

Companion

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Project Texas GOP Precinct Chair Training presented by SD1

Document 10 of 12

Lives at sd1toolkit.org/go. This file is the offline copy.

How to use it Section numbers match the slide footers. Slide 3.4 is section 3.4 here.

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How to read this

The slides carry one idea each. This carries the rest: the detail, the exceptions, the templates, and the address of the official page behind every claim. If a presenter said something you want to check, it is here with a link.

The five labels

[LAW] Texas statutes. Binds everyone.

[SOS] Secretary of State guidance on running elections.

[RPT] Republican Party of Texas rules. Bind inside the party.

[LOCAL] Your county's own bylaws. These vary, and we leave them blank on purpose.

[PRACTICE] What works. Not a rule, and nobody can make you.

This is not legal advice. Where something turns on your specific facts, the answer here is the statute, the deadline, and the point where you should call a lawyer.

1. Where you fit, and what you can actually do

1.1 The four hats [LAW]

One person can hold four separate roles in Texas elections, and the authority does not transfer between them. Confusing them is the most common and most damaging mistake a new precinct chair makes.

Hat	What it is	What it does not let you do
Party officer	Precinct chair. Elected in the primary, or appointed. A party office.	Run an election, handle ballots, or act with any governmental authority
Election official	Judge, alternate judge, clerk. Appointed and trained separately.	Campaign or conduct party business at the polling place
Poll watcher	Appointed by a candidate, party, or measure campaign. Observes.	Direct election workers, handle materials, or talk to voters

Hat	What it is	What it does not let you do
Convention delegate	Elected at a convention to attend the next level up.	Speak for your county between conventions

Being a precinct chair does not make you an election judge and does not qualify you as a poll watcher. Each requires its own appointment, and in the case of election workers, its own training from the county.

1.2 Who sits on the county executive committee, and who votes [LAW] [RPT]

The county executive committee, the CEC, is the county chairman plus one precinct chairman from each county election precinct. The county chairman presides. Precinct chairs are elected at the general primary by majority vote of those voting on that office, or appointed to fill a vacancy.

- To be eligible, you must reside in the election precinct you represent.
- If you are the only candidate on the ballot and there is no write-in, no election is held. You are declared elected at the local canvass.
- The voting members are the county chairman and the precinct chairmen. Nobody else.
- An SREC member is a non-voting member of the CEC of every county in the district. They may attend and speak, but they may not make motions and they may not vote.

No proxies. Ever. At any level. [LAW] [RPT]

The statute is one sentence long. A person may not participate in a county executive committee meeting as a proxy. Election Code section 171.026.

The party rule goes further and prohibits proxies from the precinct level through the state level. The only exception is the SREC under its own bylaws, where the proxy must reside in the district and no person may hold more than one.

If you cannot be in the room, you are not in the room. Plan around that rather than around a workaround that does not exist.

Source: Texas Election Code chapter 171 at statutes.capitol.texas.gov, and the current Republican Party of Texas rules at texasgop.org.

1.2a What the county chairman does, briefly [LAW]

You do not need to know the chairman's job to do yours, but you should know why the chairman is busy in the spring and where your own vote touches it.

The county chairman is the filing authority for primary candidates, conducts the ballot drawing, prepares the primary ballot, designates primary polling locations, supplies names for early voting workers, appoints the signature verification committee, and certifies names for the general election ballot. Most of that is statutory rather than party rule, and the Secretary of State publishes a County Chair Handbook covering all of it. It is in the library.

The two places this becomes your business

The county executive committee, which is you, supervises the conduct of the primary and approves the contract for

election services and any joint primary agreement.

That is a vote most precinct chairs have never realised they hold. Ask to see the contract before you approve it, the same way you would ask to see the general fund report.

1.2b Who is eligible to serve, and a new petition requirement [RPT]

Two rules here changed at the 2026 state convention and are not in older training material.

