

City Council
Candidate Filing Information
Packet #2



ANGELA M. SMITH, TRMC, CMC
CITY SECRETARY

710 E. San Augustine • P. O. Box 700 • Deer Park, Texas 77536 • (281) 478-7247 • Fax: (281) 478-7217
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Thank you for filing for place on the City of Deer Park's General Election ballot for 2024.

The City Secretary's office has prepared this "Candidate Packet 2" to acquaint you with applicable City regulations, as well as the legal requirements pertaining to campaign contributions, expenditures, and responsibilities set forth in the State Election Code. This packet has been enhanced in an attempt to provide you as much information as possible, *but is not all-inclusive* of what you may be required to do. Therefore, reading of all the material is recommended as points of contact are referenced throughout the material. Please note that this office serves as your filing authority.

Various forms and information are provided and are listed as follows:

- **Notice of Drawing for Place on the Ballot – scheduled for February 22, 2024 @ 9:00 am at City Hall in the City Council Chambers.**
- **2024 May Election Calendar**
- **Candidate/Officeholder Campaign Finance Report (Form C/OH)**
 - The Form C/OH is to be completed by the candidate or the candidate's campaign treasurer (but signed only by the candidate). A candidate may be his own campaign treasurer. This form is to be filed in the City Secretary's office on the dates specified by the form and on the election calendar.
- **Candidate/Officeholder Report of Unexpended Contributions (Form C/OH-UC)**
- **Correction Affidavit for Candidate/Officeholder (Form COR-C/OH)**
- **Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Form CFCP).**
 - This form may be signed voluntary; it is not mandatory.
- **Certificate of Withdrawal**
 - Feb 23, 2024 by 5:00 pm is last day for a ballot or write-in candidate in a general election to submit a Certificate of Withdrawal and have name omitted from the ballot.
- **Political Advertising flyer**
- **Political Fundraisers**
- **Short Guide To the Prohibition Against Using Political Subdivision Resources for Political Advertising in Connection with an Election**
- **Political Sign Application**
 - \$20 permit fee with a \$125 deposit
- **Texas Ethics Commission 2024 Filing Schedule**
 - In this schedule you will find information regarding the May 4th election. Any questions on reporting procedures, contributions or expenditures should be addressed to the Texas Ethics Commission at (512) 463-5800.
- **Campaign Finance Guide for Candidates and Officeholders Who File With Local Filing Authorities**
- **FAQ Texas Ethics Commission and copy of Forms & instructions web page**
- **Appointment of Poll Watcher by Candidate on the Ballot**

To help reduce the size of this packet and to save paper, the guides from the Texas Ethics Commission for completion of various forms listed above are not included. However you can find those resources on the Texas Ethics Commission website at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/local/localcofrm.php>

If you wish to obtain Special Purpose Committee Texas Ethics Forms, you can contact my office or obtain them directly from the Texas Ethics Commission Website - <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/local/localspacfrm.php>

Additional resources, such as adopted FY23-24 Budget and City Charter can be found on our website – www.deerparktx.gov.

City Council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays. Special called meetings can also occur during the month as needed. All meetings are subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act and must be posted 72 hours in advance.

It is your duty to become familiar with the laws applicable to campaigning for office. Regarding the filing of candidate/officeholder reports, the City Secretary is limited to accepting the filing of the various reports, and noting the date and time of filing of the reports. Should you have questions regarding reporting procedures, contributions, or expenditures, please call the Texas Ethics Commission at (800) 325-8506 or (512) 463-5800 or go online at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

You may direct questions about election laws to the Secretary of State-Election Division at (800) 252-8683 or (512) 463-5650, or go online at www.sos.state.tx.us. Please note that a copy of the current Texas Election Code can be found online at the SOS website listed above.

If elected there will be two online training courses that must be completed within 90 days of election, Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act. In addition, there are opportunities to attend Newly Elected Officials training courses.

Your interest in serving your community is appreciated. If I can be of further service to you, please let me know.

PRECINCT POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS

EARLY VOTING

City Secretary's Office, City Hall
710 East San Augustine Street

April 22 – April 23 – 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
April 24 – April 26 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
April 29 – April 30 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

ELECTION DAY

City of Deer Park, Council Chambers
710 East San Augustine Street

May 4, 2024 – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Early Voting Clerk:

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Office: 281-478-7247

Email: amsmith@deerparktx.org



Sincerely,
Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC, City Secretary



ANGELA M. SMITH, TRMC, CMC
CITY SECRETARY

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E-Mail: amsmith@deerparktx.org

Gracias por solicitar un lugar en la boleta de las elecciones generales de la ciudad de Deer Park para 2024.

La oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad ha preparado este “Paquete de Candidato 2” para familiarizarlo con las regulaciones municipales aplicables, así como con los requisitos legales relacionados con las contribuciones, gastos y responsabilidades de campaña establecidos en el Código Electoral del Estado. Este paquete se ha mejorado en un intento de brindarle la mayor cantidad de información posible, pero no incluye todo lo que se le puede solicitar que haga. Por lo tanto, se recomienda la lectura de todo el material ya que se hace referencia a los puntos de contacto a lo largo del material. Tenga en cuenta que esta oficina actúa como su autoridad de presentación.

Se proporcionan varios formularios e información y se enumeran a continuación:

- Aviso de sorteo para un lugar en la boleta: programado para el 22 de febrero de 2024 a las 9:00 a. m. en el Ayuntamiento en la Cámara del Concejo Municipal.
- Calendario electoral de mayo de 2024
- Informe financiero de campaña del candidato/funcionario (formulario C/OH)
 - El formulario C/OH debe ser completado por el candidato o el tesorero de campaña del candidato (pero firmado únicamente por el candidato). Un candidato puede ser su propio tesorero de campaña. Este formulario debe presentarse en la oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad en las fechas especificadas en el formulario y en el calendario electoral.
- Informe de contribuciones no gastadas del candidato/funcionario (formulario C/OH-UC)
- Declaración Jurada de Corrección para Candidato/Titular (Formulario COR-C/OH)
- Código de Prácticas Justas de Campaña (Formulario CFCP).
 - Este formulario puede firmarse voluntariamente; No es obligatorio.
- Certificado de Retiro
 - El 23 de febrero de 2024 a las 5:00 p. m. es el último día para que una boleta o un candidato por escrito en una elección general presente un Certificado de Retiro y se omita su nombre en la boleta.
- Folleto de publicidad política
- Recaudación de fondos políticos
- Guía breve sobre la prohibición del uso de recursos de subdivisión política para publicidad política en relación con una elección
- Solicitud de letrado político
 - Tarifa de permiso de \$20 con un depósito de \$125
- Calendario de presentación de la Comisión de Ética de Texas para 2024

- En este cronograma encontrará información sobre las elecciones del 4 de mayo. Cualquier pregunta sobre procedimientos de presentación de informes, contribuciones o gastos debe dirigirse a la Comisión de Ética de Texas al (512) 463-5800.
- Guía de financiación de campañas para candidatos y funcionarios que presentan sus solicitudes ante las autoridades locales de presentación de solicitudes
- Preguntas frecuentes sobre la Comisión de Ética de Texas y copia de la página web de Formularios e instrucciones
- Nombramiento de observador electoral por candidato en la boleta

Para ayudar a reducir el tamaño de este paquete y ahorrar papel, no se incluyen las guías de la Comisión de Ética de Texas para completar varios formularios enumerados anteriormente. Sin embargo, puede encontrar esos recursos en el sitio web de la Comisión de Ética de Texas en <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/local/localcofrm.php>

Si desea obtener los formularios de ética de Texas del Comité de Propósito Especial, puede comunicarse con mi oficina u obtenerlos directamente desde el sitio web de la Comisión de Ética de Texas: <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/local/localspacfrm.php>

Se pueden encontrar recursos adicionales, como el presupuesto adoptado para el año fiscal 23-24 y los estatutos de la ciudad, en nuestro sitio web: www.deerparktx.gov.

El Ayuntamiento se reúne dos veces al mes el primer y tercer martes. También pueden realizarse reuniones especiales durante el mes según sea necesario. Todas las reuniones están sujetas a la Ley de Reuniones Abiertas de Texas y deben publicarse con 72 horas de anticipación.

Es su deber familiarizarse con las leyes aplicables a la campaña para un cargo. Con respecto a la presentación de informes de candidatos/funcionarios, el Secretario de la Ciudad se limita a aceptar la presentación de los diversos informes y a anotar la fecha y hora de presentación de los informes. Si tiene preguntas sobre los procedimientos de presentación de informes, contribuciones o gastos, llame a la Comisión de Ética de Texas al (800) 325-8506 o (512) 463-5800 o visite www.ethics.state.tx.us.

Puede dirigir sus preguntas sobre las leyes electorales a la Secretaría de Estado-División Electoral al (800) 252-8683 o (512) 463-5650, o visitar www.sos.state.tx.us. Tenga en cuenta que puede encontrar una copia del Código Electoral de Texas actual en línea en el sitio web de SOS mencionado anteriormente.

Si es elegido, habrá dos cursos de capacitación en línea que deberán completarse dentro de los 90 días posteriores a la elección, la Ley de Reuniones Abiertas de Texas y la Ley de Información Pública. Además, existen oportunidades para asistir a cursos de capacitación para funcionarios recién electos.

Se agradece su interés en servir a su comunidad. Si puedo servirle más, hágamelo saber.

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EARLY VOTING

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ELECTION DAY

City of Deer Park, Council Chambers
710 East San Augustine Street

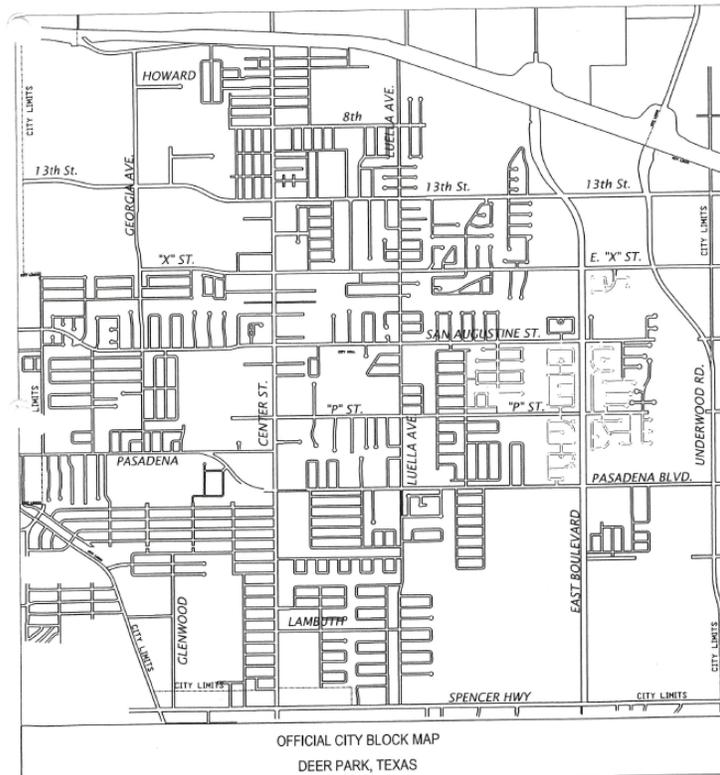
May 4, 2024 – 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Early Voting Clerk:

Angela Smith, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

Office: 281-478-7247

Email: amsmith@deerparktx.org



NOTICE OF DRAWING FOR A PLACE ON BALLOT

Notice is hereby given of a drawing to determine the order in which the names of candidates are to be

printed on the ballot for the election to be held on _____, 20____ in
(month) (day)

_____, Texas. The drawing will be held at _____ (a.m.)(p.m.)
(name of political subdivision) (hour)

on _____, 20____, at _____,
(date) (address, including room number, if applicable)

_____, Texas.
(city)

Angela Smith

Officer Conducting Drawing

AVISO DEL SORTEO PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA

Por lo presente se da aviso que habrá un sorteo para determinar la orden en que aparecerán los

nombres de los candidatos en la boleta para la elección que se celebrará el

_____, 20____ en _____, Texas. El
(día) (mes) (nombre de la subdivisión política)

sorteo tendrá lugar a las _____ (a.m.) (p.m.) el _____, 20____
(hora) (fecha)

a _____, _____, Texas.
(dirección, incluyendo el número del cuarto, si aplicable) (ciudad)

Angela Smith

Oficial Manejando el Sorteo

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Election Calendar
For a City's General Election on May 4, 2024

(last updated November 17, 2023; subject to fourth called session)

Abbreviations in the calendar are the same as those in the *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual* (6th edition) [M]. This most recent edition has a green cover.

This calendar does not apply to all elections. For example, to prepare a calendar for a special election to fill a vacancy in office (even one on a uniform election date), see M §12.03; for a special election on a measure, see M §12.12. This calendar omits actions that vary from one city to another (for example, preparation of voting equipment). Each city secretary should use the chart at M §1.62 to create a personal election calendar. Always verify the latest version of this calendar on the TMCA's website (under "publications").

Dates in column 1 are 2024 unless noted otherwise. Actions in column 2 relate to general elections (those in *italics pertain to early voting*). These actions are typically taken by the city secretary, but deviations appear in column 3. Column 4 is a cross reference to the Elections Manual.

"ED Interval" in column 5 indicates the time between the date of the action and election day. For example, the notation "50th" in the entry for March 15 means mandatory office hours begin the 50th day before election day; the notation "+10" in the entry for May 14 means that the LAST DAY for the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to mail voters notices of rejected mail ballots is the 10th day after election day. An asterisk (*) in this column indicates the time stated is not required by statute.

When a statutory provision prescribes the LAST DAY for the performance of an act, the number in column 5 reflects that day. If the statutory date is moved because of a Saturday, Sunday, or state or national holiday [M §1.52(b); endnote 6], the resulting date is designated in column 1, and column 5 indicates, in parentheses and italics, the actual number of days measured from election day. Not all due dates revolve around election day and are so noted.

The last column has been reserved to show completion of the event in column 2. A dashed line in the table between entries indicates separate events that fall on the same day.

When reading the Election Code, the city secretary should remember to read the chapter and subchapter titles to determine if the section applies to cities.

Note that counties cannot order elections of their own in May of even-numbered years. They may decline to contract with cities.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Fri May 5 2023	One-year deadline for posting certain candidacy and other information on the city's website. Note: See endnote 1.	City Secretary	2.13(d)(2)	365th	
Mon Dec 18 2023	LAST DAY to post on the city's bulletin board notice of the filing period for the general election (SOS Form 2-1).	City Secretary	2.13(d)(1)	138th (30 days before 1st day to file)	
Mon Jan 1 2024	<i>FIRST DAY voters may apply for a ballot by mail (ABBM), for an Annual ABBM, or for a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA).</i> Note: The first day does not move despite the New Year's Day holiday. See ED – 11 days for end of period.	City Secretary	9.44(a)	1st day of year	
Thu Jan 4	Obtain forms: candidate's application for place on ballot, appointment of campaign treasurer (candidate and specific-purpose committee), report of contributions and expenditures (candidate-officeholder and specific-purpose committee), application for mail ballot, administrative forms, and precinct forms.	City Secretary	5.31	*121st	
Thu Jan 4- Fri Jan 26	Review M §1.62 for possible action: Steps 1-5 (revising election precincts, designating polling places, changing method of voting, and contracting, if any) and Step 12 (establishing or changing terms of election judges).	City Secretary and City Council	1.62	*121st through *99th	
Tue Jan 16	LAST DAY for timely filing of semi-annual report of contributions and expenditures. Note: See endnote 6. Because Jan 15 is Martin Luther King Day, the deadline is extended to Tue.	City Secretary	3.12(b) 3.16	Jan 15	
Wed Jan 17	FIRST DAY for filing application for place on general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: Filing for a general election may occur before the election is ordered (as opposed to a special election). Period ends at 5 p.m. ED – 78 days.	City Secretary	2.13(a) 2.14(a)	108th (30 days before filing deadline)	
Jan 17	FIRST DAY for filing declaration of write-in candidacy (SOS Form 2-55). Note: Periods ends at 5 p.m. ED – 74 days.	City Secretary	2.19(b)	108th	

*An asterisk in Column 5 "ED Interval" is a time not statutorily required; EC §1.006 does not apply.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Mon Jan 22 to Fri Feb 16	Recommended* period and statutory deadline for ordering a general election (SOS Form 1-2). Note: Sometimes the phrase “calling” election is used. The deadline may be different for a special election. See endnote 2 for mock student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3. Cities contracting should informally notify their contracting partners as soon as possible.	Mayor	6.03	*103rd through 78th	
Mon Feb 5	LAST DAY for small city in small county to apply for exception to accessibility requirements (SOS Form 16-1). Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon.	City Secretary to SOS	5.25(c)	90th (89th)	
Tue Feb 13 midnight	Death and ballot preparation: If a candidate dies on or before this date, the City Secretary MUST remove the candidate’s name from ballot. Note: If a candidate dies after this date but on or before the filing deadline, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	6.23(c)	81st [day before day before filing deadline (3rd day)]	
Fri Feb 16	LAST DAY for ordering a general or special election for the uniform date in May (SOS Form 1-2). Note: See endnote 2 for student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.03	78th	
Feb 16 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for filing application for place on general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: City Secretary’s office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed when received. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4. If no candidate has filed in a city with 4-year terms, the filing deadline is extended to ED – 57 days (except in Nov. of even-numbered years when the exception does not apply).	City Secretary	2.14 6.23(c)	78th	
Feb 16	Recommended* last day for notice designating election precincts and polling places.	City Council	5.42(d)	*78th	
Feb 16	Recommended* first day to provide 4-day notice of drawing to candidate. Note: Only written notice by mail is required 4 days before the drawing, but phone or email notice should follow the same timeline. Public notice must be posted (SOS Form 3-1) 72 hours before date of drawing.	City Secretary	6.22(a)(2)	*78th	

