

Texas Senate District 17 Democrats

What is a Precinct Chair?

A precinct is the smallest political subdivision in Texas. The office of Precinct Chair is one of the most important positions in the entire Democratic Party. A Precinct Chair is a Democratic Party Official at the LOCAL level elected by Democratic voters to serve as the party leader of their precinct.

It is the responsibility of the Precinct Chair to contact, guide and organize Democratic voters in their respective precinct. Precinct Chairs also sit on the County Executive Committee (CEC), which conducts the local business of the Party. The duties of Precinct Chairs provide fundamental services to party effectiveness.

Precinct Chairs are responsible for:

- Contacting and organizing Democratic voters in your precinct to mobilize voters and get them to the polls – usually done by making calls, knocking on doors, email, text, etc.
- Representing your precinct on the County Executive Committee; attend up to 4 meetings annually
- Bridging the gap between voters and elected officials, as well as Democratic candidates
- Serving as the contact person for the Democratic Party in their neighborhood
- Inform Democratic voters on early voting locations & dates, vote by mail, register new voters

Ideally, you as a Precinct Chair would be a “people person” who gradually gets to know the people in your neighborhood through activism, civic, church, school, social, Democratic Clubs & orgs, etc. Learn your precinct by going to www.hctax.net/voter/votermaps to see streets/boundaries; type in your 4-digit precinct #

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR PRECINCT:

- Use provided PDF call lists of previous primaries to identify Democratic voters. Learn and use VAN *Voter Activation Network* – training by HCDP and your Senate District.
- Verify that people on the list, or who you know as neighbors, still identify as Democrats.
- Identify people, shops, and local organizations that support Democrats.
- Help register new Democrats, new address, name change, or new to Harris County
- Canvass (block-walk) your precinct! This can be done alongside local candidates or with volunteers
- Host phone banks to call Democratic voters in your precinct (compiled using VAN)

Modification of Texas Democratic Party Precinct Organization Manual

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Terms of Office & Qualifications

The precinct chair is a publicly elected party official and is elected by precinct voters in the Democratic Primary Election (or in the runoff election, if no candidate gets a majority in the first primary).

The term of office for a precinct chair is two years, beginning on the 20th day following the Primary runoff election. Qualified candidates may be nominated by their State Senate District and elected by the County Executive Committee to fill vacancies for unexpired term.

To be eligible for the office of precinct chair, an individual must meet these requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a qualified voter who has voted in the latest Democratic primary (not counting runoffs) in the voting year. (If not, a Democratic OATH may be signed and the Vacancy Committee may decide)
- Be a resident of the precinct from which he or she is seeking election
- Not be a candidate for - or holder of - an elective office of the federal, state, or county government
- Ideally, a Precinct Chair would have both Internet and e-mail capabilities, and basic computer skills

**APPLY FOR PRECINCT CHAIR: fill out online form at www.HarrisDemocrats.org
<https://harrisdemocrats.org/precinct-chair-interest-form/>**

Precinct Chair vs. Election Judge

The Precinct Chair is a partisan Party position and responsible for organizing and mobilizing tmDemocrats and getting like-minded voters to the polls. The Election Judge is a comparatively non-partisan position and is appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court from a list of qualified persons submitted by each political Party. If possible, Election Judges reside in the precinct. Election judges conduct all the elections in a precinct during the year.

QUESTIONS ?

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