party between State Conventions in compliance with the law and with the directives of the Convention.

2. Other executive committees acting at the County level, the District level or any other level shall discharge their duties in compliance with the law and with the Party Rules.

B. General Rules

1. At all times and at all levels of the Democratic Party, no secret ballots shall be used, no fees shall be charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open.

2. Committee meetings shall be held as required by law or by these Rules and called by the Committee Chair or by a petition in writing signed by at least 51% of the Committee membership.

3. At all Party Committee meetings other than Conventions, County Executive Committees and Convention Caucuses, 40% of the Committee membership shall constitute a quorum. If the meeting is to fill a vacancy in the office of precinct chair, the quorum shall be 25% of the committee membership. A majority participation of the Committee membership shall be required for a quorum to fill a vacancy in the office of county chair, as specified in State law.

4. Unless otherwise required by statute or by these Rules, the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority governing all Party Committee meetings and procedures.

5. The method of voting at all Party Committee meetings may be by voice vote, by (standing) division of the house, by signed written ballot, or by roll call vote. The method used shall be left to the discretion of the Chair, except that on request of any member (who need not be recognized by the Chair to voice such request), a standing division must be held, and the request of 10% of the members present shall require a roll call vote.

6. Minutes of each meeting shall be furnished to each Committee member at or prior to the next Committee meeting.

7. Proxy voting shall be permitted at SDEC meetings provided, however, no person may hold or vote more than one proxy. Proxy holders for senatorial district representatives on the SDEC must reside in the same district as the member assigning the proxy. Proxy holders for representatives of organizations must be members of the organization. No proxy voting shall be permitted at meetings of any County, District or Precinct Committee (Allowed by Texas Election Code §171.026).

8. No action of a subcommittee or any standing committee shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the Committee as a whole, and any actions by subcommittees shall be subject to review and revision by the superior authority of the full Committee at its subsequent meetings.

9. Upon the vote of 20% of the members of any Party Committee, a minority report can be prepared and presented. A minority report may be submitted for consideration either by way of amendment or as a substitute for a majority report.

10. All Party Executive Committees and Sub-committees are permitted to conduct non-public sessions to consider financial, legal or strategic matters or to review information proprietary to other groups or individuals. However, no votes or formal action may be taken except in public meetings.

C. Election Matters

1. Certification of Candidates. The SDEC shall certify the name of each candidate to appear on the primary ballot or delegate such certification to the State Chair. At the close of the filing period for candidates to be on the primary ballot, the State Chair shall certify to each County the listing on the Secretary of State website of the name of each candidate certified to appear on the primary ballot in that county. (Required in Texas Election Code §172.028)

2. Referendum Issues.

a. Qualified voters may by petition require a referendum issue to be placed on the primary election ballot. Such petitions must be filed with the State Chair during the same filing period applicable to candidates for federal, state, and county office. In addition to the requirements mandated by state law (Required by Texas Election Code §172.088), all petitions must contain the following wording and information:

An oath or affiliation to the Party as part of the petition statement to read as follows:

“If I sign this petition, I hereby affiliate myself with the Texas Democratic Party, and I swear or affirm that during [insert election year] I will support the nominees of the Democratic Party and that I will not vote in a primary election or participate in a convention of another political party during [insert election year].

I further acknowledge that the purpose of this petition is to require the Texas Democratic Party to place the proposal described below on the ballot for the [election date] Democratic Primary Election.”

[signatures]

“Sworn to (or affirmed) and signed before me the undersigned authority on this the _____ day of

[signature]

Signature of person administering oath

Printed name of person administering oath

Address of person administering oath

Telephone # of person administering oath

Title of office and county of residence of person administering oath.”
b. The person administering the oath may be either: a judge, clerk or commissioner of any court of record; a notary public; a justice of the peace; the Secretary of State of Texas; any member of the SDEC; any member of the County Executive Committee for the county in which the person signing the petition resides; or a person expressly authorized in writing to administer the oath by the State Chair or a County Chair for the county in which the person signing the petition resides. The State Chair and any such County Chair shall keep as a permanent part of party records a true copy of any such authorization. Each person administering the oath must sign in the place shown, and print his or her name, address, office and county of residence.

c. The form of the petition, including a description of the proposal that is to be submitted, the spacing and type-size and instructions to comply with this Rule must be approved by the State Chair. The oath of the petition signer and the description of the proposal shall be in bold type.

d. The State Chair is hereby delegated all other authority necessary to effectuate this Rule.

e. The SDEC shall prescribe the wording of the proposition submitting a proposal. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.088(g)).

f. The petition shall be in both English and Spanish.

D. State Democratic Executive Committee

1. Officers.

a. Election. The State Convention in gubernatorial years shall elect a State Chair. The Convention also shall elect a First Vice Chair of the opposite sex from the State Chair, a Vice Chair for Finance, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These shall be the officers of the SDEC, and they shall be elected for a four-year term at the state convention held in gubernatorial election years or until their successors are elected. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.002(c))

(1) In order to be qualified for any Texas Democratic Party office enumerated in Article III, D.1 (a) a candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy for the specific office no later than 62 days prior to the Call to Order of that year’s Texas Democratic Convention.

(2) The filing must be physically received in the Texas Democratic Party office no later than 6 PM on the 62nd day. Should the 62nd day fall on a weekend or holiday the filing period shall be extended to 6 PM on the next regular business day.

(3) There shall be no filing fee or petitions associated with a Declaration of Candidacy for any office subject to this section.

(4) Should there be only one candidate appropriately filed for any office subject to this section and that candidate withdraws, becomes incapacitated or is disqualified prior to the State Convention the declaration period shall be reopened for 30 days, from the date of official notice of the change in status or through the State Convention whichever comes first.

b. Voting. On statutory matters, only the State Chair and First Vice Chair may vote; otherwise, on all other matters all officers may vote.

c. State Chair. The State Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SDEC, shall have all of the authority and duties implied by such title and expressed or implied by these Rules, and shall have the authority to establish and to appoint committees with the advice and consent of the SDEC and deal with the affairs of the Party.

d. First Vice Chair. The First Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair and shall have the duties and authority implied by such title or assigned by the Chair or by the SDEC. The First Vice Chair shall preside over meetings of the SDEC in the absence of the State Chair and shall fill any ex-officio position created for Party Vice Chairs, including membership on the National Committee.

e. Vice Chair for Finance. The Vice Chair for Finance shall have responsibilities for fundraising under the direction of the State Chair and shall have other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Chair or by the SDEC.

f. Secretary. The Secretary shall have the duties and authority implied by such title.

g. Treasurer. The Treasurer’s duties shall be to present a financial report at each SDEC meeting and to perform duties assigned by the State Chair. The disbursement of funds shall be the responsibility of the State Chair or of the Chair’s designee(s), provided that the designee(s) be approved by the SDEC.

h. Standing SDEC Committee Membership. Members of standing SDEC committees will be appointed by the State Chair with the advice and consent of the SDEC. The State Chair will appoint one chair and one vice co-chair who will be gender balanced, and the members of each of the committees will elect a second vice co-chair.

i. Operating Budget. The State Chair shall submit an annual operating budget to the SDEC Finance Committee for approval by the full SDEC at the first SDEC meeting following January 1st of each year. In no event shall any TDP staff or officer, other than the State Chair, incur any debt on behalf of the Texas Democratic Party not authorized by the operating budget. In addition, any expenditure, proposal, or project which would exceed a line item authorized by the operating budget. In addition, any expenditure, proposal, project or which would exceed a line item in the submitted annual operating budget by $10,000, including but not limited to additional staff or pay raises, requires a majority vote of the State Chair, First Vice Chair, Vice Chair for Finance, Secretary, Treasurer, SDEC Finance Committee Chair, and SDEC Finance Committee Co-Chair before the funds may be expended or the obligation incurred.

j. Audit. The State Chair shall cause an audit of the financial records of the SDEC to be made by a certified public accountant at least once each calendar year. A copy of the report of such audit shall be furnished to each member and officer of the SDEC.

k. Officer Vacancies. When a vacancy occurs in any of these offices between State Conventions, a majority of the members of the SDEC shall elect a successor, who need not be a current member of the SDEC. Members shall receive written notice issued by the State Chair, or if that office be vacant, by the First Vice Chair, at
least two weeks prior to the meeting at which an election will be held. Any member of the SDEC may nominate a candidate for the vacant office. When an interim vacancy in the office of the State Chair is filled by the SDEC, the term of office for the interim Chair shall be for the duration of the unexpired term.

2. SDEC Members.

a. Membership. The SDEC shall be composed of two members elected from every senatorial district and the following additional members:

- two from the Texas Democratic County Chairs Association,
- two from the Texas Young Democrats,
- one from the Senatorial Democratic Caucus (non-voting),
- one from the House Democratic Caucus (non-voting),
- two from the Texas Democratic Women,
- two from the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats,
- two from the Hispanic Caucus,
- two from the Non-Urban/Agriculture Caucus,
- two from the Stonewall Democrats,
- two from the Texas Environmental Democrats,
- two from the Democrats with Disabilities,
- two from the Asian American Democrats of Texas, and
- two from the Texas Veterans Organization.

b. Election from Senatorial Districts. The two members from every senatorial district shall be elected by the State Convention held in even-numbered years. One man and one woman from each senatorial district shall be recommended by the Delegates from the counties composing the respective senatorial districts. Each county shall vote its full Convention strength divided proportionately among its Delegates present. In a multi-county senatorial district, the Delegates should strive to provide geographical representation by recommending their committeeman and committeewoman to be from different counties; this is not a mandate.

c. Organization Representatives. The chair or president and the next highest ranking officer of the opposite gender of the organizations (excepting Texas Democratic Women) providing additional members on the SDEC shall serve as the representative members of the SDEC; provided that, for the Hispanic Caucus, the representative members shall be two representatives elected at the State Convention. In the event that any such person already is a member of the SDEC, the next highest ranking officer of the same sex shall be the additional member. They shall participate in the proceedings of the SDEC insofar as the Texas Election Code will permit.

d. Caucus Representatives. The members representing the Senatorial Democratic Caucus and the House Democratic Caucus shall be non-voting, ex-officio members selected by their respective caucuses.

e. Terms. SDEC members shall serve until their successors take office, which shall be on adjournment of the State Convention at which the new members are elected.

f. SDEC Vacancies. When a vacancy occurs on the SDEC, the vacancy shall be filled by the majority vote of the members of the SDEC. The new member shall be an eligible person of the same sex and from the same senatorial district as the vacating member. The Senatorial District Committee of the affected district shall meet to nominate a person for such position. The State Chair shall mail written notice of the meeting to consider such nomination to the members of the Senatorial District Committee and, if known, the Chair of the affected district’s Senatorial District Caucus at the last State Convention, at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The Committee shall report its nominee to the SDEC. A vacancy shall be filled no later than the next meeting of the SDEC following written notice of the vacancy by at least five weeks.

g. Meetings. Two statutory meetings of the SDEC shall be held in even-numbered years: on the second Wednesday after the general election primary day and not later than the second Saturday after the runoff primary election day. (Required by Texas Election Code § 172.120)

h. Caucus/Organization Representative Vacancy. When a Caucus/Organization Representative vacancy occurs, then:

1) If representing an organization, the organization can name a replacement with the same gender of the person removed subject to ratification by the SDEC; or

2) If representing a caucus that only meets at State Convention, that seat will remain vacant until the next scheduled convention, at which time the caucus shall elect its representatives.

