

Republican Party of Bexar County Organizational Meeting
June 29, 2024
Christian School at Castle Hills, 2216 N.W, Military Hwy, San Antonio

Chair Kris Coons called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Invocation

Anita Kegley led the invocation, thanking God for the opportunity to gather and asking for guidance, protection, and wisdom for all attendees.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Mark Whyte led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

Texas Pledge

Representative Mark Dorazio led the attendees in the Texas Pledge.

Introductions

Special guests were introduced, including Representative Mark Dorazio, Commissioner Grant Moody, Councilman Mark Whyte, the Honorable Kay Katz of Louisiana, former Councilman Clayton Perry, Justice Bert Richardson and Ben Mostyn, candidate for State Representative 117.

SREC 26 members Lucy Trainer and Mike Wheeler were also introduced.

Appointment of Temporary Secretary

Diane Rath was appointed temporary secretary for the meeting.

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Honorable Bert Richardson, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, conducted the swearing-in of Kris Coons as Chair of the Republican Party of Bexar County, followed by the swearing-in of the current precinct chairs.

Determination of Quorum

Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Rule 9 states at least one fourth of the membership shall constitute a quorum. There are currently 180 precinct chairmen so 45 members are required for a quorum. It was confirmed that at least 45 members were present.

Appointment of Parliamentarian and other positions

Justin Nichols was appointed as the Parliamentarian for the meeting. Curt Andrews, Dick Coons, and Calvin Bollin were appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms. Teresa Bollin and Cheryl Hagenson were appointed as Tellers.

Adoption of Agenda

Cheryl Hagenson moved adoption of the agenda as published, seconded by Chris George.

The agenda was adopted overwhelmingly.

Appointment of Officers

Kyle Sinclair was appointed Vice Chair, Diane Rath- Secretary and Lille Gough- Treasurer. John Austin moved approval of the appointments by acclamation and the motion was seconded.

The appointments were approved without dissent.

Appointment of Legal Counsel and Chaplain

Justin Nichols was appointed Legal Counsel, and Anita Kegley Chaplain.

These were approved.

Adoption of Bylaws

Chair Coons said a draft of the proposed bylaws was included in the June mailing with the agenda. She received input from an informal work group chaired by Curt Nelson and members included Steve Jordan, Carol Van de Walle, Justin Nichols, Anna Maria Farias, Elizabeth Hilburn, and Diane Rath. She emphasized these are her recommendations.

David Westbrook, Pct 1107, asked if the body should adopt Rules of Order before the Bylaws? Justin Nichols, Parliamentarian and General Counsel, stated that today's meeting is governed by the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas and Robert's Rules of Order. We will consider the Bylaws and Rules of Order as a package.

Robert Gonzalez, Pct 2040, had a Parliamentary Inquiry. RPT Rule 8g states all committee meetings shall be open and all members have the right to attend and offer testimony. This committee did not comply with the RPT Rules as the body did not have any knowledge of the meetings or proposals. Chair Coons stated this was not a formal committee just a work group offering suggestions to her. This draft is her proposal and the CEC is now considering any bylaws and working through her proposal.

Mr. Gonzalez appealed the ruling of the Chair. A vote on the appeal to the Chair's ruling followed. The NAY's prevailed overwhelmingly thereby upholding the ruling of the Chair.

Steve Jordan, Pct 3105, presented the recommended bylaws since Curt Nelson is out of town. The goal was to ensure the bylaws allowed the efficient functioning of the County Party. He emphasized the need for bylaws that can be followed and are easily understood. Provisions included in the Texas Election Code and the RPT Rules do not need to be restated in the County Bylaws.

Theresa Bollin, Pct 1082, moved to adopt the Bylaws as recommended and the motion was seconded.

Marian Stanko, Pct 3015, recommended an article by article review and stated she had several amendments for consideration:

Article III, Section 2, Eligibility

Insert "if filling a vacancy" on the last line before "be affiliated as a Republican in even-numbered years. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed with two speakers For and Against. The motion FAILED on a voice vote.