*An asterisk in Column 5 “ED Interval” is a time not statutorily required; EC §1.006 does not apply.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Mon Feb 19	Recommended* first date for preliminary work to appoint election judges.	City Secretary	7.01	*75th	
Feb 19	Recommended* first day to post public's 72-hour notice of drawing for order of names on ballot (SOS Form 3-1).	City Secretary	6.22(a)	*75th	
Tue Feb 20 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy in the general election (SOS Form 2-55). Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed when received. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	2.18(b)	74th	
Wed Feb 21	Recommended* date to deliver the certification of unopposed candidates to city council if a candidate does not have an opponent in an election considered to be a separate election (SOS Form 13-1).	City Secretary	6.12	*73rd	
Thu Feb 22 to Mon Feb 26	Recommended* period to conduct drawing for order of names on ballot, prepare ballot format, and send information to the printer. Note: Notice of drawing (SOS Form 3-1) must be posted 72 hours before drawing.	City Secretary	6.22(b) 6.25 6.26	*72nd through *68th	
Fri Feb 23 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for a ballot or write-in candidate in general election to submit a certificate of withdrawal (SOS Form 2-66) and have name omitted from the ballot. Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. A withdrawal after this date is valid if it is submitted before the ballots are prepared AND if the public notice of the logic and accuracy test has not been published. Per EC §145.092(e), EC §1.006 does not apply to withdrawal deadlines.	City Secretary	6.23(c) 2.31(b)	71st	
Feb 23 5 p.m.	LAST DAY that a declaration of ineligibility causes omission of candidate's name from ballot in the general election. Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m.	City Secretary	2.33(d)	71st	
Feb 23	Recommended* first day to cancel (SOS Form 13-2). Note: Unopposed races must be cancelled if no opposed at-large race is on the ballot.	City Council	6.13	71st	
Feb 29	Happy Leap Day!	-	-	-	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Tue Mar 5 to Sat May 4	Period the Texas Ethics Commission will defer an investigation of candidates until after election (or runoff).	City Secretary Texas Ethics Commission	3.01(b)(2)	60th through ED	
Mar 5	LAST DAY to deliver notice of the election to the county clerk and voter registrar of each county where the city is located. Note: This is not the publication or posting deadline. For counties with elections administrators, notice goes to them.	City Council (City Secretary)	6.54(a)	60th	
Mar 5	Recommended* day to contact the county concerning availability of the initial list of voters who submitted annual applications for ballot by mail (ABBM).	City Secretary	9.43	*60th	
Fri Mar 8 5 p.m.	Extended deadline to file for a place on the ballot in a city office having a 4-year term if no candidate files by ED – 78 days. Note: This extension is not applicable in Nov. of even-numbered years.	City Secretary	2.13(b)	57th	
Mon Mar 11 to Fri Mar 22	Recommended* period for appointing election judges (SOS Forms 4-15, 4-16, 4-17) plus members of the EVBB (SOS Forms 4-19) and SVC (SOS Form 10-12, 10-13, 10-14). Note: Home-rule cities see endnote 3. The SVC cannot meet until ED – 20 days. The EVBB can meet any time after ballots are returned and no later than ED – 9 days.	City Council	7.42(a)(2) 7.23-.24 7.33-.34	*54th through *43rd	
Thu Mar 14	Recommended* date to print ballots that have been prepared earlier.	City Secretary	6.25	*51st	
Fri Mar 15	FIRST DAY of mandatory office hours. Note: City Secretary's office must be open at least 3 hours a day during regular office hours on regular business days. Period ends ED + 40 days. See endnote 6.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	50th	
Mar 15	LAST DAY for a challenge of a candidate application based on form, content, procedure.	City Secretary	2.16(d)	50th	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Wed Mar 20	<i>LAST DAY to mail ballots to FPCA voters and other voters who are eligible for early voting because they are voting from outside the U.S.</i> Note: If it is not possible to mail these ballots by this deadline, the City Secretary must notify the SOS within 24 hours. SOS does not apply EC §1.006 to this deadline. Respond to FCPA applications received after this date within 7 days (the same as non-FCPA applications). Rosters must be posted to website by 11 a.m. on the following day (SOS Forms 5-7 & 6-55).	City Secretary	9.49(b) 9.82	45th	
Thu Apr 4 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for filing first report of campaign contributions and expenditures by opposed candidates and specific-purpose committees. Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. The deadline is extended to midnight for electronic filing. See endnote 5 for current threshold dollar amounts.	City Secretary	3.13(b)	30th	
Apr 4	LAST DAY for submitting voter registration application in time to vote at the election or for requesting transfer of registration in time to vote in new precinct not in the same county and territory.	Registrar	4.07(f) 4.07(g)	30th	
Apr 4 to Wed Apr 24	Period for publishing notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Must be published once; perhaps more for a special election on a measure. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)	30th through 10th	
Apr 4	Minimum 10th day to begin posting continuous notice if SVC meets on first available date (ED – 20 days). Note: The city council appoints (SOS Form 10-13) not later than 5 days after the City Secretary calls for appointment (SOS Forms 10-12). Post notice of appointment (SOS Form 10-14), notice of delivery (SOS Form 10-15), and notice of meeting (SOS Form 10-16).	City Secretary City Council	6.70(a) 7.33 7.34	*30th	
Apr 4	Recommended* last day to request voter registrar to prepare lists of registered voters and furnish statement of residence forms to be used in conducting the election.	City Secretary	4.34(a)	*30th	
Apr 4	Recommended* day to begin posting the notice of voting order priority for voters with mobility issues on the city's website (SOS Form 7-38).	City Secretary	10.23(d)	*30th	

*An asterisk in Column 5 "ED Interval" is a time not statutorily required; EC §1.006 does not apply.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Sat Apr 13 (Fri Apr 12 recom- mended)	LAST DAY for posting (SOS Form 1-14) (1) notice of election on bulletin board used for posting notices of city council meetings and (2) date, location of each polling place, and each candidate and measure on the ballot on the city's website. Note: The 21st day is Sat, meaning the notice can be delayed until Mon. The better practice is to post by Fri through at least election day. For cities conducting bond elections, additional posting and publication requirements apply. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	City Secretary	6.52(b) 12.15(e)	21st (22nd)	
Sun Apr 14 (Fri Apr 12 recom- mended)	Type B cities: LAST DAY to post notice of election in 3 public places (SOS Form 1-14). Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to this LGC deadline; the better practice is to post before the weekend.	City Secretary	6.52(b)(3)	20th	
Apr 14	<i>FIRST DAY SVC may begin work.</i> Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to the starting date. EC §87.0271 requires SVC to inform voters of certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identification (SOS Forms 10-28 to 10-32).	City Secretary	6.70(a) 6.72	20th	
Mon Apr 15	<i>LAST DAY for unregistered FCPA applicant to apply and be eligible to vote a full ballot.</i> Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon for postmarked FCPAs.	City Secretary	9.61(a)	20th (19th)	
Tue Apr 16	<i>LAST DAY early voting clerk, upon receipt of defective early voting application, must mail 2nd application with explanation of defects and instructions (SOS Forms 6-2 to 6-3).</i>	City Secretary	9.46(b)	18th	
Apr 16 to Tue Apr 23	<i>Period when unregistered FCPA applicants received a federal ballot only.</i> Note: This may mean no ballot is sent.	City Secretary	9.61 9.68	18th thru 11th	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Apr 16	<i>Recommended* last day for publication of notice of the test of automatic tabulating and DRE equipment to be used in early voting (SOS Forms 15-1 to 15-8). Note: Notice for tabulating equipment must be 48 hours before date of test. Notice for DRE equipment must be 48 hours before test begins. DREs cannot be used after Sept 1, 2026 except by disabled voters.</i>	City Secretary	6.63(d)(1) 6.63(d)(2) 6.64(c)	*18th	
Fri Apr 19	<i>LAST DAY to accept an FPCA without a postmark and mail the voter a full ballot.</i>	City Secretary	9.66(b)	15th	
Apr 19	<i>LAST DAY to notify judges of duty to hold the election (SOS Form 4-17).</i>	Mayor	7.44(a)	15th	
Apr 19	<i>LAST DAY to challenge write-in candidate for form, content, and procedure.</i>	City Secretary	2.18(f)	15th	
Sat. Apr 20	<i>LAST DAY for conducting first test of automatic tabulating and DRE equipment to be used for early voting. Note: Notice for tabulating equipment must be 48 hours before date of test. Notice for DRE equipment must be 48 hours before test begins. DREs cannot be used after Sept 1, 2026 except by disabled voters.</i>	City Secretary	6.63(d) 6.64(c)	14th (2 days before early voting starts)	
Mon Apr 22	<i>FIRST DAY for early voting by personal appearance. Note: If voting will be conducted on Sat or Sun, notice of same must be posted at least 72 hours before such voting begins (SOS Form 5-15). The EV period in Nov. is longer. Rosters (SOS Form 5-6) must be posted by 11 a.m. on the day after voting. Period ends ED – 4 days.</i>	City Secretary	9.14	12th	
Apr 22	<i>FIRST DAY for new illness or disability allowing late application for late (emergency) early voting (SOS Forms 5-32 & 5-33). Note: While the illness or disability occurs on or after this date, the application cannot be submitted until the day after the early voting period ends.</i>	Voter	9.73	12th	

*An asterisk in Column 5 “ED Interval” is a time not statutorily required; EC §1.006 does not apply.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Tue Apr 23	<i>LAST DAY to accept application for a ballot to be voted by mail, by 12 noon or close of business, whichever is later. Note: If the deadline falls on a Sat, Sun, or legal holiday, then personal delivery must be the first regular business day preceding that day. Originals are due 4 days after fax or email (except emailed FCPA).</i>	City Secretary	9.44(b)(1) 9.45(b-c) 9.68(c)	11th	
Apr 23	<i>LAST DAY to accept an FPCA from a registered voter or from an unregistered FPCA voter. Note: The unregistered FPCA voter may only get a federal ballot, which may mean no ballot.</i>	City Secretary	9.61(c) 9.68(a, c)	11th	
Apr 23	<i>LAST DAY for county clerk or election administrator to deliver final list of voters that submitted an annual ABBM.</i>	City Secretary	9.43(a)(2)	11th	
Wed Apr 24	LAST DAY to publish notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)(1)	10th	
Thu Apr 25	<i>If the EVBB has not yet met, it must do so by this date. Note: 24-hour notice must be posted for each delivery of voting materials made before election day (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). The board may process the materials but may not count ballots until after the end of early voting by personal appearance. The board must provide notice of opportunity to cure certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identifying the deficiency (SOS Form 10-32).</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(2) 10.03	9th	
Fri Apr 26 5 p.m. or midnight	LAST DAY for filing second report of campaign contributions and expenditures by 5 p.m. or midnight if filing electronically. Note: Deadline extended to midnight for electronic filing. See endnote 5 for current monetary thresholds. Reports must be posted to the city's website no later than 10 business days after receipt.	City Secretary	3.13(c)	8th	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Mon Apr 29	<i>FIRST DAY for death in family to qualify for late (emergency) early voting (SOS Forms 5-28 & 5-29). Note: While the death occurs on or after the day before the last day of early voting by personal appearance, the application cannot be submitted until the day after early voting by personal appearance ends. Voting by this method ends close of business the day before election day.</i>	City Secretary	9.73(a)	5th	
Tue Apr 30	<i>LAST DAY of "regular" early voting by personal appearance (versus special forms of early voting).</i>	City Secretary	9.11(b)	4th	
Apr 30 to Sat May 4 7 p.m.	<i>Once early voting by personal appearance is over until 7 p.m. on election day, early voting materials may be delivered to the EVBB for qualifying purposes when paper ballots are used or automatically tabulated ballots are used at a central counting station. Note: Ballots may not be counted until election day, except if election is held jointly with a county of 100,000 or more. Post notice of delivery continuously 24 hours before each delivery (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). Ensure that the counting equipment has been tested at least 48 hours before tabulation begins.</i>	City Secretary	9.57(a)(1) 9.57(a)(3)	4th through close of polls	
Wed. May 1	<i>LAST DAY to receive in the mail an application to cancel mail ballot (SOS Form 6-6). Note: SOS does not apply EC §1.006.</i>	City Secretary	9.54(a)	3rd	
May 1	<i>LAST DAY for first test of automatic tabulating or DRE equipment to be used at a polling place. Note: To ensure 48 hours before 7 a.m. of election day, test must be by 3rd day. Notice must be published at least 48 hours before date of test.</i>	City Secretary	6.63(d)(2) 6.64(b-c)	3rd	
May 1	<i>FIRST DAY the EVBB may begin counting ballots in an election held jointly with a county having a population of 100,000 or more. Note: Ensure that the counting equipment has been tested at least 48 hours before tabulation begins.</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(2) 9.57(f)(1)	3rd	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
May 1 to Fri May 3	<i>Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of death in family that occurs on or after the day before the last day of early voting by personal appearance (SOS Form 5-28 & 5-29). Note: Requires absence from county on election day. Period ends the day before ED.</i>	City Secretary	9.73	3rd through 1st	
May 1 to Sat May 6 5 p.m.	<i>Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of illness or disability originating on or after ED – 12 days (SOS Form 5-32). Note: Application deadline ends at 5 p.m., but ballot can be returned until 7 p.m.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	3rd through ED	
Fri May 3	<i>LAST DAY to deliver precinct list of registered voters, with the early voting voters marked, to presiding judges and recommended date for delivery of supplies to presiding judges.</i>	City Secretary	9.83(e)	1st	
May 3	One-year deadline to post certain information on the city’s website for the next general election to be held on May 3, 2025. Note: See endnote 1.	City Secretary	2.13(d)(2)	next May election - 365 days	
May 3	Recommended* date for delivery of equipment to polling places. Note: Statutory deadline is 6 a.m. on election day.	City Secretary	6.65(b)	*1st	
May 3	Recommended* day to post notice of council meeting to canvass the returns if canvass will be on 3rd day after election. Note: Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before time of meeting. Due to late ballots that can be counted, a later canvass may be likely.	City Secretary	11.13	*1st	
Sat May 4 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	ELECTION DAY. Note: <i>Early voting clerk’s office must remain open for early voting activities. Voting by sick or disabled voters may occur at the main early voting place where electronic voting systems are used at precinct polling place (SOS Form 6-57).</i>	City Secretary	10.13(c)(1)	ED	
May 4	<i>Deliver early voting ballots, etc., to EVBB. Note: Second key to ballot box is delivered by chief of police or marshal.</i>	City Secretary Judge EVBB (sets time)	10.13(c)(1) 9.57(b)(1)	ED	
May 4 5 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR for late applications for ballots (SOS Form 5-32) from voters who became ill or disabled on or after ED – 12 days.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
May 4 7 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR for receiving ballots from voters who became ill or disabled on or after ED – 12 days.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	
May 4 7 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR to receive mailed ballots with no postmark, except overseas and armed forces ballots and certain ballots placed for delivery before this deadline. Note: Check mailbox at 7 pm regardless of regular delivery schedule. See deadline ED +1 day.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(a)	ED	
May 4	Receive precinct records, voted ballots, etc. Note: Chief of police or marshal receives keys to ballot boxes containing voted ballots.	City Secretary Mayor	10.13(c) 10.32(d)	ED	
May 4	Prepare unofficial tabulation of results. Note: Presiding judge must notify City Secretary if counting will not be complete by 2 a.m.	City Secretary	10.34 10.32(b)	ED	
Mon May 6 5 p.m.	<i>LAST DAY to receive mailed ballots if the carrier envelope arrives before 5 p.m. and has a cancellation mark indicating it was placed for delivery at or before 7 p.m. local time for the place of election. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon. This deadline applies to voters who applied for a ballot by mail and cast a by-mail ballot from within the U.S. Check your mailbox at 5 p.m.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(a)	+1 (+2)	
May 6	<i>FIRST DAY for public access to early voting by mail applications, ballot materials, and annual ABBMs. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon.</i>	City Secretary	11.70(d)(2)	+1 (+2)	
May 6	<i>LAST DAY to deliver provisional ballots to voter registrar of each county in which city is located. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon.</i>	City Secretary	10.30(a)(2)	+1 (+2)	
Tue May 7 to Mon May 13	<i>Period during which EVBB may meet to count ballots received from outside the U.S. if the early voting clerk certifies that all ballots mailed from outside the U.S. have been received. Note: The ED interval is +13 in Nov. of even numbered years.</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	11.02	+3 through +9	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
May 7 to Wed May 15	<i>Recommended* period to complete report of early votes cast for each candidate or measure, by election precinct. Note: must occur before canvass.</i>	City Secretary	11.04(b)	*+3 through *+11	
May 7 to Wed May 15	Period for official canvass. Note: Canvass may occur only if all FPCA ballots have been received, the EVBB has completed the count of provisional ballots, and there are no deficiencies in mailed ballot carrier envelopes (certain deficiencies can be cured up to 6th day after election day). The canvass period of even-numbered Novembers is 14 days long. QUORUM to canvass is 2. RECOUNTS: Petition is due 2 p.m. 1st day (expedited) or 5 p.m. 3rd day after canvass. NEW LAW (HB 5180, RS): Images of voted ballots or cast vote records must be made publicly available the day after the canvass. IF A RUNOFF (not a tie) is needed, order the runoff not later than 5 days after the canvass. It is recommended that the runoff be ordered and notice issued at the canvass meeting (which would require a normal quorum).	Mayor (sets time) City Secretary (records results) City Council (takes action)	11.12 6.72	+3 through +11	
May 7 to Wed May 15	After canvass, recommended* period to issue certificates of election (SOS Form 23-1), official statement of elected officer (SOS Form 23-3), and oath of office (SOS Form 23-2). Note: If a recount is requested documents are not issued until after the recount.	Mayor City Secretary	11.20 11.21	*+3 through *+11	
May 7 to Tue May 28	Period for partial manual count of electronically counted ballots to begin not later than 72 hours after polls close and be completed by ED +21st day. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sat and Mon is Memorial Day, the deadline moves to Tue.	City Secretary	11.31	+3 through +21 (+24)	
Thu May 9	<i>LAST DAY to receive a ballot from military or non-military voters casting from outside the U.S. who submitted an ABBM, IF cancellation mark indicates ballot was placed for delivery by 7 p.m. on election day.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(b)(1) 9.68 11.02	+5	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Fri May 10	<i>LAST DAY to receive an FPCA ballot from a member of the U.S. Armed Services or Merchant Marines or a spouse or dependent of a member. Note: NO cancellation or receipt mark showing date placed for delivery is required on these ballots.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(b)(2)	+6	
May 10	LAST DAY for provisional voter to present ID to voter registrar or execute required affidavit (SOS Form 9-5).	Voter Registrar	10.30(d) 9.26(d)(3)	+6	
May 10	LAST DAY for voter registrar to complete the review of provisional ballots. Note: The period is one day longer for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years	Voter Registrar	10.30(d)	+6	
May 10	<i>LAST DAY for a vote-by-mail voter to cure certain deficiencies in the carrier envelope.</i>	Voter	6.72	+6	
May 10	Type A cites: FIRST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office. Note: LGC §22.006 states 5th day after election not counting Sun. The resulting day is the 6th day after. Officials may not take office until the canvass is complete unless the election was cancelled.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+6	
Mon May 13	<i>FIRST DAY a mailed ballot can be rejected if the carrier envelope was not properly executed, the signatures do not match, or is missing a statement of residence.</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	6.72	+7 (+9)	
May 13	LAST DAY for the EVBB to convene for counting the provisional ballots or any mail ballots timely and properly received after election day. Note: This deadline is the 13th day for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years.	Early Voting Ballot Board	11.01(b)	+9	
Tue May 14	LAST DAY for presiding judge of EVBB to mail notices of rejected mail ballots to voters (SOS Form 6-2).	Judge of EVBB	11.03(a)	+10	
Wed May 15	LAST DAY for conducting the official canvass of the election.	City Council	11.12	+11	
Thu May 16	LAST DAY to register to vote for the runoff of the May 4 election.	Voter Voter Registrar	4.07(f) 4.07(g)	June 15 runoff – 30 days	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
May 16 to Wed June 5	Period to publish notice of the runoff election. Note: The runoff must be ordered first. See note for the canvass period.	City Secretary	6.52(a)	June 15 runoff – 30 days to – 10 days	
Fri May 17 to Sat May 25 (May 24 recommended)	Period during which notice of disposition of provisional ballots must be mailed to voters (SOS Form 9-9). Note: EC §1.006 arguably does not apply to a timeframe set by rule, 1 TAC 81.176(e). Mon, May 27, is Memorial Day. Accordingly, Fri, May 24 is recommended.	Judge of EVBB or City Secretary	11.01(f)	by 10th day after canvass	
Mon May 20	LAST DAY to make election records available in an electronic format for a fee of not more than \$50.00. Note: Because the deadline is Sun, it moves to Mon.	City Secretary	11.70(c)	+15 (+16)	
Tue May 28	LAST DAY for mailing results of manual count to SOS. Note: The deadline is Sat and Mon, May 27 is Memorial Day. See endnote 6.	City Secretary	11.31(c)	+21 (+25)	
Mon Jun 3	FIRST DAY of early voting in person for the runoff.	Voter	9.11	June 15 runoff - 11 days	
Jun 3	Type A cites: LAST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office; if they fail to qualify by this day, the office is considered vacant.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+30	
Tue Jun 11	LAST DAY of early voting in the runoff.	Voter	9.44	June 15 runoff – 4 days	
Thu Jun 13	LAST DAY of mandatory office hours.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	+40	
Sat Jun 15	RUNOFF ELECTION DAY.	Voter	12.01(d)	set by SOS	
Thu July 4	FIRST DAY for transfer of voted ballots from the locked ballot box to another secure container and make original voted ballots available. Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to the first day.	City Secretary	11.70(e)	+61	
Mon July 15	LAST DAY for timely filing of semiannual report of contributions and expenditures.	City Secretary	3.12(b) 3.16(a)	July 15	

