

Texas State Convention FAQ

Where and when do I pick up my Credentials?

Delegates and Alternates will pick up their Credentials at the Austin Convention Center on Friday, June 6. When you arrive at the Convention Center, go to Ballroom 5 on the northern side of the Hall directly across from the Hilton Hotel and find your Senatorial District's sign-in table. You should present valid identification to expedite the Credentialing process. Credentials distribution begins at 9 AM and ends when the Senate District Caucus Meetings begin at 3 PM. At 3 PM, the credentials will move into the room where your Senate District Caucus is being held. Alternates will replace missing Delegates at that time.

NOTE: Delegates who arrive after 3 PM will have been replaced by an Alternate. You cannot recover your seat if you are late.

What is the first official Convention event I need to attend?

All Delegates must be in the Convention hall by 3 PM on Friday, June 6, credentialed and ready for the Senate District Caucus to elect your district's committee persons and recommendations for other offices. Any Delegate who does not pick up Credentials by 3 PM may permanently lose their seat to an Alternate.

What happens before the Senatorial District caucuses?

The Senatorial District caucuses will take place on Friday, June 6, at 3 PM. Though the SD caucuses are the first mandatory attendance event of the Convention, there are a few other optional attendance events that take place before the caucuses. On Thursday, June 5, at 7 PM, the Democratic Party will host the Convention Kick-Off Reception fundraiser at the Hilton Hotel across the street from the Convention Center. On Friday morning beginning at 9 AM, various Democratic interest groups - including the Hispanic Caucus, African-American Caucus, GLBT Caucus, and Pro-Choice Caucus – will assemble for Issue Caucus Meetings.

What is the best location to drop off seniors and people with disabilities?

The entrance closest to the credentials table is on 4th Street near the intersection with Neches St. Look for doors on the north side of the Convention Center, directly across from the Hilton Hotel.

Where is parking for the Convention?

With thousands of people expected at the Convention, parking will be limited. Carpooling and shuttles are recommended. Many hotels offer shuttle services to the Convention Center.

Parking lots costs \$7 per day. Here are the best locations:

201 E 2nd St. Entrances on Brazos St. and San Jacinto St. – 1100 spaces

601 E 5th St @ Red River St. Entrance on 5th St. – 680 spaces

What is the Convention Kick-Off Reception?

The Reception is a fundraiser for the Texas Democratic Party held at the Hilton Hotel across the street from the Austin Convention Center on Thursday, June 5, at 7 PM. You can purchase tickets to the Reception at www.txdemocrats.org. Attendance is optional.

What should a Delegate do if unable to attend the Convention?

Delegates who cannot attend the Convention should contact their Obama Campaign staff organizer for assistance (see Chart below). Delegate who cannot attend can appoint any Obama Alternate from their County and Senatorial District to take their seat. Only official Alternates chosen at the same County and SD Convention are eligible to become Delegates. To appoint an Alternate, the Delegate will give the Alternate a short signed note indicating that he/she will be unable to attend the State Convention and will be replaced by the Alternate. Delegates must appoint Alternates of the same Presidential Preference. The note can simply read, “I, Joe Smith, delegate in SD 10, Tarrant County appoint Susie Jones, an alternate in SD 10, Tarrant County, to take my seat.”

How do Alternates become Delegates?

Alternates will receive Delegate credentials if they have an appointment note from a Delegate or if they are present at the Convention Hall on Friday, June 6, at 3 PM and Delegates from their County or Senatorial District are absent.

Who is my Obama Campaign staff contact?