Article III, Section 4

Precinct Chair Vacancy, delete "Chair" in the header

- A. Insert "Between Primary elections" before "the Executive Committee"
- B. 2. Add "preferably with written notice" after "moving out of the precinct"
- C. Change "ten (10) business days" to "seven (7) days"

There was a second to the motion. Brief discussion followed with a speaker For and Against. The motion FAILED on a voice vote.

Article III, Section 5

Insert "B. Voting and non-voting ex-officio members may chair or serve as voting members on any Standing or Special Committee, provided they are registered voters and reside in Bexar County."

The motion FAILED for lack of a second.

Article III, Section 6, Organizational Meeting

Minor changes were proposed to bring the section into compliance with the most recent RPT Rules. This section needs to be updated to conform by inserting

- B. the County Chair "of the incoming term"
- C. Notice of the organizational meeting "and a copy of any proposed Bylaws or Rules" shall be "either" mailed..."and be posted on the county Party website. Delivery shall be to the last known address at least seven (7)" days.....
- D. ...members, "the approval of the budget, election or ratified appointment of additional officers and committees,...and/or Rules...and"
- E. Failure to adopt bylaws "and"/or Rules....Bylaws "and"/or Rules.

The motion received a second. There was one speaker For and Against. The amendment PASSED.

Article III, Section 7

- A. Insert " (RPT Rule No. 8r)" between "quarterly" and "in addition"

Insert new Sections D and G and renumber the subsections to A-G.

- D. "a member may receive meeting notices by US Postal Service mail if that member provides a written request to the Secretary to receive Executive Committee meeting notices by regular US Postal Service mail"
- G. "No Executive Committee meeting shall be held during the two (2) days prior, during, or two (2) days after the week of the biennial State convention or during any calendar week in which committee meetings or general sessions of the quadrennial national convention are scheduled (RPT rule No. 8 f)"

The motion was seconded. One speaker spoke For and Against the motion. The question was called. The main motion FAILED.

Point of Order

M.J. Smoot, Pct 3075, raised a point of order regarding whether applicants for vacant precinct chair positions should be considered before the bylaw consideration. Chair Coons replied it was not an agenda item so could not be considered at this meeting.

Article III, Section 8

At the end of Section B, insert "including, but not limited to, votes conducted by the Executive Committee, any Standing or Special committees, and subcommittees."

The motion received a second. After discussion, the motion FAILED.

Article III, Section 10, Quorum

At the end of subsection B, insert

B...."at County, District, or Precinct Executive Committee meetings. (RPT Rule No. 9b), except to fill the vacancy of county chair (TEC 171.025) or a nominee for public office (TEC Chapters 145 or 202) is a majority."

The motion received a second and after discussion, the motion was ADOPTED.

Curtis Andrews, Pct 3162, stated the meeting package was sent out well in advance and all members were offered the opportunity to submit any concerns. Chris George, Pct 3107, stated his meeting package was delayed in delivery. He stated if he had received it timely, he would have provided the Chair comments. The Chair recognized Marian Stanko, Pct 3015, to continue with her motion.

Article III, Section 11 be reinserted:

"Section 11, Responsibilities of Executive Committee Members

The Executive Committee Members shall assist Republican Party candidates and have general responsibility for all Party activities, functions, and campaigns within their respective precincts. It is the duty of each Precinct Chair to serve as liaison between the Republican Party of Bexar County and voters within the precinct he or she represents, to attend Executive Committee meetings, and to promote the growth of the Republican Party of Texas within the county."

The motion was seconded and discussion followed with two speakers For and Against. After a voice vote that was unclear, a standing vote was taken and the amendment FAILED, F=40 Against =48.

Allan Frenzel, Pct 3124, moved to table the rest of the bylaws until the next meeting. His motion was ruled out of order as the RPT rules require bylaws be adopted at this meeting.

