

Minutes of the September 3, 2026 Meeting of the Panola County Conservatives

Call to Order: Prayers and Pledges led by Butch Marsalis

President's Welcome, Special Guests, and Announcements:

1. Special Guests:
 - a. SREC SD1 Committeewoman Susan Conway: Encouraged everyone to download and use the VoteRight app (way better than Abbott app; found here: <https://rscvoteright.us>) and print out the Democrat Party priorities. People need to understand that voting for/against a single issue can be detrimental to conservative priorities because when push comes to shove, Democrats will vote in accordance with their parties priorities. Therefore, conservatives need to be one, united voice and vote Republican in Novemeber. She encouraged everyone to contact her if they have any questions or issues.
 - b. TX District 11 Congresswoman Joanne Shofner: She is a co-chair on the new Sharia law committee. Told it plain - yes people are upset, mad in fact. However, we CANNOT be apathatic and sit at home. We MUST GET OUT the VOTE; we do not need Democrat Talerico (opposing Paxton) OR ANY DEMOCRATIC to win. For the first time, every race in Texas has a Democratic contender. Texas MUST stay RED. Private property rights, water rights, data centers, etc., are ALL big issues. Vote and vote conservative!
2. PCC elections are in November. YOU NEED TO VOLUNTEER to be an officer. At our October meeting we will elect a nominating committee.

Program:

9/11 Walk of Remembrance: 25th anniversary walk will start at 9:30 AM at the Panola County Courthouse and end at the high school stadium.

Potlatch: At the Panola County Civic Center will be on Friday, September 25th from 4-8 pm and Saturday, September 26th from 10AM-5PM. There will be indoor and outdoor vendors, entertainment, food vendors, and a children's play area. PCC will be there on Saturday along the wall of the civic center near the main stage. We will have our fans and voter guides to hand out. We need volunteers to pass out PCC information at our table for 30-60 minutes throughout the Saturday hours. Please let an officer know if you can help.

Volunteer Voter Registrar: Very easy to become one see information here:

The County Elections office says:

At-home training: You may come to our office or print off online the Secretary of State's VDR training guides and then **schedule a time to take an examination in our office.**

Churches, You CAN Get Out the Vote: You CAN pass out non-partisan voter guides at your churches, simply lay out the candidates and what each one stands for/against. People often fail to vote because they do not know who to vote for. There is very little a church can NOT do.

They cannot say vote FOR candidate x or y. They cannot use their funds for one candidate over another. A church MAY speak directly about issues such as abortion, marriage, etc.

- **Panola County has a very LOW voter turnout, yet it has a very HIGH church attendance.** Roughly 50% of church goers are NOT registered to vote. Therefore, **we need volunteer voter registrars in churches, and we need to encourage our church-going neighbors and friends to VOTE THEIR VALUES.**
- Non-partisan ballots can be found at
 - Ballotpedia (https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup)
 - Ivoterguide (<https://ivoterguide.com/>), full guide and evaluations should be out ~ October 9th. They ask candidates Biblically based questions. When you click “my voter guide” it will show you where your polling place is if voting on Election Day (early voting is done at the elections office in the Panola County Court House)

PCC Business Items:

Meeting Minutes from the August 6th meeting were posted on the website and emailed with this meeting notice. No corrections were made so stand as written.

Treasurer’s Report: The current bank balance is \$472.18. This includes payments for the meeting room (3 months) and Panola County Chamber of Commerce dues.

Republican Mid-Term Convention: is in Dallas on September 9-10. Vice-President Vance will speak on the 9th and President Trump on the 10th. You can get a free ticket to attend here: https://events.gopconvention.com/events/2026-midterm-convention-event-ticketing?recurring=false&money_bomb=false&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=fst_rnc_audience9006_pol&utm_campaign=20260903_o038713_pol-midterm-convention-ticket-request-free-v2-s7_gop_rnc&utm_content=gop_direct-ask&amtposition=

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 September 16th at noon (brown bag at 11:30) at the Chamber of Commerce. They are preparing Constitution Day packages to pass out at local schools.

Member Comments: Clarification on illegal aliens getting tax refunds: technically an illegal alien should not have a social security number, but they are getting one (or using a fake one) to file for benefits.

Elected Officials Present, Recognized: Texas Congresswoman (District 11) Joanne Shofner, SREC SD1 Committeewoman Susan Conway and Panola County Chair David Deaton.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1st at 6:30 PM; bring a friend. Volunteer to be a PCC officer.