

First Thing's First!

IMPORTANT REMEMBER: If your County Party does not organize at LEAST ONE Precinct Convention within your County, your County Party Delegates cannot participate in the CPTX State Convention as voting delegates.

Precinct Convention Notice:

If you plan on holding a Precinct Convention, you **MUST** file your notice of "hour and place" with your County Clerk's office (Election Code § 181.064 & 174.023). The deadline for minor parties this year is **Wednesday, March 5** (Election Code § 181.061, § 181.064 & 174.023). The County Clerk may hassle you about the date, because the major parties have different filing dates, but you are following Texas Election Code.

§ 181.061. CONVENTIONS AT WHICH NOMINATIONS MADE.

(a) A political party nominating by convention must make its nominations for statewide offices at a state convention held on the second Saturday in June of the election year. The state convention consists of delegates selected at the county conventions held under Subsection (c).

(b) A party nominating by convention must make its nominations for offices of districts situated in more than one county at district conventions held on the second Saturday after the second Tuesday in March. A district convention consists of delegates selected at the county conventions held under Subsection (c).

(c) A party nominating by convention must make its nominations for county and precinct offices and for offices of districts not situated in more than one county at county conventions held on the first Saturday after the second Tuesday in March. A county convention consists of delegates selected at precinct conventions held on the second Tuesday in March in the regular county election precincts.

You can use the **SAMPLE** Tarrant County's notice as a template if you like. It is located at the end of this document. All the notice must say is that it was approved by the Chair of your County Party, and it needs to have the Date, Time, and Location of the Precinct Convention.

Take two copies with you and have both copies stamped by the County Clerk. Keep one copy for your records.

YOU MUST FILE YOUR NOTICE OF HOUR AND PLACE WITH YOUR COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE BY **Wednesday, March 5!** If your Precinct does not do so, the State Executive Committee for the Constitution Party of Texas CANNOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZE your Precinct and County Conventions!

Where and When? (Election Code § 181.063 & 174.022)

The Precinct Convention can be located in any location. The State Executive Committee urges folks to hold it in a building that's handicap and elderly accessible. If you cannot locate a building like this, please be sensitive to those particular communities in the location that you choose. If you can't find a public place, you CAN hold it in your own home.

It is not clearly illegal for more than one Precinct Convention of the same party to be held in a single location and be held separately, but only do this if necessary.

A party nominating by convention must make its nominations for county and precinct offices and for offices of districts not situated in more than one county at county conventions held on the first Saturday after the second Tuesday in March. A county convention consists of delegates selected at precinct conventions held on the second Tuesday in March in the regular county election precincts. § 181.061

The Precinct Convention must be held on Tuesday, March 11.

It must start after 7pm and end before 9pm.

Who Participates? (Election Code § 181.065)

Those who are registered to vote in the particular Precinct the Convention is being held and who did not vote in another party's primary and who did not participate in another party's Convention.

What Happens AT the Convention? (Election Code § 181.066 & § 162.007 & § 162.009)

First and foremost, to participate in a Precinct Convention, a person must affirm that they are in general agreement with the Constitution Party's Platform of:

- Restore the United States to "One Nation Under God"
- Return to Constitutional, Limited Government
- Protect the Inalienable Right to Life of All, including the Unborn and Infirm
- Protect the Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms

- Restore National Sovereignty, including Withdrawal from the United Nations
- Maintain a Strong National Defense
- Repeal the Unconstitutional Income Tax
- Stop All Unconstitutional Spending
- Protect the Inalienable Rights of Liberty and Private Property
- Abolish the Federal Reserve and Restore Constitutional Money
- Promote Pro-family Policies
- End Federal Subsidies for and control of Education and Welfare
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Return Control over Elections to the People
- Abolish Special Interest Entitlements (corporate welfare).

Okay so, the volunteer "temporary chair", who must be eligible to participate as prescribed above, prepares a list of names and voting addresses for each person admitted to participate in the Precinct Convention.

The "temporary chair" then calls the Convention to order.

The Precinct Convention body then votes for a Precinct Chair. The Precinct Chair CANNOT be a candidate running for office (Section 161.005 (a)(2)). A Candidate CANNOT be the only person in attendance at a Precinct Convention. If so, the Precinct Convention CANNOT be recognized.

The Precinct Chair of the Convention shall administer the Affirmation of Affiliation to all attendees who have not previously taken the Affirmation for the election year, as follows: "I affirm that I have not voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of another party during the voting year. I hereby affiliate myself with the Constitution Party of Texas."

