

# **City Council Candidate Packet**



**November 3, 2020  
General Election**

**Filing July 18 - August 17, 2020**

**CANDIDATE PACKET**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Letter from City Secretary ..... Tab 1

First Steps ..... Tab 2

Election Calendar ..... Tab 3

Local Government Code Chapter 22 ..... Tab 4

Application for Place on the Ballot and Instructions ..... Tab 5

Appointment of Campaign Treasurer Instructions and Form ..... Tab 6

Texas Ethics Commission 2020 Filing Schedule ..... Tab 7

Code of Fair Campaign Practices Form ..... Tab 8

Local Government Code Chapter 171; Conflicts of Interest..... Tab 9

Texas Ethics Commission Resolution ..... Tab 10

Political Advertising: What you need to know ..... Tab 11

TXDOT Rules: Placement of Campaign Signs ..... Tab 12

Governor’s Proclamation Suspending Certain Statues..... Tab 13

Tab 1

Letter from City Secretary



Dear Candidates and Officeholders:

Thank you for your interest in serving the citizens of Sandy Oaks. Should you decide to become a candidate, your candidacy requires compliance with certain state statutes and local ordinances. Enclosed, you will find some required forms and information to help you through the election process. Please take time to thoroughly read the enclosed information as well as visit the websites listed in this cover letter for all required documents. **Note, it important to realize the material in this packet is not exhaustive and that it is the duty of the candidate/officeholder to become familiar with and follow all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to municipal elections.**

There are three races on the November 3, 2020 ballot – the offices of Mayor, Alderman Place 2, and Alderman Place 4. The term of office for each position is two year; November 2020 to November 2022.

The role of the City Secretary's Office is to accept and file candidate applications, affidavits, and statements required of candidates and note the dates of filing thereon. **There is no legal duty to inform anyone of the necessity of or deadlines for filing any of the documents or to advise anyone regarding the meaning and requirements of statutes.** The City Secretary should not be expected to judge or comment upon the timeliness or sufficiency of reports filed, but rather to serve only as the custodian of the records.

On the filing of an application for a place on the ballot, the City Secretary must review the application to determine whether it complies with the requirements as to form, content, and procedure only. That is, the City Secretary checks to be sure it was filed correctly and in a timely manner and that all required information is completed and attested to. The review must be completed not later than the fifth day after the date the application is received by the authority. If an application does not comply with applicable requirements, the City Secretary must reject the applications and provide the candidate written notice of the rejection [EC Sec. 141.032E]. Candidates are not permitted to simply make corrections to the form once submitted and should review materials fully before turning them in. Please file your application as soon as practical to allow sufficient time for this review. Filing at the last minute may not give the City Secretary sufficient time for review, which is subject to state law, not City preference. **Please do not leave any blanks on the application as doing so may render your application invalid.**

Texas Election Code Section 141.032, which governs the review of a candidate's application for a place on the ballot for form, content, and procedure, does not apply to a determination of a candidate's eligibility.

**All applications, affidavits, statements, and campaign reports filed with the City Secretary's office are considered public information and are open to inspection by the public.**

Questions regarding reporting procedures, contributions or expenditures are to be directed to the **Texas Ethics Commission** at 512-463-5800 or 800-325-8506, or online at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us). Questions regarding election law are to be directed to the **Secretary of State** at 512-463-5650 or 800-252-8683 or [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us). For your convenience, copies of the **Texas Election Code** and the **Local Government Code** are available online at [www.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.legis.state.tx.us).

I look forward to working with you during the election process. If I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 210-607-0834 or by email at [cityclerk@cityofsandyoaks.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityofsandyoaks.com). Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Katherine Yelton  
City Secretary

# Tab 2

## First Steps

# First Steps for Candidates Running for a City Office

This quick-start guide for candidates seeking a city office is not intended to provide comprehensive information. For more details, including information on political advertising requirements, fundraising rules, and filing schedules, see the Texas Ethics Commission's (TEC) website at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us).

## 1. All candidates must file a Campaign Treasurer Appointment (Form CTA).

All candidates must file [Form CTA](#) even if you do not intend to raise or spend any money. [Form CTA](#) is required to be filed before you file an application for a place on the ballot, raise or spend any money for your campaign, or announce your candidacy. File [Form CTA](#) with the city clerk or city secretary, as applicable.

## 2. Opposed Candidates: Will you accept or spend more than \$900 for the election?

- YES:
  - You do not qualify to file on the modified reporting schedule.
  - You are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports using [Form C/OH](#) if you have an opponent on the ballot. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.
  - Pre-election reports are due 30 days and 8 days prior to each election. To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date.
- NO:
  - You can elect to file on the modified reporting schedule by completing the *Modified Reporting Declaration* on page two of [Form CTA](#). File [Form CTA](#) with the city clerk or city secretary.
  - If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule, you do not have to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to the election.
- Exceed \$900: If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule but later exceed \$900 in either contributions or expenditures, what reports you will be required to file depends upon when you exceed \$900.
  - If you exceed \$900 on or before the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to an election using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.
  - If you exceed \$900 after the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file an Exceeded Modified Reporting Limit report using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, this report must be filed with the city clerk or city secretary within 48 hours of exceeding \$900. You must also file the pre-election report due 8 days prior to an election. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.

