

**BYLAWS OF THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
OF THE
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

These bylaws shall govern the Republican Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives (the Caucus) and shall continue in effect until such time as they are amended or new bylaws are adopted.

Article I. Purpose of the Caucus

Section 1.01. The Caucus is formed for the following purposes:

- a) To provide research, education, policy development, and other support to the Caucus members.
- b) To support Caucus members in their efforts to draft and pass legislation that advances the Texas Republican Party.
- c) To provide research and analysis on legislation pending before the Texas House of Representatives.
- d) To provide Caucus members and their staffs with periodic briefings on pertinent issues confronting the State of Texas that are particularly relevant to Caucus members.
- e) To develop issue specific talking points and press materials for Caucus members to use at their discretion.
- f) To assist with and coordinate the availability of Caucus members to the media as a means of disseminating information to the public concerning the efforts of the Caucus.
- g) To generally communicate the Caucus' goals, objectives, and message.
- h) To communicate the business of the Texas House of Representatives with Republican affiliates.
- i) To select a candidate for Speaker of the House, "Endorsed Speaker Candidate". The Endorsed Speaker Candidate shall be the person whom the members of the caucus should vote in favor of for the next Speaker of the House.

Article II. Membership

Section 2.01. Every Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives is eligible to become a member of the Caucus.

Section 2.02. Membership in the Caucus is limited exclusively to members of the Texas Legislature except that the governor or lieutenant governor may be non-voting members, provided they are members of the Republican Party of Texas.

Section 2.03. When the results of their election have been canvassed and certified by their county canvassing committee or committees, all persons who have been elected as a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, but have not yet taken the oath of office, shall be eligible for Caucus membership.

Section 2.04. After the general elections in November of even numbered years, or in the event of resignation or removal from office, members not returning to the Texas House of Representatives shall not be entitled to participate or vote in Caucus meetings.

Article III. Election of Officers

Section 3.01. The Caucus shall biennially elect the following officers: caucus chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.

Section 3.02. The election of officers shall take place after the results of the November general election during every even numbered year have been canvassed and certified, and after the election for the Selection of the Endorsed Speaker Candidate set forth in Article IX, Section 9.03. The Chair shall provide at least ten (10) days' notice of the date, time, and location of the election, and the election may be on the same day or a later date as the Selection of the Endorsed Speaker Candidate, but must take place prior to the commencement of the regular session.

Section 3.03. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot. Should a member run unopposed for a position on the Caucus executive committee, a vote by acclamation is sufficient.

Section 3.04. A candidate who receives a majority of the votes (50% + 1) of the members present at a meeting in which a quorum is present shall be elected to each respective office. The elected officers shall assume their designated positions immediately upon being elected. Elected Caucus officers and executive committee members shall not represent the Caucus in endorsing or supporting one candidate over another in connection with any contested Republican primary election campaign.

Article IV. Officers Duties

Section 4.01. CAUCUS CHAIR. The Caucus chair shall:

- a) Serve as the head of the Caucus.
- b) Act as the official spokesman for the Caucus.
- c) Preside at all meetings of the Caucus and the caucus executive committee.
- d) Represent the Caucus in all matters in which an official Caucus policy has been established.
- e) Convene the caucus executive committee from time to time to advise the members on matters affecting the Caucus.
- f) Appoint the caucus policy chair, the internal caucus communications chair, and the external caucus communications chair, subject to the approval of the caucus executive committee.
- g) Coordinate and direct liaison activities of the Caucus with the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house, Republican senators, and other interested persons or groups as necessary and appropriate.
- h) Determine the responsibilities and duties of the caucus staff (if any) and provide supervision as necessary.
- i) Appoint other select committees and liaisons to other organizations as necessary.

Section 4.02. CAUCUS VICE CHAIR. The caucus vice chair shall:

- a) Act in the absence or disability of the chair and be elevated to the chair should a vacancy occur in the chair, including a vacancy caused by the chair not returning to the Texas House of Representatives after the general elections in November of even numbered years.
- b) Serve on the caucus executive committee.
- c) Assist the chair in the performance of its duties.
- d) Perform other such duties as directed by the chair.

Section 4.03. SECRETARY. The secretary shall:

- a) Act as the record keeper for the Caucus.
- b) Serve on the caucus executive committee.
- c) Perform other such duties as requested by the chair and the caucus executive committee.

Section 4.04. TREASURER. The treasurer shall:

- a) Act as the chief financial officer of the Caucus.
- b) Serve on the caucus executive committee.
- c) Prepare and maintain the Caucus budget.
- d) Complete and file all reports which are required by law.
- e) Perform other such duties as requested by the chair and the caucus executive committee.