3. Removal.

a. In addition to the procedures under Article III.H., any State Party Officer, including a member of the SDEC, may be removed for good cause by a two-thirds vote of the SDEC membership. All members must receive written notice from the State Chair at least 30 days before any meeting at which a removal will be considered. Balloting may not be done by mail.

b. For removal of an SDEC member, one-third of the members of the SDEC or one-third of either the Senatorial District Committee or the Delegates to the State Convention from the Senatorial District at which the member was last elected must petition for removal of the SDEC member before proceedings shall be brought before the SDEC.

c. A member of the SDEC who misses two SDEC meetings, without sending a proxy, shall be removed and a vacancy shall occur.

d. For removal of other State Party Officers, either one-third of the members of the SDEC or one-third of either the County Chairs, or one-third of the Delegates to the State Convention at which the Officer was last elected must petition for the removal of the State Party Officer before removal proceedings shall be brought before the SDEC.

e. In the event that the State Chair is subject to petition for removal under this section, then the First Vice Chair shall give notice of said petition to the SDEC and give proper notice by mail of said meeting.
4. **Advisory Committee.** The Texas Democratic Party Advisory Committee is created to provide an issues forum and an advisory group to the SDEC.

   a. It shall consist of the following:
      
      (1) the elected officers of the SDEC;
      
      (2) a Co-Chair to preside over this Committee with the State Chair. The Co-Chair shall be nominated by the State Chair and shall be approved by a majority vote of the SDEC;
      
      (3) the participating groups, loyal to the principles of the Democratic Party and approved by the SDEC, shall be statewide caucuses and organizations of the Texas Democratic Party or the State Convention. Each participating group will elect two delegates and two alternates, balanced by gender where appropriate, at the State Convention.

   b. The Advisory Committee will meet twice a year at the call of the State Chair and the Co-Chair or a majority of the committee members.

   c. The SDEC shall govern any fundraising activities and expenditures. Contributions and disbursements shall be made through the Texas Democratic Party for proper accounting and reporting under Party Rules and related state and federal laws.

   d. The SDEC, as necessary, may provide additional rules and guidelines. The Rules of the Texas Democratic Party shall apply to the Advisory Committee. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

   e. All members shall serve terms of two years commencing after each State Convention.

**E. County Executive Committee**

1. **Members.**

   a. Each county shall have a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and of one Precinct Chair from each election precinct in the county. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.022)

   b. These members shall be elected by majority vote in the Party Primary Election held in even-numbered years. The County Chair shall be elected by the qualified voters of the county, and the Precinct Chairs by the qualified voters of their respective precincts.

   c. The term of office for members of the County Executive Committee shall begin on the twentieth day following the Runoff Primary and shall continue for two years or until their successors are elected and certified. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.022(c))

   d. Acting Precinct Chair Appointment Upon Failure of the Elected Chair to Perform Duties.

      (1) If an incumbent Precinct Chair has failed to perform his or her duties for an extended period of time or missed three consecutive county executive committee meetings, the County Chair may appoint an Acting Precinct Chair. The County Chair may determine if such lack of performance of the incumbent Precinct Chair’s duties or the incumbent Precinct Chair’s three consecutive absences rise to a level to give written notice to the incumbent Precinct Chair to start the process of appointing an Acting Precinct Chair.

      (2) The incumbent Precinct Chair must be given written notice by registered mail that an Acting Precinct Chair will assume the duties of the Precinct Chair for the remainder of the Precinct Chair’s term. The written notice must include the specific performance of duty for an extended period of time that the incumbent Precinct Chair is alleged to have neglected or failed to perform or the specific three consecutive county executive committee meetings the incumbent Precinct Chair has missed. The notice must include an outline of how the County Chair came to his or her determination that it warranted an Acting Precinct Chair’s appointment and that if an Acting Precinct Chair were to be appointed the incumbent Precinct Chair would still maintain his or her statutory responsibilities. The written notice must specifically include the mailing address where a response to the written notice may be made. The written notice must also specifically note that the incumbent Precinct Chair has ten business days to respond and that the incumbent Precinct Chair may at any time notify the County Chair that the incumbent Precinct Chair will resume performing any of the duties of the Precinct Chair. The written notice must include a copy of the Party Rule’s Article III, Section E (1)(d). A defect in the written notice would invalidate the process and require the County Chair to reissue correct written notice and restart the ten business days response time in order to cure such defects.

      (3) If the incumbent Precinct Chair does not respond in writing within ten business days of the written notice, the Acting Precinct Chair may be appointed by the County Chair and shall assume the non-statutory responsibilities of the incumbent Precinct Chair, including participation in executive committee meetings and votes. These duties, however, shall not include participating in any votes or actions required by state statute. A County Chair can only appoint an Acting Precinct Chair if the incumbent Precinct Chair does not respond to the written notice within ten business days. An Acting Precinct Chair must meet all the qualifications by statute of a Precinct Chair.

      (4) If the incumbent Precinct Chair notifies the County Chair within ten business days of the written notice, then the County Chair cannot appoint an Acting Precinct Chair and the incumbent Precinct Chair still retains all duties and responsibilities of a precinct chair. Any written response, short of the incumbent Precinct Chair’s resignation would be a sufficient response to the written notice.

2. **Officers.**

   a. The County Executive Committee may elect or appoint a Secretary, who need not be a member of the Committee. The Secretary legally is authorized to receive applications for a place on the Primary ballot, and an application received by the Secretary shall be filed officially.

   b. The term of office of the Secretary, if one is elected or appointed, shall run concurrently with the term of office of the County Executive Committee.
c. The combined amount of any compensation paid from the Primary fund to the Secretary and the Chair for their services shall in no case exceed the lesser of $8,000.00 or 5% of the amount actually spent for necessary expenses in holding the Primary Election for that year, exclusive of the compensation paid to the Chair and Secretary. (Required by Texas Election Code §173.004)

d. The County Executive Committee may, by majority vote, adopt continuing rules for the conduct of its business, so long as they are not prohibited by law or are not inconsistent with these Party Rules. Such rules shall be filed with the State Chair.

3. Qualifications. Democrats 18 years of age or older are eligible for the offices of Precinct Chair or County Chair, provided they meet the following criteria:

a. They are qualified voters (Required by Texas Election Code §161.005(a)(1)) and voted in the most recent Democratic Primary, not including runoffs, or signed an oath of affiliation:

Oath of Affiliation:

“I swear that I have not voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of another party during this voting year. I hereby affiliate myself with the ________ Party.”; and

b. They are not candidates for, nor holders of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government (Required by Texas Election Code §161.005(a)(2)); and

c. They are residents of the precinct or county from which they seek election (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023(a) and §161.005(a)(1)).

4. Election Procedure.

a. A qualified Party member may become a candidate for County or Precinct Chair by filing a written application in the county using a form which shall be provided by the County Chair upon request.

b. In addition, qualified Party members filing for the office of County Chair in a county with a population of 1 million or more shall include a petition containing the signatures of 10 percent of the current, incumbent Precinct Chairs serving on the County Executive Committee in the county using a form which shall be provided by the State Party. The petition shall contain the candidate’s sworn oath that the signatures thereon are valid and that each was signed in the presence of the candidate or candidate’s representative. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021(f)).

c. The application, and petition, if applicable, shall be signed and duly acknowledged by the candidate and then filed with the County Chair or with the Secretary of the County Executive Committee if there is one. (Required by Texas Election Code §§171.022(a) (2), 172.021 and 172.023). A copy of the petition (if applicable) also shall be filed with the State Chair.

d. The application shall state the candidate’s occupation, county of residence, post office address, date of birth, and the office sought. The petition (if applicable) shall include the Precinct Chair’s signature, name, post office address and precinct number. A Precinct Chair may not sign the petition of more than one candidate for the same office in the same election. (Required by Texas Election Code 141.066) By signing the petition, the Precinct Chair is supporting the County Chair candidate’s appearance on the primary ballot, not the actual candidate.

e. Applications, and petitions, if applicable, shall be filed no later than 6 p.m. on the deadline for candidate filing for the Primary Election. This deadline shall be extended until the next working day if it falls on a weekend or a holiday.

f. An application mailed but not received by this deadline shall not be accepted. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021(c) and 172.023)

g. No later than the day before the filing deadline, the County Chair shall post on the county or state party’s Internet website, a notice of the address at which the County Chair or the Secretary will be available to receive applications on the last day of the filing period. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.022)

h. Write-in votes for Precinct and County Chair are permitted by law in the First Primary election, whether or not there are other candidates for these offices on the ballot. Only those votes cast for a County Chair or Precinct Chair candidate who has filed an application for write-in candidacy may be counted. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.0231). Write-in votes, however, are not allowed in the Second or “Runoff” Primary election. (Required by Texas Election Code §172.112)

i. No later than 20 days after the local canvass, the County Chair shall post on the Texas Secretary of State website, the name, address, and precinct number of each Precinct and County Chair elected. (Texas Election Code §172.118)

5. Vacancies.

a. When a vacancy occurs in the office of County Chair, the outgoing County Chair or the Secretary of the County Executive Committee may call a meeting to fill the vacancy at any time after it occurs. Upon the written request of any Committee member, however, the Secretary shall call one for a date not more than 20 days after receiving the request, giving each member notice of the time, place, and purpose. Should a Committee Secretary fail to act after being requested in writing to do so, the State Chair shall call the meeting in like manner. The officer calling the meeting shall designate a Temporary Chair to preside until the new Permanent Chair is elected. (Texas Election Code §171.025)

b. A County Chair may appoint a person to fill a precinct vacancy at any time. A County Chair shall delete from the Secretary of State website the name of any County Executive Committee Member who resigns, dies, or vacates the position. The appointed chair shall assume the position upon appointment. The County Executive Committee shall confirm those appointed at the next business meeting of the committee. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be ratified by majority vote of the County Executive Committee at a meeting at which a 25% of the membership shall constitute a quorum; or the Executive Committee, when a business quorum is present may call for a vote by mail, listing the precinct chairs to be appointed on a published ballot sent to all
of its membership, to be signed and returned by a stated deadline (in keeping with the requirement that the Texas Democratic Party does not permit secret ballots) and provided that the vote will not be valid unless 25% of the membership have returned their signed ballots. The results of the votes shall be published within 7 days after the stated deadline. (Optional by Texas Election Code §171.024) If there is an additional candidate at the time of a ratification vote, then the County Executive Committee shall default to conducting a precinct chair election per its rules, and not conduct a ratification vote of the County Chair’s appointment. Notice of the replacement chair’s name and address shall be promptly posted on the Secretary of State website.

c. When the precinct boundaries are changed between primary elections and only one Precinct Chair resides within the new precinct, that Chair shall continue the term of office. If more than one Chair or if none resides within the new precinct, however, the office automatically shall become vacant and shall be filled as provided herein. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023)

d. Changes in precinct boundaries made by the Commissioners Court shall not become effective to alter membership of the County Executive Committee until February 1 after the changes are ordered. (Required by Texas Election Code §171.023)

6. Duties and Responsibilities.

a. Statutory duties of the County Executive Committee include collecting filing fees (Required by Texas Election Code §172.021 and §172.022); appointing watchers (Required by Texas Election Code §33.03); determining the order of names on the ballot (Required by Texas Election Code §172.082 and §172.084); canvassing primary results (Required by Texas Election Code §172.116); and setting and publicizing times and places for Precinct and County and Senatorial District and State Conventions (Required by Election Code §174.022 and §174.063). Additional required responsibilities are outlined in the Texas Election Code in Chapters 171, 172, 173, and 174 as well as Sections 31.032, 32.006, 32.034, 32.093, 32.111, 34.007, 42.009, 43.003, 51.002, 51.003, 51.035, 52.002, 123.001, 123.033, 124.065, 125.031, 143.033, and 145.036.

b. In addition to its statutory duties, the County Executive Committee shall have primary responsibility for planning and for coordinating the General Election campaigns of the Democratic Party’s nominees within the county. In the case of nominees running for office in districts which include areas outside of the county, the County Executive Committee shall work with the Senatorial District Committee (as described in Article III.F. below). This responsibility shall include raising funds for conducting local campaigns, supporting the statewide effort for the entire ticket, producing materials and coordinating local services for all Democratic campaigns.

c. The County Executive Committee may establish such committees as it deems appropriate to carry out its non-statutory duties and may elect or appoint committee members who are not members of the County Executive Committee. Unless the County Executive Committee’s continuing rules provide for such committees to elect their own Chair, the Chair of such committees may be elected or appointed by the County Executive Committee. The term of office of the Chair of such committees shall run concurrently with the term of office of the County Executive Committee.

