



To: Harris County Republican Party Executive Committee

From: Paul Simpson, Harris County Republican Party Chair

Re: 2014 Harris County Republican Executive Committee Organizational Meeting

Organizational Meeting Notice: This is your official notice for the Organizational Meeting of the Harris County Republican Party Executive Committee for 2014-2016. The meeting will take place on **Saturday, July 12, 2014** at the **Norris Conference Center at CityCentre** in Houston, Texas. **This is a new location, for this meeting only. Registration: 9:00 am, Call to Order: 10:00 am**

Location: CityCentre is at the southeast corner of I-10 and Beltway 8. Parking for the Conference Center is on the third level of the garage. Enter from the northbound Beltway 8 feeder (easier) or the I-10 feeder (harder). Doors to the Norris Conference Center are on the south side of the garage.

About the Organizational Meeting: The Executive Committee, established by Texas law, consists of the County Chair plus all Precinct Chairs elected in the primary or previously appointed by the rest of the Executive Committee. A new Executive Committee thus takes office every two years and has to organize itself. So our initial order of business includes adopting new Bylaws. The 2012-2014 Rules Committee proposed adopting substantially the same Bylaws in effect before.

If the proposed bylaws are adopted, this meeting will consist of two parts: the meeting of the entire Harris County Executive Committee, followed by caucuses by Texas State Senate Districts to elect SD Chairs and Committee members. The following is the agenda for this meeting:

AGENDA
HARRIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
2014 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Norris Conference Center @ CityCentre
816 Town & Country St., Ste. 210 Houston, TX 77024
Saturday, July 12, 2014

9:00am – Registration & beverage service

10:00am – Call to Order

- 1. Invocation / Pledges of Allegiance / National Anthem**
- 2. Introduction and Certification of Quorum**
- 3. Swearing-in Ceremony**
- 4. Adoption of 2014-2016 Bylaws**
- 5. Election of Secretary**
- 6. Other New Business**
- 7. Senate District Caucuses**
- 8. Adjournment**
- 9. Boxed lunch (provided) / Breakout Training Sessions**

Bylaws for 2014-2016: The 2012-2014 Rules Committee recommended adopting the latest version of the prior bylaws, with a minor change: as now required by Texas law (Election Code §171.024), to provide that precinct chair vacancies be filled by a majority vote when a quorum is present. The proposed Bylaws are included with this Notice. (Note: this draft refers to holding the Organizational Meeting after terms of office begin in April or May. This is outdated, because the Legislature moved the runoff to late May. Republican Party of Texas Rules now require this meeting to take place before the end of July.) *If those bylaws are adopted largely as proposed*, the following business will proceed:

- **Entire Executive Committee:** Elect Party Secretary; approve County Chairman’s appointments (Vice-Chairman, Sergeant-at-Arms, Legal Counsel, & committee appointments).
- **SD Caucuses:** Each Senatorial District will caucus separately in a designated room in the Norris Conference Center after the whole Executive Committee meets. Each caucus will elect a Senatorial District Chair, who must be a precinct chair from that Senatorial District. The caucus must then elect representatives to various Standing Committees. Below are general descriptions of Committee roles and membership; a fuller description is in the draft Bylaws. Note that three committees require precinct chairs as members, while the rest do not:

Standing Committee	General Description	Pct. Chair Only?	Number of Committee Members from Senatorial District							
			SD 4	SD 6	SD 7	SD 11	SD 13	SD 15	SD 17	SD 18
Accounting Review	Determine proper accounting controls, procedures, & compliance are in effect; prepare biennial report	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ballot Security	Recruit & train election judges, poll watchers, & others to protect integrity and veracity of election process	No	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Candidates	Investigate and report qualifications of non-judicial Harris County GOP candidates	No	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Local Government	Evaluate propositions, bond issues, governmental charters/by-laws changes, tax changes, and ordinances	No	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Military Partnership	Strengthen relationships between Republican Party and GOP candidates with military personnel and veterans	No	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Rules	Consider changes to Bylaws / Rules	Yes	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Training and Development	Train Republican activists to organize and win elections, including precinct organization and operations	No	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Vacancy	Seek, recruit, interview, and recommend persons to fill Precinct Chair vacancies	Yes	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1

RESOLUTIONS: Resolutions must be in writing, include the author’s name, and (1) be delivered to Party headquarters at least two business days before the meeting for inclusion into members’ packets, or (2) have 250 copies delivered to the County Chair or his representative before the Call to Order.



Introduction and Update

Our Harris County Republican Party has a storied history and a promising future. I attended my first Executive Committee as a precinct chair over 24 years ago and remain ever excited about our potential. As the new County Chair, I hope you are as energized as I am about the opportunities awaiting us as Republicans in Harris County.

We have seen the Republican Party grow over decades to be dominant in Harris County. Recent years have witnessed a rapidly evolving County and an ever-changing political landscape. To grow the Republican Party, keep pace with explosive growth in Harris County, and adapt to the changing environment while remaining true to our core principles, we have many changes in store: a new headquarters, new programs, new finances, new committees, new offices, new website, new technology, and even a new logo, to name a few.

Over the last few months, I have met, planned, and worked with many of you as part of my Connection Tour through the 24 Texas House Districts in Harris County. We have exchanged concerns, analyzed challenges, generated proposals and solutions, and begun mapping out strategies for the future of our Party. We will strive to implement many of your suggestions and ideas in the coming months and years.

As part of the planning and transition process, I also asked the outgoing Senatorial District Chairs and Committee Chairs to report on their accomplishments over the last two years and to recommend improvements for the future. Senatorial District 6 Chair Larry Bowles gave helpful feedback, and the outgoing Chairs of the Accounting Review, Local Government, Outreach, Training and Development, Vacancy, and Young Leadership Committees (Ralph Fite, Dan Comstock, Artemio Muniz, Peggy Lindow, Richard Dillon, and Chelsea Chapman) provided reports. Thanks to all of them for sharing their thoughts and insights. I will also be happy to review other past SD and Committee Chairs' suggestions if they provide such reports, and will recommend that appropriate Committees take them under advisement.

I look forward to working with all of you as we build a professional County Party focused on the grassroots. My goal is that every GOP precinct chair be the most influential leader in his or her precinct. Working together, unified, we can make the Harris County Republican Party a model for the nation of what an urban Republican Party can achieve. Together, we will succeed. Onward!

Paul Simpson