

Article I

Name of Party

The name of the political party shall be the Raza Unida Party.

Article II

Adoption of Rules

These Rules shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of the State of Texas and together with the statutes, rules and by-laws adopted by reference shall constitute the rules of the Raza Unida Party of Texas and may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by majority vote of the delegates at a state convention. Between state conventions, these Rules may be temporarily amended by majority vote of the State Executive Committee, provided that each member of the State Executive Committee receives notification in writing of the exact working of such proposed change at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Such changes shall be presented to the next state convention for approval.

Article III

Membership

Membership and participation in the Raza Unida Party shall be open to any qualified voter of the State of Texas, who adheres primarily to the stated purposed of the Party as expressed in the Party's Platform, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, language spoken or national origin.

Article IV

General Conduct of Party Affairs

Section 1 - Statutes of the State of Texas

The Constitution of the State of Texas and the statutes of the State of Texas, in so far as they may be applicable, are hereby adopted by reference and shall govern the conduct of all conventions and meetings of the Raza Unida Party of Texas from the precinct level through the state level.

Section 2 - Roberts Rules Adopted

Unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution, statutes, or these Rules, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, which is hereby adopted by reference, shall be the parliamentary reference governing all conventions and meetings of the Raza Unida Party of Texas from the precinct level through the state level.

Section 3 - Rules Availability

In order to publicize these Rules throughout the State, at least 30 days prior to the precinct conventions, copies of these Rules shall be mailed to each County Chairman and each Senatorial District Convention Chairman with instructions to supply a copy to each precinct chairman and to each delegate and alternate to the state conventions from his or her district as the case may be. A copy shall be provided to any other interested person who shall request the same and an adequate supply of copies of the Rules shall be maintained at State Headquarters to fill requests. A charge which shall be no greater than the unit cost of printing and postage, may be made for requested copies of these Rules.

Section 4 - Voting Tabulated

At all conventions, executive committee meetings and any other Party meetings, votes shall be cast and counted in the manner prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. A roll call vote must be taken:

- a. When called for by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, or
- b. when demanded by one-fifth of the delegates at a precinct, county, district, state convention or
- c. when demanded in writing by at least one-fifth of the delegations from the precincts represented at a county or senatorial district convention or
- d. when demanded in writing by the delegations from at least five congressional districts at the June State Convention or six senatorial districts at the September State Convention, or
- e. when demanded by one-fifth of the committee membership in the case of a committee meeting, or
- f. when by decision of the convention or committee chairman

Section 5 - Supplementary Rules

The operation of the State Raza Unida Executive Committee and each county and district executive committee shall be in accordance with these Rules. Each executive committee shall have the authority to adopt supplementary rules, as long as such supplementary rules do not conflict herewith and provided that such rules are filed with the State Raza Unida Executive Committee and with the Secretary of State. All such

rules filed herewith or hereafter with the State Raza Unida Executive Committee and with the Secretary of State are hereby adopted by reference.

Section 6 - Quorum

At other than statutory county or district executive committee meetings, a quorum shall consist of not less than one-fourth of the membership, excluding vacancies. At statutory meetings of such committees, a quorum shall consist of those members present; provided, however, that if the quorum provided above for other than statutory meetings is not present, then only such business as is called for by the Election Code may be transacted at such meeting.

Section 7 - Proxies

The use of proxies or proxy voting is hereby prohibited at all conventions and county and district executive committee meetings of the Raza Unida Party of Texas.

Article V

General Conduct of All Party Conventions

Section 1 - Temporary Rules

Any convention may adopt temporary or permanent rules which supplement these Rules, as long as such supplementary rules do not conflict herewith.

Section 2 - Officers

The officers of any convention, whether it be in temporary or permanent organization, shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other officers as the Chairman may deem necessary. The Secretary and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall have the power to appoint assistants.

Section 3 - Resolutions and the Unit Rule

Any convention may express its sense on an issue by adopting a resolution on that issue, however, the use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates shall not be permitted at any level of the convention process.