7. Meetings.

a. Three statutory meetings of the County Executive Committee shall be held: in December of odd-numbered years, on or before the second Friday after the First Primary, and on or before the second Friday after the Runoff Primary.

b. Precinct Chairs shall be notified by written or electronic mail notice at least five days in advance of all meetings, excluding emergency situations.

8. Expenditure of Funds. Expenditure of funds by the County Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified by law, shall require the approval of at least 51% of its members present.

9. County Executive Committee Quorum. Non-Statutory Business – At County Executive Committee (CEC) meetings, the quorum for conducting non-statutory business shall consist of not less than 25% of the membership, excluding vacancies.

10. Meeting of the County Executive Committee. The County Executive Committee (CEC) shall meet at least quarterly throughout the two year term between elections. Statutory meetings called for by the Texas Election Code may be counted toward the quarterly meeting requirement of the CEC. The County Executive Committee (CEC) meetings shall not be scheduled during the week of the biennial state convention and county/Senatorial district convention, except to a) fill a ballot vacancy, b) endorse a candidate in a special election or c) if the nature of the business is such that it cannot wait until the adjournment of that convention. If a county chair fails to issue a written call for a County Executive Committee meeting within six months of the previous County Executive Committee meeting, 25% of the members of the CEC may call a CEC meeting by written demand. Notice of such meeting, including an agenda of the business to be considered, shall be mailed or sent by electronic mail to all members of the county executive committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting and shall state the time, date and place and the names of the persons issuing the call. The County Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the County Chair. If the County Chair is not present, then the Secretary or any qualified Democrat may conduct the meeting.

F. District Executive Committee

1. Members. Each senatorial district shall have a Senatorial District Executive Committee, sometimes referred to as the “District Committee,” to be formed as follows:

a. In a senatorial district composed of only a part of one county, the Precinct Chairs within the district shall constitute the District Committee. No later than the statutory meeting of the County Executive Committee in January, such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their numbers to serve as Chair of their District Committee. (Texas Election Code §171.053)

b. For a senatorial district composed entirely of one whole county, the County Executive Committee shall consti-
tute the District Committee, and the County Chair shall be the District Chair. (Texas Election Code § 171.052)

c. For a senatorial district made up of more than one county or parts of more than one county, the District Committee’s membership shall include the County Chair of each county wholly contained within that district and one District Committee member elected from among their number by each group of Precinct Chairs within a portion of a county included in such senatorial district. The District Committee thus formed shall elect its own Chair. The District Committee member so elected by the group (or committee) of Precinct Chairs (from only part of a county included in such a multi-county district) shall be and act also as Chair of such group or committee of Precinct Chairs. (Required by Texas Election Code § 171.054)

2. Officers.
   a. A District Committee may elect officers in order to accomplish its business. Any Democrat qualified to hold Party office may hold any District Committee office other than that of Chair. Chairs must be either a Precinct or County Chair.
   b. Within 3 days after the meeting of each County Executive Committee at which District Committee members are elected, each County Chair shall forward to the State Chair the names and addresses of the District Committee members and of the District Chair selected at the meeting. (Required by Texas Election Code § 171.053(a) and § 171.054(b))

3. Duties. District Committees shall have those responsibilities assigned by Texas statutes, such as filling certain vacancies in nominations for District officials. (Required by Texas Election Code, Chapter 145.) They also shall be responsible for any duties in connection with Party activities which may be assigned by the SDEC. They may and should, on their own initiative, undertake such efforts on behalf of the Party and its candidates which are appropriate on the district level.

4. Other “District Committees.” Certain statutory provisions occasionally may require specific action by a “District Committee,” other than those based on state senatorial districts. The membership of such District Committees shall be determined by the same general rules applying to the formation of Senatorial District Committees, except that the geographical boundaries used shall be those pertaining to the relevant district.

5. Meetings. When a District Committee composed of more than one county or of parts of more than one county must meet and organize before it has a permanent District Chair as provided in these Rules, the State Chair shall designate one member of the District Committee to serve as Temporary Chair to call the meeting to order and to preserve until the Committee elects its own Chair. The permanent District Chair so elected shall serve for the remainder of the term of office and shall call any subsequent meetings held during that time. (Required by Texas Election Code § 171.054(1)(e))

G. Precinct Executive Committee For the Purpose of Filling a Commissioner or Justice or Constable Precinct Candidate Vacancy

At a meeting called by the County Chair to fill a Commissioner Precinct or Justice Precinct vacancy, the Precinct Chairs in each Commissioner precinct and each Justice precinct shall select one of their number to serve as Chair of a Precinct Executive Committee for each respective Commissioner precinct and Justice precinct. The Precinct Chairs of the election precincts within the Commissioner precinct or Justice precinct shall constitute the Precinct Executive Committee. However, if any such precinct contains fewer than three county election precincts, the County Executive Committee shall be the Precinct Executive Committee and the County Chair shall serve as Chair of the Committee. (Required by Texas Election Code §§ 171.071, 171.072, and 171.073)

H. Removal From Office For Endorsing Opposing Party or Candidate

1. A Party Officer shall be removed from office if during the current term of office such officer publicly supports or endorses an opposing party or nominee of an opposing party, a person seeking the nomination of an opposing party, or a non-Democratic candidate seeking an office in an election in which candidates may file by party affiliation and a Democrat is seeking the office in question.

2. The terms “publicly supports” and “endorses” shall include, but not be limited to, serving on a campaign committee; giving financial support, including contributing money or its equivalent such as equipment loans, services or supplies; willingly and knowingly allowing the officer’s name to be used in any kind of letter, public endorsement, news release, or advertisement; or actively soliciting votes by making a public appearance or a door-to-door solicitation of votes.

3. The following procedure shall be used for removal of a Party Officer:
   a. A complaint may be filed only by a qualified voter who must be a Democrat and who resides in the political subdivision represented by the subject officer.
   b. Complaints concerning a State Party Officer or SDEC member, a National Committee member, or a Senatorial District Chair or a County Chair shall be filed with the State Chair. Complaints concerning other Party Officers (except convention delegates) shall be filed with the County Chair.
   c. Immediately upon receiving a written complaint, together with specific evidence that a Party Officer has violated this rule, the appropriate Chair shall notify the subject Party Officer by certified mail, return receipt requested, deliver to addressee only, stating the nature of the complaint and the evidence submitted and providing a copy of these rules. The subject Party Officer shall be advised that unless he or she delivers to the appropriate Chair within ten (10) days after receiving the notice a written denial signed by the Party Officer specifically denying the claims, the appropriate Chair shall declare the office held by such Party Officer vacant.
   d. If the Party Officer fails to deliver the written response as required above, the Chair immediately shall declare the office held by such Party Officer to be vacant.
   e. If the Party Officer delivers a written denial to the appropriate Chair within the time prescribed above, the Chair within five days thereafter shall determine whether the denial fairly and specifically denies the allegations in the complaint.
   f. A Chair who determines that the denial does not fairly and specifically deny the allegation shall declare the office held by such Party Officer to be vacant, and the
Chair immediately shall mail written notice of such decision to the Party Officer and the complaining person.

4. Either party may seek review of the decision or action taken by a County Chair by filing a written request with the State Chair within 10 days after receiving notice of the County Chair’s decision. If the County Chair fails to mail a notice of the decision required above within 21 days from the date the notification of the complaint was mailed to the Party Officer, the complaining party may seek review by the State Chair by filing a written request within 10 days after the 21-day period.

5. No vacancy shall be filled during the time allowed to request review or while a review is under consideration.

6. Within 10 days after receiving a request for review, the State Chair shall determine whether the action or inaction of the County Chair shall be sustained or reversed. The only grounds for review shall be:
   
a. Whether the complaint against the Party Officer fairly and specifically states an allegation of conduct violating these Rules;
   
b. Whether the response filed by the Party Officer fairly and specifically denies the allegations in the complaint; and
   
c. Whether there are procedural deficiencies, including failure to follow the notice requirements, involving handling the complaint.

7. The State Chair immediately shall mail written notice of the decision regarding the review to the County Chair, to the Party Officer, and to the complaining person. If the State Chair’s decision declares a vacancy, the County Chair shall initiate the steps necessary to fill it.

8. If a County Chair fails to send the original notice required by section 3(c) above within three days after receiving a complaint, the complaining person may present the complaint to the State Chair, who, upon receiving the complaint, shall assume the duties of the County Chair prescribed above.

9. Any Party Officer so removed shall be ineligible to serve as a Party Officer for the remainder of that term.

I. Duties of District Committees in Special Elections

1. When for any reason a vacancy occurs in an office requiring a special election, the appropriate District Committee shall meet at the call of the State Chair for the purpose of considering the endorsement of a candidate for the open office. A District Committee may endorse a candidate in a special election, even if more than one Democrat is seeking election.

2. The District Committee shall be composed of the same members who would convene to fill a statutory ballot vacancy for the open office. The State Chair or the State Chair’s designee shall preside over the meeting, and a Secretary shall be elected by the Committee to keep and prepare minutes.

3. The Chair shall provide at least 72 hours notice of the meeting after learning a vacancy has occurred or shall occur. In no case shall a meeting be called later than 14 days after the actual occurrence of the vacancy.

4. As the first order of business, balloting for or against an endorsement shall be conducted by recorded roll call vote or signed paper ballot. If an endorsement is approved, the same procedure shall be utilized in voting on candidates for the endorsement.

5. A candidate receiving a two-thirds vote of those present shall become the endorsed Democratic Party candidate in the special election. If no candidate receives a two-thirds vote on the first ballot, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a two-thirds vote. If no candidate has received a two-thirds vote after the fifth ballot, the low vote getter will be removed from the list of eligible candidates before the sixth ballot is taken and this procedure will continue with every succeeding ballot until one candidate receives a two-thirds vote. If a tie shall occur between the bottom two vote-getters on or after the fifth ballot, there will be a coin flip with the loser being removed from the eligible list before the next ballot. In the event that five ballots between only two candidates does not result in one candidate receiving a two-thirds vote, the candidate receiving the majority vote shall be endorsed. If an unresolvable tie occurs (one lasting through five ballots) between the top two vote-getters, then the meeting shall be adjourned and there shall be no formally endorsed Democratic Party candidate. A majority of the District Committee can petition the State Chair to re-convene the Committee at any time up to ten days prior to the election.

6. The District Committee’s endorsed candidate will receive the help and support of the Democratic Party as if he or she were the Democratic nominee in the General Election. The provisions of the Party Rules allowing for removal of Party Officers for failure to support the Democratic nominee shall not apply to an officer supporting a Democrat other than the one endorsed through this process.

ARTICLE IV
PARTY CONVENTIONS

It is a basic and fundamental precept of the Texas Democratic Party that, at all times, and at all levels, there shall be no secret ballots, there shall be no fees charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open.

A. General Rules Governing Party Conventions

1. Compliance with Rules. Delegates to all Party Conventions shall be selected in accordance with state law and with these Party Rules and in compliance with the rules, regulations, and official directives of the previous National Convention and of the Democratic National Committee, as such directives pertain to the next National Convention.

2. Publicizing Meetings. The State Party, in conjunction with County Parties, shall develop a plan to publicize the County and Senatorial District Conventions prior to the Primary and on the day of the Primary Election. The notice shall be posted at the polling place on election day and include the time, place and purpose of the convention. Such notice shall also contain the URL of the State Party website for preregistering to attend the precinct convention at the county or senatorial convention.