Article III, Section 11 be amended to read

"A. The Executive Committee, as a body, shall not endorse one Republican over another in a contested race. All resources of the Republican Party of Bexar County shall be made equally available to all candidates in the Republican primary;

B. In non-partisan races, the endorsement of the Executive Committee may only be given by the passing of a resolution by the Executive Committee;

- C. No committee member shall endorse a candidate on behalf of the entire Executive Committee; and
- D. No officer shall endorse a candidate on behalf of the Executive Committee without prior approval by the Executive Committee. After discussion with three speakers For and Against, the amendment PASSED.

Chris George, Pct. 3107, Added there should be no endorsements of candidates of the opposite party.

Article IV, Section 1

Amend Section 1 to read

“The officers of the Party shall be the County Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any non-statutory Executive Committee meeting. The Vice Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the County Chair and ratified by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any non-statutory Executive Committee meeting. The officers, except for the County Chair, need not be members of the Executive Committee prior to their appointment or election. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed to them by the pertinent statutes of the TEC, the General Rules of the Republican Party of Texas, these Bylaws, and such other duties as may be designated by the Executive Committee by resolution or the County Chair.

The motion received a second. After discussion with three speakers both For and Against, a voice vote was indecisive. A standing vote was held and the amendment FAILED with For =41 and Against=56.

Jon Menendez, Pct 3084, called for a vote on the proposed bylaws as amended. He reminded the body the bylaws could be amended at a later date. The parliamentarian reminded the body that the motion to call the question is not debatable. He clarified that the question before the body was to end debate and proceed to a vote on the main motion, to adopt the bylaws **and rules** as amended. On a standing vote, the motion PASSED with 83 votes in favor of ending debate.

A vote to adopt the recommended bylaws and rules as amended occurred and the motion PASSED. The recommended bylaws **and rules** as amended were adopted.

Richard Briscoe, Pct 3078, moved the Chair be authorized to make non-substantive changes to the bylaws to correct typos, grammar, etc. His motion was ruled out of order.

Recess for Caucus to elect Members of the Management Committee

Chair Coons recessed the meeting at 10:55 so each commissioner precinct could caucus to elect its members of the Management Committee. The Temporary Caucus Chairs are

- Precinct 1 James Barnes (1080)
- Precinct 2 Frank Fonseca (2060)
- Precinct 3 Monica Rojas (3082)
- Precinct 4 Mike Hoffman (4050)

The meeting will reconvene at 11:20.

At 11:20, Chair Coons reconvened the meeting. A door prize drawing was held and the winning number announced.

Caucus Report

The results of the precinct caucuses were announced. The members elected to the Management Committee are

Precinct 1	Dave Westbrook	Teresa Bollin
Precinct 2	Robert Gonzalez	Betty Eckert
Precinct 3	Steve Jordan	Monica Rojas
Precinct 4	Warrington Austerman	Yvonne Clouser

Treasurer's Report

Lille Gough, Treasurer, provided a financial report detailing income and expenses for Fiscal Year 2023 ending June 30, 2024. The balance at year end is \$4,364.80. In response to a question, she stated monthly expenses average \$5,000. The Chair emphasized the critical financial situation that exists. She urged attendance at the July 6 Car Show and requested folks support the County Party financially, especially as Sustaining Members.

Marian Stanko, Pct 3015, moved **to approve** authorization for the Chair to spend **up to \$10,000 for the next 30 days** ~~without prior approval~~. The motion passed without objection.

The Chair then introduced the new Vice Chair Kyle Sinclair, emphasizing his professionalism and experience.

Vice Chair Sinclair emphasized the importance of Party unity and rebuilding our local Party. He discussed two recent newspaper articles discussing the irrelevance of the Republican Party in Bexar County and the failure to recruit candidates. He urged the Party to focus on supporting our elected officeholders and all candidates on the ballot.

It was announced Trump yard signs are available for purchase outside the building using cash or credit card.

Chair Coons thanked the precinct chairmen for their support and pledged her total commitment and energy towards the election of Republican officeholders. Several speakers urged contributions to the county party and recruiting additional precinct chairmen. After one additional door prize drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Rath
Secretary