

MINUTES

Republican Party of Bexar County The Republican Party of Bexar County

Executive Committee Meeting MINUTES

16 August 2022, 5:00 pm (Registration), 6:02 pm (Meeting Convened)

CREATED 19 August 2022, Last Revised: 1 September 2022 (anything in red needs to be researched)

CALL TO ORDER: The County Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The Chairman began the meeting by admitting is mistake of not including all the necessary items as prescribed in *RPBC Bylaws* Article III, Section 7, Paragraph G. The Chair told the Executive Committee this was a mistake and was not intended to be controversial in anyway. The Chair stated that we could continue the meeting and do the business of the Executive Committee or go home. The Chair stated he would leave it up to the body. Warrington Lee Austerman (4198) was recognized and made a motion that the meeting be convened. The motion was seconded by Betty Eckert (2054) and Charlotte Folson (4046). There was no discussion and the Chair called for the body to accept the motion without objection. There being no objection the meeting proceeded.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES: The County Chair then asked if there was a member who would volunteer to give the invocation. Art Brown (4073) volunteered to lead the body in prayer. The Chair called upon the Boy Scout troop 17 to post the colors and lead the pledges to the United States and the State of Texas.

The following individuals assisted with the meeting:

Position	Individuals
Assistant Secretary	Cindy Guzowski (3090)
Foods Sales (Concession)	Vicki Durst (3074)
Sergeant-at-arms	Lupe Rivera (1014)
Sergeant-at-arms	Zander Gukian (Teenage Republicans)
Sergeant-at-arms	Jim Burghard
Sergeant-at-arms	Augi McLamb
Sergeant-at-arms (Chief)	Rodney Marsh (husband of elected official)
Set up and teardown	Howard Smilowitz (2154) Ed Reeves (2099) Joe Leatherwood (3181) Jon Melendez (3084) Paul James (3190) Andy Vicencio (4091)
Sign-in Committee	Loretta Kusek (Alamo City Conservative Club) (4054) Charlene Vanderpoorten (3074) Ellen Ott (3161)
Teller 1	Vanessa Alvarado (3027)
Teller 2	Emily Niño (1139)
Teller 3	Donna Wallis (3020)
Teller 4	Jordan White (3113)
Timekeepers	Julie Ahr (3034)
Timekeepers	Cindy Guzowski (3090)
Volunteer Coordinator	Joe Garza (2048)

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: The Chairman then ask the Secretary if a quorum was present? The Secretary reported there were 271 active precinct chairs for this meeting. Dominick Dina (2072) had resigned days before the meeting. The normal quorum based on this number would be 68. However, with the new RPBC Bylaws Article III Section 10, Paragraph A, the adjusted quorum based on subtracting members with two consecutive absents (64) would be $[271-64 = 207] \times .25 = 52$. At present, the Secretary reported there were 84 precinct chairs signed in and present exceeding the number required for a quorum to conduct business.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: The Chairman then asked that the agenda as presented in the reminder sent out on 9 August 2022 be accepted without objection. There was an objection by Patty Gutting (1108) that the meeting agenda was not valid since it had not

been included in the original call and did not include the necessary materials (information) as defined in the Bylaws. The Chairman noted Ms. Gutting's objection and acknowledged the mistake but added that the body by motion and without objection had just voted to convene the meeting and that the agenda sent out on 9 August in the reminder presented an agenda that should be adopted. Kris Koons (**3030**) then stood to object to the agenda based on the inclusion of the Censure Resolutions for a variety of reasons including their' not being included in the original call and being in violation of RPT Rule 44. Again, the Chairman acknowledge the issues but felt the body should make that decision about the resolutions when they came up on the agenda and that the body had voted to proceed with the meeting.

With that, Ed Reeves (**2099**) moved that the agenda as presented be adopted by the body. The motion was seconded by Teresa Bollin (**1082**). There being no further discussion, the question was called and passed on voice vote.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Chairman asked if there were any objections to the minutes as presented in the reminder? Hearing no objections, the chair asked the body to approve the minutes without objection. Hearing none, the chair declared the minutes approved.

VOTING IN NEW PRECINCT CHAIRS FOR VACANT PRECINCTS: The Chairman inadvertently skipped this item.

OPEN FLOOR FOR CANDIDATES AND CLUBS: Janie Garza (**2068**) was recognized to speak to the Body for 2 minutes about the Red Wave Initiative and the need for unity. Her talk was extended by motion (Rick Briscoe, Julie Ahr second) for two additional minutes.