3. Rules.
   
a. It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at the opening of each convention to explain the rules governing that convention and the ways in which convention actions will influence important Party actions and decisions at subsequent convention levels.
   
b. The current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern parliamentary procedure in all
conventions, caucuses, and convention committees, except where contrary rules or procedures are specified in these Party Rules or by state law.

c. A copy of all standing Party Rules which pertain to the conduct of the State Convention shall be printed in the official program of such Convention to be distributed to each Delegate during registration and shall be posted on the State Party website.

d. The specific time and place for each State Convention Committee to meet shall be established in advance of the Convention. This information shall be printed in the appropriate place in the official Convention program distributed to delegates prior to the opening of the Convention and shall be posted on the State Party website.

e. The State Chair, any Permanent Standing Committees, or any duly-elected Party Officer shall be empowered to charge a nominal fee, which is to be no greater than the unit cost of printing and postage, for any materials required by these Rules to be provided to interested persons on request.

f. In any precinct in which a ballot is required by law to be printed in English and any language other than English, any precinct convention in a presidential election year may be conducted in English and in each such other language. If needed, an attendee may bring attendants or interpreters (language or sign language) of their choice, and the attendants and interpreters need not comply with the requirements of Article 4, Section B4 or be a delegate or alternate to the convention.

g. In any County or Senatorial District that contains one or more precincts subject to Subsection (f), the county or Senatorial district convention may be conducted in English and each such other language required by Subsection (f). If needed, an attendee may bring attendants or interpreters (language or sign language) of their choice, and the attendants and interpreters need not comply with the requirements of Article 4, Section B4 or be a delegate or alternate to the convention.


a. Methods of Voting. The following methods of voting may be used in all conventions, caucuses, and convention committees: voice vote, (standing) division of the house, roll call vote, teller vote or signed written ballot. Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the presiding officer may determine the voting method to be used on each particular question, except that on request of any qualified participant (who need not be recognized by the chair to voice such request), a standing division vote must be held, and the request of one-fifth of the qualified participants shall require a roll call vote.

b. Secret ballots are specifically prohibited.

c. Roll Call Votes. The Rules on roll call votes shall be as follows: In a Precinct Convention, the roll shall be the list of all qualified Party members present; in a County or Senatorial District Convention, the list of all precincts within that county or senatorial district; and in the State Convention, the list of senatorial districts within the state. A motion to require a roll call vote shall take precedence over any other item of business.

d. Voting For Officers. Voting for the following Party Officers, if there be more than one nominee, shall be by roll call or by written ballot. A written ballot shall record each delegate’s name, county, Senatorial district and delegate’s choice of candidate. Each Officer shall be voted on separately and not as a slate: Permanent Chair of the State Convention, (if the State Chair is absent or declines the position), Chair of the SDEC (“State Party Chair” in these Rules), and National Committee and Committeewomen.

e. Unit Rule. The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegations shall not be permitted at any level of the convention process.

f. Proxy Voting. Proxy voting may only be used in the case of absence of all delegates from a county at a state convention. In any case, a county delegation must have held and filed minutes from their county convention to be eligible to be represented by proxy. No proxies from any county shall be recognized at any convention or caucus, so long as there is a Delegate present to cast the vote of the county. No person shall be permitted to hold or to vote a proxy for more than one county. A proxy for an absent county delegation must be filed in writing or by electronic means with the State Chair before the state convention is called to order at the meeting of the state executive committee. A proxy may also be filed with the State Chair or Delegation Chair by the last remaining delegate from a county at the State Convention before said delegate leaves the Convention. (Optional by Texas Election Code §174.096)

g. Voting Full Delegate Strength.

(1) Each multi-county Senatorial district shall vote the full Delegate strength to which it is entitled, divided proportionately among the counties in attendance according to each county’s voting strength within the district. (Optional by Texas Election Code §174.096)

(2) Each unit at each Convention shall vote the full Delegate strength to which it is entitled, divided proportionately to the vote of its Delegates in attendance. (Optional by Texas Election Code §174.068 and §174.096) The voting strength of each county in the Senatorial District or County Caucus shall be the same as the vote of that county on the floor of the Convention.

(3) For any county which has no Delegates present in person or by proxy, those votes shall be apportioned based upon the vote of the Senatorial District so that the Senatorial District can vote its full Delegate strength.

5. Media. Representatives of the news media shall have the right to attend all conventions for purposes of reporting the proceedings. (Required by Texas Election Code §174.002)

6. Minority Reports. Upon the vote of 20% of the Delegates to any convention or the members of any convention committee, a minority report shall be prepared and presented to the convention as a whole. Such minority report may be submitted to the convention for consideration either by way of amendment or as a substitute for a majority report; provided, however, that additional nominations for any Party office always may be made from the floor of the convention by any Delegate, except where Delegates or Party Officers are elected by smaller units or are subject to different requirements as provided in these Rules.
7. **Resolutions.** In order to be considered at State Convention, a written resolution must either have passed at a county or senatorial district convention or have been referred favorably to the Convention through the petition process.

8. **Rules.** In order to be considered at State Convention, a proposed rule change must either have passed at a county or senatorial district convention or have been referred favorably to the Convention through the petition process.

9. **Petition Requirements.** A petition signed by 20% of the Delegates attending any convention, other than the State Convention, shall automatically place a specified item of business on that Convention’s agenda.

10. **Presidential Preference.** In presidential years, all persons nominated for Delegate or Alternate or for any Party Committee dealing with the Delegate selection process shall make known their presidential preference or uncommitted status to the relevant assembly prior to their election.

11. **Balancing Delegations.**
   a. In selecting Delegates and Alternates at all levels, the Nominations Committee and the Convention itself shall make every effort to select persons in the district or state so that the delegation as a whole shall reasonably reflect the presidential preferences (in presidential years), include young people and people with disabilities, and reflect diversity in race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
   b. At least one-third of the Delegates and one-third of the Alternates of any delegation elected at any level shall be of the gender opposite to that of the rest of the delegation.

12. **Ex-Officio Delegates.**
   a. There shall be no automatic ex-officio Delegates included in convention delegations at any level, except that members of the Democratic National Committee, Officers and members of the SDEC, Democratic County Chairs and former Texas State Democratic Party Chairs shall serve as ex-officio voting Delegates to all conventions held by the Texas Democratic Party. These ex-officio Delegates shall be added on as a part of their County or Senatorial District delegation. They shall not be replaced with an Alternate in their absence. In years when redistricting has changed district boundaries and numbers, SDEC members shall have the option of having their automatic delegate position be to either the district in which they were elected or to their new geographic district. In redistricting years, automatic delegates will inform the State Chair of their Senatorial District choice by no later than the SDEC meeting immediately preceding the State Convention.
   b. Any incumbent State Chair, Vice Chair, member of the SDEC or National Committee, County Chair, or Senatorial District Chair, or Democratic holder of any state or federal office, may attend any Democratic Convention governed by these Rules, at any level, without being a Delegate or Alternate, and may exercise all floor privileges, except voting. These floor privileges shall include speaking on any question and serving as a Convention Officer. (Required by Texas Election Code §174.097)

13. **Public Officials.** No person shall be ineligible to run for the position of Delegate or Alternate by reason of holding any public office.

14. **Nominations.**
   a. **From the Floor.** In case there are floor nominations to fill an office that is to be held by more than one person (such as National Committeeman or Committeewoman or At-Large Delegate to a higher Convention), a person making a floor nomination shall identify both the floor nominee and nominee of the Nominations Committee against whom the floor nominee will be running. Proportional representation mandated by other Rules shall not be violated by the nomination or election of floor nominees.
   b. **Closing Nominations.** Unless otherwise stated in these Rules, nominations may not be closed until either no further nominations are forthcoming from the floor or a motion to close nominations has passed by a two-thirds vote. Such a motion, however, shall not be in order until a “reasonable time” has elapsed.

15. **Non-Attendance at Prior Convention.** No one shall be barred from election as a Delegate or Alternate to any convention because of nonattendance at that or any preceding convention, if such nominee otherwise qualifies for the post.

16. **Appearing at Committees.** Any Delegate attending any convention shall have the right to appear before any Convention Committee to make recommendations, either orally or in writing, before the Committee takes final action on its report. The Committee may establish by majority vote reasonable time limits for such presentations and shall allot equal time to all wishing to appear.

17. **Establishment of Districts.** The respective districts from which the members of Party Committees and Convention Delegates at all levels are elected in any given voting year—whether Delegates be elected by popular vote in the Primaries or by Party Convention—that shall be the same as the corresponding districts used in the Primary and General Election of that voting year.

18. **Succession of Delegates at National Conventions.** The succession of Alternate to Delegate status at National Conventions shall be governed by the following rules:
   a. A vacant Alternate position shall be filled by the Texas Delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference, shall be from Texas, and otherwise shall be eligible to serve as a Delegate.
   b. A Delegate who is to be absent or resigns may select from among the Alternates elected by the State Convention from which the Delegate was elected that particular Alternate of the same presidential preference, if possible, who shall assume Delegate status.
   c. When the Alternate is selected by the Delegate, the date for determining that the Delegate and the Alternate have the same preference shall be their preferences as of the date when the Delegate selects an Alternate.

19. **Actions Recommended at the Statutory Meeting of the County Executive Committee in December of odd years and Required to be completed by January 31 of even numbered years.**

A County Executive Committee (or Precinct Chairs within districts), pursuant to statute and these Rules shall:
   a. Determine and announce the time and location of the County Convention or Senatorial District Convention.
b. Group precincts within the county or Senatorial district which did not contain sufficient votes for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election to qualify for a delegate to the state convention.

c. In counties with multiple Senatorial districts, elect a Senatorial District Chair and Secretary if not previously done.

d. In counties with multiple Senatorial districts, decide whether there will be a Senatorial District Convention held in each Senatorial district, or whether two or more districts will meet at the same location.

B. County and Senatorial District Conventions

1. Time and Place. Each County and Senatorial District Convention shall be held on the third Saturday after the First Primary; however, if that date occurs during Passover or on the day following Good Friday, the Convention shall be held on the next Saturday that does not occur during Passover or on the day following Good Friday. The Convention shall be held in a place easily accessible to the public and large enough to accommodate all participants. (Optional in Texas Election Code §174.063)

a. County Conventions. A County Convention shall be held at a time of day and place set by the County Executive Committee pursuant to the timeframe in Art. IV (A) (19) and be posted on the State Party website calendar and local party websites where available.

b. Senatorial District Conventions. Pursuant to the timeframe in Art. IV (A) (19), the Precinct Chairs for the election precincts which will select Delegates to each Senatorial District Convention, or on their failure to act, the Senatorial District Chair shall determine the exact time and place where each respective Senatorial District Convention shall be held. Each Chair shall post such order electronically on the county and state party’s internet website at least 10 days before the Convention. Should any Chair fail to post the order and to file the notice, any member of the County Executive Committee entitled to participate in the decision may post and file such notice. Should more than one do so, the first posting and filing in point of time shall prevail. (Required by Texas Election Code §174.064)

2. Conditions for Holding Senatorial District Convention.

a. When parts of one county belong to more than one Senatorial district, there shall be held, in lieu of a County Convention, a District Convention for each part of the county falling into a different Senatorial district.

b. Any county containing portions of two or more Senatorial districts may elect to combine the Senatorial District Conventions of two or more adjoining Senatorial districts into a Single County or sub-county “Regional” Convention. The Precinct Chairs in each Senatorial district involved must, by majority vote, adopt a resolution to hold such Convention at a meeting for which 30 days prior notice has been mailed or sent by electronic mail to all members of the County Executive Committee.

c. Any such Convention [referred to in foregoing paragraph (b) above] shall:

1. Elect Convention Committees proportionately representative of each Senatorial district in attendance;

2. Group precincts solely within Senatorial districts;

3. Elect At-Large Delegates and Alternates from each Senatorial district in such manner as to assure that each Senatorial district receives its proportionate number of Delegates and Alternates and that such Delegates and Alternates reflect the political preference if any (in non-presidential years) or the presidential preference (in presidential years) of that Senatorial district;

4. Allow only members of a Senatorial district to make nominations and vote on the election of At-Large Delegates and Alternates from that senatorial district on the floor of the Convention.