- A person finally convicted of a felony under the Texas Penal Code cannot serve as a precinct chairman, county chairman, or SREC member until twenty years have passed since completing any incarceration, parole, or community supervision. The bar does not apply if the person was declared innocent, the conviction was vacated on appeal, or the person was pardoned. On presentation of a certified copy of a final conviction, the person has ten days to show one of those exceptions before the office is declared vacant.
- In a county with at least eight incumbent precinct chairmen, anyone filing for county chairman must submit a nominating petition signed by at least ten percent of the incumbent precinct chairmen, or two of them, whichever is greater. The candidate swears that each signature is from an incumbent precinct chairman and was signed in the candidate's presence. A county under 300,000 population may vote by majority to opt out.

The second one matters to you directly. Precinct chairs are the people who sign those petitions, which means precinct chairs now have a say in who can even appear on the ballot for county chairman in most SD1 counties.

1.3 Quorum, and what happens without one [RPT]

Situation	What it takes	What can happen
Ordinary, non-statutory business	One fourth of the membership, not counting vacancies	Anything the committee is empowered to do
Short of one fourth	Those members present	Statutory business only. No ordinary motions, no policy, no spending.

Do the arithmetic for your own county before the meeting. If your county has 24 precincts and no vacancies, one fourth is six. Knowing that number in advance is the difference between a meeting that can act and one that cannot.

1.4 How often your CEC must meet [RPT]

County population	Minimum meetings	What it means for you
Over 20,000	At least quarterly	Four chances a year to move something
Under 20,000	At least twice a year, once in each half	Two chances. Waste one and you wait six months.

Most of Senate District 1 falls in the second row. That is the practical reason this training pushes so hard on submitting items in writing and in advance. In a county that meets twice a year, an unprepared meeting is a lost half year.

There is also a floor under the organizational meeting. A CEC organizational meeting must be held within 45 days after the term of office begins, and the term begins 20 days after the primary runoff. If the county chairman does not call it,

one fourth of the precinct chairmen or fifty of them, whichever is fewer, may call it by written demand. Notice is at least seven days.

1.5 Three powers you already have [RPT]

These exist in the current party rules. Most precinct chairs have never read them and therefore never use them. Each one requires nothing you do not already have.

1.5.1 Require the county chairman to report the money in writing

On a majority vote, the committee can require the county chairman to include, in writing, in the regular committee reports, specific information about the daily operation of the county party, including details on financial balances and expenditures from the general fund.

- It takes a majority of the body you already sit on. No petition, no appeal to the state party, no lawyer.
- Move it as a standing requirement rather than a one-time request, so it does not have to be re-passed every meeting.
- Ask for a format, not just a topic. "A written statement of general fund balance and expenditures since the last regular report" is enforceable. "More financial transparency" is not.

Why this is taught first

This single rule converts a precinct chair from a spectator into an auditor, and it needs nothing but a majority vote of the people already in the room. Once a chair understands that the power was always there, the rest of the day reads differently.

1.5.2 Get the current roster of every precinct chairman

The county chairman must maintain a current list of every Republican precinct chairman, including contact details, update it within seven business days of a change, and make it available at reproduction cost or by email on request. The request can come from any Republican precinct chairman, party official, elected officeholder, or candidate of the county.

- Ask in writing. It creates a date and a record.
- Ask for it by email, which is free, rather than paper at reproduction cost.
- This is the foundation of every other thing in this training. You cannot organize people whose contact information you do not have.

1.5.3 Attend, speak at, and record any CEC committee meeting

All meetings of a county executive committee and its committees and subcommittees are open to any member of that executive committee. You may appear, make recommendations, testify, and record or livestream any proceeding not held in executive session.

- This includes committees you were not appointed to.
- Recording is expressly permitted outside executive session. Say that you are recording. It is courteous and it removes the argument.

1.6 Your action this week [PRACTICE]

Email your county chairman and request the current precinct chairman roster. Ten minutes.

Template you can paste

Subject: Request for current precinct chair roster

Chairman [name],

I am the precinct chair for Precinct [number]. Under the current RPT rules, the county chairman maintains a current list of Republican precinct chairmen and makes it available to any precinct chairman on request.

Would you please send me the current list by email at your convenience? Email is fine and saves the county the copy cost.

Thank you,

[Your name], Precinct [number], [phone]

2. The CEC meeting, and how to get something on it

2.1 Nothing is before the body until the chair states it [RPT]

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is the parliamentary authority governing all RPT conventions and meetings from precinct through state level. Under it, a motion is not pending before the assembly until the chair has stated it to the room. A member makes a motion, someone seconds it, and then the chair states the question. Until that third step happens, there is nothing to debate and nothing to vote on.