Section 4 - Quorum

The quorum at any convention shall consist of a majority of the qualified delegates registered as attending. For each convention committee, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of that committee.

Section 5 - Delegates May Address Committees

Any delegate attending any convention shall have the right to appear before any convention committee and make recommendations, either orally or in writing, for the committee's consideration; provided, however, that a committee may make reasonable rules including time limits for such presentations.

Section 6 - Sergeant-at-Arms

Any person present at any convention must identify himself when requested to do so by the Sergeant-at-Arms, his assistants, or any other Officer of the Convention.

Section 7 - Table Amendments

At any convention, it shall be in order to lay on the table a proposed amendment to a pending measure and such motion, if adopted, shall not carry with it or prejudice such original measure.

Section 8 - Previous Question

At any convention, when the previous question has been moved and seconded, and is sustained by a majority vote, the question shall be deemed to have been called and vote shall be had upon the pending question.

Section 9 - Time Limit on Delegates

No delegate shall speak without the unanimous consent of any convention for more than five minutes on any one subject; nor shall he speak, without such consent, more than once on the same subject; but he may speak once on any amendment or debatable motion subsequently made and referring to said subject for not exceeding three minutes; provided that the delegate making the majority report and the delegate making the minority report of any committee of said convention may speak on such report for not exceeding ten minutes, and may then answer legitimate questions relating to such report asked by a delegate.

Section 10 - Fractional Delegates

No convention shall elect fractional delegates.

General Conduct of
County, Senatorial District, State
Conventions

Section 1 - Time Limit to Submit Platform Resolutions

At any convention other than a precinct convention, all resolutions shall be filed with the Secretary of the Convention not later than 60 minutes after the permanent Committee on Platform and Resolutions is appointed and shall be referred automatically and without debate to the Committee on Platform and Resolutions or other committee appropriate to the subject for consideration and report. All resolutions adopted by the next lower level convention shall be considered by the Platform and Resolutions Committee of the next higher level convention.

Section 2 - Committee Minority Reports

At any convention other than a precinct convention, a minority report of a committee, in order to be considered by the convention, must be submitted in writing and signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the members of such committee.

Section 3 - Speakers at Conventions

At any convention other than a precinct convention, no person other than a Party Official, member of the State Raza Unida Party Executive Committee or delegate shall address the convention without the permission of the chairman or 2/3 majority consent of the convention. The decision of the Chair may be overruled by 2/3 majority of the convention delegates present and seated by the credentials committee. Speakers under this section are limited to five minutes.

Section 4 - Delegate Vacancies filled by Alternates

At any convention other than a precinct convention, in the absence of a delegate, the roll of alternates shall be called in the order in which the names of the alternates were placed by the convention electing such alternates.

Section 5 - Delegates Challenged

The credentials of any delegate or alternate to a county or senatorial district convention may be challenged by any person who voted in the Raza Unida Party primary and resides in the same precinct as the delegate he wishes to challenge by mailing to the Raza Unida Party County or District Convention Chairman a written challenge specifying the grounds for the challenge at least 3 days before the date of the convention. A copy of this challenge shall be mailed by the person initiating the challenge to the challenged delegate(s) or alternate(s). The County or District Convention Chairman shall send all challenges to the chairman of the temporary Committee on Credentials of the convention in question.

The credentials of any delegate or alternate to a state convention may be challenged by any person who voted in the Raza Unida primary and resides in the same county and senatorial district as the delegate he wishes to challenge by mailing to the State Chairman a written challenge specifying the ground for the challenge at least 5 days before the date of the Convention. A copy of this challenge shall be mailed by the person initiating the challenge to the challenged delegate(s) or alternate(s). The State Chairman shall send all challenges to the chairman of the temporary Committee on Credentials of such convention.