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Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	✓
Thu Mar 5 2026	Last day of preservation period for ballots and other precinct election records of city election, except for candidate applications.	City Secretary	11.71(c)	day after +22 months	
Tue May 5 2026	Last day of preservation period for candidate applications and certain petitions.	City Secretary	11.71(d)	day after +2 years	

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Endnotes

1. The following information must be posted on a city’s website [M §2.13(d)], if the city maintains a website [M §1.53]: (1) the city’s contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address; (2) each elected officer of the city; (3) the date and location of the next election for officers of the city; (4) the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the city for the next election (posted one year prior to the date of that election); (5) notice of city council meetings; and (6) minutes of city council meetings. A city with population of less than 5,000 located in a county with population of less than 25,000 does not have to post (5) and (6). [GC §2051.201].
2. The city’s governing body may choose to conduct a mock student election under EC §276.007. The major steps taken for a general election should be taken for a student election. The student election may be held on the first day before the election, but results must not be published until after the polls close on election day.
3. Follow home-rule city’s charter provision, if any.
4. If a candidate on the ballot dies on or before the filing deadline, the City Secretary MAY choose to remove the candidate from the ballot, in which case, the filing deadline is extended 5 days. If that extended filing deadline for filing falls on a weekend or holiday, it moves to the next business day. Withdrawal deadlines after the extended filing deadlines will be impacted.
5. See Texas Ethics Commission rules [1 TAC §18.31] for the full list of threshold reporting dollar amounts. The following is a summary of the most common ones [M Ch. 3]:

Election Code §	Threshold Description	Original Amount	2023 Amount	2024 Amount
253.031(b)	<i>PAC</i> : amount of contributions or expenditures permitted before appointment of treasurer is required.	\$500	\$980	TBD on or about Jan. 1
254.036	<i>Electronic Filing Exemption</i> : amount at or below which a filer may qualify.	\$20,000	\$30,820	TBD
254.095	<i>Local officeholders, contributions</i> : amount over which reporting is required.	\$500	\$1,010	TBD
254.181 254.182 254.183	<i>Candidate or specific-purpose PAC, modified reporting</i> : contribution or expenditure amount at or below which filers may avoid pre-election reports.	\$500	\$1,010	TBD

6. Election Code holidays unless noted otherwise in italics:

Holidays in 2024	Date
New Year's Day	January 1, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (3rd Monday in January)	January 15, 2024
Confederate Heroes Day	January 19, 2024
Presidents' Day/Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February)	February 19, 2024
Texas Independence Day	March 2, 2024
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>March 29, 2024</i>
<i>Cesar Chavez Day</i>	<i>March 31, 2024</i>
San Jacinto Day	April 21, 2024
Memorial Day (last Monday in May)	May 27, 2024
Emancipation Day/Juneteenth	June 19, 2024
Independence Day	July 4, 2024
Lyndon Bains Johnson Day	August 27, 2024
Labor Day (1st Monday in September)	September 2, 2024
<i>National Voter Registration Day</i>	<i>September 17, 2024</i>
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	<i>October 11, 2024</i>
Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day (2d Monday in October)	October 14, 2024
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)	November 28, 2024
Friday after Thanksgiving	November 29, 2024
<i>Day before Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>December 24, 2024</i>
Christmas Day	December 25, 2024
<i>Day after Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>December 26, 2024</i>

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CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

**FORM C/OH
COVER SHEET PG 2**

15 C/OH NAME		16 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
17 CONTRIBUTION TOTALS	1. TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS MADE ELECTRONICALLY)	\$
	2. TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS)	\$
EXPENDITURE TOTALS	3. TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL EXPENDITURE.	\$
	4. TOTAL POLITICAL EXPENDITURES	\$
CONTRIBUTION BALANCE	5. TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED AS OF THE LAST DAY OF REPORTING PERIOD	\$
OUTSTANDING LOAN TOTALS	6. TOTAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL OUTSTANDING LOANS AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	\$

18 SIGNATURE I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.

Signature of Candidate or Officeholder

Please complete either option below:

(1) Affidavit

NOTARY STAMP / SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by _____ this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath

Printed name of officer administering oath

Title of officer administering oath

OR

(2) Unsworn Declaration

My name is _____, and my date of birth is _____.

My address is _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.
(month) (year)

Signature of Candidate/Officeholder (Declarant)

SUBTOTALS - C/OH

FORM C/OH COVER SHEET PG 3

19 FILER NAME		20 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
21 SCHEDULE SUBTOTALS NAME OF SCHEDULE		SUBTOTAL AMOUNT
1. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE A1: MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
2. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE A2: NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
3. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE B: PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
4. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE E: LOANS		\$
5. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F1: POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
6. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F2: UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS		\$
7. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F3: PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
8. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F4: EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD		\$
9. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE G: POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM PERSONAL FUNDS		\$
10. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE H: PAYMENT MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A BUSINESS OF C/OH		\$
11. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE I: NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
12. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE K: INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER		\$

MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE A1

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule A1:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	7 Amount of contribution (\$)
	6 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
8 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		9 Employer (See Instructions)

Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED
 If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE A2

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule A2:	
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)	
4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED IN-KIND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$	
5 Date	6 Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	8 Amount of Contribution \$	9 In-kind contribution description
	7 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
10 Principal occupation / Job title (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)		11 Employer (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
12 Contributor's principal occupation (FOR JUDICIAL)		13 Contributor's job title (FOR JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
14 Contributor's employer/law firm (FOR JUDICIAL)		15 Law firm of contributor's spouse (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)	
16 If contributor is a child, law firm of parent(s) (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)			
Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of Contribution \$	In-kind contribution description
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (FOR NON-JUDICIAL) (See Instructions)		Employer (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
Contributor's principal occupation (FOR JUDICIAL)		Contributor's job title (FOR JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
Contributor's employer/law firm (FOR JUDICIAL)		Law firm of contributor's spouse (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)	
If contributor is a child, law firm of parent(s) (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)			

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

PLEGGED CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE B

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule B:	
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)	
4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED PLEDGES		\$	
5 Date	6 Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> 7 Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code	8 Amount of Pledge \$	9 In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
10 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		11 Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

LOANS

SCHEDULE E

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT include this page in the report.**

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule E:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED LOANS		\$
5 Date of loan	7 Name of lender <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	9 Loan Amount (\$)
6 Is lender a financial Institution? Y N	8 Lender address; City; State; Zip Code	10 Interest rate
		11 Maturity date
12 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		13 Employer (See Instructions)
14 Description of Collateral <input type="checkbox"/> none		15 <input type="checkbox"/> Check if personal funds were deposited into political account (See Instructions)
16 GUARANTOR INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	17 Name of guarantor	19 Amount Guaranteed (\$)
	18 Guarantor address; City; State; Zip Code	
20 Principal Occupation (See Instructions)		21 Employer (See Instructions)
Date of loan	Name of lender <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Loan Amount (\$)
Is lender a financial Institution? Y N	Lender address; City; State; Zip Code	Interest rate
		Maturity date
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)
Description of Collateral <input type="checkbox"/> none		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if personal funds were deposited into political account (See Instructions)
GUARANTOR INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	Name of guarantor	Amount Guaranteed (\$)
	Guarantor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal Occupation (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

If lender is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE F1

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Advertising Expense | Event Expense | Loan Repayment/Reimbursement | Solicitation/Fundraising Expense |
| Accounting/Banking | Fees | Office Overhead/Rental Expense | Transportation Equipment & Related Expense |
| Consulting Expense | Food/Beverage Expense | Polling Expense | Travel In District |
| Contributions/Donations Made By | Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense | Printing Expense | Travel Out Of District |
| Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee | Legal Services | Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor | Other (enter a category not listed above) |
| Credit Card Payment | | | |

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F1:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Payee name	
6 Amount (\$)	7 Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
9 Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS

SCHEDULE F2

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F2:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
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4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS	\$
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5 Date	6 Payee name
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7 Amount (\$)	8 Payee address;	City;	State;	Zip Code
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9 TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political
------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

10 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense

11 Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought	Office held
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Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City;	State;	Zip Code
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TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political
----------------------------	------------------------------------	--

PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense

Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought	Office held
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ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE F3

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule F3:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Name of person from whom investment is purchased	
 6 Address of person from whom investment is purchased; City; State; Zip Code	
	7 Description of investment	
	8 Amount of investment (\$)	
Date	Name of person from whom investment is purchased	
 Address of person from whom investment is purchased; City; State; Zip Code	
	Description of investment	
	Amount of investment (\$)	

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD

SCHEDULE F4

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F4:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED EXPENDITURES CHARGED TO A CREDIT CARD		\$
5 Date	6 Payee name	
7 Amount (\$)	8 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
9 TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political	
10 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
11 Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political	
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM PERSONAL FUNDS

SCHEDULE G

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)
Credit Card Payment			

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule G:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Payee name	
6 Amount (\$) <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	7 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
9 Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$) <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$) <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$) <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

PAYMENT MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A BUSINESS OF C/OH

SCHEDULE H

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)
Credit Card Payment			

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule H:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Business name	
6 Amount (\$)	7 Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
9 Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Business name	
Amount (\$)	Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Business name	
Amount (\$)	Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE I

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule I:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
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4 Date	5 Payee name
---------------	---------------------

6 Amount (\$)	7 Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	(b) Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
---	---	---

Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
-------------------------------	--	--

Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
-------------------------------	--	--

Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
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ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER

SCHEDULE K

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule K:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Name of person from whom amount is received	8 Amount (\$)
 6 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	
	7 Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer	
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received	Amount (\$)
 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	
	Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer	
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received	Amount (\$)
 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	
	Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer	
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received	Amount (\$)
 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	
	Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer	

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS OR POLITICAL EXPENDITURES FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF TEXAS

SCHEDULE T

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule T:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
5 Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
6 Dates of travel	7 Name of person(s) traveling	
	8 Departure city or name of departure location	
	9 Destination city or name of destination location	
10 Means of transportation	11 Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)	
Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
Dates of travel	Name of person(s) traveling	
	Departure city or name of departure location	
	Destination city or name of destination location	
Means of transportation	Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)	
Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
Dates of travel	Name of person(s) traveling	
	Departure city or name of departure location	
	Destination city or name of destination location	
Means of transportation	Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)	

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED

CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER REPORT: DESIGNATION OF FINAL REPORT

FORM C/OH - FR

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

•• Complete only if "Report Type" on page 1 is marked "Final Report" ••

1 C/OH NAME

2 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

3 SIGNATURE

I do not expect any further political contributions or political expenditures in connection with my candidacy. I understand that designating a report as a final report terminates my campaign treasurer appointment. I also understand that I may not accept any campaign contributions or make any campaign expenditures without a campaign treasurer appointment on file.

Signature of Candidate / Officeholder

4 FILER WHO IS NOT AN OFFICEHOLDER

•• Complete A & B below *only* if you are not an officeholder. ••

A. CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Check only one:

- I do not have unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned from political contributions.
- I have unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned from political contributions. I understand that I may not convert unexpended political contributions or unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions to personal use. I also understand that I must file an annual report of unexpended contributions and that I may not retain unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions longer than six years after filing this final report. Further, I understand that I must dispose of unexpended political contributions and unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions in accordance with the requirements of Election Code, § 254.204.

B. ASSETS

Check only one:

- I do not retain assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions.
- I do retain assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions. I understand that I may not convert assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions to personal use. I also understand that I must dispose of assets purchased with political contributions in accordance with the requirements of Election Code, § 254.204.

Signature of Candidate

5 OFFICEHOLDER

•• Complete this section *only* if you are an officeholder ••

- I am aware that I remain subject to filing requirements applicable to an officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer on file. I am also aware that I will be required to file reports of unexpended contributions if, after filing the last required report as an officeholder, I retain political contributions, interest or other income from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions.

Signature of Officeholder



AFFIDAVIT FOR CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER: ELECTRONIC FILING EXEMPTION

An exemption affidavit must be submitted with each paper report.

Beginning on January 1, 2022, a candidate or officeholder who has accepted more than \$28,800 in political contributions or made more than \$28,800 in political expenditures in any calendar year must file all subsequent reports electronically.

Filer name	Filer ID #
------------	------------

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received	
Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked	
Receipt #	Amount \$
Date Processed	
Date Imaged	

- I swear or affirm that I have not accepted more than \$28,800 in political contributions or made more than \$28,800 in political expenditures in a calendar year.
- I further swear or affirm that I do not use computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that no person acting as my agent or consultant, and no person with whom I contract, uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that I understand that I am required to file my campaign finance reports electronically if I, my agent or consultant, or a person with whom I contract exceeds \$28,800 in political contributions or political expenditures in a calendar year, or uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I am filing this affidavit with the _____ report due on _____. I understand that this affidavit is required to be filed with each campaign finance report for which I am claiming an exemption from electronic filing.

Please complete either option below:

(1) Affidavit

Signature of Filer

NOTARY STAMP / SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by _____ this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath	Printed name of officer administering oath	Title of officer administering oath
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OR

(2) Unsworn Declaration

My name is _____, and my date of birth is _____.

My address is _____ (street), _____ (city), _____ (state), _____ (zip code), _____ (country).

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.
(month) (year)

Signature of Filer (Declarant)

FILERS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT ARE STILL REQUIRED TO FILE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS ON PAPER

**C/OH REPORT OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS:
EXPENDITURES**

FORM C/OH-UC

PG 2

8 C/OH NAME		9 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
10 Date	11 Payee name	13 Amount (\$)
	12 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
14 Purpose of expenditure (See instructions regarding type of information required.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.		15 Is expenditure a contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date	Payee name	Amount (\$)
	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
Purpose of expenditure (See instructions regarding type of information required.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.		Is expenditure a contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date	Payee name	Amount (\$)
	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
Purpose of expenditure (See instructions regarding type of information required.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.		Is expenditure a contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date	Payee name	Amount (\$)
	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
Purpose of expenditure (See instructions regarding type of information required.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.		Is expenditure a contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date	Payee name	Amount (\$)
	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
Purpose of expenditure (See instructions regarding type of information required.) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.		Is expenditure a contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED



AFFIDAVIT FOR CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER: ELECTRONIC FILING EXEMPTION

An exemption affidavit must be submitted with each paper report.

Beginning on January 1, 2022, a candidate or officeholder who has accepted more than \$28,800 in political contributions or made more than \$28,800 in political expenditures in any calendar year must file all subsequent reports electronically.

Filer name	Filer ID #
------------	------------

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received	
Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked	
Receipt #	Amount \$
Date Processed	
Date Imaged	

- I swear or affirm that I have not accepted more than \$28,800 in political contributions or made more than \$28,800 in political expenditures in a calendar year.
- I further swear or affirm that I do not use computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that no person acting as my agent or consultant, and no person with whom I contract, uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that I understand that I am required to file my campaign finance reports electronically if I, my agent or consultant, or a person with whom I contract exceeds \$28,800 in political contributions or political expenditures in a calendar year, or uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I am filing this affidavit with the _____ report due on _____. I understand that this affidavit is required to be filed with each campaign finance report for which I am claiming an exemption from electronic filing.

Please complete either option below:

(1) Affidavit

Signature of Filer

NOTARY STAMP / SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by _____ this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath	Printed name of officer administering oath	Title of officer administering oath
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OR

(2) Unsworn Declaration

My name is _____, and my date of birth is _____.

My address is _____ (street), _____ (city), _____ (state), _____ (zip code), _____ (country).

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20 _____ (month) (year).

Signature of Filer (Declarant)

FILERS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT ARE STILL REQUIRED TO FILE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS ON PAPER

CORRECTION/AMENDMENT AFFIDAVIT FOR CANDIDATE/OFFICEHOLDER

All Reports: A filer who files a corrected report must submit a correction affidavit. The affidavit must identify the information that has changed.

Reports filed with Texas Ethics Commission: A corrected report (other than a report due 8 days before an election) filed with the Ethics Commission after its due date is not considered late for purposes of late-filing penalties if: (1) any error or omission in the report as originally filed was made in good faith, and (2) the person filing the report files a corrected report and a good-faith affidavit not later than the 14th business day after the date the person learns that the report as originally filed is inaccurate or incomplete.

Semiannual Reports: A semiannual report (due January 15 or July 15) that is amended/corrected before the eighth day after the original report was filed is considered to have been filed on the date the original report was filed. A semiannual report that is amended/corrected on or after the eighth day after the original report was filed is considered to have been filed on the date the original report was filed if: (1) the amendment/correction is made before any complaint is filed with regard to the subject of the amendment/correction; and (2) the original report was made in good faith and without intent to mislead or misrepresent the information contained in the report.

Attach additional pages as necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

The following numbers correspond to the numbered boxes on the other side.