Section 4.05. CAUCUS POLICY CHAIR. The chair, with the consent of the executive committee, shall appoint the caucus policy chair. The caucus policy chair shall:

- a) Be responsible for ensuring that all Caucus members have ample opportunity to provide input into the formulation of Caucus policy legislative recommendations.
- b) Call and chair policy committee meetings for the purpose of discussing policy legislative recommendations.
- c) Report the findings and legislative recommendations of the caucus policy committee to the chair, the executive committee and the Caucus membership.
- d) Serve on all special committees or task forces appointed by the caucus chair to study specific issues.

Section 4.06. CAUCUS INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR. The chair, with the consent of the executive committee, shall appoint a caucus internal communications chair who shall serve as the head of the caucus internal communications committee.

Section 4.07. CAUCUS EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR. The chair, with the consent of the executive committee, shall appoint a caucus external communications chair to be responsible for communicating caucus policy legislative recommendations, at the direction of the chair, to outside media sources.

Article V. The Caucus Committees

Section 5.01. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The executive committee of the Caucus shall consist of five members, of whom a majority constitutes a quorum for conducting business: the caucus chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and policy caucus chair. The executive committee shall:

- a) Convene from time to time to advise the members on matters affecting the Caucus.
- b) Propose to the Caucus for their approval, the 6 geographic regions of the state that shall be used for purposes of electing a policy committee.
- c) Provide counsel to the chair concerning the responsibilities, duties and performance of the staff.
- d) Develop long-range strategies to ensure the achievement of Caucus goals.
- e) Assist the chair in accomplishing the purposes for which the Caucus is formed.
- f) Assist in formulating and recommending a budget to the membership for approval, according to Article VII, Section 7.02. A majority of the executive board will constitute a quorum for executive board meetings.

Section 5.02. CAUCUS POLICY COMMITTEE. The caucus policy committee shall determine legislative recommendations, including the political impact of such recommendations and report final recommendations to the Caucus membership. Caucus policy recommendations may be adopted by the Caucus membership and considered official Caucus positions, according to Article VII, Section 7.01.

Section 5.03. The policy committee of the Caucus shall consist of 16 members: 2 members elected by the members within each of the 6 geographic regions of the state approved by the Caucus, 3 at-large members appointed by the caucus chair, and the caucus policy chair. In the event that a policy committee member is unable to attend a meeting of the policy committee, he or she may designate a proxy from the region to attend and vote at the meeting of the policy committee. If a region fails to be represented at 2 consecutive meetings of the policy committee, the members of the region shall elect a new member to the policy committee. In the case of at-large members, replacement members shall be appointed by the caucus chair, if deemed necessary.

Section 5.04. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. The internal communications committee shall consist of six members including the caucus internal communications chair. The members of the internal communications committee shall be appointed by the caucus chair and shall be responsible for keeping all Caucus members advised of Caucus policy legislative recommendations on any bill or issue before the Texas House of Representatives and securing the support of all Caucus members.

Section 5.05. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. The external communications committee shall consist of 5 members including the caucus external communications chair. The members of the external communications committee shall be appointed by the caucus chair and shall be responsible for communicating Caucus official positions and Caucus policy legislative recommendations to the media.

Article VI. Regular Caucus Meetings

Section 6.01. The Caucus shall meet regularly when the legislature is in session or otherwise at the call of the chair.

Section 6.02. A Caucus meeting may be called by the caucus chair.

Section 6.03. The caucus chair shall call a meeting within 7 days of receipt of the request in writing of any 10 Caucus members.

Section 6.04. QUORUM. Fifty percent plus one of the membership shall constitute a quorum. A member of the Caucus who is not returning to the Texas House of Representatives for the next regular session shall not be counted for the purposes of determining the number of members necessary to establish a quorum for meetings called to conduct elections or making decisions regarding policies for the next biennium.

Article VII. Caucus Procedures

Section 7.01. APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL CAUCUS POSITION. No official Caucus position shall be taken, nor communicated or represented by any Caucus member without concurrence of two-thirds of those members present or fifty percent plus one of the total membership of the Caucus, whichever is greater. Under normal circumstances, the vote must be taken at a regular Caucus meeting in which a quorum has been established.

In accordance with Article V, Section 5.02, Caucus policy legislative recommendations may be adopted by the Caucus membership and considered official Caucus positions, subject to Article VII, Section 7.01.

The chair, with the concurrence of the executive committee or two-thirds of the members of the policy committee can declare an emergency in which an immediate official Caucus position is necessary. In such event, voting for or against a proposed official Caucus position may be conducted in person, by mail or electronically without a formal meeting.

Section 7.02. BUDGET. A biennial budget shall be prepared by the treasurer and approved by fifty percent plus one of the total membership present of the Caucus.

Section 7.03. CAUCUS FUNDS. No member of the Caucus shall solicit funds in the name of the Caucus for official Caucus events other than under the direction of the caucus chair. In the event of an emergency, other expenditures may be approved by the executive committee.

