

Harris County Libertarian Party 2020 County Convention Minutes

Location: Courtyard by Marriot Hotel, 6708 Gessner Road, Houston, Texas

Date: March 14, 2020

Convention was called to order by Harris County Chair Kathie Glass, Temporary Convention Chair, at 09:14 am. Billy Pierce served as Temporary Convention Secretary.

Neal Dikeman presented a credentialing report. A total of 106 eligible persons participated in the ten LPHarris Precinct Conventions with ten additional delegates duly nominated as delegates to the county convention. This number constituted an approximately 33% increase over 2018. All but two participants were able to be credentialed, some after completing additional paperwork.

A motion was made to seat Drake Rentrop, one of the two uncredentialed participants. Motion passed. A motion was made to seat the other uncredentialed delegate, which motion was ruled out of order as the person was not present.

Roll was called by the Temporary Convention Chair. There were initially 73 credentialed delegates present.

Credentialed Delegates Registered as Attending

By virtue of the Harris County Libertarian Party precinct conventions held on March 10, 2020, and motions made at the County Convention, 73 persons constituted the voting delegates present at the beginning of the County Convention.

Permanent Convention Officers

Kathie Glass and Carol Unsicker were nominated as Permanent Convention Chair. Kathie Glass was elected Permanent Convention Chair.

Billy Pierce was nominated for Permanent Convention Secretary. There being no other nominations, Billy Pierce was elected Permanent Convention Secretary by acclamation.

A point of inquiry was made about appointment of a parliamentarian. After a discussion of whether a motion to appoint a parliamentarian would be in order pursuant to Robert's Rules, a motion was made to table any motion to appoint a parliamentarian. Division was called for. The motion to table passed by a vote of 37 yeas and 29 nays.

Agenda.

A motion was made to adopt the chair's proposed agenda. The motion passed.

Bylaws

A motion was made to adopt the proposed changes to LPHarris bylaws duly approved by the LPHarris Executive Committee and duly published. Nathan Watts made a motion to modify the proposed rule change which was divided into two motions. The first Watts motion passed. Before the second Watts motion was voted on, a motion was made to table all proposed amendments till the next county convention. After a call for division, the motion to table passed.

At 10:21 a.m. the body was informed of the arrival of an additional credentialed delegate.

Nominations for Public Office

Billy Pierce was the sole candidate for Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar. He was nominated unanimously by voice vote with zero votes for NOTA.

House District 126 – Patrick Gunnels vs. Pete Salas

Candidates were Patrick Gunnels and Pete Salas. Each was nominated. Voting was by written ballot with the results reported as 23 votes for Mr. Gunnels, 21 votes for Mr. Salas, and 33 votes for NOTA. The chair ruled that NOTA had won, that no runoff was necessary, and that no candidate would be certified as having received the nomination. The ruling of the chair was challenged. The vote upheld the ruling of the chair. The number of votes cast raised a question regarding the number of delegates present and eligible to vote which was later resolved by a delegate count.

House District 127 – Scott Ford vs. Neko Antoniou

Candidates were Scott Ford and Neko Antoniou. Mr. Ford declined to be nominated. Neko Antoniou was nominated and won by voice vote with zero votes for NOTA.

The number of delegates present was confirmed by a standing delegate count to be 77.

House Districts 133, 135, 137, 139, 145, and 146

The following unopposed persons were nominated unanimously by voice vote with zero votes for NOTA:

- James Harren nominated for HD 133.
- Paul Bilyeu nominated for HD 135.
- Lee Sharp nominated for HD 137.
- R. "Shohn" Grizzle Trojecek nominated for HD 139.
- Aaron Howell nominated for HD 145.
- JJ Campbell nominated for HD 146.

House District 150 – Jesse Herrera vs. Kory Watkins

Candidates were Jesse Herrera and Kory Watkins. Each was nominated. Voting was by written ballot with the results being 59 votes for Mr. Herrera, ten votes for Mr. Watkins, and six votes for NOTA. Mr. Herrera won the nomination.

Senate District 6

Timothy Duffield was nominated. Voting by voice vote was unanimous with zero votes for NOTA.

State Board of Education 6

Whitney Bilyeu was nominated. Voting by voice vote was unanimous with zero votes for NOTA.

CD 2 Laura Antoniou vs. Carol Unsicker vs. Elliott Scheirman

Candidates were Laura Antoniou, Carol Unsicker, and Elliott Scheirman. Each was nominated. Voting was by written ballot with the results as follows: 14 votes for Ms. Antoniou, one vote for Ms. Unsicker, 58 votes for Mr. Scheirman, and two votes for NOTA. Mr. Scheirman won the nomination.

Congressional Districts 7, 18, and 29

The following unopposed persons were nominated unanimously by voice vote with zero votes for NOTA:

Shawn Kelly for CD 7.

