



## Committees at the County or Senatorial District Conventions

**Credentials:** It is the job of the Credentials Committee to be sure each convention attendee is a qualified participant and is assigned to the correct precinct. In order to be eligible a person must be a Democratic voter who resides in the jurisdiction where the convention is being held and has either voted in the Democratic Primary or signs an oath of affiliation with the Democratic Party and has not voted in another party's primary or convention or supported a candidate of another party. In presidential years the Credentials Committee might also be called on to resolve any disputes between presidential caucuses within a precinct caucus. The Credentials Committee Report certifying both the delegates in attendance and the precincts in attendance is the first report delivered to the convention.

**Rules and Procedures:** All Party Conventions are governed by the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party and, unless otherwise required by the TDP Rules, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is the parliamentary authority. The Rules and Procedures Committee can propose additional guidelines for the operation of the County or SD Convention. An example would be putting a time or speaker limit on debate on all resolutions or proposing that a small convention operate as a committee of the whole. Basically the R & P Committee can propose any operating guidelines that do not run contrary to the TDP Rules or Robert's. The R & P Committee can also propose alterations in the TDP Rules to be considered by the Convention. These Rules change proposals can also come from the Resolutions Committee.

**Resolutions:** At the beginning of the Convention the Convention Chair shall announce where and with whom resolutions shall be filed and the filing period must remain open for at least one hour following that announcement. Any participant in the Convention can submit a resolution. Resolutions are brief statements that express the position of the Convention on an issue or subject of interest to the body. They point out why the Party feels a certain way and what action the Party proposes to take based on those feelings. They can and do cover a wide array of topics. They can be memorials or congratulations or (as most are) issue oriented. They can be local, state or national in scope. The job of the Resolutions Committee is to recommend to the body what resolutions the County or SD Convention should forward to the State Convention for consideration. The Committee should also be sure that resolutions it

favorably recommends are in correct format (where as, where as, therefore be it resolved) and accurately worded so as to express the position of the Convention. Resolutions regarding purely local issues may be recommended and adopted but they should not be forwarded to the State Convention as they serve their purpose when they are locally passed (they might be a topic for a local press release).

**Platform:** (This committee does NOT exist at the County/SD Convention level, only at the State Convention). There will likely be some overlap between Resolutions and Platform. Don't worry about this the TDP will sort things into their proper categories before the State Convention. The Platform Committee's job is to recommend to the body propositions that embody the basic principles of the Democratic Party and set forth the Party's positions on issues of statewide significance with an eye toward the November General Election. Unlike resolutions platform planks do not use the where as, therefore format. They may, and should, point out their reasoning but they also directly state the Party's position. "Because we believe every child is entitled to the opportunity to achieve their God given potential the Texas Democratic Party supports unrestricted and equal access to a quality education for all children in Texas" would be an example of a platform statement.

**Nominations:** The Nominations Committee's primary charge is to recommend to the Convention a slate of at-large delegates to fill out the County or SD delegation to the State Convention. In order to complete its assignment the Committee will have to have reports from the precinct caucuses regarding delegates selected from the precincts. In making its recommendations the Committee should keep in mind the need for diversity of both ethnicity and constituency groups in a delegation and should strive for reasonably equitable representation. In presidential years the Nominations Committee will have the responsibility for making sure the presidential preference of the entire delegation reflects the preferences of the Convention sign-in as much as is possible using the at-large delegation. At least 1/3 of all local delegations to the state convention must be of a different gender from the other 2/3, and, of course more equal is better.

20% of the members of any committee can offer a minority report on any item before that committee and qualifying minority reports will be put before the Convention. Any challenge to the Nominations Committee Report whether in a minority report or from the floor must specify not only who the substitution recommends making a delegate but also who is being removed. There are no secret ballots allowed either on the Convention floor or in committees. There is no proxy voting allowed at County or SD conventions.