

The Conventions of 1832 and 1833



The Americans were pleased with the election of Santa Anna as president. They decide to hold a **convention** (official meeting) in October of 1832 to create a list of changes they would like to see in Texas. Stephen F. Austin was elected president of the Convention of 1832. At this convention, American colonists ask for:

- renewed immigration from the United States
- an exemption from the taxes placed on imported goods, and
- for Texas to be made a separate state from Coahuila.

Statehood for Texas was an important issue for the American colonists. As a state, they could create more of their own laws instead of following the laws passed by a government far away in Mexico City. They also felt that statehood was important for another issue, slavery. As a state independent from Coahuila, they could pass laws that supported slavery, instead of the laws that were placing restrictions on slavery in Texas.

The members of the Convention of 1832 never actually sent their demands to the Mexican government. So American colonists met again in the **Convention of 1833**. This convention included different delegates than the Convention of 1832. Sam Houston was elected president of the Convention of 1833. This convention created a list of demands similar to the Convention of 1832, with one exception - rather than just requesting separate statehood, the members of this convention actually wrote a **constitution** (laws that create a government) for the proposed Mexican state of Texas. Stephen F. Austin is chosen to travel to Mexico City and present the demands to the Mexican president, Santa Anna.