Luke Spencer for CD 18.

Phil Kurtz for CD 29.

Candidates who would be considered for nomination at a District or State Convention were introduced. The District Convention process was explained. Nominations were made for District Convention Delegates pursuant to the attached list. Each person nominated except Mike Ryan was elected a delegate to their respective District Convention by voice vote with no votes for NOTA. Mr. Ryan was elected by voice vote with some votes for NOTA.

The convention was recessed until 12:30. The convention reconvened at 12:40.

Election for Party Office

County Chair

Jacob Harper and Kathie Glass were nominated.

Elliot Scheirman, Paul Bilyeu, Josh Hansen, Aaron Ramos, Clayton Hunt, and Carol Unsicker spoke on behalf of Mr. Harper. Mark Ash, Luke Spencer, Jesse Herrera, Shawn Kelly, Billy Pierce, Neal Dikeman, and Peter Elloway spoke on behalf of Ms. Glass.

The results of a verbal delegate count was 72. It was noted for the record that a majority would be 37, and that two-thirds would be 48. Voting was by written ballot. While the votes were counted, a brief recess was taken. Results were 43 votes for Ms. Glass and 25 votes for Mr. Harper. Kathie Glass was elected county chair.

Vice Chair

Jacob Harper, Roy Eriksen, Paul Bilyeu, and Scott Ford were nominated for vice chair. Mr. Bilyeu declined the nomination. A motion was made to vote by approval vote instead of majority vote. A ruling of the chair that the vote will be by majority vote was challenged. The chair read to the body the state rules regarding voting in conventions. Division was called, and the standing vote taken at 1:46 p.m. 35 to uphold the ruling of the chair and 28 to overturn. The chair's decision to vote by majority vote being upheld, a written ballot was taken with the results being 37 votes for Mr. Harper, 13 votes for Mr. Eriksen, and 17 votes for Mr. Ford. Jacob Harper was elected county vice chair.

Secretary

Billy Pierce and Jodi Cole were nominated. Voting was by paper ballot with the results being 42 votes for Mr. Pierce and 22 votes for Ms. Cole. Billy Pierce was elected county secretary.

Treasurer

Tom Glass and Paul Bilyeu were nominated. A verbal delegate count taken at 2:34 p.m. resulted in a count of 63 delegates present. Voting was by written ballot with the results being 32 votes for Mr. Glass and 33 votes for Mr. Bilyeu. Paul Bilyeu was elected county treasurer.

A verbal delegate count taken at 3:19 p.m. resulted in a count of 58 delegates present.

State Convention Delegates

A total of 50 persons were nominated for the 37 positions apportioned to Harris County as state convention delegates. Voting was by written ballot. The following persons received the majority vote necessary to be elected as a delegate.

1. Lee Sharp
2. Scott Ford
3. Elliott Scheirman
4. Carol Unsicker
5. Billy Pierce
6. Christy Ford

7. Paul Bilyeu
8. Neal Dikeman
9. Whitney Bilyeu
10. Jacob Harper
11. Mark Ash
12. JJ Campbell
13. Tom Glass
14. Jodi Cole
15. Karen Dikeman
16. Kathie Glass
17. Carter Cole
18. Roy Eriksen
19. Nathan Watts
20. Aida Gonzalez
21. Clayton Hunt
22. Bobie Townsend
23. Nathan Kinman
24. Jesse Herrera
25. Aaron Ramos

A motion was made to elect as delegates those persons who received the most votes although not a majority. A motion to amend that motion failed. Motion failed.

A motion to remove Pete Salas from consideration as a delegate as not affiliated with the Party passed.

State Convention Alternate Delegates

A motion was made to elect the following persons as alternate delegates to the state convention in order of preference:

1. Constantine Dragomirov
2. Shohn Trojacek
3. Joshua Hansen
4. Joe White
5. Lisa Botts
6. Alan Smith
7. Cameron Brock
8. Jose Sosa
9. Rohan Desai
10. Susan Ruisinger
11. Peter Elloway
12. William Pollak
13. Zachary Neeley
14. Jared Wissel

15. Michael Figaro
16. Chad Abbey
17. Mike Wright
18. Shawn Kelly
19. Charles Stevens
20. Chris Duffy
21. Michael Arriaga
22. Brian Arthur
23. Nathan Vowell
24. Matthew Davis

By unanimous vote and without objection, the motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made. Motion failed.

A motion was made to elect the following persons as additional alternate delegates to the state convention in order of preference:

25. Seth Barker
26. Timothy Duffield
27. Richard Carpenter
28. David Hutzelman
29. Neko Anontiou
30. Laura Antoniou

By unanimous vote and without objection, the motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed by unanimous vote and without objection.

The convention was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Pierce

Harris County 2020 County Convention Secretary

Accepted:

Kathie Glass

Harris County 2020 County Convention Chair