



Village Republican Women

New Member Orientation

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS – HISTORY

The Republican Party of Texas (RPT) is one of the fastest-growing Republican state Parties in the nation. Its history begins with the founding in 1854.

Texas held its first Republican Convention in Houston on July 4, 1867.

In 1870, Republican Edmund J. Davis, a Unionist, became Governor. His term of four years was marked with much controversy. He was defeated in 1874 and refused to leave the state capitol and had to be thrown out by force. It would be 104 years before another Republican was elected Governor of Texas.

The first Republican statewide primary was held in 1926. There were only 15,239 Republican voters while the Democrats had 821,234 voters in their primary.

In 1947 the Republican Club of Texas was founded and followed in 1952 by the organization of the current governing body of the Republican Party of Texas, the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC).

The first nonbinding presidential preferential primary was held in 1964. In 1966 Republican Senator John Goodwin Tower was re-elected to a first full term. The first Republican in over 100 years, William P. Clements, Jr., was elected Governor in 1978.

Republicans in Texas continued to gain from the 1972 elections through the 1990's. Today, Texas Republicans hold well over 1500 elected offices compared with the 1967 figures of only four Republican county office holders throughout the state.

The authoritative 1998 Almanac of American Politics states:

"Texas is now an indisputably Republican state... On the major issues and on the overriding question of whether to continue Texas's traditions of cultural conservatism and minimalist government...the Republicans seem very much on the majority side. The future of Texas appears to be theirs and, if this state is as attractive a model as it thinks, perhaps the nation as well."

For further information and more detailed history of the Republican Party of Texas, visit the website at: www.texasgop.org

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