First	Last	Obama Phone	Email	Senate Districts
Matthew	Riemer	864-760-7238	mriemer@barackobama.com	14, 19, and 26
Morganne	Pollie	512-364-4301	mpollie@barackobama.com	1, 3, and 5
Nat	Troy	703-489-1542	ntroy@barackobama.com	18, 20, 21, and 27
Brett	Rosenthal	214-542-4017	brosenthal@barackobama.com	9, 10, 12, and 30
Rahshiem	Wright	404-272-6417	rwright@texobama.com	6, 7, 13, and 15
Matthew	Tranchin	843-601-6964	mtranchin@barackobama.com	2, 8, 16, and 23
Garrett	Arwa	703-703-6321	Garwa@barackobama.com	4, 11, 17, 22, and 24
Jonathon	Gins	512-289-7460	Jgins@barackobama.com	25, 28, 29, and 31

When do I vote in the presidential preference poll and how is it conducted?

The presidential preference poll will take place during credentials distribution on Friday, June 6. Delegates will record their presidential preference on the sign-in sheets when they appear to receive credentials. Your Delegate badge will be marked with a sticker

that will identify you as an Obama delegate so that you may participate in your Senate District's caucus to elect National Delegates later on Friday.

How do I run for National Delegate?

Anyone who participated in the Democratic Primary in March may apply to be a National Delegate by completing and submitting the application form available at www.txdemocrats.org. The form must be turned in to the Texas Democratic Party Headquarters in Austin by May 21 at 5 PM. For more information about the selection of National Delegates, please review the attached document, How to Become a National Delegate.

What is the Blue Star Breakfast?

The Blue Star Breakfast is a Texas Democratic Party fundraiser on Saturday, June 7, at 8:30 AM in the Convention Center. You can purchase tickets to the Blue Star Breakfast at www.txdemocrats.org. This fundraiser's purpose is to raise enough money to pay for use of the Convention Center. Although there is no fee to attend the State Convention, the Party must pay for it.

What other elections will take place during the Convention and how do elections work?

The Convention will elect the members of the Permanent Convention Credentials, Rules, Platform, Resolutions, Nominations for At Large Delegates, and Nominations for State Party Officers Committees, as well as State Party Officers, DNC members, Presidential Electors and some members of the State Democratic Executive Committee. Each Senatorial District will elect one representative to each of the six Permanent Convention Committees.

How can I find a place to stay in Austin?

The Texas Democratic Party has reserved blocks of hotel rooms for Delegates and Alternates, available online at www.txdemocrats.org. The Obama Campaign is also enlisting Austin residents to house out-of-town Delegates and reserving separate blocks of cheaper rooms in the Austin area. Please contact your Obama Campaign staff organizer for information or visit www.TexansforObama.com for a housing match system site. Because there will not be enough supporter housing or blocked hotel rooms for all Obama Delegates and Alternates, you should also try to obtain your own accommodations in Austin if possible.

How can I make arrangements to travel to Austin?

Many Delegates are making their own arrangements to travel to Austin via car, plane, or train. If you are interested in carpooling with other Delegates or in splitting the costs of a

van with other Delegates from your area, please contact your Obama Campaign staff organizer. You can find a RideShare site at TexansforObama.com

How do I get on the Obama Campaign State Convention email list?

If you have not received any emails regarding the Texas State Conventions specifically, please contact your area's organizer immediately. Even if you are receiving national campaign fundraising emails, you may not be on the Texas State Conventions list.

Will my family and friends be able to observe the Convention?

Because over 10,000 attendees are expected at the State Convention, guest passes will be very limited. You can inquire about obtaining a guest pass at www.txdemocrats.org.

How and when will Challenges be resolved?

The Convention Temporary Credentials Committee will hold hearings and hear evidence regarding Challenges in late May. After reviewing the Challenges, the Temporary Committee will present its findings to the Permanent Credentials Committee, which will bring a credentials recommendation to the Convention floor on June 6. Typically, the Permanent Committee completely accepts the findings of the Temporary Committee. The deadline for filing Challenges has already passed. If you were Challenged or filed a Challenge and need information about its status, please contact your Field Organizer for referral to the volunteer Obama attorney who will assist you.

When will the Convention be over?

If everything goes smoothly and all votes proceed swiftly, the Convention should be over by Saturday late afternoon. However, close votes may require each Delegate's preference to be recorded one by one (roll call vote). Each roll call vote will add about thirty minutes to the Convention.