After administering the Affirmation, the Precinct Convention Chair shall stamp each person's voter registration certificate/card "CONSTITUTION." If the person does not present a voter registration certificate/card, the Chairperson shall issue an affiliation certificate. If you don't have a stamp, just write it in on their voter registration certificate/card.

Any Affiliation Certificate is required to include: the name of the person to whom the certificate is issued; the name "Constitution Party of Texas"; the name and position of the person issuing the certificate; the party function at which the affiliation occurred; and the date.

The Precinct Convention then determines whether or not it needs a Precinct Executive Committee. If so, the Precinct Convention shall decide upon its composition and duties. (HINT: You probably don't need one.)

The Precinct Convention then elects delegates to the County Convention (a guide for which will be sent ASAP). The number of delegates is not established by the CPTX By-Laws

What Happens AFTER the Convention? (Election Code § 181.067)

The Precinct Chair makes TWO COPIES of the Precinct Convention attendance list.

ALL THREE lists are then signed by the Precinct Chair.

The original list and one copy is then sent to the County Chair no later than THREE DAYS after the Precinct Convention *(Friday, March 14)*. If it is delivered by mail it must be postmarked no later than TWO DAYS after the Precinct Convention *(Thursday, March 13)*.

The other copy is sent to the Chairman of the State Executive Committee no later than THREE DAYS after the Precinct Convention *(Friday, March 14)*.

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT!!!

If you have ANY QUESTIONS, please don't hesitate to call Bryan Malatesta, Chairman at 817-558-9652.

Here's what our By-Laws say about Precinct Conventions:

ARTICLE X - SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO PRECINCT, COUNTY, REGION, STATE, AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

1. Precinct Conventions: All registered voters in the State of Texas who declare their affiliation with the Party may participate in the precinct conventions. Delegates and alternate delegates to the county convention will be elected by each precinct convention.
2. County Conventions: Candidates for county office who have filed an application for nomination by the Party will be chosen by majority vote of the delegates at the county convention. The delegates at each county convention will elect delegates and alternate delegates to the state convention and any appropriate district conventions.
3. District Conventions: For any district that has at least one candidate file an application for nomination by the Party, a district convention will be held. In the case of a district that is completely within one county, the district convention will be held in conjunction with the county convention but only those delegates within that district may vote on the candidates seeking the Party nomination of that district. Candidates for district office will be chosen by a majority vote of the delegates at the district convention.

4. Delegates to the national conventions of the Party, and also the convention officers of said conventions, will be appointed by the State Chairman, subject to confirmation by majority vote of the State Executive Committee.
5. Electors for Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees will be chosen by the State Chairman. If the Chairman will fail to act, the next ranking officer will fulfill the responsibility.
6. The representative apportionment of the aforesaid delegates, alternate delegates, convention officers and electors will be decided by the State Executive Committee on the basis of Party strength in the respective precincts, counties, and regions of the state.
7. The locations selected for the aforesaid conventions do not have to meet the same requirements as a polling place.

ARTICLE XI - RULES FOR PRECINCTS, COUNTIES, AND REGIONS

Precincts, Counties, and Regions may adopt their own rules and bylaws, subject to approval by the State Executive Committee, in the absence of such bylaws, these bylaws will govern.

=====SAMPLE LETTER=====

Sample Letter:

March 5, 2008

Tarrant County Clerk:

The purpose of the letter is to inform you, the Tarrant County Clerk, about the Tarrant County Constitution Party's Precinct and County Convention locations in accordance with Texas Election Code Sections 181.061, 181.064 and 174.023(b).

The Tarrant County Constitution Party's Precinct and County Convention locations are:

Precinct 4124's Precinct Convention will be held at:

Four Star Coffee Bar
3324 W. 7th St
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Precinct 4060's Precinct Convention will be held at:

Four Star Coffee Bar
3324 W. 7th St
Fort Worth, TX 76107

County Convention will be held at:

Four Star Coffee Bar
3324 W. 7th St
Fort Worth, TX 76107

The Precinct Conventions will be held on *Tuesday, March 11* at 7pm in accordance with Texas Election Code Sections 181.061, 181.063 & 174.022. They will be conducted separately.

The County Convention will be held on *Saturday, March 15* at 10 am in accordance with Texas Election Code Sections 181.061, 181.063 & 174.022.

A duplicate copy of this letter will be kept by the Tarrant County Constitution Party as a proof of receipt.

Sincerely,

Name
Chair, Tarrant County Constitution Party