

Minutes of the March 5, 2026 Meeting of the Panola County Conservatives

Call to Order: Prayers and Pledges led by Butch Marsalis

President's Welcome:

Membership Drive - This meeting is our first of the year, please join / renew.

Candidate Forum - PCC and PCRW worked together to put together at the last minute after the PCRW Chair cancelled his January event. Thanks to all who helped make our PCC-PCRW event a huge success!

Program:

Local election results & turnouts: Except for County Commissioner Precinct 2 runoff between David Cole and Paul Bishop, all Panola County positions were won by the incumbents (or had no challengers). 25.9% of Panola County turned out to vote. While better than the 2024 Primary Election, it is still dismal. Statewide, 4.5 Million which represents ~ 24%, Democrats 2.3M and Republicans 2.1M voters. This was the highest turnout in recent history.

The continued, present day political apathy is like the "bread and circuses" dynamic of the dying Roman Empire. Complacency and distraction must not win. We need to continue to get conservatives out to vote! It is hard to go door to door in our county as it is mostly rural, so get feedback on what works, i.e. flyers, yard signs, Facebook posts, etc.

Primary Election Runoff is Tuesday, May 26th. Important state races include: 1. US Senate (John Cornyn v Ken Paxton); 2. Attorney General (Mayes Middleton v Chip Roy); and 3. Texas Railroad Commission (Bo French v James "Jim" Wright).

Panola County Precinct & County Conventions will both be on **28 March, Saturday, from 10 AM - 2 PM at the PC Chamber of Commerce.** Only those who voted in the 2026 Republican Primary (or sign an oath of affiliation) may participate. The precinct convention will be first. Precincts will elect the delegates to participate in the county convention. The county convention will follow immediately after the conclusion of the precinct convention. The county convention will elect Panola County's 14 delegates and 14 alternates to attend the State Convention.

At both the precinct and county conventions, there is an opportunity to present resolutions. There are sample resolutions posted at pctx.org. At the 2024 conventions, water rights and food safety (contents of food) were important to Panola County. It is not recommended to duplicate existing platform points, unless the county wants to emphasize an issue's importance. Direct and specific language should be used in any resolutions forwarded to the state. Three copies of all passed county resolutions must be sent to the state by the Party Chair (Mark Williams).

Texas GOP State Convention will be held in Houston starting on June 8 with committee meetings. The general caucus meetings run 11-13 June. If you are a state delegate you can testify before the committees on issues you care about. Delegates will vote on the Party

Platform (which states the beliefs of the party) and on the Rules that will steer the Party. They also select the State Chair, State Vice Chair, and SREC Committeeman & Committeewoman.

PCC Business Items:

Meeting Minutes from the Decemeber meeting were approved as written, posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$772.18. This includes payments for the website and the recent Candidate's Forum. Thanks to those who renewed tonight.

Panola County Republican Party: Last meeting held was on 24 February; the focus was primarily on upcoming Precinct & County Convention (28 March)

Panola County Republican Women: Next meeting is 18 March at noon (brown bag at 11:30) at the Chamber of Commerce. Our district representative Rhonda Anderson will be the guest.

Member Comments: None

Elected Officials Present, Recognized: Precinct Chair 18, David Comer

Next Meeting: April 2nd at 6:30 PM; bring a friend