3. Qualifications and Eligibility to Participate.

Any qualified Democratic voter 18 years of age or older who resides in the county or senatorial district (as applicable) where the convention will be held and who has voted in the Democratic Primary, whether early, by mail, or in person, or who signs an oath affiliation and has not voted in another party’s primary, convention, or supported a candidate of another party, shall be eligible to attend, to participate in, and to be a candidate for any Party Office or for any Delegate or Alternate position to be filled at that convention. (Texas Election Code §174.021)

4. Temporary Roll.

a. A person attending a Precinct, County or Senatorial District Convention may preregister for the convention by electronic means though an online registration system maintained on the state party website. Precinct, County and Senatorial District Chairs shall advertise and make the registration site accessible through local websites.

b. The online registration shall require the person’s name, voting address, city, and zip code. The system shall require the county and voting precinct of each registrant and the voter’s unique identification number (VUID) as assigned on their voter registration. However, failure to fill in one of these data items does not disqualify a participant from participating. It shall be the responsibility of the County or Senatorial District Chair or their designee to complete the registration form by adding missing data that is available through the Voter Action Network (VAN).

c. In a presidential election year, the registrant will make a declaration of support for presidential candidates or a statement of uncommitted status. A person may change their presidential status until the beginning of a precinct convention.

d. The online and in-person registration must include the statement described by Texas Election Code Section 162.004(a) and require a preregistering attendee to affiliate with the party by taking the oath described in Section 162.007(b). By preregistering online, the registrant shall affirm that they have read and attest to both oaths.

e. The preregistration shall open on January 2 of the voting year and close 48 hours prior to the county or senatorial convention.

f. A person who does not preregister to attend a convention under this section may register in person at the con-
vvention and must have voting rights identical to those of a person who preregistered.

6. Committees. Convention Committees shall be the Committee on Credentials, Nominations, Platform and Resolutions, and Rules and Procedures. Each committee shall be composed of between 5 and 15 members. These committees shall be appointed from among persons who have preregistered to attend the Convention by the County Chair or the Senatorial District Chair and ratified by the Precinct Chairs within the respective conventions at the statutory meeting after the First Primary.

5. Committees. Convention Committees shall be the Committee on Credentials, Nominations, Platform and Resolutions, and Rules and Procedures. Each committee shall be composed of between 5 and 15 members. These committees shall be appointed from among persons who have preregistered to attend the Convention by the County Chair or the Senatorial District Chair and ratified by the Precinct Chairs within the respective conventions at the statutory meeting after the First Primary.

6. Resolutions.

a. Any attendee to the Precinct, County or Senatorial District Convention may submit to the Chair or a designee a proposed resolution for consideration by the Convention. Resolutions may be submitted to the Chair for referral to the Resolutions Committee beginning on the date of the statutory meeting of the county executive committee after the First Primary.

b. The Chair shall announce at the beginning of the Convention where and with whom resolutions shall be filed. The period for filing proposed changes to the rules shall be open for at least one hour from the time of said announcement. The Convention may waive this one hour period if there is no objection from any attendee.

c. The Committee on Rules may meet prior to the Call to Order of the County or Senatorial District Convention to organize their work and make preliminary recommendations of proposed changes to the rules.


a. The Chair of the Convention shall submit the names and information about Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention and all resolutions to the State Chair within five days after the Convention.

b. The County Chair shall be the chair of the County Convention unless the County Chair is absent or declines the position. In such case, the delegates shall elect from among themselves a chair by majority vote.

c. Chair at Senatorial District Convention. The Chair of the Senatorial District Committee shall be the Chair in a Senatorial District Convention composed of only part of one county. The Senatorial District Committee member (not to be confused with the SDEC member for the senatorial district) shall be the Chair of the Senatorial District Convention for a part of a county which is joined with another territory in a senatorial district. In the case that the Chair of the Senatorial District Committee is absent or declines the position, the delegates shall elect from among themselves a chair by majority vote.

d. Submission of Delegate and Alternates. The County or Senatorial District Chair or their designee shall submit the minutes of the convention and the list of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention through an online electronic system on the website of the state party. The Chair shall retain a written copy of the minutes which shall contain signatures of the County or Senatorial District Chair and the Secretary of the Convention. The Chair or Secretary should bring this original copy to the State Convention in the event a challenge to the delegation occurs.

9. Order of Business. The order of business at County and Senatorial District Conventions shall be as follows:

a. Call to Order.

b. Establishment of Temporary Roll of Delegates. (Art. IV B 4.)

c. Report of Credentials Committee. The credentials report shall include recommendations regarding challenges of attendees and shall be considered according to the Rules in Article V, and shall be acted upon before other business is considered.

e. Election from among those present of a Convention Chair if the County Chair or Senatorial District Chair is absent or declines the position, a Permanent Secretary, and other officers necessary to conduct Convention business. (Texas Election Code §174.065)

f. In presidential years, completion of the presidential preference or uncommitted status poll. (Art. IV(B)8(h) ii.).

g. Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention by each Precinct or Grouped Precinct Conventions as set forth in Art. IV (B) 8.

h. Other Business: Committee reports, resolutions, etc.

i. Adjournment.

10. Election of Delegates and Alternates from County and Senate District to the State Convention

a. Apportionment. The ratio for the selection of Delegates to the State Convention shall be one Delegate for each 300 votes or major fraction thereof cast in the county for the Party’s candidate for Governor in the last General Election. Each County or Senatorial District Convention, however, shall elect at least one Delegate and one Alternate to the State Convention.

b. Number of Alternates. Each County and Senatorial District Convention shall elect one Alternate for each Delegate.

c. The County or Senatorial District Chair shall provide all required registration rolls and reporting forms to the Precinct Conventions. The Precinct Chair shall be responsible for all documentation prior to the call to order and election of the Precinct Convention officers. In the case of Grouped Precincts, the Precinct Chair of the largest precinct by population shall have this responsibility. In the absence of that Precinct Chair, the attendees that are grouped in that precinct shall elect among themselves a Precinct Chair to represent their Grouped Precincts. In the event that no Precinct Chair is elected, then the County or Senatorial District Chair shall appoint the Precinct Convention Chair. If no appointment is made, any participant may assume this duty.

d. Duties of Precinct Officers. The Chair shall preside over the precinct convention. The Secretary shall complete precinct convention reports and return them in a timely manner to the County Chair or Senatorial District Chair or Convention Committees as designated by them. The Chair and Secretary shall jointly be responsible for and shall affix their signature to all reports and minutes to ensure that an accurate written record of convention proceedings is kept, including the list of persons present and a list of Delegates and Alternates elected to the State Convention. The lists shall include residence addresses and cities or towns and any other information as directed by these Rules. (Texas Election Code §174.027)

e. Participants in Precinct Convention. All attendees who reside in the precinct (or grouped precincts) are eligible to participate. Persons arriving after the list of participants is completed and who are otherwise qualified to participate shall have their names entered on the list and may participate in proceedings subsequent to their arrival. Such persons, however, may not vote on matters previously voted upon or on which a vote has been called for by the Chair. Their political preference shall not cause a change in the proportional allocation of Delegates if the same has been announced at the time calling for the election of Delegates and Alternates in the Order of Business prescribed by the Rules.

f. The Precinct Chair, if present, shall chair the precinct convention and call the convention to order. If the precinct convention consists of grouped precincts, the participants shall select a Chair by majority vote from among the various Precinct Chairs to lead the meeting. If no Precinct Chair is present, or the elected Precinct Chair(s) declines the position, the County or Senatorial District Chair may appoint any participant to preside over the election of the Convention Chair. If no appointment has been made, any participant may lead this election process. The attendees shall elect a person by majority vote to be Chair. If only one nomination is made, that nominee is elected automatically upon closing of nominations.

g. The convention shall elect a secretary to take notes and complete all required reporting forms. The Chair and the secretary shall jointly be responsible for timely submission of reporting forms or minutes to the Chair of the Convention or their designee.

h. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the convention to be elected a Delegate or Alternate. Although a precinct or grouped precincts might be allocated delegates, if no person is in attendance to participate in that convention, or if a precinct does not wish to elect delegates to fill any of their allocation, those delegate seats become automatically assigned to the Nominations Committee to fill as At-Large delegates and alternates.

i. Election Procedure In Precinct Conventions in Presidential Years. In presidential years, delegates and alternates are elected proportionately to the number of supporters for a presidential candidate or uncommitted status. All qualified participants shall have entered their names, residence addresses, and cities or towns on the online preregistration or in person as they entered the Convention. In a presidential year, they shall also indicate their presidential preference or uncommitted status when they preregistered or signed in at the Convention.

Any person who preregistered may change his or her presidential preference or uncommitted status at any point until the Chair of the County or Senatorial District Convention has announced that registration for precinct conventions has closed. This announcement must not occur earlier than the time the final person in line at the time the County or Senatorial Convention was called to order has completed their registration.

When it is time in the Order of Business to elect Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention, the procedure shall be as follows:

1. The Chair shall announce the number of eligible voting members on the roll, the number of Delegates and Alternates the convention is entitled to elect and the number and percent of each presidential preference or uncommitted status reflected on the roll.

2. On the basis of such determination, those preferring each presidential candidate and those who are
uncommitted shall caucus separately to elect the same proportion of County or Senatorial District Convention Delegates and Alternates as their group represents at the Precinct convention. Persons in a group comprising entitlement to less than one Delegate may proceed to the caucus of their second choice.

(3) The percentages then will be refigured, if necessary, and the new figures shall be used to allocate positions by preference.

(4) If a Delegate position remains unallocated to a presidential preference after the allocation above, that delegate shall be elected by majority vote of the entire precinct convention with each attendee casting one vote. The person with the highest vote total shall fill that Delegate position.

(5) Within each Presidential Candidate Group, participants may nominate themselves or any qualified voter in the precinct for the position of Delegate. Nominations shall be open from the floor of the Presidential Candidate Group until a motion is made, seconded, and passed by a two-thirds vote to close nominations.

(6) Each participant may cast a number of votes equal to the number of Delegates allocated to such Presidential Candidate Group. For example, if there are three positions to be filled, each participant may cast three full votes in any of the following manners:

(a) one vote for each of three candidates;

(b) two votes for one candidate and one vote for one other candidate; or

(c) three votes for a single candidate.

Persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Delegates elected by the Group. The same number of nominees next highest in the voting shall be the Alternates. In the case of a tie vote for either Delegate or Alternate, the Delegate or Alternate shall be determined by lot or chance.

(d) If the number of persons wishing to be elected delegate is equal to or less than the number of delegates the precinct is entitled to elect, the voting requirement in subsection (a) shall be suspended, and the slate of nominees may be elected by acclamation. If the attendees by consensus discussion develop a list of delegates and alternates to fill the precinct allocation, then said slate may be elected by unanimous consent without taking formal nominations and votes.

(e) Only a full vote may be cast; fractions of a vote are prohibited.

(f) Adjournment of convention.