- 1. Filer ID.** If you file with the Ethics Commission, you should have received a letter acknowledging receipt of your campaign treasurer appointment and assigning you a Filer ID. Put that number in this box. If you do not file with the Ethics Commission, skip this box.
- 2. Total Pages Filed.** After completing this form and any attachments, count the number of pages. Enter that number in this box. Each side of a two-sided form counts as a page. In other words, this form is two pages.
- 3. Candidate/Officeholder Name.** Put your full name here. Enter your name in the same way as on the report you are correcting.
- 4. Original Report Type.** Mark the type of report you are correcting.
- 5. Original Period Covered.** Enter the period covered by the report you are correcting. The year is important because filers sometimes correct reports years after filing the original.
- 6. Explanation of Correction.** Attach any part of the campaign finance report form needed to report and explain corrections. Explain why there was an error on the original report. Also explain what information is being corrected and how the new information is different from the information on the original report. (Use additional pages if you need more space.) You may also use this area to request a waiver or reduction of a late-filing penalty and state the basis of your request.
- 7. Signature.** If you are using the paper form, fill this section out by hand after you finish the rest of this report. You have the option to either: (1) take the completed form to a notary public where you will sign above the first line that says "Signature of Candidate/Officeholder" (an electronic signature is not acceptable) and your signature will be notarized, or (2) sign above both lines that say "Signature of Candidate/Officeholder (Declarant)" (an electronic signature is not acceptable), and fill out the unsworn declaration section.

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

FORM CFCP COVER SHEET

Pursuant to chapter 258 of the Election Code, every candidate and political committee is encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The Code may be filed with the proper filing authority upon submission of a campaign treasurer appointment form. Candidates or political committees that already have a current campaign treasurer appointment on file as of September 1, 1997, may subscribe to the code at any time.

Subscription to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is voluntary.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked

Date Processed

Date Imaged

1 ACCOUNT NUMBER
(Ethics Commission Filers)

2 TYPE OF FILER

CANDIDATE

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

If filing as a candidate, complete boxes 3 - 6, then read and sign page 2.

If filing for a political committee, complete boxes 7 and 8, then read and sign page 2.

3 NAME OF CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

4 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

AREA CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EXTENSION

()

5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

STREET / PO BOX;

APT / SUITE #;

CITY;

STATE;

ZIP CODE

6 OFFICE SOUGHT BY CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

7 NAME OF COMMITTEE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

GO TO PAGE 2

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate and political committee in this state has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional rights to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

- (1) I will conduct the campaign openly and publicly and limit attacks on my opponent to legitimate challenges to my opponent's record and stated positions on issues.
- (2) I will not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or the candidate's personal or family life.
- (3) I will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.
- (4) I will not use campaign material of any sort that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor will I use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or patriotism of my opponent.
- (5) I will not undertake or condone any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters, including any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (6) I will defend and uphold the right of every qualified voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process, and will not engage in any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (7) I will immediately and publicly repudiate methods and tactics that may come from others that I have pledged not to use or condone. I shall take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Texas or campaign treasurer of a political committee, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct the campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

Signature

Date

CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL

I, _____, a candidate for the office of _____, hereby withdraw my candidacy from the _____ election. The election is being conducted by _____ and is to be held on _____.
(political subdivision/county/party) (date)

Signature of Candidate

"The State of _____,

"County of _____,

"This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ by _____
(date)

(withdrawing candidate)

(Seal)

(Signature of officer)

(Title of officer)

My commission expires: _____

*Forma prescrita por la Secretaría de Estado
Fracción 145.001 del Código Electoral de Tejas*

CONSTANCIA DE RETIRO DE CANDIDATURA

*Yo, _____, candidato/a al cargo de _____, por este medio retiro mi candidatura de la elección _____. Dicha elección estará a cargo de _____ y se celebrará el _____.
(subdivisión política/condado/partido) (fecha)*

Firma del/de la Candidato/a

"El estado de _____,

"Condado de _____,

*"El presente instrumento fue reconocido ante mí el _____ por _____
(fecha)*

(persona que retira su candidatura)

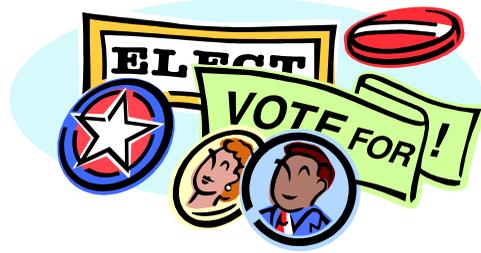
(Seal)

Firma del/de la Oficial

(Título del/de la Oficial)

(Mi cargo se vence el): _____

POLITICAL ADVERTISING



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Texas Election Law requires certain disclosures and notices on political advertising. The law also prohibits certain types of misrepresentation in political advertising and campaign communications. This brochure explains what you need to know to insure that your political advertising and campaign communications comply with the law.

If you are not sure what the law requires, do the cautious thing. Use the political advertising disclosure statement whenever you think it might be necessary, and do not use any possibly misleading information in political advertising or a campaign communication. If you are using political advertising or campaign communications from a prior campaign, you should check to see if the law has changed since that campaign.

Candidates for federal office should check with the Federal Election Commission at (800) 424-9530 for information on federal political advertising laws.

NOTICE: This guide is intended only as a general overview of the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising as required under Chapter 255 of the Election Code, which is distinct from political reporting requirements under Chapter 254 of the Election Code.

Texas Ethics Commission

P. O. Box 12070
Austin, Texas 78711-2070
(512) 463-5800
Fax (512) 463-5777

Visit us at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us> on the Internet.

Revised January 1, 2017

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING

I. What Is Political Advertising?

The disclosure statement and notice requirements discussed in this section apply to “political advertising.” In the law, “political advertising” is a specifically defined term. Do not confuse this special term with your own common-sense understanding of advertising.

To figure out if a communication is political advertising, you must look at what it says and where it appears. If a communication fits in one of the categories listed in Part A (below) and if it fits in one of the categories listed in Part B (below), it is political advertising.

Part A. What Does It Say?

1. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to either a public office or an office of a political party (including county and precinct chairs).
2. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing an officeholder, a political party, or a measure (a ballot proposition).

Part B. Where Does It Appear?

1. Political advertising includes communications that appear in pamphlets, circulars, fliers, billboards or other signs, bumper stickers, or similar forms of written communication.
2. Political advertising includes communications that are published in newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals in return for consideration.
3. Political advertising includes communications that are broadcast by radio or television in return for consideration.
4. Political advertising includes communications that appear on an Internet website.

II. When Is A Disclosure Statement Required?

The law provides that political advertising that contains express advocacy is required to include a disclosure statement. The person who causes the political advertising to be published, distributed, or broadcast is responsible for including the disclosure statement.

The law does not define the term “express advocacy.” However, the law does provide that political advertising is deemed to contain express advocacy if it is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing campaign finance reports. Therefore, a disclosure statement is required any time a candidate, a candidate’s agent, or a political committee authorizes political advertising.

The precise language of political advertising authorized by someone other than a candidate, the candidate’s agent, or a political committee will determine if the advertising contains express advocacy and is therefore required to include a disclosure statement.

Generally, the question is whether the communication expressly advocates the election or defeat of an identified candidate, or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of a measure, such as a bond election. The inclusion of words such as “vote for,” “elect,” “support,” “defeat,” “reject,” or “Smith for Senate” would clearly constitute express advocacy, but express advocacy is not limited to communications that use those words. Similar phrases, such as “Cast your ballot for X,” would also constitute express advocacy. Additionally, in 2007, the United States Supreme Court held that an advertisement included express advocacy or its functional equivalent “if the ad is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate.” *FEC v. Wisconsin Right to Life, Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 2652 (2007). It is a question of fact whether a particular communication constitutes express advocacy. If you are not sure whether political advertising contains express advocacy, do the cautious thing and include the disclosure statement. That way there is no need to worry about whether you have violated the law.

Remember: The concept of “express advocacy” is relevant in determining whether political advertising is required to include a disclosure statement. However, the political advertising laws governing the right-of-way notice, misrepresentation, and use of public funds by political subdivisions will apply to political advertising regardless of whether the advertising contains express advocacy.

III. What Should The Disclosure Statement Say?

A disclosure statement must include the following:

1. the words “political advertising” or a recognizable abbreviation such as “pol. adv.”; and
1. the full name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the political advertising; (b) the political committee authorizing the political advertising; or (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate.

The disclosure statement must appear on the face of the political advertising or be clearly spoken if the political advertising does not include written text.

The advertising should not be attributed to entities such as “Committee to Elect John Doe” unless a specific-purpose committee named “Committee to Elect John Doe” has filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Ethics Commission or a local filing authority.

IV. Are There Any Exceptions To The Disclosure Statement Requirement?

The following types of political advertising do not need the disclosure statement:

1. t-shirts, balloons, buttons, emery boards, hats, lapel stickers, small magnets, pencils, pens, pins, wooden nickels, candy wrappers, and similar materials;
2. invitations or tickets to political fundraising events or to events held to establish support for a candidate or officeholder;
3. an envelope that is used to transmit political advertising, provided that the political advertising in the envelope includes the disclosure statement;

4. circulars or fliers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and distribute; and
5. political advertising printed on letterhead stationery, if the letterhead includes the name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the advertising, (b) the political committee authorizing the advertising, or, (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate. (Note: There is also an exception for holiday greeting cards sent by an officeholder, provided that the officeholder's name and address appear on the card or the envelope.)

V. What Should I Do If I Discover That My Political Advertising Does Not Contain A Disclosure Statement?

The law prohibits a person from using, causing or permitting to be used, or continuing to use political advertising containing express advocacy if the person knows it does not include the disclosure statement. A person is presumed to know that the use is prohibited if the Texas Ethics Commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. If you receive notice from the Texas Ethics Commission that your political advertising does not comply with the law, you should stop using it immediately.

If you learn that a political advertising sign designed to be seen from the road does not contain a disclosure statement or contains an inaccurate disclosure statement, you should make a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs that have been distributed. You are not required to attempt to recover other types of political advertising that have been distributed with a missing or inaccurate disclosure statement.

VI. The Fair Campaign Practices Act.

The Fair Campaign Practices Act sets out basic rules of decency, honesty, and fair play to be followed by candidates and political committees during a campaign. A candidate or political committee may choose to subscribe to the voluntary code by signing a copy of the code and filing it with the authority with whom the candidate or committee is required to file its campaign treasurer appointment.

A person subscribing to the code may indicate that fact on political advertising by including the following or a substantially similar statement:

(Name of the candidate or political committee, as appropriate) subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

VII. Special Rule For Judicial Candidates, Officeholders, and Committees.

Candidates for the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, courts of appeals, district courts, statutory county courts (county courts-at-law), and statutory probate courts are required to file a form declaring their intent to either comply with or exceed the voluntary expenditure limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

A candidate who has declared an intent to comply with the expenditure limits, as well as a specific-purpose committee supporting such a candidate, may state the following in political advertising:

Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee) in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

If a candidate declares an intent to exceed the expenditure limits, however, both the candidate and any specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate must include in their political advertising the following statement:

Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee), (who or which) has rejected the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

ROAD SIGNS

I. When Is The “Right-Of-Way” Notice Required?

All written political advertising that is meant to be seen from a road must carry a “right-of-way” notice. It is a criminal offense to omit the “right-of-way” notice in the following circumstances:

1. if you enter into a contract or agreement to print or make written political advertising meant to be seen from a road; or
2. If you instruct another person to place the written political advertising meant to be seen from a road.

II. What Should The “Right-Of-Way” Notice Say?

Section 255.007 of the Texas Election Code prescribes the exact language of the notice:

NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTERS 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE) TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY.

III. Do Yard Signs Have To Have The “Right-Of-Way” Notice?

Yes. The “right-of-way” notice requirement applies to signs meant to be seen from any road. The notice requirement assures that a person responsible for placing signs is aware of the restriction on placing the sign in the right-of-way of a highway.

IV. What About Bumper Stickers?

Bumper stickers do not need the “right-of-way” notice. They do, however, need a political advertising disclosure statement.

V. Where May I Place My Signs And How Long May Signs Be Posted?

For information about exactly where you may or may not place signs, or for information regarding the length of time your signs may be posted, check with your city or county government and with the Texas Department of Transportation at (512) 416-2901.

MISREPRESENTATION

I. Are There Restrictions On The Contents Of Political Advertising?

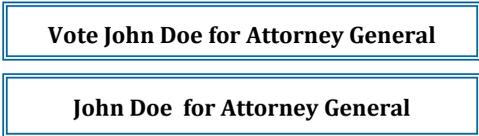
Political advertising and campaign communications may not misrepresent a person's identity or official title, nor may they misrepresent the true source of the advertising or communication. The election law does not address other types of misrepresentation in political advertising or campaign communications.

Note that the misrepresentation rules apply to both political advertising and campaign communications. “Campaign communication” is a broader term than “political advertising.”

A “campaign communication” means “a written or oral communication relating to a campaign for nomination or election to public office or office of a political party or to a campaign on a measure.”

II. Misrepresentation Of Office Title.

A candidate may not represent that he or she holds an office that he or she does not hold at the time of the representation. **If you are not the incumbent in the office you are seeking, you must make it clear that you are seeking election rather than reelection by using the word “for” to clarify that you don't hold that office.** The word “for” must be at least one-half the type size as the name of the office and should appear immediately before the name of the office. For example, a non-incumbent may use the following formats:



III. Misrepresentation Of Identity Or Source.

A person violates the law if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the source of political advertising or a campaign communication or if the person misrepresents his or her own identity or the identity of his or her agent in political advertising or in a campaign communication. (If someone else is doing something for you, that person is your agent.) For example, you may not take out an ad in favor of your opponent that purports to be sponsored by a notoriously unpopular group.

IV. Use Of State Seal.

Only officeholders may use the state seal in political advertising.

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POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: What You Need to Know



A GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES, OFFICEHOLDERS, AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES

January 1, 2022

Texas Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711

www.ethics.state.tx.us

(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989

Promoting Public Confidence in Government

Fundraising Events

Rule No. 1

File a Campaign Treasurer Appointment

All candidates must file a campaign treasurer appointment with the proper filing authority before accepting a campaign contribution or making or authorizing a campaign expenditure, including an expenditure from personal funds.

All political committees must file a campaign treasurer appointment before accepting or spending over ~~\$940~~^{\$930}, and additional requirements may also apply.

Rule No. 2

No Raffles

Texas law allows only certain charitable and nonprofit organizations to conduct raffles to support their charitable causes. An unlawful raffle may constitute illegal gambling, which may carry criminal penalties.

For more information see: texasattorneygeneral.gov/divisions/financial-litigation/charitable-trusts/charitable-raffles-and-casinopoker-nights on the Office of the Attorney General's website.

Rule No. 3

No Cash Contributions Over \$100

Texas law prohibits a candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee from accepting political contributions in cash (excluding checks) that in the aggregate exceed \$100 from a single contributor in a reporting period.

Rule No. 4

Auction Activity is Reportable

Donations to a candidate or political committee at a fundraiser are campaign contributions.

An item donated to be auctioned at a fundraiser is an “in-kind” campaign contribution. The purchase of the item at the auction is also a contribution. Both the item and the purchase price must be reported as political contributions.

Rule No. 5

No Anonymous Contributions

Texas law requires filers to know the name of each contributor and the amount of each contribution, even for small contributions. Do not “pass the hat” or use a contribution jar. Depending on the filer and the amount of the contribution, additional information may be required.

Rule No. 6

No Contributions from Corporations or Labor Organizations

Texas law prohibits corporations and labor organizations from making political contributions to candidates, officeholders, and related specific-purpose committees. Contributions to GPACs are also restricted. Limited exceptions also exist.

The prohibition also applies to other organizations, such as partnerships and limited liability companies (LLC), if they are owned by a corporation or include an incorporated member or partner.

Rule No. 7

No Contributions from Foreign Nationals

The Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) prohibits certain foreign nationals from contributing, donating, or spending funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the U.S., either directly or indirectly. It is also unlawful to help foreign nationals violate that ban or to solicit, receive, or accept contributions or donations from them.

Rule No. 8

No Misuse of Government Property to Campaign

Chapter 39 of the Penal Code prohibits a public servant from using government property, services, personnel, or any other thing of value belonging to the government to obtain a benefit or to harm or defraud another. The commission has held that the use of state computers to prepare campaign finance reports, or to use state resources to gather information for a campaign fundraiser, constitutes a misuse of government property.

Texas Ethics Commission

P.O. Box 12070

Austin, Texas 78711-2070

(512) 463-5800

Note: This brochure is not intended to encompass all the rules, but is intended to give a broad overview of the most common questions involving fundraisers. Be sure to check with the Texas Ethics Commission and your local municipality for any additional limits that might apply.

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the publications of the Texas Ethics Commission are available by request in alternative formats. To request an accessible format, please contact our ADA Compliance Officer by telephone at 512-463-5800 or through RELAY Texas at 800-735-2989; or by mail in care of the Texas Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711.

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Violations of the law often occur because someone finds it irresistible to wrap up a factual explanation with a motivational slogan such as:

IT PAYS TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE.

or

IT'S TIME TO MOVE AHEAD.

Another common misstep is to include "calls to action" such as:

LET'S BUILD A BETTER CITY.

or

SHOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

Remember: No matter how much factual information about the purposes of a measure election is in a communication, *any amount* of advocacy is impermissible.

★ A violation of the prohibition is a **Class A misdemeanor**. This means that a violation could lead to criminal prosecution. Also, the Ethics Commission has authority to impose fines for violations of section 255.003.

Another provision of the Texas Election Code prohibits an officer or employee of a political subdivision from using or authorizing the use of an internal mail system to distribute political advertising. An internal mail system is a system operated by a political subdivision to deliver written documents to its officers or employees. A violation of this prohibition could also lead to the imposition of fines by the Ethics Commission or to criminal prosecution.

Although you may not use political subdivision resources for political advertising, you are free to campaign for or against a proposition on your own time and with your own resources. If you do plan to become involved in a campaign, you should educate yourself about filing requirements and about the rules regarding disclosures on political advertising.

Information is available from the Texas Ethics Commission by phone at (512) 463-5800 or on the Ethics Commission's web site at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

A Short Guide to the Prohibition Against Using Political Subdivision Resources For Political Advertising In Connection With An Election



Texas Ethics Commission
P. O. Box 12070
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Revised October 13, 2017

A Short Guide to the Prohibition Against Using Political Subdivision Resources For Political Advertising In Connection With An Election

No matter how enthusiastic you are about an election, it is important to remember that the Texas Election Code prohibits the use of political subdivision resources to produce or distribute political advertising in connection with an election. Section 255.003 of the Election Code provides as follows:

- An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising.
- This section does not apply to a communication that factually describes the purposes of a measure if the communication does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure.
- A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

New legislation effective September 1, 2009, further clarifies that an officer or employee of a political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for a communication describing a measure if the communication contains information that:

- (1) the officer or employee knows is false; and
- (2) is sufficiently substantial and important as to be reasonably likely to influence a voter for or against the measure.