What is the Senate District caucus?

Delegates will be grouped by the State Senatorial District in which they live. Each Senatorial District is entitled to a specific number of National Delegates and Convention Committee members. From 3 PM to 5 PM (and after the night session if business is still to be conducted) on Friday of the Convention, the delegations from each Senatorial District will assemble together to elect the National Delegates and Committee members representing their District.

How late will the Convention last on Friday night?

After the Senate District caucus, the Convention will break from 5 PM to 6 PM for dinner. At 6 PM, the Convention will be called to order for opening ceremonies, and the night session will last about two hours. After the opening ceremonies, any Senate

District caucus that has not completed all of its election tasks will reconvene until all business is finished. In large urban districts, the reconvened Senate District caucus may last well into the night, perhaps even past midnight.

Why is it important that Delegates attend the State Convention?

As a Delegate, you were elected to represent your precinct at the State Convention in Austin. This honor carries with it tremendous responsibility to attend the Convention and ensure that the will of the voters in your precinct is carried out. As it concerns the presidential primary, your entire precinct's support of Senator Obama will only be recognized if you vote for Senator Obama at the Convention.

Do Alternates need to attend the Convention?

Any Alternate with an appointment note from a Delegate will claim that Delegate's seat at the Convention and should definitely attend. In addition, absent Delegates will be replaced by present Alternates from their Senate District or County. If Obama Delegates are absent and there are no Obama Alternates to replace the missing Delegates, Senator Obama will lose seats at the Convention, which could impact the final results of the presidential preference poll. Alternates should sign in at the Convention after 9 AM on Friday. Alternates who do not have appointment notes will learn whether they have been elevated to Delegate status at 3 PM on Friday at the beginning of their Senate District's Caucus. Your County or SD Delegation Chair will be in charge of this process.

What forms of identification should Delegates have in order to pick up Credentials?

Delegates and Alternates can present virtually any kind of identification to pick up Credentials. Typically, a driver's license, voter registration card, or passport is used.

Can Delegates be replaced by Alternates from different districts?

Delegates can only be replaced by officially recognized Alternates from their own Senatorial District and County. In other words, Delegates can only be replaced by Alternates selected from the same Convention site on March 29.

Will there be an Obama-specific caucus where all Obama Delegates get together?

Not officially. There are over 6500 Obama Delegates and Alternates and there is no space big enough for all of us to meet at once. There will be clearly identified floor leaders and communication systems to impart any important information to everyone as needed.

In your caucuses, the election of National Delegates takes place only within presidential preference groups. Obama State Delegates will vote for Obama National Delegate seats only.

How will I know what the official Obama campaign position is on any vote or motion?

On most issues, the campaign will not have an official position. If the campaign does have an official position, you will be notified by your Delegation Floor Captain or via text message.

Other than the presidential poll and Senate District caucus, what Convention events have an impact on the presidential primary race?

Elections involving Party officials who will become superdelegates will have an impact on the presidential primary race. For example, by tradition (and not Rule), the Hispanic Caucus will elect its recommendation for the Vice Chairman of the Texas Democratic Party at its meeting on Friday at 1:00 PM. The Vice Chair will become an automatic Super Delegate to Denver. In addition, votes regarding committee members, electoral rule changes, nominations, or credentials may have the potential to impact the presidential primary race.

How do I propose a resolution or request an opportunity to speak at the Convention?

Formal resolutions were ratified at earlier levels of the Conventions process and will be presented to the Convention Resolutions Committee. If you have sponsored a Resolution, you should run for the Resolutions Committee or ensure that the Resolutions Committee representative from your District is aware of your resolution. The Convention is governed by Robert's Rules of Order, meaning any Delegate can address the Convention if recognized by the Convention Chairman.

How can I help with the Convention if I am not a Delegate or Alternate?

You should contact your Obama Campaign staff organizer or your local grassroots Obama group for information about volunteering for the Convention and the campaign.