

Republican Party of Texas
900 Congress, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78701
Attn: Tina Benkiser

Ref: Challenges

Madam Chair:

Please deliver the following challenges to the Republican State Officials Committee as constituted in the bylaws of the SREC for delivery to the Temporary Credentials Committee of the State Convention.

The signers of this challenge, all of whom voted in the 2008 Republican General Primary and reside in the same county and/or senatorial district as the delegate or alternate being challenged, individually and collectively challenge the delegate status of the following persons:

1. Michael Taylor, 5209 Coventry Pl, Colleyville TX

These named person(s) intentionally violated the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) and the Texas Election Code (TEC). In accordance with RPT Rule 27b(1) we hereby specify the grounds for the challenge and detail the specific rule or rules alleged to have been violated.

TEC S 174.021, SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO COUNTY AND SENATORIAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS, states:

“The delegates to a political party's county and senatorial district conventions held under this chapter shall be selected in accordance with party rules **at precinct conventions** held as provided by this subchapter.”

RPT Rule 21, Agenda for Precinct Conventions, states:

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

...

f. Election of delegates and alternates to county or senatorial district convention, as the case may be, **by majority vote...**”

At the Precinct Convention for Tarrant County Precinct 3323, George Trent Barber was elected Precinct Convention Chair, and he and five other individuals were elected delegates to the Senatorial District Convention. Precinct Chair and SD Convention Temporary Nominations Committee member Michael Taylor was not present at the Precinct Convention.

Sometime after the Precinct Convention packet was turned in to Tarrant County Republican Headquarters (TCGOP), Mr. Taylor requested and was granted access to the packet. He then altered the minutes and added a second page of delegates, including himself and four others. When Mr. Barber was able to review a copy of the packet as provided by TCGOP, he noted the additional delegates and filed a challenge against them being seated at the SD Convention (see attached exhibit A.) Mr. Taylor was originally a member of the Temporary Nominations Committee, but was removed when this challenge was filed.

This challenge was upheld by the SD Temporary Credentials Committee. Mr. Taylor's testimony admitted he accessed the packet and added delegates who were not elected by the convention, with no legal authority to do so (see attached exhibit B.) One committeewoman noted she was "appalled" at this violation.

Mr. Taylor clearly and intentionally violated both the TEC and the RPT Rules, without regard for the express will of the voters attending his precinct convention. We request that this challenge be upheld and he not be seated as a delegate to the State Convention.

Signed:

(signature, name, address, SD, precinct)
