



What to Expect: Shaping the Platform & Legislative Priorities at the Republican Party of Texas 2026 State Convention

The Republican Party of Texas 2026 State Convention is where thousands of grass-roots delegates shape the official Republican Party of Texas Platform and Legislative Priorities that will guide the 2027 legislative session. The work of the convention from June 11-13 builds on resolutions passed at precinct and county/senatorial district conventions. Much of the work takes place during temporary committee meetings before the convention begins. Here are some of the key timelines for the convention.

Monday–Wednesday (Prior to the Convention – Committee Meetings):

- **Temporary Platform Committee:** Monday 11:00 a.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m., Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
 - Subcommittees organized by issue area.
 - Review 2024 platform planks + new resolutions from lower conventions.
 - Edit, add, drop, or consolidate planks.
 - Public testimony slots (time-limited, by issue).
 - Temporary subcommittee reports to editors.
 - Committee of the Whole debates and amends sections.
- **Temporary Legislative Priorities Committee:** Monday 11:00 a.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m., Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
 - Reviews resolutions and selects ~ 8 priority items for floor consideration.
- **Temporary Rules Committee:** Monday 11:00 a.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m., Wednesday 8:00 a.m.
 - Can propose rule changes on primaries, candidate qualifications (including term limits), and other issues.
- **Temporary Credentials Committee:** Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
 - Verifies and manages delegate and alternate credentials.
- **Temporary Convention Organization Committee:** Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
 - Proposes names for the permanent officers of the full convention (Permanent Chairman (who presides over the main convention sessions), Permanent Secretary, and Permanent Sergeant-at-Arms) from among the seated delegates.

Thursday–Saturday (General Sessions & Floor Work):

- **General Meetings:**
 - There are five general meetings during the Convention. These include speeches, receiving the Permanent Credentials Committee Report, election of state chairman and vice-chairman (if needed), and debating, amending, and voting on the RPT Plat-

form and Legislative Priorities.

- **Senate District Caucus Meetings:**

- These take place on Thursday and Friday. These meetings deal with the election of permanent officers, permanent committee members, and the nomination of the state chairman and vice-chairman.

- **Committee Meetings:**

- The permanent Credentials, Rules, Platform, and Legislative Priorities committees, along with the Temporary Convention Organization Committee, will also meet during the convention to continue their work.

Your Role as a Delegate:

- Testify in Platform or Legislative Priorities Committee hearings (sign up early).
- Offer floor amendments during general sessions (follow parliamentary procedure – look for training opportunities).
- Vote on the final platform and priorities.
- Support resolutions that advance key reforms.
- Attend SD Caucuses for committee elections and leadership votes.

Pro Tip: Much of the heavy lifting happens in committees early in the week. Arrive prepared with your precinct/county resolutions in hand. The platform becomes the Party's official statement of beliefs; legislative priorities become the focused agenda for holding lawmakers accountable.

Why Closed Primaries Matter – And How to Advance Them at Convention

The Problem: Texas’s open-primary system lets Democrats and unaffiliated voters cross over and decide Republican nominees. This dilutes the voice of actual Republicans and rewards candidates who cater to the other side. One example of this is when Rep. Dade Phelan won his 2024 runoff by just 366 votes after at least 1,442 Democrats voted in the Republican runoff.

The Solution Already Underway: At the 2024 State Convention, delegates voted overwhelmingly to adopt a closed primary rule for 2028 (only registered Republicans may vote in the GOP primary). The RPT filed suit in federal court against the Secretary of State, citing the First Amendment right of association. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that parties have the right to “exclude” non-members from nominee selection (California Democratic Party v. Jones; Democratic Party v. Wisconsin).

Texas Republicans Support a Closed Primary: In the March 2024 Texas Republican Primary, 1.6 million voters, 72.7% of voters, supported enacting closed primaries.

How Delegates Can Move This Forward at the 2026 Convention:

- **Platform Committee:** Testify and support a strong plank affirming the RPT’s closed-primary rule and urging full implementation.
- **Legislative Priorities:** Push for a priority item calling on the Legislature to amend state law to match the Party’s rule (or at minimum not obstruct it).
- **Floor Amendments:** Ensure the final platform explicitly endorses the Party’s First Amendment right to close its own primary.
- **Rules Committee:** Support any rule clarifications needed to enforce the closed-primary decision.

Bottom Line: Closed primaries restore the Party’s right to choose its own nominees. The courts are on our side. Your vote and voice at convention will help lock this in.



Why Term Limits Matter – And How to Advance Them at Convention

The Problem: Career politicians in Austin become more responsive to lobbyists and special interests than to the voters back home. Longer tenure correlates with bigger government, higher spending, and less adherence to the Republican platform.

Texas Republicans Support Term Limits: In the March 2026 Texas Republican Primary, almost 2 million voters, 91.1% of voters, supported enacting term limits on all elected officials.

The Legal Path (No Legislative Action Needed): The Republican Party of Texas can impose term limits by Party rule as an additional qualification for appearing on the Republican primary ballot. This is fully consistent with the First Amendment right of association.

Precedent:

- Massachusetts Democrats have required 15% delegate support at their convention for decades (upheld by state and U.S. Supreme Courts).
- In 2018, the RPT successfully removed a candidate from the ballot after the statutory deadline; the Secretary of State conceded the Party's right to exclude. Candidates can still run as independents or Democrats – the Party simply chooses who receives its nomination.

How Delegates Can Move This Forward at the 2026 Convention:

- **Platform Committee:** Add or strengthen a plank calling for RPT rule changes to impose term limits (e.g., 8 years per office for legislators, statewide officers, and judges).
- **Legislative Priorities:** Include a priority urging the Legislature to adopt term limits.
- **Rules Committee:** Support amendments to RPT Rules that add term-limit qualifications for primary candidates.
- **Floor Action:** Vote for platform language and priorities that direct the Party to implement term limits extra-legislatively.

Bottom Line: Term limits + closed primaries are the two most direct ways the grassroots can make elected officials more accountable to Republican voters instead of the Austin swamp. The convention is your moment to make it happen.

Action Steps Before You Arrive:

1. Review resolutions passed at your precinct and county/SD conventions.
2. Prepare 1–2 minute testimony on closed primaries and term limits.
3. Coordinate with like-minded delegates in your Senate District.

Together we can make the 2026 Platform and Legislative Priorities reflect the will of Texas Republicans: Closed Primaries. Term Limits. Real Accountability.

See You in Houston!

**HUFFINES LIBERTY
ACTION**