Most local procedural disputes start exactly here, with a member who believes a motion is pending and a chair who has not stated it. Knowing the sequence lets you name the problem calmly instead of arguing about who is being unfair.

2.2 Submit a motion, not a topic [PRACTICE]

If you submit	What happens
A topic, such as "discuss the budget"	It gets discussed. Discussion is not action, and nothing is decided.
A motion, such as "that the committee require a written general fund report at each regular meeting"	It gets seconded, debated, and voted. There is a record and an outcome.

Write what you want the committee to do. Name the body, name the action, name the deadline. A motion someone can vote yes or no on will be dealt with. A subject heading will be talked about and forgotten.

2.3 Four tools that protect you when you are outvoted [RPT]

Tool	What you say	What it does
Point of order	"Point of order."	Stops proceedings to say a rule is being broken. The chair

Tool	What you say	What it does
		must rule on it.
Appeal the decision of the chair	"I appeal the decision of the chair."	Takes the ruling away from the chair and gives it to the body. Needs a second.
Division of the assembly	"Division."	Forces a counted vote when a voice vote was unclear. No second needed.
Demand a roll call	"I demand a roll call vote."	Puts every member's vote in the minutes by name.

2.4 The appeal is the keystone [RPT]

A ruling by the chair is not final. If a member appeals and the body sustains the appeal, the ruling is overturned. This is the mechanism that keeps a presiding officer accountable to the members, and it is the one most precinct chairs do not know exists.

A chair who refuses to entertain an appeal is exceeding the chair's authority. If that happens, say so, ask that the refusal be recorded in the minutes, and raise it at the next meeting when the minutes come up for approval.

2.5 One fifth, not a majority [RPT]

This is the most useful number in the module. A roll call vote shall be taken when demanded by one fifth, not by a majority.

Where	What it takes
Precinct convention	One fifth of the participants
County or senatorial district convention	One fifth of the delegations, in writing
Committee meeting or party caucus	One fifth of the members, in writing

A minority of one fifth can therefore put every member's name beside their vote, permanently, in the record. That changes how people vote, which is the point.

2.6 Minutes, and why they matter more than the meeting [PRACTICE]

- Discussion is not action. Only what was moved, seconded, and voted is a decision.
- Read the minutes before you approve them. Approval is the moment to correct the record, and after approval it is very hard.
- If something you raised is missing, move to amend the minutes before approval. That is an ordinary motion and it needs no permission.

2.7 How your county actually does agendas [LOCAL]

This is a blank on purpose. How an agenda item is submitted, to whom, and by when comes from your county's adopted bylaws and its settled practice. It varies across the nineteen counties of SD1, and the statewide version of this training will not guess it for you.

Question	Your county's answer
Who do you send an agenda item to?	
How far in advance is it due?	
Does it have to be in writing?	
Where are the adopted county bylaws published?	
Who has the current copy?	

Fill this in once and you will never have to ask again. If nobody can tell you where the adopted bylaws are, that is itself worth raising as an agenda item.

2.8 Your action this week [PRACTICE]

Submit one item in writing for the next CEC agenda, written as a motion rather than as a topic. Twenty minutes.

Template you can paste

Subject: Agenda item for the next regular CEC meeting

Chairman [name],

I would like to submit the following motion for the agenda of the next regular meeting of the county executive committee.

MOTION: That the county executive committee require the county chairman to include, in writing, in each regular committee report, the current general fund balance and a list of expenditures from the general fund since the previous regular report.

I am happy to discuss it in advance if that is useful.

[Your name], Precinct [number], [phone]

3. The Legislature, live

3.1 Why this module is urgent [LAW]

Date	What happens
Monday, 9 November 2026	Prefiling opens for the 90th Legislature
Tuesday, 12 January 2027, noon	The 90th Legislature convenes
Monday, 31 May 2027	Sine die, 140 days later

Date	What happens
March 2028	The next round of precinct conventions

Everything in this module is usable within weeks of the training. Convention skills are a build-toward. That is why the legislature comes before conventions in this program, which reverses the order most party trainings use.

