

Republican Party of Bexar County Management Committee

March 11, 2021, 7:00 pm

Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas

The Management Committee (MC) of the Republican Party of Bexar County convened for its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at the Party's Headquarters, 12000 Starcrest #101, San Antonio, TX 78247. **Presiding Chair:** County Chair John Austin. **Secretary:** Marilyn Jowdy (PC 3180). **Legal Counsel:** Francisco Canseco (PC 3135). Committee Chairs in attendance to present their reports:

Todd McCray (PC 3051), Candidate Recruitment and Appointments;

Lille Gough, Budget

Mike Hoffman (PC 4050), Data Analytics

Deana Abiassi (PC 3125), Communications

Steven Jordan (PC 3105), Technology

Charlotte Canaday (PC 3047), Records Review

Karen Marshall (Pct 3086), Voter Registration

Francisco Canseco (PC 3135). Election Integrity

Additional guests in attendance included eight Precinct Chairs and two Visitors.

Chair Austin called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and called upon: Todd McCray to give the Invocation and lead the Pledges to the United States flag and to the Texas State flag.

The Agenda as had been emailed to the Committee members was adopted without objection.

The Secretary called the Roll. Quorum to do business was met since all fourteen members (except Vice Chair Charlotte Williamson Eisenhauer, Parliamentarian Curt Nelson, and Precinct 1 Representative Gina Castaneda) of the Committee were present.

The Minutes of MC Meeting #4 held on January 14, 2021, as distributed by emails to the members, were approved on voice vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND SREC REPRESENTATIVE(S)

County Chair. For the upcoming *Local Elections on May 1, 2021* the candidates most aligned with the Republican Party had been identified and would be supported through Precinct Chairs getting out the vote, involving Communications and Precinct Organization Committees help with the orchestration.

Chair Austin announced the following *Appointments*, which will be presented to the CEC for ratification at its next meeting on March 22, 2021:

Parliamentarian – Curt Nelson, PC 3104

Chair, Technology Standing Committee – Steven Jordan, PC 3105

Chair, Campaign Activities Standing Committee – Brad Kessler, PC 4043

In reviewing options for *Office Relocation*, all require 2-year leases, consequently a request will be made to the CEC to permit the Chair to sign a lease that may extend beyond six months following his term in office. The Committee **RECESSED** 7:20 – 7:30 pm to tour the 7000 sq. ft. area available next door, which would have room for the CEC to meet.

Treasurer Lille Gough. Regular accounts total for period 1 July through 28 February 2021: \$179,xxx income; \$132,xxx expenses; giving net of \$46,xxx and balance of \$73,xxx. Federal Campaign Victory Fund total for period 1 September through 28 February 2021: \$235,xxx receipts; \$159,xxx disbursements; giving net of \$75,xxx and balance of \$77,xxx.

Secretary. Precinct Chairs: With resignations of Precinct Chairs Sylvia Webster (Pct 1124), Elizabeth Amy Hernandez (Pct 3107) and Lillian Miess Frei (Pct 3105) due to moving out of their precincts, we now have 240 Precinct Chairs. Quorum for the next quarterly CEC meeting, scheduled for March 22, 2021 will be 61 (240 + County Chair -- $241/4 = 60.25$), pending any new resignations/vacancies. The SOS precinct chair data base has been updated by the Treasurer. There are currently 33 Applicants for consideration of appointment to 32 precincts by the CEC at its next meeting, with one contested race. Deadline for submission of Vacancy Forms by applicants: March 15, 2021.

CEC Meeting Calls: Following MC recommendation at its January meeting, the Call for the March CEC meeting was accomplished primarily by email to save on postage. The Chair of the Communications Committee worked with the Executive Director to accomplish the transmission using Constant Contact. A letter had been sent from the County Chair to each Precinct Chair providing opportunity to double check contact information, and to opt for postal mailed Calls if they preferred. Forty two responses were received, of which twenty one opted in for postal mailed Calls.

The job description for the Executive Director, an action item from the CEC's September 2020 meeting, was included in the Call package for review by the membership.

Regarding the two recommendations made previously at the MC #3 meeting in December 2019 by Jeff McManus (PC 3022), he advised the MC that the one regarding application of RPT Legislative Priorities to drive County Party message and voter education was being addressed by the Communications Committee; and that the one involving SD Convention Rules for State Delegate Selection should be forwarded to the appropriate Committee.

Candidate Recruitment & Appointments Committee Chair Todd McCray – *Report had been sent to MC members for review*, and included candidate contact information. In the San Antonio election, there are 81 candidates of which 20 are considered Republican, with SA D5 being the only SA Council race without a Republican Candidate identified. In response to query, Todd explained how determination was made as to which candidates were considered as leaning sufficiently Republican to garner Party support. Proposed Topics and Questions for Candidates was also included; the questionnaire to be sent to the 81 candidates, responses from which will be used to prepare an electronic voting guide.

Budget Committee Chair Lille Gough – *Report had been sent to MC members for review*, and included results of the Budget Committee Meeting held on March 4, 2021. The budget for the new fiscal year 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 will be developed by the Budget Committee during meetings in May/June with finalization on June 17, 2021, approval by County Chair on June 18, 2021, and presentation to the CEC at its meeting on June 28, 2021.

Precinct Organization Committee Chair Joe Leatherwood – *Report had been sent to MC members for review, and was included in the CEC Call package.* Precinct Chair recruitment, training, and

development of utilities supporting the committee were addressed in the report. Targeted precincts for recruitment were those for whom activists, delegates and volunteers had been identified.