At any convention other than a precinct convention, the temporary Committee on Credentials, when it convenes, shall hear both sides of the challenge and shall report to the convention the names of the delegates or alternates whom it believes are entitled to participate in the convention. The convention shall vote on the report of the Committee on Credentials on each challenge that is made. The report of the Committee on Credentials on each challenge must be approved by a majority vote of the convention before any delegate or alternate being challenged may participate further in the convention. No challenged delegate or alternate may vote on the report of the Committee on Credentials which involves his respective challenge, nor shall any challenged delegate serve on any convention committee until such challenge has been favorably resolved.

Section 6 - Participation at Temporary Convention Organization

At any convention other than a precinct convention, there shall be admitted to the convention floor only delegates whose names are listed on the permanent roll when adopted by the convention, past Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the State Executive Committee, its officers and employees, the National Committeeman and Committeewoman, past National Committeemen and Committeewomen, properly accredited members of the press, and other persons permitted on the Convention floor by the Election Code. The Secretary of the Convention is instructed to issue identification badges in accordance with the above, and the Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants shall admit only authorized persons to the convention floor.

Article VII

Precinct Conventions

Section 1 - Precinct Convention Designated

On the day of the general primary election in each even numbered year, a precinct convention shall be held in each precinct at the time and place designated by the County Executive Committee or on its failure to act, the County Chairman; provided that the place of such convention shall be large enough to accommodate the expected number of participants and shall be of easy public access.

Section 2 - Participation

The only qualification for participation in a precinct convention, being an officer of such convention or being elected a delegate or alternate to the next higher convention shall be that the person reside in the precinct and shall have voted in the most recent Raza Unida primary.

Section 3 - Order of Business

The agenda for each precinct convention shall include the following order of business:

- a. Call to order by the precinct chairman or other participant if the precinct chairman is not there.
- b. Preparation of a list of qualified participants who are present.
- c. Election of the permanent officers of the convention by majority vote.
- d. Election of delegates and alternates to the county or senatorial district convention, as the case may be, by majority vote.
- e. Resolutions and other business, if any.
- f. Adjourn.

Section 4 - Duties of Permanent Chairman

The permanent chairman shall:

- a. be responsible for seeing that an accurate written record is kept of all convention proceedings, including the list of persons present and a list of delegates and alternates elected to the county or senatorial district convention with residence addresses including towns shown thereon. A signed copy of this written record shall be available for copying by any participant in the convention for a period of 30 minutes immediately following adjournment of the convention. Upon request, the permanent chairman shall certify any correct copy.
- b. sign, seal and safely transmit in person or by registered mail to the County Clerk such record and a copy thereof.
- c. sign, seal and safely transmit in person or by registered mail to the County Chairperson such a copy thereof.

Article VIII

County or Senatorial District
Conventions

Section 1 - Appointment of Committees

- A. Prior to each County or Senatorial District Convention, the temporary chairman shall appoint the following committees, and name the chairman thereof, provided that if the convention has over 25 delegates, each such committee shall be composed of at least 5 and not more than 15 delegates. The committees and their duties shall be as follows:
1. Credentials. This committee shall hear any dispute concerning contested delegates and shall recommend the permanent roll of the convention.
 2. Rules. This committee shall recommend supplementary rules for the convention.
 3. Resolutions. This committee shall conduct preliminary deliberations for the purpose of making recommendations to the Permanent Resolutions Committee.
- B. Immediately upon the election of the Permanent Chairman, the Permanent Chairman shall appoint the following Permanent Committees whose duties shall be as stated below, and the chairman thereof, provided that if the convention has over 25 delegates, each such committee shall be composed of at least 5 and not more than 15 delegates. The committees and their duties shall be as follows:
1. Nominations. This committee shall present nominations for delegates and alternates to the State Convention.
 2. Resolutions. This committee shall recommend resolutions to the convention, after considering the resolutions adopted by precinct conventions and the recommendations of the temporary Resolutions Committee.

