

AN ACT

relating to certain requirements for political parties holding conventions and for officers of certain of those parties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 161.005, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party, a person must:

(1) be a qualified voter of the county; and

(2) except as provided by Subsection (c), not be a candidate for nomination or election to, or be the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government.

(c) A candidate for nomination or election to, or the holder of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government is eligible to serve as a county or precinct chair of a political party to which Chapter 181 applies.

SECTION 2. Section 163.002, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 163.002. REQUIRED RULES. A political party that makes nominations in this state shall adopt rules that:

(1) prescribe the parliamentary procedure governing the conduct of party meetings and conventions from the precinct level to the state level, including:

- 1 (A) quorums;
- 2 (B) casting and counting votes;
- 3 (C) operation of executive committees;
- 4 (D) appointment and duties of convention  
5 committees; and
- 6 (E) presentation of matters before a convention;
- 7 (2) prescribe the method of selecting the party's  
8 presidential elector candidates;
- 9 (3) prescribe the manner of selecting party officers,  
10 convention delegates, any convention alternates, and convention  
11 officials;
- 12 (4) provide for representative apportionment of party  
13 officers, convention delegates, any convention alternates, and  
14 convention officials throughout the state on the basis of  
15 population, party strength, or both, within the appropriate  
16 territorial unit;
- 17 (5) provide for periodic publication and publicizing  
18 of party rules; and
- 19 (6) prescribe the manner of adopting party rules and  
20 amendments to the rules.

21 SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 181.061, Election Code,  
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 (a) A political party nominating by convention must make its  
24 nominations for statewide offices at a state convention held on the  
25 second Saturday in April [~~June~~] of the election year, except that if  
26 the Sunday after the second Saturday in April in an election year is  
27 the date of the Easter holiday, the state convention must be held on

1 the third Saturday in April of that year. The state convention  
2 consists of delegates selected at the county conventions held under  
3 Subsection (c).

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 817 passed the Senate on  
April 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 817 passed the House on  
May 20, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two  
present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor