

## **RESOLUTION FOR SPECIFIC TEXT OF RPT RULE 44**

**Whereas**, a political party lacking a means of accountability cannot strongly influence its representation to work for the party's agenda, and

**Whereas**, RPT Rule 44 does not provide a strict, standardized procedure by which counties create and deliver censure resolutions to the SREC, and

**Whereas**, Rule 44 lacks clear definitions of what actions are censurable, and

**Whereas**, Rule 44 lacks definition of what is required in a censure resolution, and

**Whereas**, the SREC spent considerable time and debate dealing with weak county censure resolutions in 2025,

**Now, therefore**, it is resolved that \_\_\_\_\_ supports the text of the attached document to replace RPT Rule 44 regarding the censure of a Republican Officeholder. The proposed text defines censurable violations, the required contents of a censure resolution, the timelines necessary for passing a censure resolution, and prescribes a process by which a county is to formally pass a censure resolution, including allowing time for the subject officeholder to respond. It also prescribes a higher number of violations for which an officeholder can be prevented from running again in a Republican primary election.

## **Attachment to Rule 44 Resolution:**

### **Rule 44. Censure of Republican Officeholders**

**(a) Qualifying violations; required content.** A County Executive Committee (“CEC”) or District Executive Committee (“DEC”) may censure a Republican officeholder for **violations** in opposition to the Republican Party of Texas Platform Principles and/or Legislative Priorities. For purposes of this Rule, a “violation” includes any of the following documented items occurring during the officeholder’s current term of office: (1) a record vote reflected in an official journal, official vote record, or other official legislative record; (2) authorship or coauthorship of a bill; (3) filing of an amendment; (4) a procedural vote, including but not limited to points of order and votes on the previous question (or equivalent procedure); (5) a committee vote reflected in official committee records; or (6) for a committee chair, failure to bring a Legislative Priority bill to a committee vote, including allowing such bill to die in committee without a vote, as established by official committee postings, calendars, deadlines, and committee records.

A Rule 44 censure resolution must list each violation as a separately numbered item and, for each violation, include: (i) identification of the specific Platform Principle(s) and/or Legislative Priority(ies) violated; (ii) a brief explanation of how the violation conflicts with such Principle(s) and/or Priority(ies); and (iii) citations to official legislative documents and/or attachments sufficient to verify the violation (including, as applicable, journal pages, vote records, bill numbers, committee records, official postings, transcripts, or official video timestamps). A censure resolution that does not comply with this subsection is not eligible for SREC consideration of penalties under this Rule.

**(b) Minimum type of violation.** A censure resolution must include at least one (1) violation that is a record vote; provided, however, that for a committee chair this requirement may be satisfied by documenting that the chair allowed three (3) Legislative Priority bills to die in committee without a committee vote due to the chair’s failure to bring those bills forward for vote.

**(c) Requested penalty level stated; SREC concurrence process; penalty levels.** Every censure resolution must state the level of censure and/or penalty requested, including whether State Republican Executive Committee (“SREC”) concurrence is requested and, if so, which penalty level(s) are requested.

After **not less than fourteen (14) days’ notice** and opportunity for the officeholder to appear and be provided time to speak before the SREC in response to the request, the SREC, by a **three-fifths (3/5) vote of the full membership**, may vote to concur with the censure resolution and impose one or more of the following penalties:

1. **Penalty 1 (Neutrality/Support Restriction; Voter Education).** Declare that any party neutrality rule shall not be observed with respect to the named officeholder, and that the Party shall provide no financial or other support to the officeholder’s campaign except as required by law. If the officeholder files to run for public office in the Republican Primary following the censure resolution’s passage, the SREC is authorized to spend up to **twelve percent (12%)** of the Party’s general fund on voter education in the officeholder’s district by republishing the original censure resolution verbatim using a media format determined by the SREC.
2. **Penalty 2 (Discouraged).** Declare that the named officeholder is discouraged from participating in the Republican Primary following the censure passage.
3. **Penalty 3 (Refusal of Ballot Application).** Authorize and direct the State Chairman or any County Chairman to refuse to accept any application for a place on the ballot of a Republican Primary Election for a period of **twenty-four (24) months** following adoption of the censure and imposition of the remedy.