Club representatives (Speakers) were allotted 1-minute to speak.

1. Chuck Rose (**3164**) spoke for the **Pachyderm Club**.
2. Jeannie Melendez (**4085**) spoke for **Engage, For Freedom**.
3. Frank Fonseca (**2060**) spoke for **Heart de San Antonio** and their Candidate mixer on 1 September 2022.
4. John Owens (**3116**) spoke on behalf of **Bexar Conservatives** highlighting their precinct chair training classes on Saturday, 20 August 2022, at Blanco Plaza. He encouraged every precinct chair to attend this important training.
5. Zander Gukian spoke for **Teenage Republicans of Bexar County** and their need for funding to hold meetings.
6. Kris Coons (**3030**) spoke for the **Bexar County Republican Women's Club** event to be held on 20 August 2022 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
7. Becca Engle (**3072**) noted she was the new chairman for **Young Conservatives of Texas** (YCT) chapter at Incarnate Word University and could use help from the RPBC and its members in holding events and funds.
8. Loretta Kusek (**4054**) spoke for **Alamo City Conservatives** and their monthly meetings and their event on 20 August 2022 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm.
9. Art Brown (**4073**) spoke about **Convention of States** and how he needed people to join the movement and how COS was working to recruit new precinct chairs.
10. Vicki Durst (**3074**) spoke about **San Antonio Republican Women's Club** event to be held on 22 September 2022 where the guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Allen West. The event begins at 7:00 pm.
11. Jonathan Melendez (**3084**) spoke for **Republican Men's Club** telling the body that the club met the 2nd Thursday of every month.
12. Yvonne Krzyzewski (**3012**) spoke for the **Bexar County Election Integrity Group** noting they meet every Wednesday evening at Blanco Plaza. The chair said only clubs and Bexar County Election Integrity Group is not a club.
13. Marion Stanko (**3015**) spoke for the **Republican Club of Bexar County**, and they meet the 4th Wednesday of every month. They meet between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.
14. Karen Marshall (**SREC 26**) spoke for the **Camino Real Republican Club**. It meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month and this coming week; the club will be showing **2000 Mules**.

Following the Clubs, the Chairman called upon any candidates present to speak to the body. Candidates were allotted 2-minutes to speak.

1. **Mark Dorazio**, candidate for Texas Legislative District 122, spoke about his candidacy and the four issues he was campaigning on: The Border Crisis, Election Integrity, Property Tax Reform, and Keeping Washington D.C. out of Texas.
2. **Marc LaHood**, candidate for Bexar County District Attorney, spoke about the need for the party to unify behind all the candidates this fall. Mr. LaHood spoke to the backlog of complaints failing to be prosecuted by the current DA and the need to dig out from this hole.
3. **Richard Gold**, candidate for Bexar County Clerk, spoke to the body about the need to unify and restore competent leadership and management to the operations of county government. He asked all the precinct chairs to sign up for his campaign and Vote for the Gold. Mr. Gold encouraged precinct chairs to encourage their voters to Vote all the way to the bottom of the Ballot.
4. **Steve Allison**, incumbent and candidate for Texas Legislative District 121. Mr. Allison spoke about the need for unity so we can elect Republicans from the capitol to the courthouse.
5. **Kyle Sinclair**, candidate for Congressional District 20, spoke about creating a red wave and turning it into a tidal wave. He appealed for everyone to unify and build a unified campaign to elect all the great Republican Candidates on the ballot.

The Chairman started to move forward with the agenda when Justin Nichols (**4157**) asked to be recognized. Upon recognition, Mr. Nichols moved that surrogates for each of the campaigns present be allowed to speak for 30 seconds for their candidates. The motion was seconded by Rick Briscoe (**3078**). Several members appealed for the chair to recognize the surrogates and the question was called. Nichols' motion passed on voice vote. The following surrogates spoke for their candidates:

1. Simona Rubalcava spoke for Representative **Tony Gonzales**, incumbent and candidate for Congressional District 23.
2. Gary Teal spoke for **Grant Moody**, candidate for Bexar County Commissioner Precinct 3. Opening office at 2101 NW Military.
3. Naomi Narvaiz (**SREC 25**) spoke for **Ken Paxton**, incumbent and candidate for Texas Attorney General.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD BUSINESS) - Ed Reeves (**2099**) asked to be recognized. Upon recognition, Mr. Reeves moved that the 16 Precinct Chairs nominated last meeting, 19 July 2022, were not voted on by the RPBC Executive Committee as required by the Texas Election Code. Mr. Reeves said his motion was a friendly motion made to correct an error made by the committee. The motion was seconded by Rosario Zarb – Cousin (**3173**). The Chairman asked if there was any discussion, there being none, the question was called, and the sixteen (16) precinct chairs nominated and sworn in at the 19 July 2022 RPBC Executive Committee meeting were elected unanimously.

