

Texas FFA Association
97th Convention Delegate Business Session
Agenda and Parliamentary Briefing Sheet

Introduction: Article II, Section A of the Texas FFA Constitution states, “*The Texas FFA Association...is the organization of, by, and for students...*” The convention business session is your chance to use the skills you have developed by participating in chapter business and in business sessions, which are to be conducted at the district and area levels, to play a part in the future of your organization. **This is meant to be a member-driven process.**

1. Call to Order

2. Establishment of a Quorum

A *quorum* is defined as the minimum number of members which must be present to legally transact business. The governing documents of an organization define a quorum. The Texas FFA Association Constitution, Article XIII, Section B establishes a quorum for the Texas FFA delegate assembly: “*A quorum shall exist when delegates representing more than 50% of the chapters registered for convention are present.*”

3. Adoption of Agenda

The delegate body must adopt the agenda to establish the order and framework for conducting business during the convention. The agenda affirms the proposed schedule and sequence of items to be addressed and requires a majority vote of the delegates present.

4. Minutes of the 96th Texas FFA Convention Delegate Business Session

Minutes of the previous business session are the official record of the 2024 business session and are included in the delegate packet for review. In accordance with the standing rules adopted by the 2023 delegates, the minutes were approved by a student committee appointed by the 2024-2025 Texas FFA President. This committee, made up of Texas FFA members: Brazier Joy from Area 4, Quentis King from Area 6, and Griffith Reel from Area 2 reviewed the minutes and the video record of the 2024 business session and voted to approve the minutes as published. Therefore, no further action is required by the delegates.

5. Treasurer’s Report

This report is not acted upon by the delegate body since it contains no recommendations and is for the information of the delegates only. The Texas FFA Association’s financials are audited by an independent auditor. The audit report and its recommendations are acted upon by the Texas FFA Association Board of Directors at the second quarter meeting, typically held in January.

6. Dues (No reference document)

Article XVI, Section A of the Texas FFA Constitution states, “*Annual membership dues in the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates at the Texas FFA Convention. Local chapters shall be notified of a proposed dues change 30 days prior to the State FFA Convention.*” Only members may set dues for the Texas FFA Association or any of its units (chapter, district, and areas). It is recommended that the board of directors and board of student officers maintain annual dues of \$7 per member and affiliation dues remain on the same schedule. A main motion may be offered to fix annual dues at \$7.00 per member for 2025-2026. Discussion or inquiries should be provided after the motion is stated by the presiding officer. The motion requires a majority vote.

7. Budget Proposal

The proposed budget was developed by the Board of Directors' Budget and Finance Committee, approved by the Board of Directors and forwarded to the delegates for approval. The Budget and Finance Committee is composed of both adult board members and state FFA officers. A state officer who was a member of that committee will present the budget. A **main motion** may be offered to **adopt the proposed budget for 2025-2026**. Discussion or inquiries should be offered after the motion is stated by the presiding officer. The motion requires a majority vote.

8. Approval of Honorary Lone Star Degree Recipients

Article V, Section F of the Texas FFA Constitution states the qualifications to achieve the Honorary Lone Star Degree from the Texas FFA Association. Candidates have been submitted by Area Associations, as well by the Texas FFA, and all applications were reviewed and approved. The constitution states that honorary degrees must be approved by the delegates at the State FFA Convention. The list of Honorary Lone Star Degree candidates can be found in the convention program. A **main motion** may be presented to **approve the Honorary Lone Star FFA Degree candidates listed in the convention program**. Discussion and inquiries should be offered after the motion is stated by the presiding officer. The motion requires a majority vote.

9. Approval of the State (Lone Star) Degree Recipients

Article VI, Section E of the Texas FFA Constitution outlines that the candidates nominated by the State FFA Executive Director and Board of Directors to receive the state (Lone Star) FFA Degree must be approved by the delegates at the State FFA Convention. The list of state FFA degree candidates can be found in the convention program. A **main motion** may be offered to *approve those state FFA degree candidates listed in the convention program*. Discussion or inquiries should be offered after the motion is stated by the presiding officer. The motion requires a majority vote.

10. National Officer Candidate

Article IX, Section A(3) of the Texas FFA Constitution reads, *"To represent the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association Future Farmers of America at the National Convention, a National Officer Candidate must:...Be elected as the National Officer Candidate representing Texas by a majority vote of the delegates present at the state convention preceding the national convention at which the candidate is to run for National Office."* At this time the floor is opened for further nominations for the 2025-2026 Texas FFA National Officer candidate. The national officer nominee shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegate body, at this time we will proceed to vote. Online voting instructions will be read aloud on stage.

11. Texas FFA 2025-2026 State Officer Team

Article X of the National FFA Constitution states the following, *"All state officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at any regular convention of the state association."* Placement of the 2025-2026 state officer team will be determined by 60% of the elections committee score and 40% vote of the delegates during the 2nd general session of the 97th annual Texas FFA State Convention and installed during the 6th general session of the 97th annual Texas FFA State Convention. We will accept a **motion** to approve these twelve individuals to serve as the 2025-2026 Texas FFA State Officer team.

12. Constitutional Amendments

Article XVII of the Texas FFA Constitution states the following concerning proposed amendments to the constitution or bylaws:

Section A. Amendments to the Texas FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws may be submitted by an Area FFA Association, the Board of Student Officers, or State FFA Board of Directors. The proposed amendments to the State Constitution and/or Bylaws from an Area Association must be submitted in writing to the Texas FFA at least 60 days prior to the next State FFA Convention for review by the State FFA Board of Directors and the Board of Student Officers. All proposed amendments to the Texas FFA Constitution and/or Bylaws must be submitted by the State Executive Director to the local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next State FFA Convention. The State FFA Officers shall present the delegates at the State Convention. An amendment to the State FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the official delegates at the State Convention. An amendment to the Bylaws shall require a majority vote of the official delegates at the State FFA Convention. Amendments to the Bylaws must not conflict with the State or National FFA Constitutions.

The Texas FFA Board of Directors submits **two** constitutional amendments to the delegate body for consideration. The details of these amendments were emailed to all chapters dated Monday, April 14, 2025, and have been posted online since then, thus satisfying the requirement that amendments be submitted “to the local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next state convention.” Since the proposed amendments are related to the constitution, a two-thirds vote is required for passage. These amendments are the result of the State Officer Selection Committee, composed of representatives of the Texas FFA State Officers, state staff, and Texas FFA Board of Directors. These amendments were voted on, approved, and are presented to the delegation on behalf of the Texas FFA Board of Directors.

13. Other Business

The chair will ask if there is any other business. A delegate may present any motion or proposal that does not require prior notice.

14. Adjournment of the Delegate Business Session

2025 Texas FFA Convention

Business Session Standing Rules

Rules on Credentials:

1. All delegates must be checked in with their FFA ID number prior to the session. The number of delegates allowed per chapter are assigned according to the Texas FFA Constitution and Bylaws.
2. Only registered delegates, current and incoming state officers, Texas FFA Association Board of Directors, area coordinators, area leadership coordinators, state staff, production staff, and any other essential personnel identified by the Executive Director will be allowed in the delegate section of the convention during the business session.

Rules on Delegates:

3. All voting members shall register before assuming their status as delegates.
4. Delegates shall wear their delegate credentials during the business session.
5. Only registered delegates of the business session shall be entitled to make motions, debate, and vote. State officers and designated advisors (if the Executive Director permits) help facilitate the process ONLY.

Rules on Motions:

6. Any registered delegate may present amendments or other motions germane to the proposed amendments listed. The presiding officer may request the motion to be presented in writing.
7. Editorial changes to motions, proposed constitutional amendments, or resolutions may be submitted to the presiding officer directly at hunter.lawson@texasffa.org by 5 pm on the Monday of the State FFA Convention. Any such motions offered on the floor shall be ruled out of order by the President.
8. All delegates are encouraged to actively participate in discussion and decision-making. In order to obtain the floor to debate or present motions, with the exception of those motions that are in order when another member has the floor, each voting member shall approach the microphone holding the area sign, address the chair, give his or her name, chapter and wait for recognition prior to making a statement.
9. Debate shall be alternated, as far as possible, between those favoring and those opposing a motion. Cards indicating affirmative or negative debate will be used to determine the order in which members will offer debate. Debate will be limited to two minutes for each speaker and fifteen minutes for each question (only speaking will be timed). No member shall speak more than once on the same question until all have spoken who wish to do so. During this time, clarifications regarding the intent of
10. f the motion may be made with proper recognition.
11. Motions requiring a two-thirds vote will be determined by standing vote or general consent. Votes will be counted if the chair is unsure of the outcome.
12. Any motion made with the intent to disrupt proceedings or that does not contribute to the advancement of business shall be deemed dilatory and ruled out of order.
13. Electronic devices will not be permitted at the microphone.

Miscellaneous:

14. A committee of at least three members shall be appointed to review and approve the minutes of all convention delegate business sessions.
15. Any person who attends the business session shall conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to be a credit to the association. Any person not displaying exemplary behavior shall be subject to removal.
16. All electronic (or audible) devices shall be silenced during the business meeting and should only be used in the event that an electronic vote is necessary.
17. Recording or live streaming the meeting is strictly prohibited.
18. If all items of business have not been transacted by 11:50 am, a mandatory recess will be taken at 12:00 pm. The business session will reconvene at the point at which the recess was taken at a time determined by the president and announced before the recess, which shall be no later than the fifth general session.

96th Annual Delegate Business Session Minutes

10:45- **State President Isaac Hawkins Jr.** reads Article II Section A of the Texas FFA Constitution.

10:46- **Call to Order- State President Isaac Hawkins Jr.**

Quorum Call: Article XIII, Section B of the Texas FFA Constitution states "A quorum shall exist when delegates representing more than 50% of the chapters registered for convention are present." The presiding officer called for the quorum.

State Vice President **Henry Downing** noted the Credentials Report. - There are delegates from 573 chapters present, representing 63% of chapters registered; therefore, there was a quorum present.

- Credentials Report adopted by general consent.

State Vice President **Henry Downing** noted the Standing Rules included on page 4 of the delegate packet.

- Jaclynn Dankworth, Ballinger FFA Area IV- Requesting Standing Rule 16 11:50am be replaced with 1:30pm.

State President Isaac Hawkins pulled Rule #16 for separate consideration

- Cody Gonzalez, Deer Park FFA Area III, moved to accept the remaining standing rules as read.

- Remaining Standing Rules adopted by general consent.

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** revisits amendment to Standing Rule 16. - Jaclynn Dankworth, Ballinger FFA Area IV- Requesting Standing Rule 16 11:50 am be replaced with 1:30 pm.

- Motion failed via voice.

- Motion to approve Rule #16 as read.

- Motion passed via standing vote.

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** noted the need to adopt the Business Session Agenda as listed on page 1-3 of the business session packet.

- Agenda adopted by general consent.

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr. presented** the minutes from the 95th Texas FFA State Convention Business Session. Per the 2023 convention standing rules, a committee was appointed by the President to review and approve the minutes of the 95th Texas FFA State Convention.

Members of that committee were:

- Kolsen Uptergrove, Area II
- Natalie Troyer, Area III
- Hunter Lawson, Area IV

This was simply a committee report. **No action** was needed since the standing rules designated that this committee would approve the minutes

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** appointed the following committee to review and approve the minutes of the 2024 Business Session per the adopted standing rules

Members of the committee are:

- Brazier Joy Area IV
- Quentis King Area VI
- Griffith Reel Area II

State Vice President **Jacqueline Rand** presented the Treasurer's Report. The Texas FFA Association was in a solid financial position with total net assets of \$2,329,466.81. This was for information only. Reports have been filed with an independent auditor for the Texas FFA Association who reports to the Board of Directors.

Article XVI, Section A of the Texas Constitution states, "Annual Membership dues in the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates at the Texas FFA Convention. Local chapters shall be notified of a proposed dues change 30 days prior to the State FFA Convention." President Hawkins Jr. presented the Board of Directors and Board of student officer's recommendation that the annual dues remain at \$7.00 per member and the affiliation fees remain on existing schedule.

- Samantha Gilchrist Area VI Van FFA- moved that dues remain unchanged. - **Approved by general consent**

State Vice President **Jamie Han** presented the proposed balanced budget for the 2024-2025 year.

- Mattilyn Wagener, Huffman FFA, Area III moved to accept the 2024-2025 budget.
- **Motion passed by general consent**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** presented candidates who were nominated by the twelve Area Associations and the Texas FFA Association to receive the Honorary Lone Star Degree as listed in the convention program.

- Quentis King, Prairiland FFA Area VI, moved to accept the Honorary Lone Star Degree Candidates as listed in the convention program.
- **Motion passed by general consent.**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** presented the candidates listed in the convention program who were nominated by the State FFA Executive Director and Board of Directors to receive the Lone Star FFA Degree. These candidates met all degree requirements and had their documentation verified at the State Degree and Awards Check in Stephenville, TX.

- Kale Cox, Petrolia FFA Area IV, moved to accept those Lone Star FFA candidates listed in the convention program.
- **Motion passed by general consent.**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** reviewed the process for selecting a National Officer Candidate per the Texas FFA Constitution. He announced the candidate who has been nominated as: Paris Sanchez

The candidate will address the delegation during the 5th General Session. - **Motion passed via voice**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** reviewed the process outlined in the National FFA Constitution in which state officers are elected which requires a majority vote of the delegates.

