



ROLE OF A PRECINCT CHAIR AND HOW TO BECOME ONE

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Precinct chairs are the foundation of local political party organizations. They serve as the vital link between voters in their neighborhood and the broader political process. Think of them as the “neighborhood captain” for their political party, working directly with voters in a small geographic area (typically 100-5,000 voters) to build support for candidates and causes.

WHY PRECINCT CHAIRS MATTER

Precinct chairs are often the first point of contact for citizens interested in engaging with party politics. They play a key role in shaping local elections by recruiting and supporting strong candidates, increasing voter participation, and ensuring that diverse voices are represented at every level of government.

The opportunity: Many precinct chair positions are empty across the country because people don’t know about them or think they’re too complicated. This creates a perfect opportunity for committed citizens to step into important leadership roles in their own neighborhoods.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **Live in your precinct:** Residency in the neighborhood you want to represent is required.
- **Be a registered voter (18+):** You must be registered to vote in your state.
- **Eligible to hold office:** Texas law requires eligibility to serve in elective office.
- **Party affiliation requirements:** County parties may set additional rules, such as signing an affiliation oath or voting in their primary. Contact your local party for details.
- **Party primary voting requirements:** Many parties require participation in your party’s recent primary and disallow voting in the opposing party’s primary.

HELPFUL SKILLS

Precinct chairs should possess the following:

- **Strong people skills:** Engaging with neighbors and organizing small groups.
- **Basic communication abilities:** Experience with sending emails, making phone calls, and speaking at small meetings.
- **Basic meeting skills:** An understanding of parliamentary procedure (e.g., **Robert’s Rules of Order**) for running meetings and participating in formal committee proceedings, but this is not a requirement.
- **Share party values:** Firm belief in your party’s principles and candidates.
- **Desire to make a difference:** Motivation to help improve your community through civic engagement.

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KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Within Your Precinct

- **Organize precinct conventions:** Lead your neighborhood's party meeting that happens either on election night at your polling location or on a designated day when all precincts meet at a central location (varies by county).
- **Build, train and manage your precinct team:** Delegate and develop a network of volunteers and activists (community organizers) in their area.
- **Recruit local candidates:** Encourage qualified people to run for school board, city council, and other local offices.
- **Build voter contact lists:** Keep track of party voters in your neighborhood using party databases. The databases are only available to active precinct chairs, usually after being sworn into office. Most county parties provide training on how to use the database information.
- **Distribute campaign materials:** Help candidates get their message out through door hangers, flyers, and signs.
- **Encourage voter turnout:** Remind your neighbors about upcoming elections through calls, texts, or door visits.
- **Promote community priorities:** Connect neighbors with the candidates and principles that reflect their values.

Within the County Party

- **Participate as a voting member of the County Executive Committee (CEC):** Serve on the county party's governing body, casting votes on key resolutions and rules at monthly meetings.
- **Serve on committees and task forces:** Join specialized teams, task forces, and coordinate campaigns to advance party priorities.
- **Recruit other precinct chairs and volunteers:** Strengthen the party by inviting friends, filling vacant positions, and building a reliable volunteer base.
- **Help work precincts without active chairs:** Step in where leadership is missing to cover essential duties and provide needed assistance.

Within the Convention Process

- **Conduct the precinct convention:** Serve as temporary chair and return all required paperwork to the county chair.
- **Attend all precinct and county conventions:** Participate fully in the party's formal convention process.
- **Assist with county or senate district conventions:** Support the county chair in organizing county and senate district conventions.



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HOW TO BECOME A PRECINCT CHAIR

- 1. Find Your Precinct:** Start by looking up your precinct number on your county party's website or call your county party office.
- 2. File as a Candidate:** Submit an application with your county party office (typically September through December of odd-numbered years for the following March primary).
- 3. Run in the Primary:** Compete for your precinct chair position on the party's primary ballot when more than one candidate files (many races are uncontested).
- 4. Get Elected:** Win the primary election in your precinct (often by being the only candidate).
- 5. Start Serving:** Begin your term after the primary and attend training sessions.

WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Regular Time: Expect to spend about 5-10 hours per month. This includes attending one evening party meeting per month, making phone calls, and connecting with your neighbors. Most activities happen outside normal work hours.

Election Seasons: There may be more activity during campaign periods (a few weeks before elections). Additional tasks may include distributing yard signs, block walking to get out the vote and participating in election activities.

Term Length: Typically, two years (you can run again if you want to continue).

SOURCES

Texas Secretary of State. (2024). [Running for County or Precinct Chair in a Party Primary in 2024.](#)

Texas Election Code. (2024). [Chapter 11: Voter Qualifications and Registrations.](#)

Texas Election Code. (2024). [Section 161.005: Eligibility Requirements for Party Office.](#)

Texas Election Code. (2024). [Chapter 171: Organization.](#)

Texas Election Code. [Chapter 174: Organization.](#)

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Citizens with strong values are needed in precinct chair roles across the country. Your involvement can help ensure biblical values are represented in the political process and that quality candidates emerge at every level.

Next Steps:

- Contact your county party office to learn about vacant positions.
- Attend a local party meeting to learn more.
- Find your precinct number and current chair status.
- Consider filing for the next election cycle.