Section 7.04. VOTING BY PROXY. Proxy voting shall not be allowed, except for purposes of Article V, Section 5.02.

Section 7.05. PROCEDURAL RULES. Roberts Revised Rules of Order shall be the procedural rules of the Caucus, insofar as these are applicable.

Section 7.06. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. Elected and appointed leaders may be removed by an election of two-thirds of the members. Any vote to remove an officer of the Caucus must be preceded by written notice sent to each member of the caucus 30 days prior to the meeting. Such written notice must be mailed to the member's capitol office and district office if known. The 30 day notice period may be waived by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership.

In the event of the resignation or the removal of the Caucus chair, the Caucus vice chair shall be elevated to the chair and an election of the membership to replace the Caucus vice chair must be scheduled within 30 days after such event. If the legislature is in session the election shall be held at a meeting of the Caucus. If the event occurs during the interim, or if a meeting cannot be scheduled, voting may be conducted in person, by mail, or electronically.

In the event of the resignation or the removal of an officer of the Caucus other than the chair, an election of the membership to replace the officer must be scheduled within 30 days after such event. If the legislature is in session the election shall be held at a meeting of the Caucus. If the event occurs during the interim, or if a meeting cannot be scheduled, voting may be conducted in person, by mail, or electronically.

Section 7.07. DUES. The Caucus shall adopt the amount of biennial dues to be paid by each member. Dues may be waived or deferred for an individual member by the executive committee upon request.

Section 7.08. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS. These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the Caucus. Any vote to amend the bylaws must be preceded by written notice, mail, or electronically sent to each member of the Caucus 15 days prior to the vote on the amendment offered. Such written notice must be mailed to the member's capitol office and district office, if known, and shall contain the language of the amended bylaw. The 15-day notice period to note on the amendment of the bylaws may be waived by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership of the Caucus.

These bylaws shall carry forward to the next regularly scheduled session, and serve as the official document governing the Caucus, until such time they are otherwise amended and adopted, according to Article VII, Section 7.08.

Section 7.09. FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING ELECTIONS. A member of the Caucus shall not financially support an opponent of another member in any campaign or election between the opponent and the other member.

Section 7.10. CAMPAIGNING. A member of the Caucus shall not participate or assist in the campaign of an opponent against another member of the Caucus.

Section 7.11. VIOLATIONS. Any alleged violation of Sections 7.09 or 7.10 may be reported by any member to the Caucus Chair for referral to the Executive Committee for investigation or action, including curative action or recommendation of fine, suspension, or revocation of

membership of any member. Any recommendation of fine, suspension, or revocation of any member shall require a two-thirds vote of the Caucus.

Article VIII. Caucus Staff

Section 8.01. The executive committee shall approve the hiring of any and all staff of the Caucus.

Article IX. Selection of Endorsed Speaker Candidate

Section 9.01. NOMINATIONS. Any member of the Texas Legislature may be nominated to be the Endorsed Speaker Candidate, and shall be considered unless the nominated member objects. Each candidate shall be entitled to a total of ten minutes for all nominating and seconding speeches, which may be divided among no more than three speakers (including the candidate). The candidate may also use a portion of this time to address the caucus, if desired.

Sec. 9.02. SELECTION OF ENDORSED SPEAKER CANDIDATE. At the close of nominating and seconding speeches, each caucus member shall vote for one of the nominated candidates. The voting shall be conducted by secure secret ballot. If one candidate receives 2/3 of the votes cast for a nominated candidate, that candidate shall be the caucus's Endorsed Speaker Candidate.

If no candidate receives 2/3 of the votes cast, the caucus will announce the vote totals for each candidate and conduct a second round of voting.

If no candidate receives 2/3 of the votes cast in the second round of voting, subsequent rounds of voting will be conducted with the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes being eliminated from the next round of voting until either 1) a candidate receives 2/3 of the votes cast in any round of voting, in which case that candidate will be the caucus's Endorsed Speaker Candidate, or 2) only two candidates remain.

In the first round of voting in which only two candidates remain (and a second round should such be necessary) a candidate must receive 2/3 of the votes cast to be chosen as the caucus's Endorsed Speaker Candidate. If a third round (and a fourth round should such be necessary) of voting between two candidates should be necessary, a candidate must receive 3/5 of the votes cast in the next round of voting.

If no candidate receives 3/5 of the votes cast, the nominations of all candidates will be withdrawn and the floor will be open for new nominations, after which the above process will be repeated.

Section 9.03. ELECTION DATE. The selection of the Endorsed Speaker Candidate shall take place during the month of December during every even numbered year. The Chair shall provide at least ten (10) days' notice of the date, time and location of the selection.