Section 2 - Order of Business

The agenda for each County or Senatorial District Convention shall include the following order of business:

- a. Call to order by the temporary chairman
- b. Roll call of temporary roll of delegates.
- c. Report of Credentials Committee (this report shall be acted on prior to any further business.)

- d. Report of the Rules Committee.
- e. Election of permanent officers.
- f. Election of delegates and alternates to the State Convention.
- g. Resolutions and other business, if any.
- h. Adjourn.

Provided, however, that such order of business, following item c. may be changed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.

Section 3 - Delegates Selected

At a county or senatorial district convention, the Committee on Nominations shall present a list of delegates and alternates in the number determined by the State Executive Committee at its statutory meeting in the March prior to the convention. The convention shall then elect the delegates and alternates to the State convention and shall designate the order in which alternates shall replace absent delegates.

Article IX

State Conventions

Section 1 - Arrangements and Temporary Organization Committee

Prior to each state convention, the Chairman of the State Executive Committee shall appoint the following pre-convention committees and name the chairmen thereof;

- a. Arrangements. This committee shall select the time and place for the meeting of each state convention committee in advance of the convention and this information shall be printed in the official convention program which shall be publicized prior to the opening of the convention.

This committee shall recommend the temporary organization of the convention to the State Executive Committee.

- b. Credentials. This committee shall hear any disputes concerning contested delegates and alternates and shall recommend the temporary roll of the convention to the State Executive Committee.
- c. Rules. This committee shall recommend the supplementary rules for the convention to the State Executive Committee.
- d. Platform and Resolutions. This committee shall conduct the preliminary deliberations for the purpose of making recommendations to the permanent Committee on Platform and Resolutions.

The temporary roll of the convention shall be the roll approved by the State Executive Committee. Temporary rules which supplement these Rules shall be approved by the State Executive Committee prior to each convention and, together with these Rules, shall be the temporary rules of the convention. The temporary organization of the convention shall be as determined by the State Executive Committee.

Section 2 - Committee Membership and Duties

The membership of each permanent committee listed below shall be composed of one delegate from each senatorial district to be elected by caucus of the delegates in each such district, plus the chairman thereof, to be appointed by the temporary chairman of the convention

Such permanent committees shall be as follows:

- a. Credentials. This committee shall recommend to the convention the permanent roll of the convention.
- b. Rules and Order of Business. This committee shall recommend to the convention supplementary rules, any amendments to these Rules, and the Order of Business.
- c. Platform and Resolutions. This committee shall recommend to the convention the platform (if applicable) and the resolutions.
- d. Organization. This committee shall recommend to the convention the permanent organization.

Section 3 - Delegate Challenges in Error

At a state convention, delegates and alternates whose names are not listed on the temporary roll of the convention, but are listed on County or Senatorial District Convention Minutes and Returns filed with the Secretary of State shall be allowed admittance to the room in which the Committee on Credentials holds its meeting for the purpose of presenting a contest, provided the Notice of Protest shall have been duly filed as is required in Article VI, Section 5. The contestants from only one county or senatorial district shall be admitted at a time.

Section 4 - Seating at State Convention

Seating and voting at the June State Convention shall be by congressional district and seating and voting at the September State Convention shall be by senatorial district.

Section 5 - Polling of Delegations

In the event of a roll call vote, at the June State Convention, the congressional district chairman shall poll the delegation within his district and shall announce the result when his district is reached.

If any delegate doubts the correctness of the announcement, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll such delegation and announce the result.

Section 6 - Delegates to National Convention

At the June State Convention in presidential election years, the delegates from each congressional district shall nominate delegates and alternates to the Raza Unida National Convention in the number designated by the last Raza Unida National Convention in the number designated by the last Raza Unida National Convention. The congressional district nominations shall be presented to the Committee on Nominations which shall present these nominations to the Convention as nominees for delegates and alternates to the Raza Unida National Convention; in addition, the Committee on Nominations shall select delegates at large and alternates at large to the number allowed by the Raza Unida National Convention. The Convention shall then elect the delegates and alternates to the Raza Unida National Convention and all delegates and alternates shall be paired.