12. Determination of At-Large Delegates and Alternates.

(a) The delegate and alternate nominations made by the precinct caucuses shall be forwarded immediately to the Nominations Committee and shall be included in the list of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention. The Nominations Committee shall select other nominees for At-Large Delegates and Alternates to bring the total to the full number authorized for the county or senatorial district. Following any additional nominations for At-Large Delegates which may be made from the floor subsequent to the Nominations Committee report, the Convention as a whole shall ratify the election of Delegates and Alternates recommended by the precincts and shall elect the At-Large Delegates and Alternates needed to complete the delegation.

(b) Upon the Chair’s announcement of the closing of the period for registration for the Convention, results shall be tabulated by a committee appointed by the Convention Chair and composed of at least one person for each known presidential preference or uncommitted status. The Chair then shall announce the tabulation results to the convention by number and percentages of votes received by each presidential preference, including uncommitted. The tabulation then shall be written into the permanent records of the Convention and shall be re-
C. State Convention

1. Time and Place. The Texas Democratic Party shall hold its State Convention on a date selected by the State Executive Committee. The time for convening the State Convention and the date and place shall be selected by the SDEC at least three years in advance so as to maximize participation. (Allowed by Texas Election Code §174.092 and §174.093)

2. Notice. The notice of the Convention shall be posted on the state party website along with a copy of the Party Rules, any supplemental rules which may apply, and the proposed Convention agenda.

3. Eligibility to Participate. The State Convention shall be composed of Delegates duly-elected from County and Senatorial District Conventions. Additionally, members of the Democratic National Committee, officers and members of the SDEC, Democratic County Chairs, and former State Chairs shall serve as ex-officio voting Delegates to the State Convention.

4. Purpose. The purpose of the State Convention shall be to elect a State Chair, First Vice Chair, Vice Chair for Finance, Secretary and Treasurer; to elect the 62 members of the SDEC from their respective senatorial districts; to adopt a platform which embodies the basic principles of the Democratic Party and which sets forth its positions on current issues of statewide significance for the November General Election; to announce the nominations for Governor and other state offices; and to attend to any other appropriate business.

b. Additionally, in presidential years the Convention shall elect Delegates and Alternates to the Party’s National Convention; elect the Party’s official nominees from Texas for the Democratic National Committee (such nominees shall be elected formally by the National Convention in accordance with National Committee Rules); and select the official slate of Presidential Electors.

5. Officers and Committees.

a. Temporary Officers. The State Chair may designate such Temporary Officers and assistants deemed necessary to plan, to arrange, and to conduct the necessary work of the Convention until Permanent Officers are elected. These appointees shall have those duties which are assigned to them.

b. Permanent Officers. (1) The State Chair shall serve as the Chair of the State Convention. The Permanent Officers of the Convention shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Parliamentarian. The Convention may elect such additional Permanent Officers as the SDEC may recommend to carry on Convention business.

(2) The SDEC shall, by majority vote, nominate a Permanent Chair if the State Chair is absent or has declined to Chair the State Convention, a Permanent Vice Chair of the opposite sex of the State Chair, a Permanent Secretary and a Parliamentarian at least one month before the State Convention. Additional nominations accompanied by a petition signed by at least one percent of the duly-elected Delegates to the Convention shall be accepted from the floor of the State Convention from any Delegate. No Delegate may sign more than one nominating petition for any given office.

(3) The Permanent Officers of the Convention shall be elected by a majority of the State Convention Delegates. Each Permanent Officer shall be voted on separately and not as part of a slate.

c. Temporary Credentials Committee. A Temporary Credentials Committee composed of 15 members shall be appointed by the State Chair, who shall also appoint the Committee Chair. Its duties shall be to hold such preliminary meetings and hearings as it deems necessary to gather facts about challenges to the credentials of individual Delegates or delegations to the State Convention and to report to the SDEC, which shall establish the Temporary Roll of the Convention. This written report shall also be submitted to the Permanent Credentials Committee of the State Convention to expedite the latter’s work and avoid undue delays in the orderly progress of the Convention. The State Chair shall ensure that the Temporary Credentials Committee is broadly representative of the state’s population in terms of geography, age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic identity, race and philosophical persuasion.

d. Temporary Resolutions Committees.

(1) The Chair shall convene a Temporary Resolutions Committee to consider and recommend to the State Convention Permanent Resolutions Committee, Permanent Platform Committee and Permanent
Rules Committee resolutions submitted by County and Senatorial District Conventions.

(2) The Temporary Resolutions Committee shall consist of one member of the SDEC from each Senatorial District. The members of each district shall decide which member shall serve. If both wish to serve, the State Chair shall conduct a coin toss to determine the member to serve. If neither are able to serve, the State Chair shall appoint a replacement from that district with the advice and consent of the applicable SDEC committee members where the vacancy occurred. The State Chair shall appoint the Chair of the Committee. The Chair does not have to be chosen from among those selected as members of the Committee.

(3) The Temporary Resolutions Committee shall meet at a time and place and as often as necessary as determined by the State Chair. A quorum of the Committee shall be 10 members.

(4) All resolutions passed by a County or Senatorial District Convention shall be submitted with the minutes of the Convention to the State Party Chair. The Chair shall refer all such resolutions to the Temporary Resolutions Committee.

(5) The Temporary Resolutions Committee shall determine if any resolutions or substantially similar resolutions have passed multiple County or Senatorial District Conventions. Any such resolution shall be referred directly to the Permanent Resolutions Committee for consideration. Any other resolution that was submitted by a convention shall be considered by the committee and must obtain a 2/3 vote of the quorum present at the meeting to be recommended to the Permanent Resolutions Committee at the State Convention for consideration. The Temporary Resolutions Committee shall have the discretion to non-substantively re-write and format resolutions to make them appropriate for consideration. Such changes and formatting shall not require a vote of the committee for the changes to be made.

(6) All memorial and congratulatory resolutions shall be referred directly to the Permanent Resolutions Committee of the State Convention. The Permanent Committee may recommend them as one motion for adoption by the Convention with a direction for the Party staff to prepare the adopted resolutions for presentation to the group, person, or their family, as appropriate.

(7) Any resolution that addresses a local issue or policy that does not rise to statewide significance should not be recommended by the Temporary Resolutions Committee for a State Convention vote. Such resolutions have served their purpose upon adoption by the local County or Senatorial District Convention.

(8) All resolutions that pertain to the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, party procedural matters or other party governance issues shall be referred by the Temporary Resolutions Committee to the Permanent Rules Committee of the State Convention.

(9) Any resolution that considers an idea or policy that should be considered for inclusion in the Party Platform shall be referred by the Temporary Resolutions Committee to the Permanent Rules Committee of the State Convention.

e. Resolution Recommendation or Adoption by Petition.

(1) Any delegate or alternate to the State Convention may submit to the Chair or a designee a proposed resolution for consideration by the Convention. The resolution shall be filed between the hours of 9 am and 6 pm on Friday of the State Convention. It shall be assigned a Resolution Number and given a short title.

(2) Proponents of the resolution will be given a prescribed petition form for the purpose of obtaining signatures. It shall be the responsibility of the proponents of the resolution to reproduce sufficient copies of the petition.

(3) Each signature must be accompanied with the Senatorial District number of the signer. Alternates to the Convention may sign any petition even if they have not been elevated to Delegate status.

(4) Any resolution for which signatures have been obtained from 30% of the number of Delegates to the Convention (as certified by the Credentials Committee as the Permanent Roll) shall be presented to the Convention for discussion and a vote. A submission of such resolution shall immediately be recognized as being before the Convention as the next order of business after completion of any item then under consideration. Any resolution for which signatures in excess of 50% of the number of Delegates to the State Convention have been obtained shall be adopted by the Convention upon submission to the Permanent Chair and shall not require a vote of the Convention. The Permanent Chair shall announce the adoption of such resolution.

f. Temporary Rules Committee.

(1) The State Chair shall convene a Temporary Rules Committee to consider and recommend to the State Convention Permanent Rules Committee proposed rule changes submitted by County or Senatorial District Convention and shall consist of one member of the SDEC from each Senatorial District. The members of each district shall decide which member shall serve. If both wish to serve, the State Chair shall conduct a coin toss to determine the member to serve. If neither are able to serve, the State Chair shall appoint a replacement from that district with the advice and consent of the applicable SDEC committee members where the vacancy occurred. The State Chair shall appoint the Chair of the Committee. The Chair does not have to be chosen from among those selected as members of the Committee.

(2) The Temporary Rules Committee shall meet at a time and place and as often as necessary as determined by the State Chair.

(3) All proposed rules passed by a County or Senatorial District Convention shall be submitted with the minutes of the Convention to the State Party Chair. The Chair shall refer all such proposed rule changes to the Temporary Rules Committee.
(4) The Temporary Rules Committee shall determine if any proposed rule changes or substantially similar proposed rule changes have passed multiple County or Senatorial District Conventions. Any such proposed rules changes shall be referred directly to the Permanent Rules Committee for consideration. Any other proposed rule change that was submitted by a convention shall be considered by the Committee and must obtain 2/3 vote of the quorum present at the meeting to be recommended to the Permanent Rules Committee at the State Convention for consideration. The Temporary Rules Committee shall have the discretion to non-substantively re-write and format the proposed rule changes to make them appropriate for consideration. Such changes and formatting shall not require a vote of the Committee for the changes to be made.

(5) Any proposed rule change that addresses a specific local issue or policy that does not rise to statewide significance should not be recommended by the Temporary Rules Committee for a State Convention vote.

**g. Submission of Proposed Changes to the Rules by Petition.**

(1) Any Delegate or Alternate to the State Convention may submit to the Chair or a designee a proposed change to the Rules for consideration by the Permanent Rules Committee. The proposed rule changes shall be filed between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm on Friday of the State Convention. It shall be assigned a rule number and given a short title.

(2) Proponents of the proposed rule changes will be given a prescribed petition form for the purpose of obtaining signatures. It shall be the responsibility of the proponents of the proposed rule changes to reproduce sufficient copies of the petition.

(3) Each signature must be accompanied with the Senatorial District number of the signer. Alternates to the Convention may sign any petition even if they have not been elevated to Delegate status.

(4) Any proposed rule changes for which signatures have been obtained from 30% of the number of Delegates to the Convention (as certified by the Credentials Committee as the Permanent Roll) shall be presented to the Permanent Rules Committee for discussion and a vote.

**h. Permanent Committees.**

(1) **Composition.** The Permanent Committees of the State Convention shall be those of Credentials, Nominations, Platform, Resolutions, and Rules. In presidential years, there shall also be the Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates to the National Convention. Each Permanent Committee except Credentials shall be composed of 34 members, one member to be elected to each Committee by each Senatorial District Caucus and three members to be appointed by the Permanent Convention Chair. The Permanent Credentials Committee shall consist of 33 members, one elected by each Senatorial District Caucus, and the Permanent Chair and Secretary appointed by the State Chair. In a multi-county senatorial district, the Delegates should strive to provide geographical representation by recommending their committee persons to be from different counties; this is not a mandate.

(2) **Temporary Chair.** The Permanent Convention Chair shall designate one member of each Permanent Committee, except the Credentials Committee, to be Temporary Chair. The Temporary Credentials Committee Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Permanent Credentials Committee, but shall not vote unless that person is one of the members elected by a Caucus or one of the two officers appointed by the State Chair.

(3) **Order of Business.** The first order of business of each Permanent Committee shall be to elect a Permanent Chair and a Permanent Secretary from among its membership.

i. **Duties.** The duties of the Permanent Committees shall be as follows:

(1) The Permanent Credentials Committee shall make recommendations to the Convention as to the final resolution of all challenges regarding the credentials of Delegates to the State Convention.

(2) The Nominations Committee shall nominate the officers of the SDEC and the SDEC members recommended by their respective Senatorial District Caucuses, and in presidential years, the DNC representatives. In presidential years, the duties of the Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates to the National Convention shall be those implied by its title or as assigned by the National Party Rules.

(3) The Platform Committee shall write and recommend to the Convention a Party Platform for the November General Election.