3.2 The walkthrough, step by step

These are the same numbered steps the presenter calls out loud and the same numbers at sd1toolkit.org/live. If you missed a step in the room, pick it up here.

Step	What you do
1	Go to capitol.texas.gov
2	Click Login at the top right, then Register
3	Use an email you actually check. Confirm it before continuing.
4	Open My TLO. It holds Bill Lists, Alerts, Saved Searches, and RSS Feeds.
5	Create a bill list. Name it plainly, for your county or your subject.
6	Add a bill by number if you already have one.
7	Search by subject to find bills you did not know existed, then save the search.
8	Open Alerts.
9	Set exactly three: Scheduled for Hearing, Reported Out of Committee, Calendar Action.
10	Bookmark the House and Senate committee posting pages.

Why only three alerts

My TLO can notify you on committee and calendar postings, on subject assignments, and when either chamber adjourns. Select all of it and you will receive so much mail that you stop reading any of it. Three alerts covers the moments where a precinct chair can still change an outcome: when a bill is set for hearing, when it leaves committee, and when it reaches a calendar.

The account is free and always has been. If you are asked to pay for legislative tracking, you are being sold something the state already gives you.

3.3 How much notice you actually get [LAW]

Meeting	Notice required
House committee or subcommittee public hearing, regular session	At least 5 calendar days
House public hearing, special session	24 hours
House formal meeting or work session, where official	Two hours written notice to members, or an announcement

Meeting	Notice required
action can be taken	read while the House is in session
Senate committee or subcommittee, any meeting	At least 24 hours
Daily House Calendar, regular session	36 hours before consideration

Two hours is the number to remember. Bills can be voted out of a House formal meeting on two hours notice. That is the reason a single daily email check is not coverage during session, and it is the reason the next section exists.

One more mechanism worth knowing on the Senate side. A senator may tag a bill by requesting at least 48 hours written notice of a public hearing. The tag is not effective if notice has already been posted for 72 hours and the Senate was in session during that period.

3.4 The fix: split the week [PRACTICE]

- Three or four chairs each take assigned days. Nobody watches seven days a week for 140 days.
- Somebody checks postings every morning and every evening during session.
- One person has advance authority to register a position or submit written testimony without calling a meeting first. A two hour window does not survive a phone tree.
- Agree on this before session convenes, not during the first week.

3.5 Who really decides [PRACTICE]

The committee chair decides when the committee meets and which bills get considered. Most bills die by never being set for a hearing, not by being voted down. That single fact should reshape where you spend effort: getting a bill set is usually harder and more important than winning the vote once it is set.

3.6 Three ways to weigh in, and what each costs [PRACTICE]

Method	Time	What it accomplishes
Register a position online	Minutes	You are counted for or against. It appears in the record of the hearing.
Submit written testimony	An hour	Your reasoning goes into the record and to staff, who actually read it.
Appear in person	A day, plus travel	Highest impact, and the only one that lets a member ask you a question.

If you are four hours from Austin, the first two are not a consolation prize. A hearing where forty people registered against a bill looks different from one where nobody did, and registering costs you almost nothing.

3.7 Which bills carry party weight [RPT]

The Legislative Priorities Committee at the state convention prepares a list of no more than fifteen proposed priorities. The convention votes on each, and the top half rounded up become the party Legislative Priorities for the following session. The SREC is directed to expend reasonable party resources to promote their passage, and no one may add to or edit the list after sine die.

Knowing which priorities are live tells you which bills already have organized party support behind them. The current list is published with the convention documents at texasgop.org.

3.8 Your action this week [PRACTICE]

Create your My TLO account and set your three alerts before Friday, then send a screenshot. Fifteen minutes. This is the outcome the program is measured on.

4. Conventions and resolutions

4.1 The ladder [RPT]

Precinct convention, then county or senatorial district convention, then state convention. Each level elects the delegates to the next. Precinct conventions are held on or after the first Tuesday in March of each even numbered year, at the date, time and place designated by the CEC or, if it fails to act, by the county chairman. County and senatorial district conventions are held on the fourth Saturday in March, subject to a Passover and Good Friday exception.