To understand the practical significance of this prohibition, it is useful to look at some of the specific words and phrases used in the law.

“Political advertising” means

- (1) a communication supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a public office or office of a political party, a political party, a public officer, that: (A) in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or (B) appears: (i) in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, or similar form of written communication; or (ii) on an Internet website; and
- (2) a communication that advocates passage or defeat of a measure, and that: (A) in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or (B) appears: (i) in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, or similar form of written communication; or (ii) on an Internet website.

Newsletter of Public Officer of a Political Subdivision. The Ethics Commission adopted a rule providing guidelines for when a newsletter of a public officer of a political subdivision is not political advertising. Texas Ethics Commission Rule 26.2 provides as follows:

For purposes of section 255.003 of the Election Code, a newsletter of a public officer of a political subdivision is not political advertising if:

- (1) It includes no more than two pictures of a public officer per page and if the total amount of area covered by the pictures is no more than 20 percent of the page on which the pictures appear;
- (2) It includes no more than eight personally phrased references (such as the public officer’s name, “I”, “me”, “the city council member”) on a page that is 8 ½” x 11” or larger, with a reasonable reduction in the number of such personally phrased references in pages smaller than 8 ½” x 11”; and
- (3) When viewed as a whole and in the proper context:

- (A) is informational rather than self-promotional;
- (B) does not advocate passage or defeat of a measure; and
- (C) does not support or oppose a candidate for nomination or election to a public office or office of political party, a political party, or a public officer.

The prohibition applies to any **“officer or employee of a political subdivision.”** In other words, if an officer or employee of a political subdivision makes a decision to use political subdivision resources in violation of the prohibition, the employee could be fined by the Ethics Commission or held criminally liable. School board members, as “officers” of a school district, are also subject to the prohibition.

★ The prohibition applies to **“spending or authorizing the spending of public funds”** for political advertising. Not only does this mean that the political subdivision may not purchase or authorize the purchase of new materials for use in creating political advertising, it also means that a political subdivision would violate the prohibition by using existing paper and machinery to generate, display, or distribute political advertising.

Also, it is not permissible to use or authorize the use of the paid time of an employee of a political subdivision to create or distribute political advertising.

★ The prohibition does not apply to **“a communication that factually describes the purposes”** of a measure election. In other words, it is permissible to use the resources of a political subdivision to produce explanatory material about what is at stake in a measure election. However, the communication may not contain information that an officer or employee of a political subdivision knows is false. The information must not be sufficiently substantial and important, such that it would be reasonably likely to influence a voter to vote a certain way.

**CITY OF DEER PARK
POLITICAL SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION**

FEE: \$20.00

DEPOSIT: \$125.00

NAME: _____

NATURE OF SIGN: _____

NAME OF CANDIDATE: _____ **(IF APPLICABLE)**

POSITION: _____ **(IF APPLICABLE)**

Election Date: _____

Beginning date signs can be erected: _____
(26 days prior to election date)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE SIGNING:

This permit is for signs, posters, or advertisements erected solely for and relating to a public election for a period commencing 26 days prior to and for 4 days following such political election. If a runoff election is required then signs are allowed to remain for 60 days. Signs are not to be posted earlier than (26) days prior to said election. This permit can be used for runoff elections as long as the \$125 deposit is not requested to be refunded until after the runoff election.

No such sign posted or advertisement issued on public property or city right-of-way shall exceed 16 square feet.

All such signs are prohibited on traffic islands, esplanades, or utility poles.

Signs shall not be located so as to obstruct or interfere with the view of a driver approaching, emerging or intersecting traffic, or as to prevent any traveler on any street from obtaining a clear view of approaching vehicles for a distance of 250 feet along the street.

All signs (including the signs that are placed by someone else other than the applicant) with the above candidates name on them must be removed within 4 days after taking place of that election or the \$125 deposit will be forfeited. After removing all signs, call 281-478-7270 and notify the Public Works Dept that all signs have been removed and request that the deposit be refunded. The sign inspector will verify that all signs have been removed, and then will either mail the deposit back to you or notify you that the deposit can be picked up.

I hereby accept all conditions above mentioned and certify that all statements herein are true and correct

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Return deposit to: Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone#: _____



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
2024 FILING SCHEDULE FOR REPORTS DUE IN CONNECTION WITH
ELECTIONS HELD ON UNIFORM ELECTION DATES

This is a filing schedule for reports to be filed in connection with elections held on uniform election dates in May and November. Examples of elections held on uniform election dates are elections for school board positions and city offices. The uniform election dates in 2024 are May 4 and November 5.

Candidates and officeholders must file semiannual reports (due on January 16, 2024, and July 15, 2024). In addition, a candidate who has an opponent on the ballot in an election held on a uniform election date must file two pre-election reports (unless the candidate has elected modified reporting).

The campaign treasurer of a political committee that is involved in an election held on a uniform election date must also file pre-election reports (unless the committee is a general-purpose political committee that files monthly or a specific-purpose political committee that files on the modified reporting schedule). This schedule sets out the due dates for pre-election reports in connection with elections on uniform election dates. Please consult the 2024 REGULAR FILING SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (GPAC), COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (CEC), AND SPECIFIC-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (SPAC) for a complete listing of political committee deadlines.

Candidates for and officeholders in local offices regularly filled at the general election for state and county officers (the November election in even-numbered years) should use the 2024 FILING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OR ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR.

EXPLANATION OF THE FILING SCHEDULE CHART

COLUMN I: REPORT DUE DATE - This is the date by which the report must be filed. If the due date for a report falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report is due on the next regular business day. This schedule shows the extended deadline where applicable. A report transmitted to the Texas Ethics Commission over the Internet is considered timely filed if it is transmitted *by midnight, Central Time Zone, on the night of the filing deadline*. For most filing deadlines, a report filed on paper is considered timely filed if it is deposited with the U.S. Post Office or a common or contract carrier properly addressed with postage and handling charges prepaid, or hand-delivered to the filing authority by the filing deadline. **Pre-Election Reports:** A report due 30 days before an election and a report due 8 days before an election must be *received* by the appropriate filing authority no later than the report due date to be considered timely filed.

COLUMN II: TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES) - This column gives the report type and explains which reporting form to use and which filers are required to file the report.

COLUMN III: BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED - This column sets out the beginning date of the time period covered by the report. Use the latest one of the applicable dates. The "date of campaign treasurer appointment" is the beginning date only for the *first* report filed after filing a campaign treasurer appointment. For officeholders recently appointed to an elective office, the beginning date for the first report will be the date the officeholder took office, provided that he or she was not already filing as an officeholder or candidate at the time of the appointment. (*NOTE:* If you are ever confused about the beginning date for a required report, remember this rule: **There should never be gaps between reporting periods and, generally, there should not be overlaps.**)

COLUMN IV: ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED - This column sets out the ending date of the time period covered by the report. The report must include reportable activity occurring on the ending date.

Please consult the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS WHO FILE WITH LOCAL FILING AUTHORITIES or the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES for further information.

<u>COLUMN I</u> DUE DATE	<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)	<u>COLUMN III</u> BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED	<u>COLUMN IV</u> ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED
<p>Tuesday, January 16, 2024</p> <p><i>Deadline is extended because of holiday.</i></p>	<p>January semiannual</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,010 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)</p>	<p>July 1, 2023, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>December 31, 2023</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 16, 2024</p> <p><i>Deadline is extended because of holiday.</i></p>	<p>Annual report of unexpended contributions</p> <p>[FORM C/OH-UC] (former candidates and former officeholders who have filed a final report and who retained unexpended contributions or assets purchased with contributions)</p>	<p>January 1, 2023, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the final report was filed.</p>	<p>December 31, 2023</p>

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE MAY 4, 2024, UNIFORM ELECTION

<p>Thursday, April 4, 2024</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be received by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 4, 2024.</p>	<p>30th day before the May 4, 2024, uniform election</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the May 4 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the May 4 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the May 4 election)</p>	<p>January 1, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>March 25, 2024</p>
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NOTE: A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved in the election during each pre-election reporting period. **A political committee must file an 8-day pre-election report if the committee filed a 30-day pre-election report, even if there is no activity to report during the 8-day reporting period.** The campaign treasurer of a political committee may be required to file 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports in connection with elections not listed on this schedule.

<u>COLUMN I</u> DUE DATE	<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)	<u>COLUMN III</u> BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED	<u>COLUMN IV</u> ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED
<p>Friday, April 26, 2024</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be received by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 26, 2024.</p>	<p>8th day before May 4, 2024, uniform election</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the May 4 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that are involved in the May 4 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the May 4 election)</p>	<p>March 26, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>April 24, 2024</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after April 24, 2024, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p>
<p>Monday, July 15, 2024</p>	<p>July semiannual</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,080 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)</p>	<p>January 1, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>June 30, 2024</p>
<p>NOTE: A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved in the election during each pre-election reporting period. A political committee must file an 8-day pre-election report if the committee filed a 30-day pre-election report, even if there is no activity to report during the 8-day reporting period. The campaign treasurer of a political committee may be required to file 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports in connection with elections not listed on this schedule.</p>			

<u>COLUMN I</u> DUE DATE	<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)	<u>COLUMN III</u> BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED	<u>COLUMN IV</u> ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED
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REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, UNIFORM ELECTION

<p>Monday, October 7, 2024</p> <p><i>Deadline is extended because of weekend.</i></p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 7, 2024.</p>	<p>30th day before the November 5, 2024, uniform election</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the November 5 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the November 5 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the November 5 election)</p>	<p>July 1, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>September 26, 2024</p>
<p>Monday, October 28, 2024</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 28, 2024.</p>	<p>8th day before the November 5, 2024, uniform election</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the November 5 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that are involved in the November 5 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the November 5 election)</p>	<p>September 27, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>October 26, 2024</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after October 26, 2024, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p>

NOTE: A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved in the election during each pre-election reporting period. **A political committee must file an 8-day pre-election report if the committee filed a 30-day pre-election report, even if there is no activity to report during the 8-day reporting period.** The campaign treasurer of a political committee may be required to file 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports in connection with elections not listed on this schedule.

<u>COLUMN I</u> DUE DATE	<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)	<u>COLUMN III</u> BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED	<u>COLUMN IV</u> ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED
Wednesday, January 15, 2025	<p>January semiannual</p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,080 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)</p>	<p>July 1, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	December 31, 2024
Wednesday, January 15, 2025	<p>Annual report of unexpended contributions</p> <p>[FORM C/OH-UC] (former candidates and former officeholders who have filed a final report and who retained unexpended contributions or assets purchased with contributions)</p>	<p>January 1, 2024, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the final report was filed.</p>	December 31, 2024

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS WHO FILE WITH LOCAL FILING AUTHORITIES



This guide is for candidates for and officeholders in the following positions:

- **county offices;**
- **precinct offices;**
- **single-county district offices;**
- **city offices; and**
- **offices of other political subdivisions such as school districts**

This guide applies to candidates for and officeholders of justice of the peace. This guide does not apply to candidates for and judges of statutory county courts, statutory probate courts, or district courts. For those candidates and officeholders, the Ethics Commission makes available a CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS.

The Ethics Commission also makes available a CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS WHO FILE WITH THE ETHICS COMMISSION, a CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES, and a CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES.

Revised January 1, 2023

Texas Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711

www.ethics.state.tx.us

(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989

Promoting Public Confidence in Government

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES
AND OFFICEHOLDERS WHO FILE WITH
LOCAL FILING AUTHORITIES**

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is a summary of reporting requirements and other regulations set out in Title 15 of the Texas Election Code (Chs. 251-259) and in the rules adopted by the Texas Ethics Commission. This guide applies to candidates for and officeholders in most local offices in Texas.

This guide does not apply to candidates for or officeholders of statewide elective offices, the State Legislature, seats on the State Board of Education, or multi-county district offices. Nor does it apply to candidates for or judges of statutory county courts, statutory probate courts, or district courts.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

As directed by section 571.064 of the Texas Government Code, the Commission is required to annually adjust certain reporting thresholds upward to the nearest multiple of \$10 in accordance with the percentage increase for the previous year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

These changes will be made effective January 1st of each calendar year; the affected numbers and corresponding new thresholds are located in 1 T.A.C. §18.31, which can be found here: <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/>. The higher itemization thresholds will be reflected on the paper forms and in these instructions, as applicable.

Verify that you are using the correct thresholds and forms that apply to your filing. For example, if you are filing a campaign finance report or lobby activities report that is due in January of 2021, you must use the forms and instructions that are applicable to the period ending December 31, 2020.

OFFICEHOLDERS

Officeholders as well as candidates are subject to regulation under Title 15. An officeholder who has a campaign treasurer appointment on file with a filing authority is a “candidate” for purposes of Title 15 and is subject to all the regulations applicable to candidates. An officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file is subject only to the regulations applicable to officeholders.

Most of the requirements discussed in this guide apply to both candidates (individuals who have a campaign treasurer appointment on file) and to officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file. The guide will indicate whether a particular requirement applies to individuals who have campaign treasurer appointments on file, to officeholders who do not have campaign treasurer appointments on file, or to both.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

Candidates for and officeholders in most judicial offices are subject to various restrictions that do not apply to other candidates and officeholders. Those candidates and officeholders should review the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS and the POLITICAL ADVERTISING GUIDE which are available on the commission’s website.

Nonjudicial Officeholder Seeking Judicial Office. Pursuant to Op. Tex. Ethics Comm'n No. 465 (2005), a nonjudicial officeholder who becomes a judicial candidate is required to file two campaign finance reports, one reporting nonjudicial activity and the other reporting judicial activity. Alternatively, a nonjudicial officeholder who becomes a judicial candidate may select to file a single report that includes both candidate and officeholder activity if the activity is clearly and properly reported. *See* the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS for more information.

FEDERAL OFFICES

This guide does not apply to candidates for federal offices. Candidates for federal offices should contact the Federal Election Commission. The FEC's toll-free number is (800) 424-9530.

FILING AUTHORITIES

Title 15 requires candidates and officeholders to file various documents and reports with the appropriate filing authority.

The filing authority for a local candidate or officeholder depends on the nature of the office sought or held.

County Clerk. The county clerk (or the county elections administrator if the county has an elections administrator, or tax assessor-collector if the county's commissioners court has transferred the filing authority function to the tax assessor-collector and the county clerk and tax assessor-collector have agreed to the transfer) is the appropriate filing authority for a candidate for:

- a county office;
- a precinct office;
- a district office (except for multi-county district offices); and
- an office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision is within the boundaries of a single county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.

Other local filing authority. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority is the *clerk or secretary of the governing body* of the political subdivision. If the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, the appropriate filing authority is the governing body's presiding officer.

Texas Ethics Commission. The Texas Ethics Commission is the appropriate filing authority for candidates for:

- Multi-county district offices. (Reminder: This guide does not apply to multi-county district offices.)

- An office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision includes areas in more than one county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.

POLITICAL COMMITTEES (PACS)

Often a candidate or officeholder chooses to establish a specific-purpose political committee. A political committee is subject to *separate* filing requirements. Establishing a specific-purpose political committee does not relieve a candidate or officeholder of the obligation to file as an individual. For more information about political committees, see the Ethics Commission's CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Some local candidates and officeholders are required to file an annual personal financial statement in accordance with Government Code Chapter 572 or Local Government Code Chapter 159. This statement is not a campaign finance document, and is not addressed in this guide.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX

This pamphlet does not address the federal tax implications of campaign finance. Questions regarding federal tax law should be directed to the Internal Revenue Service.

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

If you have a question about how Title 15 applies to you, you may call the Ethics Commission for assistance or you may request a written advisory opinion.

The Ethics Commission has authority to impose fines for violations of Title 15. If you have evidence that a person has violated Title 15, you may file a sworn complaint with the Ethics Commission.

The Ethics Commission's mailing address is P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711. The phone number is (512) 463-5800. The Ethics Commission maintains a website at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

APPOINTING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER

If you plan to run for a public office in Texas (except for a federal office), you must file an APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM CTA) with the proper filing authority before you become a candidate, even if you do not intend to accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures. A "candidate" is a person who knowingly and willingly takes affirmative action for the purpose of gaining nomination or election to public office or for the purpose of satisfying financial obligations incurred by the person in connection with the campaign for nomination or election. Examples of affirmative action include:

- (A) the filing of a campaign treasurer appointment, except that the filing does not constitute candidacy or an announcement of candidacy for purposes of the

automatic resignation provisions of Article XVI, Section 65, or Article XI, Section 11, of the Texas Constitution;

- (B) the filing of an application for a place on the ballot;
- (C) the filing of an application for nomination by convention;
- (D) the filing of a declaration of intent to become an independent candidate or a declaration of write-in candidacy;
- (E) the making of a public announcement of a definite intent to run for public office in a particular election, regardless of whether the specific office is mentioned in the announcement;
- (F) before a public announcement of intent, the making of a statement of definite intent to run for public office and the soliciting of support by letter or other mode of communication;
- (G) the soliciting or accepting of a campaign contribution or the making of a campaign expenditure; and
- (H) the seeking of the nomination of an executive committee of a political party to fill a vacancy.

NO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES WITHOUT TREASURER APPOINTMENT ON FILE

Additionally, the law provides that you must file a campaign treasurer appointment form with the proper filing authority before you may accept a campaign contribution or make or authorize a campaign expenditure, including an expenditure from your personal funds. A filing fee paid to a filing authority to qualify for a place on a ballot is a campaign expenditure that may not be made before filing a campaign treasurer appointment form with the proper filing authority.

APPOINTING TREASURER TRIGGERS REPORTING DUTIES

After a candidate has filed a form appointing a campaign treasurer, the candidate is responsible for filing periodic reports of contributions and expenditures. Filing reports is the responsibility of the candidate, not the campaign treasurer. Even if a candidate loses an election, he or she must continue filing reports until he or she files a final report. *See* “Ending Filing Obligations” in this guide. (An officeholder who files a final report, and thereby terminates his or her campaign treasurer appointment, may still be required to file semiannual reports of contributions and expenditures as an officeholder.)

QUALIFICATIONS OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER

A person is ineligible for appointment as a campaign treasurer if the person is the campaign treasurer of a political committee that has outstanding filing obligations (including outstanding penalties). This prohibition does not apply if the committee in connection with which the ineligibility arose has not accepted more than \$5,000 in political contributions or made more than \$5,000 in political expenditures in any semiannual reporting period. A person who violates

this prohibition is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of political contributions accepted or political expenditures made in violation of this provision.

DUTIES OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER

A candidate's campaign treasurer has no legal duties. (**Note:** The campaign treasurer of a *political committee* is legally responsible for filing reports.)

EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPOINTMENT

A campaign treasurer appointment is effective when filed. A hand-delivered appointment takes effect on the date of delivery. A mailed appointment takes effect on the date of the postmark.