BUDGET: The Chairman then introduced the budget to the committee for consideration. The Chairman and Treasurer both presented the budget highlighting the revenue sources (proposed fundraisers) and the various expenses faced by the RPBC in conducting its business. Barbara Miller (**2126**) stood up and asked about salaried employees, asking how many. The Chairman responded that only Jamie Marroquin was a paid employee. Ms. Miller then asked about comparisons to last year and the chairman pointed out that the attached budget showed that comparison. The chair then asked the body to accept the budget without objection. Hearing no objection, the budget was declared accepted.

VOTING IN NEW PRECINCT CHAIRS FOR VACANT PRECINCTS: MJ Smoot (3075) asked to be recognized. Upon being recognized Ms. Smoot said she rose to make a point of inquiry. The chairman asked her to make her point. Ms. Smoot noted the chair had skipped the election of new precinct chairs, Item 5 on the agenda. The chairman told Ms. Smoot her point of inquiry was well taken. The chairman then asked the secretary to introduce the new precinct chairs nominated to fill vacant precincts.

The secretary then introduced each of the nominees asking them to come forward to the front of the hall to be introduced, voted on, and sworn in. The nine candidates introduced were:

1158	Jason West
2064	Luke Macias
3017	Kathleen Biederman
3056	David Moore
3061	Nathan Macias
3081	Weston Martinez
4052	Jesús García
4055	Robin Ross
4108	Aaron Macias

The secretary moved election of the nine (9) nominees to fill the vacancies without objection. There being no objections, the chairman declared the nominees elected and all were sworn in by the parliamentarian, Mike Simpson.

Joe Garza (**2048**) asked to be recognized. The chairman recognized Mr. Garza asking why he sought to be recognized. Mr. Garza sought to make a point of inquiry of the secretary. The chairman then told Mr. Garza to make his inquiry. Mr. Garza pointed out that Ms. Nicole Hill was not included in the most recent class of precinct chairs elected tonight. He knew Ms. Hill had filled out her application, had forwarded it to Mr. Leatherwood (secretary), Mr. Leatherwood had acknowledged receipt of her application, Mr. Leatherwood had vetted Ms. Hill, Mr. Leatherwood had notified Ms. Hill of her nomination and this meeting, but did not list her among the nominees to be inducted tonight. Why?

The secretary admitted he had left Ms. Hill off the list by mistake. He apologized to the RPBC Executive Committee for his error and moved Ms. Hill be elected as the new precinct chair for precinct **3005** without objection. There being none, Ms. Hill was declared elected to the Executive Committee by the Chairman and Ms. Hill was sworn in by the parliamentarian.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS: The chairman then appointed the following individuals to be chairs of the following standing Committees.

Janie Garza	2068	Precinct Organization Committee
Warrington Lee Austerman	4198	Bylaws and Rules Committee
Sandra Crocker	3021	Community Outreach Committee

The Chairman moved ratification by the body without objection. Hearing none, he declared those named as chairs to be appointed and ratified. The Chairman highlighted the need for individuals to step up and fill the vacant chairs for both standing and special committees during this campaign season.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chairman outlined several suggestions to the RPBC Executive Committee concerning the submission of motions and resolutions. He read the following statement:

“ALL Resolutions should be directed to the chair and copied to the Secretary for recording purposes. If not submitted to the Chair they will not be brought forth.

Resolutions are only submitted to the body for the purpose of approving the essence of the Resolution. Following final determination if approved, the Communications Committee will review the Resolution for syntax and spelling. Then return to the author for final approval prior to publication. Publication shall be released as per the request of the author: (I) placed on the website, (II) a press release, (III) a blast mailing via Constant contact, (iv) motions and resolutions presented in the order of time estimated needed for discussion and possible amendments, (V) Amendment of rules – in future, we will be asking that any motion or resolution be submitted no less than 14 days prior to any RPBC Executive Committee meeting. All Executive Committee meetings will be posted on the website for reference for those wishing to submit a motion or resolution. Motions and Resolutions must be submitted to the chairman and the secretary for review.”