- Brady Hudler, Brownsboro FFA Area VIII, moved to approve the twelve individuals selected to serve on the 2024-2025 State Officer team. - **Motion passed by general consent.**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** states there are no amendments to the Texas FFA Bylaws.

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** reviewed Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1 pertaining to Article X, opening the floor for discussion.

- Motion voted by standing vote
- **Main motion passed by standing vote**

State President **Isaac Hawkins Jr.** reviewed Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2 pertaining to Article X Section A, opening the floor for discussion. - Motion voted by standing vote

- **Main motion passed by standing vote.**

11:15am – Business Session adjourned

Balance Sheet To Be Added After the Q4 Texas FFA Board Meeting

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Monday, April 14, 2025

TO: Texas FFA Chapters
Texas FFA Advisors
Delegates to the 97th Texas FFA State Convention

FROM: Jennifer Jackson, Executive Director

RE: Constitutional Amendments and Information for the Delegates to the 97th Texas FFA State Convention in Fort Worth, Texas

Amendments to the Texas FFA Constitution

The State Executive Director is to submit all constitutional amendments to local chapters at least 30 days prior to the next State FFA Convention (Article XVII. Amendments). Likewise, as outlined in Article XVII, amendments must be submitted in writing for review by the Board of Directors at least 60 days prior to the next State FFA Convention.

Two constitutional amendments were submitted at least 60 days prior to the State FFA Convention. The board of directors reviewed and approved these amendments during the 3rd Quarter Board Meeting on April 7, 2025.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1

To the Texas FFA Association Constitution

Related to **Article IX. NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION**

Amending by **striking** language of current **Section A. 3.** “Be elected as the National Officer Candidate representing Texas by a majority vote of the delegates present at the state convention preceding the national convention at which the candidate is to run for National office.” **and inserting** “The National Officer Candidate representing Texas shall be determined through a selection process consisting of two components: (1) a vote of the delegates present at the state convention, accounting for 40% of the final score, and (2) an evaluation process by the State Elections Committee as outlined in Texas FFA policy, accounting for the remaining 60%. The candidate receiving the highest cumulative score from both components will be designated the Texas FFA National Officer Candidate.”

Current Language

Article IX. NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION

Section A. 3. ~~Be elected as the National Officer Candidate representing Texas by a majority vote of the delegates present at the state convention preceding the national convention at which the candidate is to run for National office.~~

Proposed Language As Amended

Article IX. NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION

Section A. 3. The National Officer Candidate representing Texas shall be determined through a selection process consisting of two components: (1) a vote of the delegates present at the state convention, accounting for 40% of the final score, and (2) an evaluation process by the State Elections Committee as outlined in Texas FFA policy, accounting for the remaining 60%. The candidate receiving the highest cumulative score from both components will be designated the Texas FFA National Officer Candidate.

Rationale

This amendment modifies the process by which Texas FFA selects its national officer candidate by incorporating an interview component in addition to the popular vote. The purpose of this change is to provide an opportunity to assess candidates’ qualifications through a structured evaluation process that more closely aligns with the National FFA officer selection procedures, which include multiple rounds of interviews.

The topic of national officer candidate selection was initially brought forward by the 2023–2024 Texas FFA State Officer Team, who made a motion for the process to be reviewed. It was subsequently discussed in committee at the 2024 State Leadership Conference. A recommendation from that committee was then presented to the Texas FFA Board of Directors by the 2024–2025 State Officer Team. This proposed amendment reflects that recommendation and formalizes the updated selection process.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2

To the Texas FFA Association Constitution

Related to **Article XII. AREA, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Amending **Section A** by **striking** “The advisor of the area president shall be the Area Advisor.”

Current Language

Article XII. AREA, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section A. The offices of the Area FFA Associations shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the Area Association. Area officers shall serve no more than one full term. ~~The advisor of the area president shall be the Area Advisor.~~ If an officer moves out of his or her respective area, the office will be vacated and replacement will be elected according to Area Constitution. All officers must be active FFA members and be enrolled in high school throughout the duration of their term.

Proposed Language As Amended

Article XII. AREA, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section A. The offices of the Area FFA Associations shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the Area Association. Area officers shall serve no more than one full term. If an officer moves out of his or her respective area, the office will be vacated and replacement will be elected according to Area Constitution. All officers must be active FFA members and be enrolled in high school throughout the duration of their term.

Rationale

This amendment removes the requirement that the advisor of the area president automatically serves as the Area Advisor. Striking this language allows each Area Association the flexibility to determine the process for selecting their Area Advisor in a manner that best meets their unique structure, needs, and preferences. This change supports local decision-making and promotes equitable leadership representation across all areas.