

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLOSED REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES IN TEXAS TO PROTECT PARTY AUTONOMY AND PREVENT CROSSOVER VOTING

WHEREAS, the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) has long championed the principles of limited government, individual liberty, and electoral integrity, and believes that the selection of Republican nominees must reflect the true will of Republican voters without undue influence from non-Republicans; and

WHEREAS, Texas currently operates an open primary system under the Texas Election Code, allowing any registered voter—regardless of party affiliation—to participate in the Republican primary, which enables crossover voting by Democrats and independents that dilutes the voice of Republican primary participants and has led to the nomination of more moderate candidates in recent elections, as evidenced by close 2024 primary races where non-Republican votes swayed outcomes by fewer than 800 votes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed the First Amendment associational rights of political parties to control their internal processes, including the ability to limit primary participation to affiliated members, as upheld in cases like *California Democratic Party v. Jones* (2000), and ten other states already conduct closed primaries to safeguard these rights; and

WHEREAS, Texas Republican voters overwhelmingly supported this reform by approving Proposition 9 with 72% of the vote in the March 2024 primary, directing the RPT to pursue closed primaries; and

WHEREAS, in response to legislative inaction during the 2025 session, the RPT adopted Rule 46 in June 2024 and bolstered it in subsequent meetings to implement closed primaries through party rule, and filed a federal lawsuit on September 4, 2025, against Secretary of State Jane Nelson to enforce this change and strike down unconstitutional provisions of the Texas Election Code that mandate open primaries; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2025, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a joint motion with the RPT in federal court, urging the immediate closure of Republican primaries to prevent non-Republicans from influencing nominee selection and declaring the relevant Election Code sections a violation of First Amendment rights, stating that “Republicans, and only Republicans, should select Republican nominees”; and

WHEREAS, implementing closed primaries would require a practical transition, including a process for voters to affiliate with the Republican Party via registration or oath, similar to systems in states like Florida and New York, while maintaining high standards for voter integrity and accessibility for true Republicans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Denton County Republican Executive Committee of the hereby endorses and urges the immediate implementation of closed Republican primaries in Texas, limiting participation to voters who have affirmatively affiliated with the Republican Party through registration, oath, or prior participation in a Republican primary or convention, in accordance with RPT Rule 46 and the ongoing federal litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Texas Legislature to enact enabling legislation in the 2027 session to amend the Texas Election Code (including Sections 162.003 and 172.001 et seq.) to authorize closed primaries statewide, providing for party affiliation registration and a secure transition period for the over 18 million registered voters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we direct the RPT Chair and State Republican Executive Committee to vigorously defend Rule 46 and the September 2025 lawsuit in federal court, and to collaborate with Attorney General Paxton to secure a swift ruling declaring open primary mandates unconstitutional; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to RPT Chair Abraham George, Attorney General Ken Paxton, Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows, and the chairs of relevant House and Senate committees on elections, with a request for their support in advancing closed primaries to protect Republican values and ensure fair nominee selection for the 2026 and 2028 election cycles.

Adopted the 20th day of October 2025.

Denton County Republican Party