



County Convention

- Held March 29th, 2008
 - Ask County Chair for location
 - Elected Delegates (or their Alternates who assumed Delegate status) from Precinct Conventions attend
- **At the Convention...**
 - The Temporary Chair calls the convention to order
 - Temp. Chair is usually the County Chair
 - Sign in and indicate your Presidential preference
 - Just as you did at your Precinct Convention, you need to indicate a Presidential preference at the County Convention.
 - You can sign in with any Presidential Preference at County/SD Convention (even if different from the preference you indicated at the Precinct level).



County Convention

- The Chair establishes the Temporary Roll of duly-elected Delegates to the County/SD Convention (or their acting Alternates).
- The Credentials Committee makes its report
 - This Committee resolves disputes over who has been elected a delegate or an alternate
 - **Note:** This is one of several committees who work to assist in the business of the County/SD Convention
 - Once this report is adopted by the Convention Delegates, it becomes the “Permanent Roll,” comprised of the names of all persons eligible to participate in all subsequent Convention business
- A permanent Convention Chair is elected to run the convention and Permanent Secretary is elected to keep the minutes



County Convention

- The Permanent Convention Chair announces the number of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention that the **County/SD** was allocated:
 - **Formula:** The ratio for Selection of Delegates to the State Convention is one Delegate and one Alternate for each **180 full votes** cast in the County for the Democratic Gubernatorial candidate in the last general election.
- The Tabulation Committee gives its report of the number of votes and percentage of Convention received by each political preference, as indicated on the sign-in sheet
 - These figures will serve as the basis for nominating and electing At-Large Delegates and Alternates



County Convention

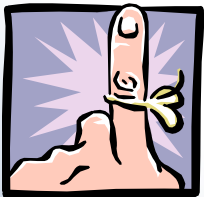
- The Convention Chair announces how many delegates and alternates **each precinct** gets to elect directly to the State Convention:
 - **Formula:** Each precinct (or paired precincts**) is entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for every **180 full votes** cast in the precinct for the Democratic Gubernatorial candidate in the last General Election
 - Essentially, each precinct (or paired precincts) gets a share of the bigger “delegate pie” that was allocated to a particular county/SD
 - **Precincts that do not qualify for a delegate will be combined with another precinct



County Convention

– The Convention will divide up into Precinct Caucuses and each caucus will elect their delegates to the State Convention

- At this point, the Tabulation Committee has reported the number and percentage of sign-ins (“votes”) for each candidate



- The precincts which did not meet the ‘180-votes for the Democratic Gubernatorial candidate’ requirement will have been paired with another similarly-situated precinct at the January County/SD Committee meeting to be sure they get to elect at least 1 delegate (and an equal number of alternates) to the Convention.



County Convention

- Nominations are accepted within each precinct caucus and each voting member of the caucus casts **one vote** in **one election** for State Convention Delegate (i.e. vote for themselves or someone else).
 - Within each precinct caucus (or paired precincts caucus), the precinct members can vote for whichever presidential candidate they choose – regardless of the Primary results



You cast your single vote based on the factor(s) you consider important (e.g., the delegate nominee's presidential preference)

- Each caucus must elect their delegates and an equal number of alternates.
 - E.g. If a caucus qualifies for two delegates, that caucus elects two delegates and two alternates.



County Convention

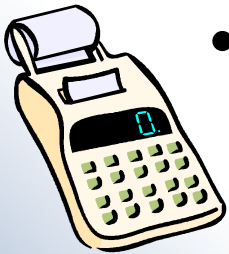
- The State Convention delegate positions are filled by the highest vote-getters; the next highest vote-getters become the alternates
 - E.g. If there are two delegates and alternates allotted to a precinct, the two highest vote-getters would become delegates and the next two highest vote-getters would become alternates.
- The names of those selected as delegates and alternates are given to the Nominations Committee to be ratified by the entire Convention
- Nominations Committee then selects “At-Large” delegates and alternates...



County Convention

– Selection of At-Large delegates by the Nominations Committee:

- The Nominations Committee uses the “overages” from the 180-vote requirement to create the at-large slots
- Once the precinct-by-precinct votes have been tabulated (i.e. the number and percentage of delegates received by each of the presidential or uncommitted preferences), such results are then compared to the results of the **County/SD sign-in**.





County Convention



- The Nominations Committee must then allocate, as close as possible, any remaining delegates in accordance with the results of the **County/SD sign-in** – without disturbing the results of the precinct conventions. The Nominations Committee must also work to balance the delegation in accordance with the Texas Delegate Selection Plan, ensuring that the entire delegation is balanced based on affirmative action goals (e.g. race, gender) and presidential preference
 - Essentially, the Nominations Committee will use the At-large seats to try to “mirror” the results of the County/SD sign-in



County Convention

- Tip** • The At-Large delegate selection process provides a second opportunity to be selected as a State Delegate. Speak with the committee members and try to persuade them to select you to fill an at-large seat

- **Note:** At the county convention level, if a presidential candidate fails to secure at least 15% of the delegate support (i.e. by having the delegates list “Candidate Smith” as their presidential preference), the Nominations Committee need not consider that preference in awarding at-large delegates

- Tip** • If this occurs, and you were not elected from your precinct caucus, notify Nominations Committee members that you’re willing to change your preference...



County Convention

- Approval of the Nominations Committee Report
 - Once the Nominations Committee finishes its business, the list of the Committee’s nominees must be submitted before the body for adoption
 - After the nominations report is read, but before its adoption, substitute nominations may be taken from the convention floor
- Tip**
- » This is your final opportunity to persuade convention participants about why you should be included on the Nomination Committee’s list of delegates
 - » If you do so, and are elected by Convention vote, you will replace someone on the Nomination Committee’s list
- Ratification by the body of the Delegates and Alternates elected from both the precinct caucuses and at-large



County Convention

- A Delegation Chair to the State Convention is elected

Tip • The delegate and alternate badges will be distributed to the SDEC member for that SD at Thursday's SDEC meeting. The SDEC member will then be in charge of distributing them at the sign-in booth Friday morning.

- Convention members consider other business, such as Resolutions
- The Convention is adjourned



County Convention 101



County Convention “Rules of Thumb”

- Don't hesitate to nominate yourself for State Delegate within your precinct caucus
 - Lobby your fellow Precinct members for their votes to go to State
- If you are not elected in your precinct (or alternatively, if you are selected as an Alternate by your precinct), you can still lobby members of the Nominations Committee to be selected as an “At-large” Delegate
- If you'd like to be named to the Nominations Committee, contact your County Chair before the County Convention and ask to be considered for a committee position