Section 7 - Presidential Electors

At the June State Convention in presidential election years, the delegates from each congressional district shall nominate one presidential elector and such nominations shall be presented to the Committee on Nominations; additionally, the Committee on Nominations shall select additional nominees to bring the total number of nominees to the number allowed by law. Each such nominee for elector, prior to the report of the Committee on Nominations, shall file with the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations an affidavit in writing as to his commitment to vote for the Raza Unida Party's nominees for President and Vice-President. The report of the Committee on Nominations shall include only nominees who have filed this affidavit. The report of the Committee on Nominations must include the nominees from the congressional districts, who have so filed such affidavits. The Convention shall then elect the presidential electors. Any vacancy among the presidential electors shall be filled by majority vote of the delegates at the September State Convention.

Section 8 - Members of National Executive Committee

The June State Convention shall elect by majority vote of the delegates present, as many members as it is entitled to have on El Congreso de Aztlan, the National Executive Committee of Raza Unida Party. Nominations shall be made from the floor by any delegate present and properly seated by the Credentials Committee.

Section 9 - Officers of the State Executive Committee

At the September State Convention, each senatorial district shall caucus and nominate a man and a woman for election to the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the State Raza Unida Executive Committee. Nomination for officers of the State Executive Committee shall be from the floor.

Section 10 - Members of the State Executive Committee

The members of the State Executive Committee shall be elected by the September State Convention in accordance with the Election Code.

Section 11-Meetings of the State Executive Committee

The State Executive Committee shall meet every two months at a place decided by that body.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTY CHAIRPERSONS

1. Must work to organize party in county through party structure and support organizations.
2. Will work towards expanding ~~and developing~~ party utilizing platform as basic guide.
3. Must maintain documentation of Raza Unida Party support in county.
4. Must hold meetings of the County Executive Committee at least once a month.
5. Will be official representative of county organization.
6. Must coordinate activities of county organization.
7. Must preside over County Executive Committee meetings and absence of two consecutive meetings is neglect of duty.
8. Must obtain consent of majority of County Executive Committee before committing organization through statements or actions.
9. Must provide monthly reports of county activities to state chairperson.
10. County Executive Committee can take action against chair for neglect of duties.
11. Chairperson can be censured and reprimanded and a formal request for resignation made by County Executive Committee.
12. If chair is asked to step down by majority of County Executive Committee and no action is taken by chair than matter is given to State Executive Committee.
13. State Executive Committee will decide if an organizer should be appointed to perform duties of county chair until question of chair is resolved.
14. Duties and responsibilities will include any additional ones that the State Executive Committee deems proper and necessary.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRECINCT CHAIRPERSON

1. Must work to organize party in precinct through party structure and support organizations.
2. Will work towards expanding and developing party utilizing platform as basic guide.
3. Must identify and document all Raza Unida Party support in precinct.
4. Must maintain monthly meeting with precinct organization.
5. Will be official precinct representative in all party functions.
6. Must attend all party functions involving precinct.
7. Will relay all information involving precinct to the County Executive Committee on a monthly basis.
8. Precinct chair has power to appoint committees to perform specific functions.
9. Must represent precinct at all meetings of the County Executive Committee and failure to attend two consecutive meetings is neglect of duty.
10. County Executive Committee may take appropriate action against precinct chair for neglect of duties and responsibilities: censure and reprimand; request for resignation.
11. If County Executive Committee requests that a precinct chair resign and there is a refusal then a precinct organizer can be appointed from within the precinct to assume duties and responsibilities.
12. County Executive Committee can assign any additional duties deemed appropriate and necessary.

Health Systems Agency

Bill #9341 - first organizations
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Health Planning Advisory Councils through
Councils of Gov't -

Vicente Molina
Laredo Junior College
Laredo Texas
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Legal Defense Fund -

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