Delegate entitlement to the county or senatorial district convention is one delegate and one alternate per twenty five gubernatorial votes and major fraction thereof, with a minimum of one each per precinct convention.

4.1a Who can take part, and the closed primary rule [RPT]

Participation at a precinct convention requires that you be a registered voter of that precinct, or a resident eligible to vote a limited ballot, and that you have established party affiliation. Affiliation is established under Rule No. 46.

Rule No. 46 now provides that in Texas Republican primary and primary runoff elections, only a United States citizen eligible to vote in Texas who is registered with the Secretary of State as a Republican may cast a ballot. Rule amendments affecting primaries take effect on 1 January of the odd numbered year following adoption, so expect questions about this and point people at the current rule rather than answering from memory.

One more thing worth knowing: a precinct convention has no quorum, but county and senatorial district conventions do. A county or district convention needs a majority of registered delegates to convene, and thereafter more than fifty percent of total voting strength, a majority of seated precincts, and one third of seated delegates.

4.2 A precinct convention has no quorum [RPT]

There is no quorum required to convene or to continue a precinct convention. One qualified participant can hold a lawful precinct convention, adopt resolutions, and elect delegates.

The most underused fact in Texas party politics

In a precinct where nobody else shows up, the one person who did show up can lawfully convene, pass resolutions, and elect the delegates. Those resolutions then have to be considered at the next level. An empty room is not a dead end. It is an open door, and almost nobody walks through it.

4.3 Resolutions climb [RPT]

All resolutions adopted by the next lower level convention shall be considered by the committee appropriate to the subject at the next higher level convention. A resolution passed in a nearly empty precinct convention in March does not die there. It goes up.

Any convention may express its sense by adopting a resolution. The unit rule and binding instructions to delegates are prohibited at every level, so no convention can order its delegates how to vote at the next one.

4.4 The thirty minute window [RPT]

At county or senatorial district conventions, resolutions must be filed with the convention secretary not later than thirty minutes after the permanent committees are appointed or elected. Miss that window and the resolution does not exist, however good it is.

- Write it before the convention. Do not draft in the room.
- Bring printed copies and find the secretary early.
- Watch for the moment the permanent committees are named. That is when your clock starts.

A related deadline: a minority report requires notice of intent before the committee adjourns, must be in writing, must be signed by not less than two members or twenty percent of the committee, whichever is greater, and must be delivered within thirty minutes after adjournment.

4.5 Records decide disputes [RPT]

The permanent chairman of a precinct convention must prepare a record of minutes, participants, delegates and alternates, and all resolutions whether adopted or not. That record must be made available for inspection for thirty minutes after adjournment and then transmitted on the stated deadlines. The county chairman's copies are a party public record, and review must be scheduled within seven days of a written request.

If you think something was mishandled at a convention, the record is where you find out. Ask in writing and note the seven day clock.

4.6 What makes a resolution survive [PRACTICE]

- One subject. A resolution that does three things gets amended into nothing.
- A specific action by a specific body. "The Legislature should pass" beats "we support."
- Factually supportable. Every factual claim in it should be something you can source on request.
- It reads well when your opponent reads it aloud. Write it expecting that to happen, because it will.

4.7 Censure, discipline, and removal are three different things [RPT] [LAW]

Track	Who it reaches	Who decides	What it produces
Censure, Rule No. 44	Republican public officeholders	County or district executive committee, with SREC confirmation of any penalty	A party sanction with party consequences
Party discipline, Rule No. 8(n)	Party officials, not public officeholders	SREC Officials Committee, on a written complaint signed by sixty percent	Removal from party office
Statutory removal, Chapter 87	A closed list of county officers and ISD trustees	A district court jury	Removal from public office

Do not treat these as one ladder

Three tracks, three bodies, three standards, three sets of consequences. None substitutes for another, and the person who starts down the wrong one loses months and sometimes real money.

Rule No. 44 itself says plainly that nothing in it authorizes the removal of a public officeholder, and equally that nothing in it limits removal under any other rule or law.

4.7.1 How a Rule No. 44 censure actually works [RPT]

This is the part most chairs have heard about and almost nobody has read. The numbers below are from the rules as amended 12 June 2026.