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

A filing authority should provide to each individual who files a campaign treasurer appointment a form containing a Code of Fair Campaign Practices. A candidate may pledge to conduct his or her campaign in accordance with the principles and practices set out in the Code by signing the form and filing it with the appropriate filing authority.

APPOINTMENT BY OFFICEHOLDER

If an officeholder files an appointment of campaign treasurer after a period in which he or she did not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file, the officeholder may have to file a report of contributions and expenditures no later than 15 days after filing the appointment of campaign treasurer. See "15th Day After Appointment of Campaign Treasurer by Officeholder" in this guide. An officeholder who *changes* a campaign treasurer is not required to file this report.

Note: An officeholder who has a campaign treasurer appointment on file is a candidate for purposes of Title 15.

FILING FOR A PLACE ON THE BALLOT

Filing a campaign treasurer appointment and filing for a place on the ballot are two completely separate actions. The Secretary of State can provide information about filing for a place on the ballot. Call the Secretary of State at (512) 463-5650 or toll-free at (800) 252-8683.

CHANGING TREASURERS

A candidate may change campaign treasurers at any time by filing an amended appointment of campaign treasurer (FORM ACTA). Filing an appointment of a new treasurer automatically terminates the appointment of the old treasurer.

TRANSFERRING TO A DIFFERENT FILING AUTHORITY

If a candidate has a campaign treasurer appointment on file with one filing authority and wishes to accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures in connection with a candidacy for an office that would require reporting to a different filing authority, the candidate must file a new campaign treasurer appointment and a copy of the old campaign treasurer appointment (certified by original authority) with the second filing authority. The candidate should also

provide written notice to the original filing authority that future reports will be filed with another authority. In general, funds accepted in connection with one office may be used in connection with a campaign for a different office, as long as neither of the offices is a judicial office.

TERMINATING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT

A candidate may terminate a campaign treasurer appointment by filing an amended appointment of campaign treasurer or by filing a final report.

A campaign treasurer may terminate his or her own appointment by notifying both the candidate and the filing authority in writing. The termination is effective on the date the candidate receives the notice or on the date the filing authority receives the notice, whichever is later.

DECIDING NOT TO RUN

A campaign treasurer appointment does not simply expire. An individual who has a campaign treasurer appointment on file must file reports of contributions and expenditures until he or she files a final report with the filing authority. *See* “Ending Filing Obligations” in this guide.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- If you plan to run for a public office in Texas (except for a federal office), you must file an APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM CTA) with the proper filing authority before you become a candidate, even if you do not intend to accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures.
- A person may not accept a campaign contribution or make a campaign expenditure unless the person has a campaign treasurer appointment on file with the proper filing authority.
- Once a person files a form appointing a campaign treasurer, the person is a candidate for disclosure filing purposes and is responsible for filing periodic reports of contributions and expenditures with the proper filing authority until the person files a “final report.”
- The candidate, not the campaign treasurer, is responsible for filing periodic reports of contributions and expenditures.
- Filing a campaign treasurer appointment does not automatically “sign you up” for a place on the ballot. The Secretary of State can provide information about getting on the ballot. Call (512) 463-5650 or (800) 252-8683.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Title 15 regulates political contributions and political expenditures. There are two types of political contributions: campaign contributions and officeholder contributions. Similarly, there are two kinds of political expenditures: campaign expenditures and officeholder expenditures.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

A person makes a campaign contribution to a candidate if the person provides or promises something of value with the intent that it be used in connection with a campaign. A contribution of goods or services is an “in-kind” campaign contribution. A loan is considered to be a contribution unless it is from an incorporated financial institution that has been in business for more than a year. Candidates must report all loans made for campaign purposes, including loans that are not “contributions.”

- Donations to a candidate at a fund-raiser are campaign contributions.
- The provision of office space to a candidate is an “in-kind” campaign contribution.
- A promise to give a candidate money is a campaign contribution.
- An item donated to be auctioned at a fund-raiser is an “in-kind” campaign contribution. The purchase of the item at the auction is also a contribution.
- A campaign volunteer is making a contribution in the form of personal services. (Contributions of personal services are sometimes not required to be reported. See “Contributions of Personal Services” in this guide.)

Note: An individual may not accept a campaign contribution without an appointment of campaign treasurer on file with the proper filing authority.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

A campaign expenditure is a payment or an agreement to make a payment in connection with a campaign for an elective office.

- Paying a filing fee in connection with an application for a place on a ballot is a campaign expenditure.
- Purchasing stationery for fund-raising letters is a campaign expenditure.
- Renting a field to hold a campaign rally is a campaign expenditure.
- Paying people to put up yard signs in connection with an election is a campaign expenditure.

Note: An individual may not make a campaign expenditure unless he or she has a campaign treasurer appointment on file with the proper filing authority.

OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS

The provision of or a promise to provide goods or services to an officeholder that is intended to defray expenses in connection with an officeholder's duties or activities is an officeholder contribution if the expenses are not reimbursable with public money. A contribution of goods or services is an "in-kind" officeholder contribution.

A loan from an incorporated financial institution that has been in business for more than a year is not considered a contribution, but an officeholder must report any such loans made for officeholder purposes.

An officeholder is not required to have a campaign treasurer appointment on file to accept officeholder contributions. An officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer on file may not accept *campaign* contributions.

OFFICEHOLDER EXPENDITURES

A payment or agreement to pay certain expenses in connection with an officeholder's duties or activities is an officeholder expenditure if the expenses are not reimbursable with public money.

An officeholder is not required to have a campaign treasurer appointment on file to make officeholder expenditures. An officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer on file may not make *campaign* expenditures.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES BY OFFICEHOLDER

An officeholder who has a campaign treasurer appointment on file may accept both campaign contributions and officeholder contributions and make both campaign expenditures and officeholder expenditures. On a report, there is no need for an officeholder who is a candidate to distinguish between campaign contributions and officeholder contributions or between campaign expenditures and officeholder expenditures. Both campaign contributions and officeholder contributions are reported as "political contributions" and both campaign expenditures and officeholder expenditures are reported as "political expenditures."

An officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer on file may accept officeholder contributions and make officeholder expenditures but may not accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures.

PERMISSIBLE USE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

An officeholder may use officeholder contributions for campaign purposes if the officeholder has an appointment of campaign treasurer on file. Candidates and officeholders may not convert political contributions to personal use. See "Campaign Finance Restrictions" in this guide.

USE OF POLITICAL FUNDS TO RENT OR PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY

A candidate or officeholder is prohibited from using political funds to purchase real property or

to pay the interest on or principal of a note for the purchase of real property.

A candidate or officeholder may not knowingly make or authorize a payment from political funds for the rental or purchase of real property from: (1) a person related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code; or (2) a business in which the candidate or officeholder (or a person related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity) has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body, or serves as an officer. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.038 (a-1). This restriction applies to a payment made from political funds on or after September 1, 2007, without regard to whether the payment was made under a lease or other agreement entered into before that date.

ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS

A candidate or officeholder must report contributions that he or she has *accepted*. Receipt is different from acceptance. A decision to *accept* a contribution must be made by the end of the reporting period during which the contribution is received.

Failure to make a determination about acceptance or refusal. If a candidate or officeholder fails to make a timely determination to accept or refuse a contribution by the deadline, the contribution is considered to have been accepted.

Returning refused contributions. If a candidate or officeholder receives a political contribution but does not accept it, he or she must return the contribution not later than the 30th day after the end of the reporting period in which the contribution was received. Otherwise, the contribution is considered to have been accepted.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR POLITICAL EXPENDITURES FROM PERSONAL FUNDS

If a candidate or officeholder makes political expenditures from personal funds, he or she may use political contributions to reimburse himself or herself if the expenditures are properly reported either on the reporting schedule for loans or on the reporting schedule for political expenditures from personal funds. In order for a candidate or officeholder to use political contributions to reimburse his or her personal funds, the political expenditure from personal funds must be properly reported on the report covering the period in which the expenditures are made. *A filed report may not be later corrected to indicate an intention to reimburse personal funds from political contributions.*

If a candidate or officeholder deposits personal funds in an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by section 253.0351(c) of the Election Code, the deposited amount must be reported as a loan and reimbursements to the candidate or officeholder may not exceed the amount reported as a loan. *See* “Campaign Expenditures from Personal Funds” in this guide for additional information.

SEPARATE ACCOUNT REQUIRED

A candidate or officeholder must keep political contributions in one or more accounts that are separate from any other account maintained by the candidate or officeholder. (There is no

requirement to keep campaign contributions in a separate account from officeholder contributions.)

RESTRICTIONS INVOLVING LOBBYING

The 2019 legislature passed House Bill 2677 to amend Chapter 305 of the Government Code and Chapter 253 of the Election Code to enact the following restrictions. Each prohibition begins on September 27, 2019. For the language of the bill, go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/html/HB02677F.htm>.

Making Political Contributions and Direct Campaign Expenditures. Unless expressly prohibited, a lobbyist may make political contributions and direct campaign expenditures. The campaign finance law, however, generally prohibits corporations and labor organizations from making political contributions. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.094.

Section 253.006 of the Election Code prohibits a person required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305 of the Government Code from making political contributions or direct campaign expenditures from certain sources of funds. A person required to register as a lobbyist is prohibited from making or authorizing a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or making or authorizing a direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by:

- (1) the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder;
- (2) a specific-purpose committee that supports the lobbyist as a candidate or assists the lobbyist as an officeholder; or
- (3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from (1) or (2), described above, during the two years immediately before the contribution or expenditure was made.

Two-Year Lobbying Prohibition After Making a Political Contribution or Direct Campaign Expenditure. Section 253.007 of the Election Code prohibits lobbying by persons who make political contributions or direct campaign expenditures from certain sources of funds. A person who makes a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or makes a direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate or officeholder is prohibited from engaging in activities that require registration as a lobbyist under Chapter 305 of the Government Code for two years thereafter.

However, an exception to this prohibition allows a person who does not receive compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses to lobby on behalf of a nonprofit organization, a group of low-income individuals, or a group of individuals with disabilities.

Lobby Expenditures from Political Contributions. Section 305.029 of the Government Code prohibits certain lobby expenditures made from political contributions. A lobbyist registered under Chapter 305 of the Government Code, or a person on behalf of the lobbyist and with the lobbyist's consent or ratification, is prohibited from making a reportable lobby expenditure from a political contribution accepted by:

- (1) the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder;

- (2) a specific-purpose committee that supports the lobbyist as a candidate or assists the lobbyist as an officeholder; or
- (3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from (1) or (2), described above, during the two years immediately before the lobbyist made or authorized the expenditure.

INFORMATION REQUIRED ON REPORTS

CONTRIBUTIONS

A report must disclose the amount of each contribution or the value and nature of any in-kind contribution, as well as the name and address of the individual or political committee making the contribution, and the date of the contribution. (Detailed information about a contributor is not required to be reported if the contributor contributed \$100 or less during the reporting period. However, all contributions made electronically must be itemized with this information.)

PLEDGES

Promises to transfer money, goods, services, or other things of value are contributions. If a filer accepts such a promise, he or she must report it (along with the information required for other contributions) on the reporting schedule for “pledges.” Once a pledge has been received, it is reported on the appropriate receipts schedule for the reporting period in which the pledge is received. A pledge that is actually received in the same reporting period in which the pledge was accepted shall be reported only on the appropriate receipts schedule.

Note: A pledge is not a contribution unless it has been accepted.

Example 1: In June a supporter promises that he will give Juan Garcia \$1,000 in the last week before the November election. Juan accepts his promise. Juan must report the pledge on his July 15 report. Juan must also report a political contribution when the pledge is actually received. (**Note:** If Juan receives the pledge during the July semiannual reporting period then he does not report the pledge and only reports a political contribution. Also, if he never receives the \$1,000, he does not amend his report to delete the entry for the pledge.)

Example 2: At a party, an acquaintance says to Juan, “I’d like to give you some money; call me at my office.” Juan agrees to call. At this point, Juan has accepted nothing and has nothing to report. Juan has not agreed to accept money; he has merely agreed to call.

LOANS

Loans made for campaign or officeholder purposes are reportable. A filer must report the amount of a loan, the date the loan is made, the interest rate, the maturity date, the type of collateral, and the name and address of the lender. The filer must also report the name, address, principal occupation, and employer of any guarantor and the amount guaranteed by the guarantor. (Detailed information is not required if a particular lender lent \$100 or less during a reporting period.) If a candidate or officeholder deposits personal funds in an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by section 253.0351(c) of the Election Code, the deposited amount must be reported as a loan. *See* “Campaign Expenditures from Personal

Funds” in this guide for additional information.

Note: A loan from an incorporated financial institution that has been in business for more than one year is not a contribution. Other loans are considered to be contributions. This distinction is important because of the prohibition on contributions from banks and certain other financial institutions. See “Campaign Finance Restrictions” in this guide. All loans are reported on the same schedule, regardless of whether they are contributions. Additionally, the forgiveness of a loan is a reportable in-kind contribution. See 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.64.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PERSONAL SERVICES

A political contribution consisting of an individual's personal services is not required to be reported if the individual receives no compensation *from any source* for the services.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PERSONAL TRAVEL

A political contribution consisting of personal travel expense incurred by an individual is not required to be reported if the individual receives no reimbursement for the expense.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUT-OF-STATE POLITICAL COMMITTEES

There are restrictions on contributions from out-of-state political committees. The fact that a political committee has a mailing address outside of Texas does not mean that the committee is an out-of-state political committee for purposes of these restrictions. A political committee that has a campaign treasurer appointment on file in Texas is not an out-of-state political committee for purposes of these restrictions.

Contributions over \$1,010 in a reporting period. Before *accepting* more than \$1,010 in a reporting period from an out-of-state committee, a candidate or officeholder must obtain either (1) a written statement, certified by an officer of the out-of-state political committee, listing the full name and address of each person who contributed more than \$200 to the out-of-state political committee during the 12 months immediately preceding the contribution, *or* (2) a copy of the out-of-state political committee’s statement of organization filed as required by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer of the out-of-state committee.

This documentation must be included with the report of contributions and expenditures for the period in which the contribution was received.

Contributions of \$1,010 or less in a reporting period. For a contribution of \$1,010 or less from an out-of-state committee in a reporting period, there is no requirement to obtain documentation *before accepting* the contribution. But there is a requirement to include certain documentation with the report of the contribution. The report must include *either* (1) a copy of the out-of-state political committee’s statement of organization filed as required by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer of the out-of-state committee, *or* (2) the committee’s name, address, and phone number; the name of the person appointing the committee’s campaign treasurer; and the name, address, and phone number of the committee’s campaign treasurer.

EXPENDITURES

A filer must report any campaign expenditure (regardless of whether it is made from political contributions or from personal funds) and any political expenditure (campaign or officeholder) from political contributions (regardless of whether the expenditure is a political expenditure). A filer must also report unpaid incurred obligations. *See* “Unpaid Incurred Obligations” in this guide. If the total expenditures to a particular payee do not exceed \$200 during the reporting period, a filer may report those expenditures as part of a lump sum. Otherwise, a filer must report the date of an expenditure, the name and address of the person to whom the expenditure is made, and the purpose of the expenditure.

UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS

An expenditure that is not paid during the reporting period in which the obligation to pay the expenditure is incurred shall be reported on the Unpaid Incurred Obligations Schedule for the reporting period in which the obligation to pay is incurred.

The use of political contributions to pay an expenditure previously disclosed on an Unpaid Incurred Obligations Schedule shall be reported on the appropriate disbursements schedule for the reporting period in which the payment is made.

The use of personal funds to pay an expenditure previously disclosed on an Unpaid Incurred Obligations Schedule shall be reported on the Political Expenditure Made from Personal Funds Schedule for the reporting period in which the payment is made.

EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD

An expenditure made by a credit card must be reported on the Expenditures Made to Credit Card Schedule for the reporting period in which the expenditure is made. The report must identify the vendor who receives the payment from the credit card company.

The use of political contributions to make a payment to a credit card company must be reported on the appropriate disbursements schedule for the reporting period in which the payment is made and identify the credit card company receiving the payment.

The use of personal funds to make a payment to a credit card company must be reported on the Political Expenditure Made from Personal Funds Schedule for the reporting period in which the payment is made and identify the credit card company receiving the payment.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES FROM PERSONAL FUNDS

A candidate must report all campaign expenditures, whether made from political contributions or from personal funds. In order to use political contributions to reimburse himself or herself for campaign expenditures from personal funds, the candidate must properly report the expenditures either on the reporting schedule for loans or on the reporting schedule for political expenditures from personal funds. If the candidate does not indicate the intention to seek reimbursement on that report, he or she may not later correct the report to permit reimbursement.

If a candidate or officeholder deposits personal funds in an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by section 253.0351(c) of the Election Code, the deposited

amount must be reported as a loan on Schedule E. Political expenditures made from that loan, and any subsequent expenditures to reimburse the candidate or officeholder, must be reported on Schedule F1. The reimbursement may not exceed the amount reported as a loan. Any unexpended funds from such a loan are required to be included in the total amount of political contributions maintained as of the last day of the reporting period. Note: Personal funds deposited in an account in which political contributions are held are subject to the personal use restrictions.

OFFICEHOLDER EXPENDITURES FROM PERSONAL FUNDS

An officeholder is not required to report *officeholder expenditures* made from personal funds unless he or she intends to be reimbursed from political contributions. This rule applies regardless of whether an officeholder has an appointment of campaign treasurer on file.

In order for an officeholder to use political contributions to reimburse an officeholder expenditure from personal funds, the officeholder must properly report the expenditures either on the reporting schedule for loans or on the reporting schedule for political expenditures from personal funds. If the officeholder does not indicate the intention to seek reimbursement, he or she may not later correct the report to permit reimbursement.

If a candidate or officeholder deposits personal funds in an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by section 253.0351(c) of the Election Code, the deposited amount must be reported as a loan on Schedule E. Political expenditures made from that loan, and any subsequent expenditures to reimburse the candidate or officeholder, must be reported on Schedule F1. The reimbursement may not exceed the amount reported as a loan. Any unexpended funds from such a loan are required to be included in the total amount of political contributions maintained as of the last day of the reporting period. Note: Personal funds deposited in an account in which political contributions are held are subject to the personal use restrictions.

DIRECT EXPENDITURES

A direct campaign expenditure is “a campaign expenditure that does not constitute a campaign contribution by the person making the expenditure.” As a practical matter, a direct campaign expenditure is an expenditure to support a candidate incurred without the candidate’s prior consent or approval.

If a candidate or officeholder makes a direct campaign expenditure to support *another* candidate or officeholder, the expenditure must be included on the reporting schedule for political expenditures, and the report must indicate that the expenditure was a direct campaign expenditure.