RESOLUTIONS: The order of the resolutions presented were as follows (ALL resolutions may be referenced in the RPBC Minutes Book at headquarters):

Resolution 001 Warrington Lee Austerman Legislative Priority for Bexar County: Property Tax Reform

Warrington Lee Austerman (**4198**) introduced his resolution addressing property tax reform. The resolution was seconded by Barbara Miller (**2126**). There was no discussion, the question was called and passed on voice vote.

Resolution 002 Warrington Lee Austerman Legislative Priority for Bexar County: Protecting History

Warrington Lee Austerman (**4198**) introduced his resolution addressing the protection of historical sites. The resolution was seconded by many in the body. The chairman called for discussion and Cameron Quintanilla (**4102**) stood to amend the resolution asking that the word “demand that the legislature pass” be struck from the resolution and replaced with “call upon the legislature to pass.” Rick Briscoe (**3078**) rose and made a substitution motion that the resolution as presented be tabled for perfection. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion, the chairman called for a voice vote and the motion passed to table the resolution as presented.

Resolution 006 Jonathan Melendez Proposed Resolution: COSA Immigrant Center

Jonathan Melendez (**3084**) introduced his resolution addressing the COSA Immigrant Center on San Pedro and the myriad of problems emanating from the center and the decision. The resolution was seconded by several in the body. Discussion ensued: Robert Gonzales (**2040**) rose to oppose the resolution calling for no so-called immigrant center at all. Mr. Melendez spoke for his resolution calling on all to vote for it. Sandra Crocker (**3021**) stood and spoke against the motion saying there should be no such center in San Antonio because it was in violation of the law. John Owens (**3116**) asked to be recognized and made a substitution motion to table this resolution for perfection. The motion was seconded by many in the body.

A voice vote was held but the chairman declared he could not call a winner based on the sound. David Westbrook (**2163**) called for a division of the house, a standing vote. The tellers were called forward and instructed to count those standing in support of their vote. The motion was to table Jonathan Melendez’s Resolution addressing the COSA Immigrant Center for perfection. The chairman called on all those voting for the motion to table to stand and the teller tallied the votes and reported them to the secretary. Those voting to table totaled 55. The chairman then asked all those opposed to tabling the motion to stand and the tellers tallied the votes and reported them to the secretary. Those voting against tabling the resolution total 40. The chairman declared that the resolution would be tabled.

Resolution 004 Randolph Macias A Resolution: Condemnation of Federal Law

Randolph Macias (**2090**) introduced his resolution addressing violations of federal law with respect to the border and immigration laws. The motion was seconded by Cameron Quintanilla (**4102**). The floor was opened for discussion. Phyllis Wideman (**4117**) rose to amend the language asking that the word “immigration” law be inserted into the resolution following the word federal, to be read “violations of federal immigration law.” The amendment was seconded by many in the body. The chair asked for discussion, there was none. A vote was taken on the amendment to insert the word “immigration” into the resolution as prescribed and it passed on a voice vote.

Patty Gutting (**1108**) sought recognition to make a point of order (inquiry) about the inclusion of language about “rural settings.” The chair noted that such language was part of the previous resolution and it had been tabled for perfection.

Ms. Wideman then ask the Macias resolution be read to the body with the amended language: The chairman read the resolution as amended - “The Republican Party of Bexar County CONDEMNS open and flagrant violations of federal immigration law, and multiple city ordinances to accommodate illegal aliens in our community especially the abuses of Proposition A, and the wasteful use of taxpayer funds designated to the San Antonio Police Department in the city budget to protect and serve San Antonio citizens and causing the lives of our local police to be jeopardized”

The question was called by Cheryl Hagenson (**4106**), and the resolution passed on voice vote.

Resolution 005 Art Brown A Resolution of Censure of U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales

Motion was ultimately tabled. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Leatherwood (**3181** and secretary) moved adjournment of the meeting, and it was so ordered by the chair. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Audio File: housed in file 20220816 RPBC EC meeting

Number of Precinct Chairs signed in: 116

Required Quorum: declaration of a Quorum: 51, Adjusted for new precinct chairs: 54

Visitors: 40

Elapsed time: Meeting Convened: 6:02 pm Meeting Adjourned: 8:38 [156 minutes]

Jeffrey R. McManus
Republican County Chair

Joseph D. Leatherwood
RPBC Secretary