Stage	What it takes
Notice	At least seven days notice to the officeholder, with an invitation to appear and be given time to speak before the committee
The vote at the CEC	Two thirds of the constituent precinct chairs present and voting, and in no case fewer than a majority of the constituent precinct chairs of the full CEC
The grounds	Three or more actions during the officeholder's current term, in opposition either to the core principles in the Preamble of the Party Platform or to the Legislative Priorities adopted at the most recent state convention
If it does not meet those criteria	The resolution is subject to challenge by a point of order
Sending it up	The resolution may ask the SREC to impose penalties. The SREC must confirm or deny before early voting of the primary in which the officeholder is seeking election.
At the SREC	At least fourteen days notice and an opportunity for the officeholder to appear, then a three fifths vote of the full membership
Expiry	Any penalty expires the day after the primary runoff election in which the officeholder would be up for reelection

4.7.2 The three penalties

Penalty	What it does
1	Suspends any party neutrality rule as to that officeholder and cuts off party support beyond what the law requires. If the officeholder files for any office in the following primary, the SREC may spend up to twelve percent of the party general fund on voter education in that district.
2	Declares the officeholder discouraged from participating in the following primary.
3	Directs the state chairman or any county chairman to refuse any application for a place on a Republican primary ballot for twenty four months after the censure and the imposition of that remedy.

4.7.3 Three things the 2026 convention changed

- The twelve percent voter education spending was previously limited to republishing the censure resolution word for word. It may now be spent opposing the censured officeholder or supporting an opponent, in whatever manner and media format the SREC determines. That is a much wider power than it was.

- Indemnification now reaches you. Previously only a county chairman who applied Rule No. 44 and got sued for it was indemnified by the party. That now extends to any county executive committee member, which includes every precinct chair. The party provides counsel or pays the expenses, and the state chairman defends any suit against the party arising from the rule.
- The self-swearing affidavit is gone. Candidates no longer have to swear on a ballot application that they have not been censured in the preceding twenty four months. Instead the state party must publish on its website a list of everyone censured in the twenty four months before filing opens, including the penalty applied and a copy of the censure resolution, and must flag any censured candidate during filing.

Why the indemnification point is worth knowing

The most common reason a precinct chair does not vote for something like this is the fear of being personally sued for it. As of June 2026 the rule answers that directly for CEC members. It does not make a censure wise or unwise, and it does not make one lawful that would not otherwise be. It removes one specific worry, and it is new.

4.7.4 Censure above the county level

The biennial state convention may censure statewide elected officials, but those resolutions must originate at a county or senatorial district convention. They go to the state chairman, who passes them to the Temporary Platform and Resolutions Committee, which decides whether to send the censure to the convention for a vote. An officeholder censured at a state convention held after the primary in which they are already on the general election ballot does not incur the penalties.

A CEC, a county convention, or a senatorial district convention may also originate a censure resolution against the Speaker of the Texas House.

4.8 Your action this week [PRACTICE]

Write one resolution about a real problem in your county and send it to your county chairman. Thirty minutes. Resolutions do not have to wait for March to be written, and a resolution already drafted in November is one that actually gets filed inside the thirty minute window in March.

Structure that works

WHEREAS, [one factual statement you can source];

WHEREAS, [a second factual statement, same test];

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that [specific body] should [specific action], by [date or session].

Keep it to one page. Keep it to one subject. Put your name, precinct, and county at the bottom.

5. Getting records and asking questions

5.1 A records request costs a stamp [LAW]

A public information request is the cheapest tool in this entire training. It costs postage or an email, and it creates a written record that a governmental body has to respond to. A pattern documented in an agency's own records is the only durable foundation for anything that follows, whether that is a news story, a campaign, or a lawsuit.

It is also the tool that keeps you out of trouble. Claims built on rumor collapse. Claims built on the agency's own documents do not.

5.2 How to write one they actually answer [PRACTICE]

- Name the records, not the topic. Ask for "invoices" and "emails," not "information about."
- Give a date range. An open-ended request invites a large cost estimate and a long delay.
- Name the custodian or department if you know it.
- Be specific enough that nobody has to guess what you mean. Vagueness is what gets requests bounced back for clarification, which restarts the clock.
- Ask for electronic copies. It is cheaper for them and faster for you.
- Keep a copy of what you sent and the date you sent it.