(4) The Resolutions Committee shall consider and recommend all resolutions submitted to the Convention, other than those within the proper jurisdiction of the Platform Committee.

(5) The Rules Committee shall consider and recommend any proposed amendments to the permanent Party Rules and shall assist the Convention Chair and Parliamentarian, at their request, in interpreting the applicability of these Rules to questions of organization and procedure at the Convention.

**6. Order of Business.** The order of business at the State Convention shall be as follows:

a. Call to order by the State Chair following the State Democratic Executive Committee on Thursday for the purpose of announcing the Temporary Roll and convention procedures. This shall occur in the same location and upon adjournment of the SDEC meeting. No votes of the full Convention shall occur until after the Friday evening Opening Ceremonies.

b. SDEC Report on the Temporary Roll.

c. State Chair announces the time and place for Senatorial District Caucuses to be held. The Senatorial District Caucus shall elect one member to each of the following Permanent Committees of the Convention and other positions as listed:
(1) Credentials Committee
(2) Platform Committee
(3) Resolutions Committee
(4) Rules Committee
(5) Nominations Committee for SDEC officers and SDEC members recommended by Senatorial District Caucuses, and in presidential years, members of the Democratic National Committee and Presidential Electors
(6) Recommendation for SDEC Committeeman
(7) Recommendation for SDEC Committeewoman
In presidential years:
(8) Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates to the National Convention
(9) Recommendation for Presidential Elector(s) as allotted to those Caucuses under these Rules
(10) Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention as allocated to them
d. State Chair announces time and location for the Permanent Credentials Committee to meet. Chair announces the Chair’s appointment of a Permanent Chair and a Secretary of such Committee. The Permanent Credentials Committee shall begin its deliberations at the appointed hour or as soon thereafter as a quorum is established. Members arriving after the Committee has made a decision on any given challenge may not vote on a motion to reconsider, but may vote and debate on all other motions subsequent to their arrival.
e. State Chair announces a time certain for Opening Ceremonies.
f. State Chair announces that the convention stands at recess until the Opening Ceremonies. In a presidential year, the State Chair shall also announce the conduct of a written poll to determine the presidential preference of each participating delegate. The announcement shall include the exact location where the sign-in will occur and the beginning time, which shall be no later than 10 am on Friday.
g. Each Senatorial District Caucus is held at the time and place on Friday assigned by the State Chair. The Caucus may be called to order by either the SDEC member, or if absent, by any delegate from said District. The Caucus shall elect a Permanent Chair of the Caucus. The Permanent Chair shall appoint a clerk to fill out all necessary forms and reports of caucus results. The election of the Permanent Credentials Committee member shall precede any other elections. All Caucuses shall recess one hour before the stated opening ceremony time. Any caucuses who have not completed their business shall reconvene no sooner than 10 minutes after recess of the full Convention on Friday night at a place decided by the Caucus Chair, in consultation with the State Chair or their designee.
h. State Chair calls Convention back to order at previously announced time, followed by presentation of colors, the national and state anthems and the invocation. (Texas Election Code, Section 174.094).
i. State Chair announces that the presidential preference poll shall close at a time certain no less than one hour hence.
j. State Chair introduces the Temporary Officers of the State Convention.
k. Remarks by Chair, Welcome Address, etc., and speeches by invited dignitaries.
l. Report of the Permanent Credentials Committee and action on report.
m. Report from the SDEC on its nomination for Permanent Convention Chair if the State Chair is absent or declines to chair the State Convention, followed by nominations from the floor.
n. Election of Permanent Convention Chair, if necessary.
o. Elected Chair assumes duties, if election was required.
p. Convention Chair announces the Chair’s appointment of Temporary Chairs and two additional members of each Permanent Committee and announces where the Committees will meet the following morning at 8 am.
q. In a presidential year, Convention Chair announces the results of the presidential preference sign-in and the allocation of At-Large Delegates and Alternates to each presidential preference.
r. Convention Chair further announces that the Convention will recess until the following morning so that the Permanent Convention Committees may transact their business.
s. Senatorial District Caucus Chairs deliver written report on the results of their Caucuses to the Chair or designee immediately upon completion of their caucuses. Any Senatorial District that did not finish its business during the afternoon caucus shall deliver any partial reports to the Chair or designee before the Opening Ceremonies and the remainder of the information upon conclusion of the caucus.
t. Chair announces location of any Senatorial District Caucuses that did not finish their business during the afternoon.
u. Convention reconvenes on the second day of the Convention and the Convention Chair calls the Convention back to order.
v. Report from the SDEC on its nominations for Permanent Officers of the Convention (other than Convention Chair), followed by nominations from the floor.
w. Election of Permanent Officers (other than Convention Chair).
x. Report of Rules Committee and action on report.
y. Report of Nominations Committee and action on report, including the Committee’s nominations for State Party Officers and for SDEC members recommended by their respective Senatorial District Caucuses, and in presidential years, the Committee’s recommendations for National Committee members and Presidential Electors.
z. Convention Chair reads list of Senatorial District nominees to SDEC, followed by formal vote of ratification by Convention.
aa. In presidential years, the following shall occur at this point in the order of business:

   (1) Convention Chair reads list of all National Convention Delegates and Alternates elected by Senatorial District Caucuses.

   (2) Report of Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates and action on report.


cc. Report of Resolutions Committee and action on report.

dd. Announcements and further business.

ee. Adjournment. Because of the uncertainty of the length of any particular Permanent Committee meeting, the Convention Chair may take Committee reports out of this order. Further, the Reports of any Committee may be divided and partial reports given and adopted as necessary. Specifically, the report of the Committee on Resolutions can be made by the Chair of the Resolutions Committee forwarding individual resolutions as they are recommended by the Committee to the Convention Chair for action.


   a. A written poll to determine the presidential preference of each participating Delegate shall be conducted. The State Chair shall establish and announce a location within the Convention hall where delegates shall be able to perform this action.

   b. Poll results shall be reported on official sign-in sheets prescribed by the State Committee. Each sign-in shall contain, at the top, a statement attesting that each signer pledges support to the candidate whose caucus he or she joins. No Delegate may sign-in more than once.

   c. In order to sign-in, the Delegate shall show their delegate badge, sign the poll of their choice and write their presidential preference on their credential in a designated location. The credential shall be stamped or marked to show that the Delegate has designated their choice by participating in the sign-in poll.

   d. The poll shall continue until a time certain announced by the State Chair which will be at least one hour after said announcement following the Opening Ceremonies on Friday night.

   e. Poll results shall be tabulated by the Temporary Chair of the Permanent Committee on Nominations of National Delegates and Alternates, assisted by a committee appointed by the State Chair composed of one person from each presidential preference group. The Temporary Chair of the Permanent Committee on Nominations shall determine the tabulation results by number and percent of votes received by each presidential preference.

   f. The Chair shall announce the results of the sign-in for the convention as a whole by number and percent of sign-ins received by each presidential or uncommitted preference and by the number of Pledged Party and Elected Official Delegates and number of At-Large Delegates allocated to each presidential or uncommitted preference.

   g. These sign-in sheets and final tabulations shall be available for public inspection after the convention at the State Democratic Executive Committee’s office.

8. Election of National Delegates/Alternates. The election of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be governed by the Texas Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the SDEC and approved by the National Committee for that presidential year.

9. Election of National Committee Members. At the State Convention held in presidential years, the Convention shall elect, by majority vote, the Texas nominees to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The number of these members shall be set by the DNC, and their election shall be subject to formal ratification by the National Convention, as provided by the Rules of the National Committee.

   a. Qualifications. The qualifications for National Committeemen and National Committee women shall be the same as those prescribed for Party membership in Article II.B. of these Rules.

   b. Pledge of Support. The National Committeemen and Committee women must declare affirmatively in favor of the Party’s nominees for President and Vice President within one month after the National Convention or they shall be subject to removal from office by the National Committee.

   c. Terms. The term of office for National Committee members shall begin immediately following the National Convention which ratifies their selection or following ratification by the National Committee if a member is elected to fill an unexpired term. The regular four-year term shall extend through the first National Convention held subsequent to the election of such members or until their successors are elected and qualified.

   d. Nominations. In presidential years, the Nominations Committee shall consider all recommendations made to it by Convention Delegates and all nominations made by Committee members for National Committee members. The Committee’s report to the Convention may include more than one nomination for any position on the National Committee.

   e. Elections. After the Nominations Committee presents its report to the Convention, minority reports which comply with Party Rules shall be presented, followed by additional nominations, if any, from the Convention floor. The Convention as a whole then shall elect each of its National Committee members by majority vote.

   f. Vacancies. Any vacancy in these offices which occurs after a National Convention and before the next presidential State Convention shall be filled promptly by a majority of the SDEC, provided that members receive written notice at least 30 days before the meeting at which the election will be held. Any member of the SDEC may nominate a candidate for the vacant office.

10. Election of Presidential Elector Candidates. At its State Convention, in presidential years, the Party shall nominate as many Presidential Elector candidates as the total number of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to which the state legally is entitled at that time.

   a. Qualifications. The qualifications for Presidential Elector candidates shall be the same as those prescribed for Party membership in Article II.B. of these Rules. Legally, however, a Presidential Elector may not be a member of the United States Congress or anyone who
11. Succession of Alternates to Delegate Status

The State Convention shall be governed by the following provisions:

a. A Delegate who is to be absent or resigns may select from among the Alternates of the county, if elected by a County Convention, or senatorial district, if elected by a Senatorial District Convention, from which the Delegate was elected, the particular Alternate of the same political preference if any (in non-presidential years) or presidential preference (in presidential years), if possible, who shall assume Delegate status. Ex-officio Delegates (Article IV.D.3) shall not be replaced if absent.

b. If a Delegate is unable to, or fails to, select the Alternate to assume Delegate status, the delegation shall select an Alternate who meets the criteria described above.

c. A vacant Alternate position shall not be filled.

d. When the Alternate is selected by the Delegate, the date for determining that the Delegate and the Alternate have the same political preference if any (in a non-presidential year) or the same presidential preference (in a presidential year) shall be their preferences as of the date when the Delegate selects an Alternate.

ARTICLE V

CHALLENGES

The following rules shall govern credentials challenges at County, Senatorial District and State Conventions:

1. Any Democrat may challenge any Delegate or Alternate or any group of Delegates and/or Alternates certified to any Convention, provided the challenger and the challenged parties reside in the same county (or senatorial district) whose Convention elected the challenged Delegate(s) or Alternate(s). In the case of the County or Senatorial District Convention, the challenger shall deliver the copy of the challenge to the County or Senatorial District Chair and to the challenged Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) at least 3 days before the date of the Convention. In the case of a State Convention, the challenger shall deliver a copy of the challenge to the Chair of the State Convention and to the challenged Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) within 16 days after the date of the County and Senatorial District Conventions.

2. Delegations, Delegates, or Alternates may be challenged for allegations of violations of these Party Rules.

3. The challenge shall be in writing and shall include the name and address of the Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) challenged and the precise grounds on which the challenge is based.

4. The State Chair shall send all challenges to the Chair of the Temporary Credentials Committee of the State Convention and to the Delegates or Alternates who are challenged. This shall be done as soon as possible after the challenges are received at the State Party Headquarters.

5. The Chairs of the Permanent Committee on Credentials of County and Senatorial District Conventions and the Chair of the Temporary Credentials Committee of the State Convention shall convene their respective Committees at the site of the Convention in question at least 24 hours before the time when the Convention is to meet.

6. The Credentials Committee of any Convention shall consider any statements from the challenger, from the Delegates or Alternates being challenged, and from any other person who wishes to testify on the challenge. In hearing a challenge, the Credentials Committee may allot a period of time within which the challenger and the challenged shall be granted equal time to make their statements.

