

Resolution Opposing Rule No. 44's Grant of Power to the State Republican Executive Committee to Limit Voter Choice in Republican Primaries

Whereas, Thomas Jefferson declared, *"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves"*; and

Whereas, James Madison wrote in *Federalist No. 52* that *"the definition of the right of suffrage is very justly regarded as a fundamental article of republican government"*; and

Whereas, President Abraham Lincoln reminded us at Gettysburg that ours is a *"government of the people, by the people, for the people"*; and

Whereas, Sam Houston, hero of Texas independence, said, *"The benefits of a free government can be maintained only by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles"*; and

Whereas, Rule 44 of the Republican Party of Texas empowers the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC), a body of only sixty-four members, to restrict which Republican candidates may appear on the primary ballot by denying ballot access for up to twenty-four months; and

Whereas, such a concentration of authority in a small, centralized body resembles not the open democracy envisioned by our Founders, but instead echoes the undemocratic practices of the old Soviet Politburo, where a handful of elites determined who could or could not stand for election; and

Whereas, the right of Republican voters to freely choose among candidates in a primary election is essential to the vitality of our Party, our state, and our Republic;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that we, the Gillespie County Republican Party, oppose any rule, including Rule 44, that empowers the SREC or any small body to prevent Republican voters from deciding for themselves who may seek the Republican nomination; and

Be it Further Resolved, that in Texas—where liberty was won by the sacrifice of patriots at the Alamo and San Jacinto—we reaffirm that candidate choice in Republican primaries must rest with the people, not with sixty-four individuals; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that in a land where we believe in a government of, by, and for the people, the Republican Party of Texas must trust its voters and reject any process that limits their voice at the ballot box.