Become a Delegate to the 2014 Democratic State Convention

Overview

A person becomes a delegate to the Democratic State Convention by being elected at their county convention (or in larger counties one of multiple senate district convention within the county). At this county or senate district convention, there is a meeting of attendees from each precinct to select a person(s) to attend the state convention. In order to be elected, you should recruit neighbors and friends from your precinct to attend and to vote for you, be present at that meeting, and earn the votes of those there.

Here is the step-by-step outline of what happens at your local convention:

1. Pre-register online at: http://register.txdeomcrats.org
2. Put March 22, 2014 on your calendar. That’s the date of your local convention.
3. Check the Texas Democratic Party calendar or watch for an email from the TDP noting the time and location of your local convention. The calendar can be found here: http://www.txdemocrats.org/events
4. Arrive at your county convention on March 22, 2014 and sign in. Your signature makes you an official attendee.
5. The local convention is called to order and opening introductions and ceremonies are held.
6. The chair will announce the committee chairs and members of the permanent Committees on Credentials, Nominations for At-Large Delegates, Resolutions, and Rules.
7. The chair will announce rules regarding resolutions, including location and the time limits on submission (approximately one hour after the beginning of the convention).
8. The chair will call for attendees from each precinct or grouped precincts (see grouping precincts for more information) to meet. At this “precinct convention” all the people from your precinct gather.
   a. The precinct chair will call the precinct convention to order. The chair will determine the number of people in attendance. A secretary will be selected to keep minutes of the meeting.
   b. The chair will announce the number of delegates and an equal number of alternates to be elected to the state convention (the precinct is allowed to elect a delegate and an alternate for each full 300 votes cast in 2010 for Bill White, the Democratic nominee for governor. 300+ votes equals one delegate/alternate; 600+ equals two delegates/alternates; 900+ votes equals three delegates/alternates, etc.)
c. If your precinct had less than 300 votes, then your precinct will have been grouped by the county/senate district executive committee with other small precincts to elect the allotted number of delegates based on the total number of votes for Bill White.

d. The chair will call for self-nominations for those who wish to be candidates for delegate. Nominations cannot be closed until all who want to be considered are nominated.

Each participant may cast a number of votes equal to the number of delegates allocated to such precinct (or grouped precinct) convention. For example, if there are three positions to be filled, each participant may cast three full votes in the following manner:

(1) One vote for each of three candidates;
(2) Two votes for one candidate and one vote for one other candidate; or
(3) Three votes for a single candidate.

e. Persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the delegates elected by the group. The group receiving the next highest number of votes shall be alternate delegates. In the case of a tie vote for either delegate or alternate, the delegate or alternate shall be determined by lot or chance.

f. Consensus election: If the attendees can agree by consensus before holding the elections laid out in (c) who they wish to send to the state convention as the delegate(s) and alternate(s), then an attendee may make a motion to elect those persons by acclamation.

g. The chair and secretary will report the results of the selection from the precinct(s) to the nominations committee.

h. The precinct convention adjourns until the full local convention is called back to order.

i. Any person who was elected alternate or was not selected for any position may apply to the nominations committee to become an at-large delegate (if any are available).

9. Nominations Committee: This committee will meet after gathering all the results from the precinct conventions. If, after the executive committee had allocated delegates to the precincts and grouped precincts, there were delegate places remaining, these places are elected “at-large.” The committee will assess the delegation elected from the precincts and determine the ratio of men and women, ethnic minorities, youth, seniors, and LGBT representation. The nominations committee then will recommend to the full convention the persons to be elected for the requisite number of at-large delegates and
alternates. Their recommended list should be used to balance the county’s delegation to the state convention to be representative of the population of the Democrats in the county.

If you wish to attend the state convention, and were unsuccessful in being elected from your precinct, you should follow the instructions of your chair on how to request consideration by the Nominations Committee. Seek out and make your wishes known to members of the committee to place you on the at-large delegate list.

10. The Convention will continue with the report of the Resolutions Committee and action on recommended items by the full convention.

11. Adjourn