- If you exceed \$900 on or before the 8th day before the election, you are **required** to file a pre-election campaign finance report due 8 days prior to an election using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, the pre-election report must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.

### 3. Unopposed Candidates.

If you do not have an opponent whose name will appear on the ballot in the election, you are an unopposed candidate and are not required to file pre-election campaign finance reports prior to that election.

### 4. All candidates must file semiannual campaign finance reports ([Form C/OH](#)).

All candidates are **required** to file semiannual reports using [Form C/OH](#) even if you have no campaign activity or were unsuccessful in the election. Semiannual reports are due on January 15th and July 15th and must be filed with the city clerk or city secretary. To end your filing obligations, you must cease campaign activity and file a Final report using [Form C/OH](#) and attaching Form C/OH-FR (Designation of Final Report). Form C/OH-FR is found on the last page of [Form C/OH](#). Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage. For more information, see "[Ending Your Campaign](#)" for local filers.

### 5. All candidates can use the TEC's Filing Application to prepare campaign finance reports ([Form C/OH](#)).

You can use the TEC's [Filing Application](#) to prepare a PDF version of your campaign finance report ([Form C/OH](#)). Select "Local Authority" and follow the steps to set up an account and login to the application. Once you have completed your report, print out a copy, add your treasurer information, get it notarized, and file it with the city clerk or city secretary by the appropriate deadline.

### 6. Need More Information?

See the [Campaign Finance Guide for Candidates and Officeholders Who File With Local Filing Authorities](#), forms, instructions, examples on how to disclose contributions and expenditures, political advertising and fundraising guides, and other information you may find useful on our website at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us) under the "Resources" and "Forms/Instructions" main menu items.

Tab 3  
Election Calendar



# CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020	First day to file for place on ballot (Monday will be the first day to file in office)
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020	Last day to file for place on ballot for General Election; Last day to order General/Special Election
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020	Drawing for order of candidates on ballot City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020	Last day to file as write-in candidate for General Election
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020	Last day for a candidate to withdraw from General Election and have name removed from ballot
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020	First day to mail early ballots, if available
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020	Last day to submit voter registration application to Bexar County Voter Registrar
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020	First report due of campaign and expenditures by opposed candidates
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020	Last day to accept applications, <i>in person</i> , for voting by mail ballot
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020	First day of early voting by personal appearance
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020	Last day to receive application, <i>by mail</i> , for a ballot to be voted by mail. (Received, not postmarked)
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020	Second report due of campaign and expenditures by opposed candidates
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020	Last day for early voting by personal appearance
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020	Election Day, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 6-17, 2020	Period for official canvass of election
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 (tentative)	Recommended Runoff Election Day, if necessary

\*\*\* Governor's proclamation dated July 27, 2020 suspends Section 86.006(a-1) of the Texas Election Code and allows a voter to deliver a marked mail ballot in person to the early voting clerk's office prior to and including on election day. \*\*\*

Tab 4

Local Government Code

Chapter 22

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 2. ORGANIZATION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE B. MUNICIPAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 22. ALDERMANIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN TYPE A GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 22.001. CHAPTER APPLICABLE TO TYPE A GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY. This chapter applies only to a Type A general-law municipality.

Sec. 22.002. CONTINUATION OF OFFICES IN MUNICIPALITY CHANGING TO TYPE A GENERAL-LAW MUNICIPALITY. If a municipality changes to a Type A general-law municipality under Subchapter B of Chapter 6, the officers serving in the municipality on the date of the change shall continue in office until their offices are superseded in conformity to the law applying to Type A general-law municipalities.

Sec. 22.003. DATE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION. An election for officers of the municipality shall be held annually, except as otherwise provided by law, in each ward of the municipality on an authorized uniform election date as provided by Chapter 41, Election Code.

Sec. 22.004. PLURALITY VOTE REQUIRED FOR ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICER. To be elected to an office of the municipality, a person must receive more votes than any other person for the office.

Sec. 22.005. OATH FOR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICER. (a) A person who is elected or appointed to a municipal office under this code must take and sign the official oath of office before beginning to perform the duties of the office. (b) The governing body of the municipality by ordinance may require a municipal officer to take any additional oath that the governing body considers best calculated to secure the faithful performance of the officer's duties.

Sec. 22.006. DATE ON WHICH OFFICERS BEGIN TO PERFORM DUTIES. A newly elected municipal officer may exercise the duties of office beginning on the fifth day after the date of the election, excluding Sundays.

Sec. 22.007. VACANCY CREATED ON FAILURE TO QUALIFY. If a municipal officer-elect fails to qualify for office within 30 days after the date of the officer's election, the office is considered vacant.

Sec. 22.008. DISQUALIFICATION FROM OFFICE. (a) An officer who is entrusted with the collection or custody of funds belonging to the municipality and who is in default to the municipality may not hold any municipal office until the amount of the default, plus 10 percent interest, is paid to the municipality. (b) If a member of the governing body changes the member's place of residence to a location outside the corporate boundaries of the municipality, the member is automatically disqualified from holding the member's office and the office is considered vacant.

