



Empower Texans RPT Chairman Questionnaire

Note: Empower Texans will not be making an endorsement in this race. This questionnaire has been distributed to both candidates and their responses will be published for public informational purposes only.

1. Why are you a Republican?
2. Why should Republicans choose you to be the next party chairman?
3. Party finances are a perennial concern. What steps will you take to strengthen the party's financial position?
4. A great number of issues more directly affecting Texans are decided in "non-partisan" city, school and special-district elections. What, if anything, can or should the Republican Party do to cultivate and support candidates for those races?
5. As Texas grows, so too must the Republican Party. What will you do to increase party involvement from Texas' growing and changing population?
6. A vocal minority of Republicans have repeatedly attempted to weaken the party's platform and messaging when it comes to immigration issues. Will you support the party platform and oppose any path to citizenship or legal status for illegal immigrants?
7. Some have alleged that there are "pay-to-play" slates in which candidates or their surrogates must pay to receive an endorsement and publicity mailing. What, if any, steps can/should the party take regarding this practice?
8. A number of Republicans believe that the RPT should move to a closed primary system in order to select its general election candidates. What is your stance on the issue? Why?
9. The lifeblood of the Republican Party are its grassroots volunteers. What will you do as chairman to increase and encourage the number of activists engaged in the party?

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10. Despite being the top legislative priority of the Republican Party of Texas, constitutional carry failed to receive a vote on the floor of either chamber of the Legislature this session. Other priorities failed as well. If elected, what will you do as chairman to ensure that the RPT's priorities are advanced by Republican lawmakers?
11. What do you believe the Texas Legislature's biggest successes this session are? Its biggest failures?
12. Currently the Republican Party of Texas has a rule prohibiting the party from allocating resources in support of candidates who fail to comply with the pro-life planks in the party platform. However, that rule is often not enforced. Do you believe it should be? Why?
13. What will your policy be for accepting or denying applications to host a booth at the state convention? If a group holds a position counter to the existing party platform, should their application be denied?
14. Almost every state convention, there seems to be frustration from delegates over the handling of floor proceedings by the chair, specifically in regards to the enforcement of the convention rules or how the chair responds to vocal opposition to questions presented to the body. What, if anything, can be done to make sure all delegates feel like their voice is heard without significantly delaying convention business?
15. The 2016 state convention was the first time delegates were given the opportunity to vote on each plank in the party platform. It was also the first time the platform listed specific reforms the party viewed as legislative priorities. Should the party continue these two practices?
16. Outside of the primary elections, should there be a mechanism to hold Republican elected officials accountable when they vote or work against the party platform? If so, what?
17. One of the items former chairman Tom Mechler cited in his resignation letter was the stress on his family from his frequent travel from Amarillo to Austin (where the RPT headquarters is located). Would being in Austin frequently be a burden for you, your business, or your family?
18. If selected by the SREC, you will take the helm of the party at an important and pivotal time. What tangible metrics should Republicans use to determine if you have been successful?