**(d) CEC/DEC procedure: amend before tabling; no changes after tabling; restart required if rewritten.** When first presented, a proposed censure resolution may be discussed and amended by the CEC/DEC prior to tabling. After discussion and any amendments, the CEC/DEC shall **table** the resolution for a later vote and shall cause a “Complete Censure Packet” to be prepared and delivered to the officeholder.

After the resolution is tabled, its language shall not be changed prior to the adoption vote. If a CEC/DEC desires different language after tabling, the CEC/DEC must **withdraw or defeat** the tabled resolution and may then introduce a **new** censure resolution at a subsequent meeting; **all notice, response, delivery, posting, and filing-period timelines shall restart** for any such new resolution.

**(e) Notice, proof of delivery, response, and meeting conduct.** The Complete Censure Packet must be delivered to the officeholder by:

1. **mail or courier**, with written proof of delivery showing the date delivered; **or**
2. **in-person delivery**, documented by either (i) written acknowledgment of receipt showing the date delivered, **or** (ii) video documentation of delivery sufficient to show delivery occurred and the date of delivery.

No adoption vote may occur until the officeholder has had the opportunity to respond either in writing or in person, provided that the officeholder receives **notice not less than seven (7) days after receipt of the Complete Censure Packet** before the adoption vote.

After the officeholder addresses the CEC/DEC and answers questions, the officeholder shall leave the room prior to CEC/DEC deliberation and vote.

**(f) Complete Censure Packet contents; public posting.** The “Complete Censure Packet” means the packet delivered to the officeholder under subsection (e), which must include: (1) the final text of the censure resolution as tabled; (2) the explanation, citations, and attachments for each violation required by subsection (a); (3) the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution was amended (if applicable) and tabled; (4) the number of filled precinct chair seats (or filled voting positions for the relevant CEC/DEC), the number present, and the vote count associated with tabling (including the number abstaining, if recorded); and (5) after the adoption vote, the minutes of the adoption meeting and the final vote tally, including the number abstaining. Within five (5) days of delivery of the Complete Censure Packet to the officeholder, the CEC/DEC shall post the Packet publicly (with personal contact information redacted as necessary), and shall update the posting within five (5) days after the final adoption vote to include the adoption minutes and final vote tally.

**(g) Vote threshold.** A censure resolution must be adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting and not less than a majority of the filled precinct chair seats (or filled voting positions of the relevant CEC/DEC).

**(h) Penalty 3 requires five violations.** Any request for Penalty 3 may be made only if the censure resolution documents five (5) or more violations meeting subsection (a) and complying with subsection (a)’s verification requirements.

**(i) Filing-opening timeline for censures seeking SREC concurrence.** For purposes of this subsection, “Filing Opening Date” means the first day on which a candidate may file for a place on the Republican Primary ballot for the election cycle in which the officeholder is seeking nomination. For any censure resolution that requests SREC concurrence for any penalty:

1. The CEC/DEC shall hold the initial meeting to receive (and, if desired, amend) and table the censure resolution not later than thirty (30) days before the Filing Opening Date.
2. The CEC/DEC shall deliver to the SREC the adopted censure resolution and the Complete Censure Packet **not less than fourteen (14) days before the Filing Opening Date.**
3. The SREC may consider and vote on any properly delivered censure resolution and Complete Censure Packet at any time after receipt and **up to the day prior to** the Filing Opening Date, provided all other requirements of this Rule are satisfied.

**(j) Cutoff for documented violations.** A censure resolution requesting SREC concurrence may only include violations that occurred on or before forty-five (45) days before the Filing Opening Date; provided, however, that evidence discovered later may be included if it pertains to a violation that occurred on or before the cutoff.

**(k) Noncompliance; effect.** Failure to comply with subsection (a), (e), (f), (i), or (j) renders the censure resolution ineligible for SREC consideration of penalties, but does not prevent a CEC/DEC from expressing censure or publishing the resolution as a matter of internal party speech.