5.3 Know which door you are standing at [PRACTICE]

If the problem is	The forum is
A party officer, a party meeting, a convention, party money	Party forums. The CEC, the rules, the SREC.
A county office, a school district, a city, public money, public records	Records requests, and if it goes that far, the courts.

Confusing the two is the most common failure in local politics and it wastes months. A records request will not fix a party dispute, and a censure resolution will not fix a county office.

5.4 Removal from public office is real, and narrower than people think [LAW]

Local Government Code chapter 87 allows removal of a county officer, and it is worth understanding accurately, including its limits.

Element	What the statute requires
Who can be removed	A closed list of county officers, plus members of the board of trustees of an independent school district. Not city officials. Not state officials.
Grounds	Incompetency, official misconduct, or intoxication caused by drinking an alcoholic beverage. Also failure to give a required official bond.
Timing limit	An officer may not be removed for an act committed before election to office.
Who can file	Any Texas resident who has lived at least six months in the county and is not currently under indictment there. At least one filer must swear to the petition.

Element	What the statute requires
Where	A written petition in a district court of the county where the officer resides, addressed to the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region.
The judge can refuse	The judge may refuse to order citation, in which case the petition is dismissed at the filer's cost, with no appeal and no writ of error.
If it proceeds	The filer must post security for costs. Removal requires a trial by jury.

Read this part twice

The judge can refuse to order citation, and if that happens the case is dismissed at your cost with no appeal. If it does proceed, you post security for costs and it ends in a jury trial. This is not a form you file on a Tuesday.

Chapter 87 was materially amended in 2025 by House Bill 2715, which changed who the petition is addressed to, who assigns the trial judge, and who prosecutes. Any checklist or form written before mid-2025 is wrong on those points.

Get a lawyer before you start. That is not a disclaimer, it is the actual advice.

5.5 A verification habit worth stealing [PRACTICE]

While preparing this training, the state statutes website displayed the pre-2025 version of several Chapter 87 sections, including subsections that had been repealed. The enrolled bill text on capitol.texas.gov was correct and the displayed statute was not.

So read the "Amended by" history at the end of any statute section, and if there is a recent amending bill, check the enrolled text of that bill before relying on the displayed language. This takes two minutes and it is the difference between being right and being confidently wrong.

5.6 Your action this week [PRACTICE]

File one public information request on a question you actually want answered. Twenty minutes.

Template you can paste

Subject: Public Information Act request

To the public information officer for [entity]:

Under the Texas Public Information Act, I request copies of the following records:

1. [Type of record, for example: invoices paid to any vendor for legal services] for the period [start date] through [end date].
2. [Second category, for example: email correspondence between [office] and [vendor]] for the same period.

I prefer electronic copies sent by email. If any portion of this request is unclear, please contact me rather than denying it, and I will narrow it. If costs will exceed \$[amount], please provide an estimate before proceeding.

[Your name], [address], [email], [phone]

6. The five actions, together

Module	Action	Time	Section
1	Email your county chairman for the current precinct chairman roster	10 min	1.6
2	Submit one written agenda item, worded as a motion	20 min	2.8
3	Create a My TLO account and set three alerts	15 min	3.8
4	Write one resolution and send it to your county chairman	30 min	4.8
5	File one public information request	20 min	5.6

All five together are under two hours of work. Pick the one that matters most in your county and do that one first. A chair who completes one action is worth more than a chair who plans five.

7. Where everything lives

What you want	Where
This companion	sd1toolkit.org/go
The numbered steps from the room	sd1toolkit.org/live
The five actions with templates	sd1toolkit.org/do
Upcoming trainings and SD1 events	sd1toolkit.org/events
Your county page	sd1toolkit.org/counties
SD1 committees and who to contact	sd1toolkit.org/committees
Texas statutes	statutes.capitol.texas.gov
Bills, committees, calendars, My TLO	capitol.texas.gov
Current party rules, platform, priorities	texasgop.org
Secretary of State election resources	sos.state.tx.us
Session deadline calendars	lrl.texas.gov