7. In the case of a challenge, the Credentials Committee shall report to the Convention the names of the Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) whom the Committee believes are entitled to participate in the Convention. A minority of 20% of the Com-
mittee may present a minority report on any challenge to the Convention. When a number of challenges are to be resolved, the Credentials Committee shall report on each in alphabetical or numerical order by county or by precinct in which the Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) being challenged reside.

8. The Convention shall vote separately on each challenge presented as part of the report of the Credentials Committee. The report of the Credentials Committee on each challenge must be approved by a majority vote of the Convention before a Delegate or Alternate being challenged may participate further in the Convention. No challenged Delegate or Alternate may vote on the report of the Credentials Committee which involves the Delegate’s or Alternate’s respective challenge.

ARTICLE VI
ADOPTION, STATUS, AMENDMENT, PUBLICIZING OF RULES AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

A. Adoption and Status

1. These Rules shall continue in force until rescinded or permanently changed by action of the State Convention, or as temporarily amended by the SDEC as provided herein, and are enforceable by mandamus proceedings as provided under Texas law.

2. Notwithstanding anything in these Rules to the contrary, the laws of the State of Texas take precedence over these Rules in the event of a conflict, so long as application of those laws does not infringe on the Party’s rights of self-government under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas.

3. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any statute that burdens the Delegate selection process in such a way as to create a conflict with National Party Rules relating to Delegate selection or instruction shall not be given effect if, in the opinion of the SDEC, such statute would imperil the participation of the Texas Democratic Party in National Party affairs. Such determination shall be made by the SDEC after 30 days notice and by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

B. Amendment

1. These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a majority vote of the State Convention.

2. Between State Conventions, they may be temporarily changed for good cause by three-fourths vote of the SDEC; provided, however, that the vote to amend shall constitute three-fourths of the entire Committee membership and also provided that each member of the SDEC receive written notice, including the full text of any proposed amendments, at least one month in advance of a meeting held for this purpose. All such amendments shall be presented to the next State Convention for approval, although they shall be in effect and binding until such Convention is held.

3. If any amendment attached by the SDEC be rejected by the State Convention, it may not be proposed again until the following State Convention.

C. Publicizing of Rules

1. Publicizing of these Rules shall be made by mailing a copy to all County Chairs and members of the SDEC and to interested persons who request copies from the State Headquarters. The State Chair, County Chairs and members of the SDEC shall make every effort to publicize the Rules well in advance of each Convention and to explain them summarily at the opening of each Convention.

2. A copy of any amendment to these Rules shall be filed promptly with the Secretary of State and shall be included in all sets of Rules distributed from the State Headquarters.

D. Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority of the Texas Democratic Party, its clubs and affiliated organizations shall be the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The parliamentary authority shall govern all meetings, committees and conventions except where superseded by federal and state laws and these Rules.

ARTICLE VII
NATIONAL DELEGATE SELECTION RULES

A. Delegates

1. In presidential years, the Party shall hold a presidential preference primary election (the “presidential primary”) at the same time, in the same manner, and using the same ballot as for the general primary election (the “First Primary”). (Texas Election Code §191.004)

2. To qualify for a place on the presidential primary ballot, a candidate must:

   a. Timely file all documents, if any, required by the Texas Affirmative Action Plan or the Texas National Delegate Selection Plan.

   b. File an application for a place on the presidential primary ballot in accordance with the same Election Code provisions applicable to a candidate for the United States Senatorial, including submission of an appropriate petition subject to the limitations of Section 191.002 of the Texas Election Code or payment of the same filing fee. The oath on the application of a presidential candidate shall be:

   “I, ________________ (name), of ________________ (city), ________________ (county/parish), ____________ (state), being a candidate for the Office of President of the United States, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States. I further swear that I will fully support the Democratic nominee for President, whoever that shall be.”

3. The names of all candidates qualifying to appear on the presidential primary ballot shall be certified in accordance with Article III.C.1. of these Rules, except that the State Chair also shall certify all presidential preferences to the Secretary of State. The SDEC shall, at the meeting required in Article III.C.1., decide by majority vote whether to include “Uncommitted” as an alternative on the presidential primary ballot. (Texas Election Code §191.004)

4. Results of the presidential preference primary election shall be canvassed at the same time and in the same manner as for the First Primary, except that the SDEC shall also certify the results of the presidential preference primary election to the senatorial district.

5. The total number of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be that number allocated by the National Committee in its official Call to the Convention.
6. The process for selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be governed by the Texas National Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the SDEC for the presidential year. If the Plan and these Rules conflict as relates to the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention, the Plan shall be considered to supersede these Rules for that purpose alone.

7. Each elected Delegate shall be entitled to cast one vote at the National Convention, and the total vote permitted the State’s delegation shall not exceed the number of its Delegates in attendance at the Convention.

8. Apportionment of Delegates
   a. At least 75% of the base number of Delegates, not including designated Party and Elected Official Delegates, shall be elected by Senatorial District Caucuses at the State Convention. The exact number (between 75% and 100%) to be so elected shall be determined by majority vote of the SDEC at its meeting in January of presidential years and shall be included in the official Call to the State Convention of that year.
   b. Such Delegates shall be apportioned among the 31 senatorial districts by a formula giving equal weight to: (a) the Democratic vote in the last gubernatorial election; and (b) the Democratic vote in the last presidential election. The formula may be stated mathematically as follows:
      \[ \text{District's percentage} = \frac{P + V}{2} \]
      where \( P \) is the district’s percentage of the statewide Democratic vote in the last gubernatorial election, and \( V \) is the district’s percentage of the total statewide vote for the Democratic nominee in the last presidential election (district vote/state vote).
   c. To apply the apportionment formula, multiply the resulting percentage times the total number of Delegates to be elected from the senatorial districts, as opposed to the number to be elected at large.

9. The remaining Delegates to the National Convention (between 0% and 25%) shall be elected at-large by majority vote of the State Convention as a whole. Such At-Large Delegates shall be nominated by the Convention’s Permanent Nominations Committee for At-Large Delegates and/or from the floor, in accordance with these Rules.

10. The explicit number of National Convention Delegates to be elected by each senatorial district and the explicit number to be elected at-large by the Convention according to the above procedures shall be announced by the State Chair and certified to the Secretary of State at least 30 days prior to the County and Senatorial District Conventions.

11. Process of Electing Delegates
    a. The procedure for nominating and for electing Delegates within the Senatorial District Caucuses shall be as follows:

Each Senatorial District Caucus may choose, by majority vote, any of the following methods to nominate such officers, Delegates, Alternates, and members of permanent Convention Committees which the Caucus is entitled to elect: elect a Nominations Committee(s); direct the Caucus Chair to appoint a Nominations Committee(s); or act as a Committee of the Whole, with all nominations made from the Caucus Floor.

b. Regardless of the method chosen, however, all persons eligible to participate in a Caucus shall be permitted to nominate themselves or other eligible persons for any office to be filled by the Caucus. If a Nominations Committee is appointed, such nominations may be made by submitting them in writing to the Nominations Committee of the Caucus and/or by proposing them from the floor after a Nominations Committee has made its report and before a vote is taken.

c. Election shall be by majority vote of the duly-elected Delegates in attendance at the Caucus, each casting a proportionate share of the full voting strength allotted to the county represented, and each entitled to vote for as many Offices, Delegates and Convention Committee members as there are positions to be filled by the Senatorial District Caucus.

12. No Texas Delegate to a National Convention may be selected by any method, whether called “direct election primary” or otherwise, which has the effect of being a winner-take-all Primary.

B. Alternates

1. The total number of Alternates shall be allocated among the senatorial districts in the same manner specified for Delegates, except that the exact number of Alternates to be elected by the Senatorial District Caucuses (between 75% and 100%) need not be set by the SDEC at a percentage identical to that set for Delegates.

2. After the Senatorial District Caucuses elect Delegates to the National Convention, they shall nominate and elect their Alternates in the same manner. A person nominated for Alternate by a Senatorial District Caucus shall be eligible for election as an At-Large Delegate. When the Nominations Committee selects an Alternate from a Senatorial District Caucus to serve instead as an At-Large Delegate, the Nominations Committee shall declare such Alternate position vacant and shall fill it as if it were an At-Large Alternate position.

3. Following the election of At-Large Delegates by the Convention, At-Large Alternates shall be elected in the same manner.

C. Succession of Alternates to Delegate Status. Alternates shall succeed to Delegate status according to the procedures outlined in Article IV.A.18 of these Party Rules.

D. Guidelines for Representation of the Delegation

1. The Convention shall make every feasible effort to encourage representation on the National Convention Delegation of women, ethnic minorities, sexual orientation minorities, and youth in reasonable relationship to their presence in the population of the state.

2. Candidates for Delegate or Alternate shall be required to make known their presidential preference or uncommitted status to the relevant assembly prior to their election.
## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO DO THIS*</th>
<th>YOU SAY THIS</th>
<th>MAY YOU INTERRUPT THE SPEAKER?</th>
<th>MUST BE SECONDED?</th>
<th>IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?</th>
<th>IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?</th>
<th>WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjourn the meeting</td>
<td>I move that we adjourn</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess the meeting</td>
<td>I move that we recess until…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>AMENDABLE</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.</td>
<td>Point of Privilege</td>
<td>MAY interrupt the Speaker</td>
<td>NO second needed</td>
<td>NOT debatable**</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>NO vote required***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspend further consideration of something</td>
<td>I move we table it.</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End debate</td>
<td>I move the previous question</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>Two-thirds vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone consideration of something</td>
<td>I move we postpone this matter until…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE</td>
<td>AMENDABLE</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have something studied further</td>
<td>I move we refer this matter to a committee</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE</td>
<td>AMENDABLE</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amend a motion</td>
<td>I move that this motion be amended by…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE</td>
<td>AMENDABLE</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce business (a primary motion)</td>
<td>I move that…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE</td>
<td>AMENDABLE</td>
<td>MAJORITY vote required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The motions or points above are listed in established order of precedence. When any of them is pending, you may not introduce another that’s listed below, but you may introduce another that’s listed above it.

**In this case, any resulting motion is debatable.

***Chair decides.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO DO THIS*</th>
<th>YOU SAY THIS</th>
<th>MAY YOU INTERRUPT THE SPEAKER?</th>
<th>MUST BE SECONDED?</th>
<th>IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?</th>
<th>IS THE MOTION AMENDABLE?</th>
<th>WHAT VOTE IS REQUIRED?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Object to procedure or to a personal affront</td>
<td>Point of order</td>
<td>MAY interrupt the Speaker</td>
<td>NO second needed</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>NO vote required, Chair decides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request information</td>
<td>Point of information</td>
<td>If urgent, may interrupt speaker</td>
<td>NO second needed</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>NO vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice vote</td>
<td>I call for a division of the house</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker**</td>
<td>NO second needed</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>NO vote required unless one objects***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter</td>
<td>I object to consideration of this question</td>
<td>MAY interrupt the Speaker</td>
<td>NO second needed</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>Two-thirds vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take up a matter previously tabled</td>
<td>I move we take from the table…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>MAJORITY required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsider something already disposed of</td>
<td>I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to…</td>
<td>MAY interrupt the Speaker, motion is debatable</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE IF original</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>MAJORITY required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider something out of its scheduled order</td>
<td>I move we suspend the rules and consider…</td>
<td>May NOT interrupt the speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>NOT debatable</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>Two-thirds vote required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote on a ruling by the Chair</td>
<td>I appeal the Chair’s decision</td>
<td>MAY interrupt the Speaker</td>
<td>MUST be seconded</td>
<td>DEBATABLE</td>
<td>NOT amendable</td>
<td>MAJORITY required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time – except when the meeting is considering either a motion to adjourn, a motion to recess or a point of privilege.

**But division must be called for before another motion is started.

***Then majority vote is required.