

## *You can shape the political future!*

Are you interested in making an impact in that happens around you, politically? This communication will tell you how, why and what are your opportunities to have a role in your political community. This is presented in a bi-partisan mode, so it's useful both for Democrats and Republicans.

The Primary Election of March 1 in Texas is a first step. Insure that you vote that day (or have voted early February 16 - 26). In most Texas Counties, Republicans will attend Precinct Conventions taking place at their Precinct voting place, shortly after the 7:00 PM closing of the polls (and all voters in line at that time have been served). You must have voted in the Republican Primary Election or take an oath of allegiance.

In all Texas counties, the Democratic Party does not conduct Precinct Conventions. Instead, the first Convention they attend is their County Convention on March 19. Anyone who voted in the Democratic Primary Election, or who takes an oath of affiliation, may be an active participant in the County Democratic Convention.

If you cannot attend the Republican Precinct meeting in the evening of Primary Election Day, you should find a way to communicate to your Precinct Chairman (Election Judge) that you want to be nominated to represent your precinct to the Republican Party's County Convention on Saturday, March 19. At the Precinct Convention, you can be nominated, and possibly elected as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to your County Convention, without necessarily being present. Consult your county's party web site for County Convention locations.

Precinct Conventions do two things: (1) Elect delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican County Convention held on March 19, and (2) consider any propositions nominated for the Precinct Convention to approve to send to the County Convention.

The County Convention does two things. It elects Delegates and Alternate Delegates from your County who will represent it at the State Convention of your Party. The other thing done at County Conventions optionally is to propose, discuss and pass Resolutions for the State Convention to consider. The ultimate intention of Resolutions, in general, is that they are ideas to appear in the Party's National Platform.

The Republican Texas State Convention will be held May 12 – 14 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. Party rules for its state convention specify that the delegates eligible to participate range from 7,500 to 9,000, and a same number of alternate delegates. Curiously, it is claimed that the Texas Republican Convention constitutes the largest number of participants of any delegated political gathering in the world!

The Democratic Texas State Convention will be held June 16 - 18 at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Their online convention procedures do not specify a number of ranges for delegates and alternate delegates.

State Conventions endorse Presidential candidates for their National Conventions to consider, they elect state representatives to their National Party Committee, they elect

Electoral College Members, and they send Resolutions for consideration of the National Convention to be a part of the National Platform of the Party.

The National Conventions determined who would represent their party on the National General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The National Convention solidifies its Party Platform, and it organizational membership for its National Committees, etc.

You can do it! It's been my honor to serve as a delegate at every level of these Conventions. The main thing one has to do is to take initiative to be involved! I encourage you to participate meaningfully, and to have a role in shaping the trajectory of the way in which our nation is going. If you don't, you have no grounds for criticizing the way we are governed.

The newly elected US President and Vice President will be inaugurated on the steps of the National Capitol on January 20, 2017, with tens of thousands of witnesses scattered along the National Mall, with the Washington Monument at the far end. Suzanne and I will be there! It will be the fourth Presidential Inauguration over the years that we have attended. It is an unusual experience that more citizens should witness!

D. A. Sharpe  
805 Derting Road East  
Aurora, TX 76078-3712

817-504-6508

[www.dasharpe.com](http://www.dasharpe.com)

Biographical Sketch information:

<http://www.dasharpe.com/Bioskets/BiographicalHome.htm>