



Memorandum

To: SDEC members, County Chairs, Prct. Chairs, Prct. Convention Chairs, and Interested Parties
From: Jim Boynton, Primary Director, Texas Democratic Party
Re: Frequently Asked Questions about the Precinct Convention Process

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure the proper and fair administration of a Democratic Primary that will involve a record number of participants in our Democratic Precinct Convention process. The Texas Democratic Party has devoted unprecedented resources to educating and training all interested parties in the proper procedures for conducting precinct conventions under the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party and the Texas Election Code. In response to inquiries we have received regarding the precinct convention process from many of you, the following information below is provided to clarify some of the more important and most frequently asked questions that have been brought to our attention.

1. **Precinct Convention Sign-In – Tex. Elec. Code § 174.022 (c), Texas Democratic Party Rules Article IV, Section B (6)(b)**

Participants may NOT begin signing in until the precinct convention has been called to order. The call to order may not occur until 7:15 pm or until the last voter has voted (whichever is later). If, after the convention has been called to order and participants have signed in, any participant who wishes to leave may do so, and their sign in WILL count toward the delegate allocation for each candidate. Sign-In ends when the last person present waiting to sign in has done so.

2. **Poll List Provided - Tex. Elec. Code § 172.1141**

After the polls close, the Election Judge is required to provide a marked poll list to the Temporary Precinct Convention Chair for the purpose of verifying who has voted in the Democratic Primary. If you are the Temporary Convention Chair and you did not receive this list when you picked up your packet, you should ask the Election Judge for it. TDP has also asked the Secretary of State to communicate with Election Officials and have them direct election judges to provide the poll list as required. If they do not provide it to you, call the TDP **Help Line at 1-800-336-3254.**

If these or any other issues arise at your precinct convention and you require further clarification, please call **1-800-336-3254**. This Help Line will be open beginning at 6pm on March 4th.

3. **Identification - Tex. Elec. Code § 63.0101**

Voters who present a stamped voter registration card or voting receipt from their polling location shall be accepted for participation in the precinct convention. Voters who do not have these items but who appear on the poll list as having voted in the Democratic primary shall also be accepted for participation in the precinct convention upon presenting identification. For those voters whose participation is based on the poll list, all forms of identification acceptable for voting under the Texas Election Code shall be acceptable as proof of identification for participating in the precinct convention. Those items include: a voter registration card, Texas driver's license, written communication from a government agency, utility bill, etc.

4. **Provisional Voters - Tex. Elec. Code § 174.003, Tex. Elec. Code § 174.024**

Anyone who does not have a stamped voter registration card or voting receipt from their polling location, and is not indicated as having voted on the poll list, shall be accepted for provisional participation in the precinct convention. Provisional voters are listed separately and are not indicated as having voted on the poll list. Once it has been determined whether or not the provisional participants are or are not qualified voters in the Democratic Primary, adjustments to the delegation will be made by the Credentials Committee at the County or Senatorial District Convention.

Provisional participants will be treated consistently with the way provisional voters are treated under the election code, pending verification of their eligibility. After sign in's are complete, the Precinct Convention Chair will establish the threshold and presidential preference calculation without including the provisional voters, and that will be the official calculations included on the Minutes.

NOTE: In the event provisional voters do participate in your precinct convention, the Chair will then make a second calculation including provisional participants, as detailed in the scenarios on the attached addendum entitled "Handling of Provisional Participation at Precinct Conventions".

5. **Electing Delegates and Alternates who are not present – Texas Democratic Party Rules Article IV, Section B (8)(b)**

Any qualified voter in the Democratic primary is eligible to be elected as a delegate or alternate, even if they are not present at the convention. If a person wants to be elected but can not attend, we recommend that they let someone who will be attending know so that their name can be placed in nomination.

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