Data Analytics Committee Chair Michael Hoffman – *Report had been sent to MC members for review, and summarized the results of the initial task assigned by the County Chair. Precincts without Chairs were classed according to Republican Presence (based on November 2020 election results), and then ranked in order of registered voters, for each County Commissioner Precinct. This identified 160 targeted precincts ranked in order of most “bang for buck” for use in recruiting Precinct Chairs.*

Financial Review Committee Chair Cheri Creekmore – *Report had been sent to MC members for review, and was included in the CEC Call package. The report documented the committee’s review of the Party’s financial records for 2020, and commended the Treasurer Lille Gough on a job well done.*

Finance Committee Chair Kris Coons – *No report received.*

Campaign Activities Committee Chair Cyndi Dominguez – *Report distributed to MC members at meeting, and noted that the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Banquet Hall had been reserved for an April 15 (Thursday evening) candidate meet/greet with a mayoral debate.*

Volunteer Coordination Committee Chair Yvonne Clouser – *Report distributed to MC members at meeting, and included assistance of women’s clubs with campaign postcards and phone banking, and current process for coordinating with new volunteers.*

Communications Committee Chair Deana Abiassi – *Report had been sent to MC members for review, and included progress on new branding, social media messaging expansion, development of Core Belief position statements, and selection of a new email marketing management system. Deana presented to the MC the selected logo that will be trademarked and used in developing style guides for the newsletter, website, and other communications. Transition to use of Constant Contact for transmitting the CEC Meeting Call resulted in increased open rate to above 50%, an improvement over use of Mail Chimp. Deana requested feedback on the distributed draft Core Beliefs document, which will be used to develop position papers from which will come extracts for press releases. She also presented, and requested feedback on, the prepared guidelines for the Party’s social media, and draft policy regarding promotion of affiliated organizations and their events. Deana recommended a strategy session be scheduled to develop the action plan for the May 1, 2021 elections, to include: events; targeted mail and social media campaigns, candidate resources, and press releases.*

Technology Committee Chair Steven Jordan– *Report distributed to MC members at meeting and covered the scope of the Committee’s mandate and specific areas that will be addressed. Purchase requests are to be submitted to County Chair and Treasurer for approval.*

Bylaws & Rules Committee Chair Carol Van De Walle – *No report received.*

Records Review Committee Chair Charlotte Canaday – *Will need a 5-drawer (legal) locking filing cabinet.*

Voter Registration Committee Chair Karen Marshall – *Report submitted* and noted new places are needed for registration drives. A list kept at the Headquarters reception desk of Deputy Voter Registrars is available if someone comes in needing to be registered to vote. We are now able to become certified Deputy Voter Registrars via an online course accessible through the Elections Department website. Karen is also tracking bills being filed in Legislature affecting Voter Registration, and will send an alert if action needed for/against.

Elections Integrity Committee Chair Francisco Canseco – *Report submitted* and identifies activities engaged by the committee, including: enlisting Secretary of State assistance to confirm legal requirements for clearing voter rolls are being accomplished; engaging vendor for machine training for judges as an initial step towards their certification through the Elections Department; tracking legislation and preparing letters for use by constituents to lobby their representatives; prepared/sent letter to state legislature committees voicing election issues needing to be addressed. In response to query, Quico noted that the goal was 400 judges identified, trained and certified.

Executive Director Michael Zuniga – *Report distributed to MC members at meeting* and covered activities supporting: upcoming local elections; committees' developments; the Party's two offices; and marches/rallies. Upcoming activities include continued support and coordination with: the Party's committees; local candidates; local conservative groups; and Southside office events organization.

State Republican Executive Committee – Marian Stanko (SREC 26, PC 2110) reported that the next SREC quarterly meeting will be March 26-27 in Laredo, Texas. The RPT was tracking legislation priorities and issuing calls to action as needed. There is a shortage at RPT of data directors, resulting in lag in GOP Data Center updates of election voting records for the July 2020 runoffs, although the November 2020 presidential election has been loaded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Austin reminded all MC members to accomplish the Elephant Stampede donations to set an example for the CEC.

NEW BUSINESS

MC PCT 4 Warrington Lee Austerman requested confirmation that there would be overhead projection and a standing microphone for the next CEC meeting on March 22, 2021.

Doug Stearns (PC 4130) assured all that he and the County Chair will continue to work together.

Marian Stanko (PC 2110) announced upcoming candidate forums, and thanked outgoing MC Precinct 4 representative Jeanne Melendez for her many years of hard work and contributions in that position.

Suzie Bayne (PC 3130) discussed the project undertaken to prepare postcards for use in the upcoming local elections.

Jack Finger (PC 4157) discussed an issue regarding compliance with a Party platform plank.

Without objection, MC #4 Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted by
Marilyn Jowdy, Secretary
Republican Party of Bexar County

Attachments:

Agenda
Sign-In Sheets
Treasurer’s Report
Job Description – Executive Director
Legislative Priorities – Jeff McManus (PC 3022)
Amendment to SD Convention Rules – Jeff McManus (PC 3022)
Committee Reports
 Candidate Recruitment & Appointments
 Budget
 Precinct Organization
 Data Analytics
 Finance Review
 Finance *(Not Submitted)*
 Campaign Activities
 Volunteer Coordination
 Communications
 New Logo options
 Core Beliefs
 Social Media Policies
 Policy Regarding Affiliated Organizations
 Technology
 Bylaws & Rules *(Not Submitted)*
 Voter Registration
 Elections Integrity
Executive Director’s Report