



GREEN PARTY OF TEXAS

Precinct Convention Basics

Forms you'll need:

Before your convention, download the documents at <http://txgreens.org/drupal/documents> under "Convention Forms and Documents"

- Attendance List – One per Precinct
- Affiliation Certificate
- Ballots
- Delegate List

What do we do at the Precinct Convention?

Required:

Fill out an Attendance list with voter registration numbers – one list per precinct
Elect Delegates to the County Convention
Inform attendees about the petition drive
Entertain Resolutions
Keep Minutes

Optional:

Have Precinct delegates vote on candidates for Statewide and Local offices for the County, District, and State delegates to use at the respective Conventions to guide their choices at each – like a straw poll.

How do we get started?

From the election code (Sec. 181.066):

(a) The precinct chair is the temporary chair of a precinct convention held under this chapter. [If there is not an existing precinct chair, then any delegate may serve as the temporary chair.]

(b) Before conducting business, the temporary chair shall prepare a list containing the name and residence address of each person who is admitted to participate in the convention. [Include Voter Registration number from their card and mark the card on the line provided with "Green Party". See affiliation certificate question below if attendee does not have his/her voter registration card.]

(c) The temporary chair shall call the convention to order.

(d) The convention shall select a convention chair. The convention may select any other officers considered necessary to conduct the convention's business.

Important notes:

- EACH Precinct must have a Convention Chair, an attendance list, and minutes
- IF you are the only one in your Precinct, then you are the Convention chair, the only one on the attendance list and the keeper of the minutes.
- There may be multiple Precincts at your meeting place, but they must all complete this paperwork in order for us to be in compliance with the Election Code and secure our place on the Ballot.

There can only be one precinct per attendance list!!!!

What is the primary purpose for the affiliation certificate?

To give to people who don't have their voter registration cards – if they are voters and will attest that they did not vote in a primary, then you give them an affiliation certificate and mark them as provisional on your list. Otherwise, you write/stamp Green Party on each attendee's voter card. If the card is already marked by another party, then that person is ineligible to participate as a delegate to the Precinct Convention.

How do we handle resolutions?

Resolutions are introduced at the precinct convention level. Your county bylaws determine the threshold for voting if you don't have consensus. If you don't have county bylaws yet, use the state bylaws as a guide – generally 2/3 majority and abstentions don't count. If the resolution passes by consensus or the applicable vote threshold then it goes to the county convention for consensus/vote. If the resolutions are state or national related, they can be carried by the State delegates to the State Convention.

What's the deal with having ballots at the Precinct Convention?

Having ballots at the precinct conventions since we don't have primaries would mimic a primary. If you have ballots at the precinct convention for the races from Governor on down for people to vote, then those numbers could be used by the County, District and State Convention Delegates as a guide to how those they represent want to vote on the candidates at those levels.

For the down ballot races, people can only vote on those who they could vote for in November, i.e. county clerk would be on everyone's ballot, justice of the peace precinct 2 would only be on those who could vote in that precinct.

What goes in the minutes?

Who the functionaries were (temp. chair, perm. chair, etc.); what you did, e.g. voted on county delegates, voted on candidates, filled out attendance list, voted on resolutions, etc.

How many delegates can we elect to the County Convention?

As of now, there is no party rule on this so you may elect as many delegates as you want from your precinct to the county convention.

Petition Drive? What?

See "Petition Drive Basics" publication

MEGAIMPORTANT: What happens with all this paperwork?

The Permanent Convention Chair is responsible to ensure the convention materials are returned to the County Chair. The Minutes, Attendance List and Delegates List and Ballots (if used) need to be returned to your County Chair no later than three (3) days after the convention. Also a copy of the precinct attendee lists must be sent to the State CoChairs no later than 3 days after the convention – if in the mail, within 2 days. Mailing address for the State CoChairs is: Green Party of Texas, PO Box 271080, Houston, TX 77277-1080 or email a scanned copy to cochairs@txgreens.org.

Other Questions:

How many delegates do we get to the State Convention?

It is based on your county population:

From GPTX Bylaws, Article IX, Section 9

F) Thus, delegates shall be apportioned according to county population as follows:

- 1 to 35,000 = 1 delegate

- 35,001 to 100,000 = 2 delegates
- 100,001 to 200,000 = 3 delegates
- 200,001 to 300,000 = 4 delegates
- 300,001 to 400,000 = 5 delegates
- 400,001 to 500,000 = 6 delegates
- 500,001 to 750,000 = 7 delegates
- 750,001 to 1,000,000 = 8 delegates
- 1,000,001 to 1,250,000 = 9 delegates
- 1,250,001 to 1,500,000 = 10 delegates
- 1,500,001 to 1,750,000 = 11 delegates
- 1,750,001 to 2,000,000 = 12 delegates
- 2,000,001 to 2,250,000 = 13 delegates
- 2,250,001 to 2,500,000 = 14 delegates
- 2,500,001 to 2,750,000 = 15 delegates
- 2,750,001 to 3,000,000 = 16 delegates
- 3,000,001 to 3,250,000 = 17 delegates
- 3,250,001 to 3,500,000 = 18 delegates

G) In determining the number of delegates allotted to each affiliated county, the State Executive Committee shall use the most recently published census data from the U.S. Census Bureau as of January 1st of the election year.

As acting county chair, do I qualify to be a delegate?

Yes, provided you are a qualified precinct delegate, i.e. didn't vote in a primary and are registered to vote in that precinct/county.

Is someone who voted in a Democratic primary in years past eligible to participate?

Yes. Voters are only disqualified if they voted in the current year's primary.

If we haven't already, what would be the first steps to officially affiliate as a County Party with the State Party?

From Article II, Section 2

C) County Green Party Affiliation with Green Party of Texas:

i. To affiliate with the Green Party of Texas, County Green Party organizations shall make an application in writing to the State Executive Committee. The application shall include written democratic bylaws and a list of the County Officers or Executive Committee.

ii. The State Executive Committee has the authority to accept or reject any application for membership, subject to review by the next convention.

iii. County Green Party organizations that are accepted must pay a one-time fee of \$100 to the Green Party of Texas. The State Executive Committee is authorized to reduce or waive this fee.