SUPPORTING POLITICAL COMMITTEES

A political committee that accepts political contributions or makes political contributions on behalf of a candidate or officeholder is required to give the candidate or officeholder notice of that fact. The candidate or officeholder must report the receipt of such a notice on the report covering the period in which he or she receives the notice.

PAYMENTS TO A BUSINESS OF THE CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER

A candidate or officeholder is required to report payments from political funds to a business in which the candidate or officeholder has a participating interest of more than 10 percent; a position on the governing body of the business; *or* a position as an officer of a business.

A candidate or officeholder may not make a payment to such a business if the payment is for personal services rendered by the candidate or officeholder or by the spouse or dependent child of the candidate or officeholder. (Nor may a candidate or officeholder use political contributions to pay directly for such personal services.) Other payments to such a business are permissible only if the payment does not exceed the amount necessary to reimburse the business for actual expenditures made by the business. *See generally* Op. Tex. Ethics Comm'n No. 35 (1992).

A candidate or officeholder may not make or authorize a payment from political funds for the rental or purchase of real property from such a business. *See* "Use of Political Funds to Rent or Purchase Real Property" in this guide.

INTEREST EARNED AND OTHER CREDITS/GAINS/REFUNDS

A candidate or officeholder is required to disclose information regarding the following types of activity from political contributions:

- any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution, the amount of which exceeds \$130;
- any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution, the amount of which exceeds \$130; and
- any other gain from a political contribution, the amount of which exceeds \$130.

A candidate or officeholder must use Schedule K to report such information. Although you are not required to do so, you may also report any credit/gain/refund or interest that does not exceed \$130 in the period on this schedule. (Previously, this was an optional schedule because a candidate or officeholder was not required to report this information.) A candidate or officeholder may not use interest and other income from political contributions for personal purposes. Political expenditures made from such income must be reported on the expenditures schedule.

PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS

A candidate or officeholder must report any investment purchased with a political contribution, the amount of which exceeds \$130. This information must be disclosed on Schedule F3 of the campaign finance report.

TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED

The law requires you to disclose the total amount of political contributions accepted, including interest or other income on those contributions, maintained in one or more accounts in which

political contributions are deposited as of the last day of the reporting period. The “total amount of political contributions maintained” includes: the total amount of political contributions maintained in one or more accounts, including the balance on deposit in banks, savings and loan institutions and other depository institutions; the present value of any investments that can be readily converted to cash, such as certificates of deposit, money market accounts, stocks, bonds, treasury bills, etc.; and the balance of political contributions accepted and held in any online fundraising account over which the filer can exercise control by making a withdrawal, expenditure, or transfer. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.50.

The total amount of political contributions maintained does NOT include personal funds that the filer intends to use for political expenditures, *unless* the personal funds have been disclosed as a loan to your campaign and deposited into an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by section 253.0351(c) of the Election Code. Any unexpended funds from such a loan are required to be included in the total amount of political contributions maintained as of the last day of the reporting period. Note: Personal funds deposited in an account in which political contributions are held are subject to the personal use restrictions.

TIME OF ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTION

A filer must report the date he or she *accepts* a political contribution. The date of receipt may be different from the date of acceptance. *See* “Accepting Contributions” in this guide.

TIME OF MAKING EXPENDITURE

For reporting purposes, an expenditure is made when the amount of the expenditure is readily determinable. An expenditure that is not paid during the reporting period in which the obligation to pay is incurred must be reported on the reporting schedule for “Unpaid Incurred Obligations,” and then reported again on the appropriate expenditure schedule when payment is actually made. If a filer cannot determine the amount of an expenditure until a periodic bill, the date of the expenditure is the date the bill is received.

Credit Card Expenditures. For purposes of 30 day and 8 day pre-election reports, the date of an expenditure made by a credit card is the date of the purchase, not the date of the credit card bill. For purposes of other reports, the date of an expenditure made by a credit card is the date of receipt of the credit card statement that includes the expenditure. For additional information regarding how to report expenditures made by credit card, *see* “Expenditures Made by Credit Card” in this guide.

PREPARING REPORTS

FORMS

Reporting forms are available at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us>. An individual who is both a candidate and an officeholder files one report for each reporting period and is not required to distinguish between campaign activity and officeholder activity.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

The candidate or officeholder, not the campaign treasurer, must sign reports.

FILING DEADLINES

The next section of this guide explains the types of reports candidates and officeholders are required to file. Annual filing schedules are available at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

Note: Deadlines for filing reports for special elections or runoff elections will not be listed on the filing schedule. Call the Ethics Commission for specific information in these cases.

PERIODS COVERED BY REPORTS

Each report covers activity during a specific time period. Generally, a report begins where the last report ended. For a candidate's first report, the beginning date will be the date the campaign treasurer appointment was filed. For an officeholder who is appointed to an elective office and who did not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file at the time of the appointment, the beginning date for the first report will be the date the officeholder took office. Generally, there should not be gaps between the periods covered or overlapping time periods. See "Reports" below for information about filing deadlines and periods covered by reports.

DEADLINE ON WEEKEND OR HOLIDAY

If the due date for a report falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report is due on the next regular business day.

5 P.M. DEADLINE

The deadline for filing a report is 5 p.m. on the due date.

DELIVERY BY MAIL OR OTHER CARRIER

For most reporting deadlines, a document is considered timely filed if it is properly addressed with postage or handling charges prepaid and bears a postmark or receipt mark of a common or contract carrier indicating a time on or before the deadline.

Pre-Election Reports. A report due 30 days before an election and a report due 8 days before an election must be *received* by the appropriate filing authority no later than the report due date to be considered filed on time.

RETENTION OF RECORDS USED FOR REPORTS

A filer must keep records of all information used to prepare a report of contributions and expenditures, including, for example, receipts or ledgers of contributions and expenditures. A filer must maintain the records for two years after the deadline for the report.

REPORTS

SEMIANNUAL REPORTS

Generally, candidates and officeholders are required to file reports of contributions and expenditures by January 15 and July 15 of each year. The reports filed on these dates are known as semiannual reports. These reports must be filed even if there is no activity to report for the period covered.

However, there is an exception to this requirement for officeholders who file with a local filing authority, do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file, and do not accept more than \$1,010 in officeholder contributions or make more than \$1,010 in officeholder expenditures during the period covered by the report.

REPORTS DUE 30 DAYS AND 8 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION

An *opposed* candidate in an upcoming election must file reports of contributions and expenditures 30 days and 8 days before the election. Each of these pre-election reports must be *received* by the appropriate filing authority no later than the report due date. (A person who has elected modified reporting and who remains eligible for modified reporting is not required to file these reports. See “Modified Reporting” in this guide.)

An opposed candidate is a candidate who has an opponent whose name is printed on the ballot. If a candidate’s only opposition is a write-in candidate, that candidate is considered unopposed for filing purposes. (**Note:** A write-in candidate who accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures is subject to the reporting requirements discussed in this guide.)

The report that is due 30 days before the election covers the period that begins on the first day after the period covered by the last required report and ends the 40th day before the election. If this is a filer’s first required report, the period covered by the report begins on the day the filer filed a campaign treasurer appointment.

The report that is due 8 days before the election covers the period that begins on the first day after the period covered by the last required report and ends on the 10th day before the election.

REPORT DUE 8 DAYS BEFORE A RUNOFF ELECTION

A candidate in a runoff must file a report 8 days before the runoff election. A runoff report must be *received* by the appropriate filing authority no later than the report due date. (A candidate who has elected modified reporting and who remains eligible for modified reporting is not required to file this report. See “Modified Reporting” below.)

This report covers a period that begins either the first day after the period covered by the last required report or the day the filer filed a campaign treasurer appointment (if this is the filer’s first report of contributions and expenditures). The period covered by the runoff report ends the 10th day before the runoff election.

MODIFIED REPORTING

On the campaign treasurer appointment form, there is an option to choose modified reporting for the next election cycle. Modified reporting excuses an opposed candidate from filing reports 30 days and 8 days before an election and 8 days before a runoff. An opposed candidate is eligible for modified reporting only if the candidate does not intend to exceed either \$1,010 in contributions or \$1,010 in expenditures (excluding filing fees) in connection with an election.

If an opposed candidate selects modified reporting but exceeds a threshold before the 30th day before the election, the candidate must file reports 30 days and 8 days before the election.

If an opposed candidate selects modified reporting but exceeds the \$1,010 threshold for contributions or expenditures after the 30th day before the election, the filer must file a report within 48 hours of exceeding the threshold. (The filer must meet this deadline even if it falls on a weekend or a holiday.) At that point, the filer is no longer eligible for modified reporting and must file according to the regular filing schedule.

A selection to file on the modified reporting schedule lasts for an entire election cycle. In other words, the selection is valid for a primary, a primary runoff, and a general election (as long as the candidate does not exceed one of the \$1,010 thresholds). A candidate must submit an amended campaign treasurer appointment (FORM ACTA) to select modified reporting for a different election cycle.

“15TH DAY AFTER APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY AN OFFICEHOLDER” REPORT

An officeholder must file a report after filing a campaign treasurer appointment. (A report is not required after a *change* in campaign treasurers.) This report of contributions and expenditures is due no later than 15 days after the campaign treasurer appointment was filed. The report must cover the period that begins the day after the period covered by the last required report. The period ends on the day before the campaign treasurer appointment was filed. (**Note:** A person who is *appointed* to elective office may not have filed any previous reports. In that case, the beginning date for the report due 15 days after the campaign treasurer appointment is the date the officeholder took office.) The report is not required if the officeholder did not accept more than \$1,010 in contributions or make more than \$1,010 in expenditures by the end of the reporting period.

FINAL REPORT

See “Ending Filing Obligations” below.

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS

See “Ending Filing Obligations” below.

FINAL DISPOSITION OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT

See “Ending Filing Obligations” below.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- An officeholder must file semiannual reports for any period during which he or she is an officeholder. (There is an exception to this rule for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not accept more than \$1,010 in political contributions or make more than \$1,010 in political expenditures during the period covered by the report.)
- An opposed candidate in an election must file reports of contributions and expenditures 30 days and 8 days before the election, unless the candidate has selected (and remains eligible for) modified reporting. An opposed candidate who has not selected modified reporting must also file a report 8 days before a runoff election. A report due 30 days before an election and a report due 8 days before an election must be received by the appropriate filing authority no later than the report due date.
- An unopposed candidate is not required to file reports 30 days before an election or 8 days before an election but is required to file semiannual reports.
- A candidate who selects modified reporting must file semiannual reports.

A filer who selects modified reporting for one election cycle will be required to file on the regular reporting schedule for the next election cycle unless the filer submits an amended campaign treasurer appointment selecting modified reporting for the next election cycle.

ENDING FILING OBLIGATIONS

FINAL REPORT

If a filer expects to accept no further political contributions and to make no further political expenditures and if the filer expects to take no further action to get elected to a public office, the filer may file a final report. Filing a final report terminates a filer's campaign treasurer appointment and relieves the filer from any additional filing obligations *as a candidate*. (Note: A candidate who does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file may still be required to file a personal financial statement in accordance with Chapter 572 of the Government Code or Chapter 159 of the Local Government Code.) If the filer is an officeholder, the filer will still be subject to the filing requirements applicable to officeholders. A filer who is not an officeholder at the time of filing a final report *and* who has surplus political funds or assets will be required to file annual reports of unexpended contributions and a report of final disposition of unexpended contributions. *See* "Annual Report of Unexpended Contributions" and "Report of Final Disposition of Unexpended Contributions" below.

A filer who intends to continue accepting contributions to pay campaign debts should *not* terminate his or her campaign treasurer appointment. An individual must have a campaign treasurer appointment on file to accept contributions to offset campaign debts or to pay campaign debts.

Terminating a campaign treasurer appointment does not relieve a filer of responsibility for any delinquent reports or outstanding civil penalties.

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS

The following individuals must file annual reports of unexpended contributions:

- a former officeholder who did not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file at the time of leaving office and who retained any of the following after filing his or her last report: political contributions, interest or other income from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions.
- a former candidate (a person who previously had a campaign treasurer appointment on file) who was not an officeholder at the time of filing a final report and who retained any of the following at the time of filing a final report: political contributions, interest or other income from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions.

Annual reports are due not earlier than January 1 and not later than January 15 of each year. An annual report (FORM C/OH-UC) must contain the following information: (1) information about expenditures from or disposition of surplus funds or assets; (2) the amount of interest or other income earned on surplus funds during the previous year; and (3) the total amount of surplus funds and assets at the end of the previous year.

The obligation to file annual reports ends when the former candidate or officeholder files a report of final disposition of unexpended contributions.

REPORT OF FINAL DISPOSITION OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS

A former candidate or former officeholder who has disposed of all surplus funds and assets must file a report of final disposition of unexpended contributions. This report may be filed as soon as all funds have been disposed of.

A former candidate or former officeholder has six years from the date of filing a final report or leaving office (whichever is later) to dispose of surplus funds and assets. The latest possible date for filing a report of unexpended contributions is 30 days after the end of that six-year period.

At the end of the six-year period, a former candidate or officeholder *must* dispose of surplus assets or funds in one of the following ways:

- The former candidate or officeholder may give them to the political party with which he or she was affiliated when last on the ballot;
- The former candidate or officeholder may contribute them to a candidate or a political committee. (This triggers a requirement to file a report of the contribution.);
- The former candidate or officeholder may give them to the comptroller for deposit in the state treasury to be used to finance primary elections;

- The former candidate or officeholder may give them to one or more contributors, but the total returned to any person may not exceed the aggregate amount accepted from that person during the last two years during which the former candidate or officeholder accepted political contributions;
 - The former candidate or officeholder may give them to certain charitable organizations;
or
 - The former candidate or officeholder may give them to a public or private post-secondary educational institution or an institution of higher education as defined by section 61.003(8), Education Code, for the purpose of assisting or creating a scholarship program.
-

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Anyone who has an appointment of campaign treasurer on file must file periodic reports of campaign contributions and expenditures.
 - An individual who expects no further reportable activity in connection with his or her candidacy, files a final report and thereby terminates his or her campaign treasurer appointment. (Note: A candidate who does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file may still be required to file a personal financial statement in accordance with Chapter 572 of the Government Code or Chapter 159 of the Local Government Code.)
 - An officeholder may be required to file semiannual reports even if he or she does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file. A local officeholder who has not accepted more than \$1,010 in contributions or made more than \$1,010 in expenditures in a semiannual period since terminating his or her campaign treasurer appointment is not required to file a semiannual report for that period.
-

PENALTIES FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Any citizen may file a criminal complaint with the district attorney, a civil complaint with the Ethics Commission, or a civil action against a candidate or officeholder for violations of Title 15. Any penalty stemming from such complaints would be assessed against *the candidate or officeholder*, not the campaign treasurer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE RESTRICTIONS

Chapter 253 of the Election Code contains a number of restrictions regarding the acceptance and use of political contributions, including the following:

1. An individual may not accept a campaign contribution or make a campaign expenditure (including a campaign expenditure from personal funds) without a campaign treasurer appointment on file. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.031. An officeholder may accept officeholder contributions and make officeholder

expenditures regardless of whether he or she has a campaign treasurer appointment on file.

2. Political contributions from labor organizations and from most corporations are prohibited. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.091, *et seq.* Partnerships that include one or more corporate partners are subject to the prohibition.
3. Certain documentation must be obtained in order to accept contributions from an out-of-state political committee. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.032. See “Contributions from Out-of-State Political Committees” in this guide.
4. Cash contributions of more than \$100 in the aggregate from one contributor in a reporting period are prohibited. (Here “cash” means coins and currency, not checks.) Tex. Elec. Code § 253.033.
5. The use of political contributions to purchase real property is prohibited. There is also a restriction on the use of political funds to rent or purchase real property from a person related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity or from a business in which the candidate or officeholder or such a relative has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body, or serves as an officer. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.038.
6. Texas law does not allow anonymous contributions. Also, reports must disclose the actual source of a contribution, not an intermediary. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.001.
7. Personal use of political contributions is prohibited. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.035.
8. A candidate or officeholder may not use political contributions to pay for personal services rendered by the candidate or officeholder or by the spouse, or dependent children of the candidate or officeholder. There are also restrictions of a candidate’s or officeholder’s use of political contributions to make payments to a business in which the candidate or officeholder holds a participating interest of more than 10 percent, a position on the governing body of the business, or a position as an officer of the business. See to Op. Tex. Ethics Comm’n No. 35 (1992) (regarding the combined effect of this prohibition and the prohibition on corporate contributions). Tex. Elec. Code § 253.041.

There are restrictions on the use of political contributions to reimburse political expenditures from personal funds. See “Reimbursement for Political Expenditures from Personal Funds,” in this guide.

9. A candidate, officeholder, or political committee may not accept political contributions in the Capitol, the Capitol Extension, or a courthouse. “Courthouse” means any building owned by the state, a county, or a municipality, or an office or part of a building leased to the state, a county, or a municipality, in which a justice or judge sits to conduct court proceedings. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.039.
10. A person required to register as a lobbyist is prohibited from making or authorizing a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or

making or authorizing a direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by: (1) the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder; (2) a specific-purpose committee that supports or assists the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder; or (3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from (1) or (2), described above, during the two years immediately before the contribution or expenditure was made. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.006.

11. A person who makes a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or makes a direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate or officeholder is prohibited from engaging in activities that require registration as a lobbyist for two years thereafter. This does not apply to a person who does not receive compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses to lobby on behalf of a nonprofit organization, a group of low-income individuals, or a group of individuals with disabilities. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.007.
12. A registered lobbyist, or a person on behalf of the lobbyist and with the lobbyist's consent or ratification, is prohibited from making a reportable lobby expenditure from a political contribution accepted by: (1) the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder; (2) a specific-purpose committee that supports or assists the lobbyist as a candidate or officeholder; or (3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from (1) or (2), described above, during the two years immediately before the lobbyist made or authorized the expenditure. Tex. Gov't Code § 305.029.
13. Federal law generally prohibits the acceptance of contributions from foreign sources. Contact the Federal Election Commission for more detailed information.



Resources

Frequently Asked Questions For Candidates

1. I've decided to run for office. Now what? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q1)
2. I'm not going to raise any money. Do I still need to appoint a treasurer?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q2)
3. If I run for office again do I need to appoint a campaign treasurer again?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q3)
4. Where do I file my forms? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q4)
5. How do I determine whether I am a "local" filer or a Texas Ethics Commission filer?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q5)
6. I am a "local" filer. Where do I file my forms?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q6)
7. I have never filed with the Ethics Commission. How do I get started?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q7)
8. What reports will I need to file? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q8)
9. Do I have to file my reports electronically?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q9)
10. How do I get my name on the ballot? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q10)
11. Do I still have to file reports if I chose modified reporting on my treasurer appointment?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q11)
12. What happens if I select modified reporting and then exceed \$1,010?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q12)

13. When do I have to file my campaign finance reports?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q13)
14. When do I have to file my report for it to be timely?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q14)
15. I was a candidate in an election, and I lost. Do I need to file any further reports?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q15)
16. How do I complete the campaign finance report?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q16)
17. What kind of bank account should I open?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q17)
18. Do I need to get a tax identification number?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q18)
19. How can I spend my campaign funds? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q19)
20. I'm running for a city or county office. Do I need to file a personal financial statement?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q20)
21. What has to be on my signs? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q21)
22. Where and when can I post my campaign signs?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q22)
23. What are my contribution limits? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q23)
24. What are my restrictions on fundraising?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q24)
25. How do I correct a report? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q25)
26. Will the Ethics Commission make paper copies of electronically filed reports available? (/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q26)
27. May someone who files with a local filing authority file electronically?
(/resources/FAQs/FAQ_COH_Legal.php#Q27)

1. I've decided to run for office. Now what?

After you make the decision to run for office, you must file a Campaign Treasurer Appointment (/data/forms/coh/cta.pdf). (Judicial candidates need to use Form JCTA (/data/forms/coh/jcta.pdf)). This is required before you file an application for a place on the ballot, raise or spend any money for your campaign, or announce your candidacy publicly or privately. Please be aware that becoming a candidate will trigger filing requirements. You can familiarize yourself with these requirements by consulting the appropriate campaign finance guide (/resources/cf) and filing schedule (/filinginfo/schedules/filing_schedules.php).

If this is your first time filing reports with the Texas Ethics Commission, you will be assigned a Filer ID from the Commission after the Commission has received your Campaign Treasurer Appointment. This Filer ID and a link to set your password will be emailed to you. The Ethics Commission will also

mail to you via the United States Postal System pertinent information on reporting requirements, late-filing penalties, and online locations of the Commission's forms, schedules, and guides. Once you have a Filer ID and have set your password, you can electronically file your campaign finance reports.

2. I'm not going to raise any money. Do I still need to appoint a treasurer?

Yes. The law requires every candidate to file a campaign treasurer appointment, even if the candidate does not intend to raise or spend money. You are permitted to appoint yourself as your treasurer.

3. If I run for office again do I need to appoint a campaign treasurer again?

If you are running for the same office and have not terminated your campaign treasurer appointment by filing a final report, you are not required to file another appointment of a campaign treasurer (Form CTA).

4. Where do I file my forms?

Where you file depends on whether you are running for a "local" office or one that is required to file with the Texas Ethics Commission.

5. How do I determine whether I am a "local" filer or a Texas Ethics Commission filer?

Local offices may include:

- County offices (county commissioner, tax assessor/collector, constable, justice of the peace, sheriff, etc.)
- City offices (mayor, council member, secretary, etc.)
- Political Subdivision offices (school board, community college trustee, municipal utility district, water district, etc.)

Statewide offices and other offices that file with the Texas Ethics Commission include:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Railroad Commissioner, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, State Chair of political party
 - Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives
 - Multi-county District Attorney
 - State Board of Education
 - Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Justice, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and district judges
-

6. I am a "local" filer. Where do I file my forms?

Local candidates do not file with the Texas Ethics Commission. If you are a local candidate, you will file with your local filing authority.

The filing authority for a local candidate or officeholder depends on the nature of the office sought or held:

- County Clerk. The county clerk (or the county elections administrator or tax assessor, as applicable) is the appropriate filing authority for a candidate for:
 - a county office
 - a precinct office
 - a district office (except for multi-county district offices)
 - an office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision is within the boundaries of a single county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.
 - Other local filing authority. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority is the *clerk or secretary of the governing body* of the political subdivision. If the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, the appropriate filing authority is the governing body's presiding officer.
-

7. I have never filed with the Ethics Commission. How do I get started?

To file with the Texas Ethics Commission, you need a Filer ID. This Filer ID is assigned to you by the Commission. The fastest way to get started is to fill out a Campaign Treasurer Appointment – Form CTA (</data/forms/coh/cta.pdf>) (judicial candidates need to use Form JCTA (</data/forms/coh/jcta.pdf>)) and a Form Security (</data/forms/security/security-cf.pdf>). Email your treasurer appointment to the Ethics Commission at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us and email your security form to the Ethics Commission at formsecurity@ethics.state.tx.us. Your new Filer ID and a link to set your password will be emailed to you. The Ethics Commission will mail to you via the United States Postal System pertinent information on reporting requirements, late-filing penalties, and online locations of the Commission's forms, schedules, and guides.

8. What reports will I need to file?

Candidates will typically need to file a treasurer appointment and periodic campaign finance reports disclosing the candidate's activity. The specific forms required will depend on what office you are seeking. Other forms may be required in less common situations, such as filing a correction or amending a treasurer appointment. All potentially required forms and their companion instruction guides can be found on our [Forms/Instructions ▾ Candidates and Officeholders](#) (</forms/COHindex.php>) tab located at the top of this page.

9. Do I have to file my reports electronically?

Filers who file with the Texas Ethics Commission are required to file campaign finance reports electronically. A filer must request an electronic filing password using a Form Security (</data/forms/security/security-cf.pdf>) and email it to the Ethics Commission at formsecurity@ethics.state.tx.us to file the reports. An exception exists for filers who have limited activity and do not use computer equipment to keep track of their political activity. A filer claiming this

exception must attach an affidavit of exemption (/data/forms/affd/elf_coh_aff.pdf) to each report filed on paper. The appointment of a campaign treasurer form and any amendments to that form must still be filed on paper.

Filers who file with local authorities are not required to file electronically under state law. However, these filers should check with their local filing authority to determine whether that authority requires electronic filing.

10. How do I get my name on the ballot?

Contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division or your local party for questions about the application for a place on the ballot.

11. Do I still have to file reports if I chose modified reporting on my treasurer appointment?

By selecting the modified reporting schedule you are indicating that you plan to stay under the \$1,010 threshold in both contributions or expenditures in connection with an election. The modified reporting schedule exempts you from filing 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports. If you have selected the modified reporting schedule, you must still report activity during the entire period you were a candidate, either on a semiannual report or on a final report. Please note that the payment of a filing fee is not considered when calculating whether a filer has exceeded \$1,010 in expenditures.

12. What happens if I select modified reporting and then exceed \$1,010?

If you select modified reporting and exceed \$1,010 (in either contributions or expenditures in connection with an election) before the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file required 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports (keep in mind that unopposed candidates are not required to file these reports regardless of their level of activity). If you exceed a \$1,010 threshold after the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file an "Exceeded Modified Reporting Limit report" within 48 hours of exceeding the threshold and, if the threshold is exceeded before the 8-day pre-election report is due, you must file the 8-day pre-election report.

13. When do I have to file my campaign finance reports?

Due dates for campaign finance reports can be found on the appropriate filing schedule (/filinginfo/schedules/filing_schedules.php).

14. When do I have to file my report for it to be timely?

Most reports are considered timely filed if they are postmarked or electronically submitted by the due date. If filing electronically, a report must be filed by midnight Central time on the night of the due date to be considered timely filed. A 30-day, 8-day, or special pre-election report must be received by

the filing authority no later than the due date to be considered timely filed.

15. I was a candidate in an election, and I lost. Do I need to file any further reports?

Losing an election does not end your filing responsibilities with the Texas Ethics Commission or with your local filing authority.

If your situation meets all of the following criteria, you may file a final report to terminate your treasurer and terminate future filing requirements:

- you do not currently hold an office, and
- you lost the election, and
- you have no remaining funds or assets in your campaign account

The final report will cover the period beginning where your last report ended and ending on the day the final report is filed.

Filing a final report terminates your campaign treasurer appointment and terminates your status as a “candidate” for filing purposes. Please remember that you may not accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures without having a campaign treasurer appointment on file.

If you do not file a final report after the election, you will be required to file semiannual reports until you file a final report. Officeholders who have filed a final report may still have additional filing requirements. See the relevant campaign finance guide (</resources/cf>) for additional information.

16. How do I complete the campaign finance report?

Each form has a companion instruction guide (</forms/coh/cohfrm.php>) that instructs you how to fill out the form line-by-line. Most questions about how to fill out the form can be answered by consulting these instructions. Other topics like reporting expenditures from personal funds, reporting staff reimbursements, and reporting credit card expenditures are explained more fully in the reporting resources found in the Helpful Information section (</resources/cf>) on the Campaign Finance Resources page.

17. What kind of bank account should I open?

You must deposit your political contributions in a separate account from any other account you maintain. State law does not require this account to be a particular type of account (e.g., a business account), but bank policies may restrict the type of account you can use. Please consult your financial institution.

18. Do I need to get a tax identification number?

The laws under the jurisdiction of the Texas Ethics Commission do not require a candidate or political committee to obtain a Tax Identification Number. Please contact the Internal Revenue Service and the Texas Workforce Commission for further information.

19. How can I spend my campaign funds?

You may use your political funds to pay for most expenses you incur as a candidate or officeholder. The primary restriction in using campaign funds is that you cannot convert them to personal use. You can consult the commission's preexisting opinions (/resources/cf/Personal_Use_Of_Contributions.php) about permissible and impermissible uses of political funds.

Additional restrictions exist for payments to close family members, payments to a business of the candidate, and payments from judicial candidates and officeholders to candidates or political committees. These restrictions are discussed in more detail in the campaign finance guides (</resources/guides/>).

20. I'm running for a city or county office. Do I need to file a personal financial statement?

A personal financial statement is a document disclosing a candidate or officer's personal financial activity over the period of a calendar year (in contrast to a campaign finance report, which discloses a campaign's financial activity).

Generally, the Texas Ethics Commission does not have jurisdiction to determine whether a candidate for local office is required to file a personal financial statement. However candidates for district attorney must file personal financial statements with the Commission. Other candidates should contact their local filing authority to determine whether they need to file a personal financial statement.

21. What has to be on my signs?

Most political advertising requires a political advertising disclosure statement and signs designed to be seen from a road must contain a highway right-of-way notice. Additionally, non-incumbent candidates must use the word "for" before the name of the office they are seeking. Please see the Political Advertising Guide (/data/resources/advertising/Gpol_adv.pdf) for more specific information.

22. Where and when can I post my campaign signs?

The Texas Ethics Commission generally does not regulate the placement or removal of political signs. The Texas Ethics Commission primarily regulates the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising signs. You may find this guide from TXDOT to be helpful:

<http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/political-signs.pdf> (<http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/row/political-signs.pdf>).

Before distributing any political advertising, a candidate must have a treasurer appointment on file with the proper filing authority.

The answer to this question largely depends on where the signs are placed, and whether there are any local government restrictions set by the county, city, or HOA. Regarding signs placed on city-owned public property, you may wish to contact the city attorney to see if the city has any restrictions, such as a 90 day. Regarding signs placed on rural roads, those are regulated by Chapter 394 of the Texas Transportation Code and you may wish to contact TXDOT.

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/right-of-way/outdoor-signs.html>
(<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/right-of-way/outdoor-signs.html>).

Also, note that Chapter 259 of the Election Code actually prohibits municipalities and HOAs from adopting and enforcing regulations, such as any 90 day restrictions, that prohibit the placement of certain political advertising signs within an HOA or on private property.

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/EL/htm/EL.259.htm>
(<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/EL/htm/EL.259.htm>).

23. What are my contribution limits?

The state does not have contribution limits for most offices. Judicial candidates are subject to contribution limits, which are discussed further in the Campaign Finance Guide for Judicial Candidates (/data/resources/judicial/jcoh_guide.pdf). Some political subdivisions do impose their own contribution limits, so a candidate should always check with the local authority to see if any relevant limits apply.

24. What are my restrictions on fundraising?

All candidates are prohibited from accepting contributions from a corporation or labor organization and from accepting a cash contribution exceeding \$100. Candidates are also prohibited from accepting anonymous contributions, so for this reason, fundraising strategies like contribution jars are discouraged. For more information about fundraising, see the Political Fundraising Guide (</data/resources/guides/Gpolfund.pdf>).

25. How do I correct a report?

A filer may correct a report filed with the Texas Ethics Commission or a local filing authority at any time. If you are required to file reports electronically with the Ethics Commission, then reports can be corrected through the software by selecting the option to "Correct a Filed Report." If you qualify to file reports on paper with the Ethics Commission, then you will need to submit a correction affidavit, an *affidavit for electronic filing exemption* (/data/forms/affd/elf_coh_aff.pdf), and the pages of the report that are being corrected. If you are required to file reports with a local filing authority, you will

need to submit a correction affidavit and the pages of the report that are being corrected. Depending on the type of report that is being corrected, you should use the appropriate correction affidavit form found at the *Forms/Instructions* ▾ *Candidate/Officeholders* (/forms/COHindex.php) tab at the top of this page.

26. Will the Ethics Commission make paper copies of electronically filed reports available?

Yes for a surcharge. Members of the public may make an open records request (/contact/index.php#records) for specified copies of reports. There is a fee for copies.

27. May someone who files with a local filing authority file electronically?

Local filers may file electronically if your local authority has an electronic filing system for campaign finance reports. Check with your local authority to find out if electronic filing is an option. At this time, most local authorities *do not* offer electronic filing. There are, however, a few local filing authorities that offer, and in some instances even require, electronic filing. Local filers wanting to generate a pdf copy of their report, can also use the TEC filing application to generate the report. The report must still be filed with your local filing authority. See *Filing Reports* ▾ *Local Filers* ▾ *Campaign Finance Reports* (/filinginfo/LOCALindex.php#cfs) *tab found at the top of this page to generate your report using TEC filing application*

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(/legislation) *External Links* (/about/ExternalLinks.php) | *Site Policies* (/sitepolicies/)

Texas.gov (/www.texas.gov/) | *Texas Veterans Portal* (/veterans.portal.texas.gov/) | *Texas Secretary of State Elections* (https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml)

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Forms & Instructions

Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder

"Local" filers do not file with the Texas Ethics Commission. Please file these forms with your local filing authority.

1. Appointment of A Campaign Treasurer By A Candidate

- Form CTA (</data/forms/coh/cta.pdf>)
- Instructions: PDF (/data/forms/coh/CTA_ins.pdf) | HTML (/forms/coh/CTA_ins.php)
- Fillable Form CTA (/data/forms/coh/e_cta.pdf)
- Using Fillable Forms (/forms/e_HowToGeneral.php)

2. Amended Appointment Of A Campaign Treasurer By A Candidate

- Form ACTA (</data/forms/coh/acta.pdf>)
- Instructions: PDF (/data/forms/coh/ACTA_ins.pdf) | HTML (/forms/coh/ACTA_ins.php)
- Fillable Form ACTA (/data/forms/coh/e_acta.pdf)
- Using Fillable Forms (/forms/e_HowToGeneral.php)

3. Code Of Fair Campaign Practices (Form CFCP) (</data/forms/coh/cfcp.pdf>)

4. Candidate/Officeholder Campaign Finance Report

- Form C/OH (</data/forms/coh/coh-local.pdf>)
- Fillable Form C/OH (/data/forms/coh/e_coh.pdf)
- Instructions: 2022 (/data/forms/coh/COH_ins22.pdf) | 2021 (/data/forms/coh/COH_ins21.pdf)
- Correction Affidavit for Candidate/Officeholder (Form COR-C/OH) (/data/forms/coh/cor_coh.pdf)

5. Candidate/Officeholder Report of Unexpended Contributions

- Form C/OH-UC (/data/forms/coh/coh_uc-local.pdf)
- Instructions (/data/forms/coh/COHuc_ins.pdf)
- Corrected C/OH-UC (Form COR-C/OH) (/data/forms/coh/cor_coh.pdf)

6. Unsworn Declaration (Form UD) (</data/forms/affd/ud.pdf>)

If you are creating your report pdf using the TEC local filing application, you may attach a completed Form UD as the last page of your report in lieu of getting your report notarized before submitting your report to your local filing authority.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF POLL WATCHER BY A CANDIDATE

To the Presiding Judge or Early Voting Clerk:

The following person has been appointed as a poll watcher in accordance with [Sec. 33.002, Texas Election Code].

Name of Poll Watcher	Name of Candidate
Residence Address of Poll Watcher	Title and Date of Election
Voter Registration VUID Number of Poll Watcher	Location Poll Watcher is to serve

Signature of Candidate or
Signature of Campaign Treasurer

Printed Name of Signer

Signature of Poll Watcher

OATH OF A POLL WATCHER

The following oath must be repeated aloud by the poll watcher before being accepted for service.

“I swear(or affirm) that I will not disrupt the voting process or harass voters in the discharge of my duties”

AFFIDAVIT OF POLL WATCHER

I, _____, a poll watcher for the above appointing authority, do hereby
(printed name of watcher)

swear or affirm that I do not have, in my possession, any type of mechanical or electronic means of recording images or sound while serving as a watcher or I will disable or deactivate the device while serving as a watcher.

TRAINING REQUIREMENT

I understand that I must present a physical copy of the Certificate of Completion of the Secretary of State Poll Watcher Training before being accepted for service. [Sec. 33.051(a), Texas Election Code]

Signature of Poll Watcher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Election Judge/Deputy

Printed Name of Election Judge/Deputy

INSTRUCTIONS

Watchers may be appointed by each candidate whose name appears on the ballot or the list of declared write-in candidates in an election for:

- (1) a public office other than the office of vice-president of the United States; or
- (2) an office of a political party.

In an election for an office of the state government that is filled by voters of more than one county, watchers may also be appointed by the candidate's campaign treasurer.

In an election for an office of the federal government that is filled by voters of more than one county, watchers may also be appointed by the chair or treasurer of the candidate's principal campaign committee or by a designated agent of the chair or treasurer.

A watcher appointed to serve at a precinct polling place, must deliver the following materials to the presiding judge at the time the watcher reports for service:

- (1) a certificate of appointment; and
- (2) a certificate of completion from training completed by the watcher under [Section 33.008]

The officer presented with a watcher's certificates shall require the watcher to countersign the certificate of appointment to ensure that the watcher is the same person who signed the certificate of appointment. A watcher who presents himself or herself at the proper time with the required certificates shall be accepted for service unless the person is ineligible to serve or the number of appointees to which the appointing authority is entitled have already been accepted.

A watcher may not be accepted for service if the watcher has possession of a device capable of recording images or sound unless the watcher agrees to disable or deactivate the device. The presiding judge may inquire whether a watcher has possession of any prohibited recording device before accepting the watcher for service.

If a watcher is not accepted for service, the certificates shall be returned to the watcher with a signed statement of the reason for the rejection.

On accepting a watcher for service, the election officer shall provide the watcher with a form of identification, prescribed by the secretary of state, to be displayed by the watcher during the watcher's hours of service at the polling place.

An election officer commits an offense if the officer intentionally or knowingly refuses to accept a watcher for service when acceptance of the watcher is required by this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Before accepting a watcher, the officer presented with a watcher's certificate of appointment shall require the watcher to take the following oath, administered by the officer: "I swear (or affirm) that I will not disrupt the voting process or harass voters in the discharge of my duties."