Sec. 22.009. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF SPECIAL FUNDS. A municipal officer who misappropriates money in a special fund created by the municipality under Section 101.004 is guilty of malfeasance in office. On the complaint of a person who has an interest in the affected funds, the officer shall be removed from office and is ineligible to hold any office in that municipality after removal.

Sec. 22.010. FILLING VACANCY ON GOVERNING BODY OR IN OTHER MUNICIPAL OFFICE. (a) If for any reason a single vacancy exists on the governing body of the municipality, a majority of the remaining members who are present and voting, excluding the mayor, may fill the vacancy by appointment unless an election to fill the

vacancy is required by Section 11, Article XI, Texas Constitution. The mayor may vote on the appointment only if there is a tie. **(a-1)** A person serving as a member of the governing body is not, because of that service, ineligible to be appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor of the municipality, but the person may not vote on the person's own appointment. **(b)** The person appointed to fill the vacancy serves until the next regular municipal election. **(c)** In lieu of appointing a person to fill a vacancy on the governing body, a special election may be ordered to elect a person to fill the vacancy. **(d)** If two or more vacancies on the governing body exist at the same time, a special election shall be ordered to fill the vacancies. **(d-1)** A member of the governing body is ineligible to vote to fill a vacancy on the governing body by special election after resigning from the governing body. **(e)** If a vacancy exists in any other municipal office, the mayor or acting mayor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy, subject to confirmation by the governing body.

Sec. 22.011. FILLING VACANCY IN MUNICIPAL OFFICE UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. If a vacancy occurs in a municipal office by a resignation or in another manner and if the vacancy cannot be filled as provided by other law, the commissioners court of the county in which the municipality is located shall order an election to fill the vacancy if the court is petitioned to do so by at least 26 taxpaying voters residing in the municipality.

Sec. 22.012. RESIGNATION OF ELECTED OR APPOINTED MUNICIPAL OFFICER. A municipal officer elected or appointed under this chapter may resign by submitting the resignation in writing to the governing body of the municipality. The resignation is subject to the approval and acceptance of the governing body. However, a person who is appointed by the mayor may submit the written resignation to the mayor for the mayor's action.

#### SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNING BODY

Sec. 22.031. COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODY; WARD SYSTEM OPTIONAL. **(a)** If the municipality is divided into wards, the governing body of the municipality consists of a mayor who is elected by the qualified voters of the municipality and of two aldermen from each ward who are elected by the qualified voters of the ward. **(b)** If the municipality is not divided into wards, the governing body consists of a mayor and five aldermen who are elected by the qualified voters of the municipality, and the provisions of this subchapter relating to proceedings in a ward apply to the whole municipality.

Sec. 22.032. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BODY. **(a)** To be eligible for the office of mayor of the municipality, a person must be a registered voter and must have resided within the municipal limits for at least the 12 months preceding the election day. For purposes of this subsection, residency in an area while the area was not within the municipal limits is considered as residency within the limits if the area is a part of the municipality on election day. **(b)** To be eligible for the office of alderman of the municipality, a person must be a registered voter and must reside on election day in the ward from which the person may be elected.

Sec. 22.033. GOVERNING BODY TO JUDGE ELECTION AND QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS. The governing body of the municipality is the judge of the election and qualifications of its members.

Sec. 22.034. INITIAL ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE. **(a)** If the municipality is divided into wards, at the initial election for officers of the municipality, the mayor and the two aldermen from each ward shall be elected. The aldermen for each ward are the candidates from that ward who receive the highest and second highest number of votes at the initial election. **(b)** The two aldermen elected from each ward shall draw lots at the first regular meeting of the governing body of the municipality to determine which alderman serves for one year and which alderman serves for two years after the initial election. At each following annual election, one alderman shall be elected from each ward for the

regular term. **(c)** If the municipality is not divided into wards, the governing body by ordinance may determine the number and the manner of deciding which aldermen elected at the initial election for officers serve for one year and which serve for two years.

Sec. 22.035. REGULAR TERM OF OFFICE. The mayor and aldermen of the municipality are elected for a term of two years unless a longer term is established under Article XI, Section 11, of the Texas Constitution.

Sec. 22.036. INSTALLATION OF GOVERNING BODY. On the fifth day after the date of the election, excluding Sundays, or as soon as possible after that fifth day, the newly elected governing body of the municipality shall meet at the usual meeting place and shall be installed.

Sec. 22.037. MAYOR AS PRESIDING OFFICER; PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. **(a)** The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the governing body of the municipality and, except in elections, may vote only if there is a tie. **(b)** At each new governing body's first meeting or as soon as practicable, the governing body shall elect one alderman to serve as president pro tempore for a term of one year. **(c)** If the mayor fails, is unable, or refuses to act, the president pro tempore shall perform the mayor's duties and is entitled to receive the fees and compensation prescribed for the mayor. **(d)** If the mayor and the president pro tempore are absent, any alderman may be appointed to preside at the meeting.

Sec. 22.038. MEETINGS. **(a)** The governing body of the municipality shall meet at the time and place determined by a resolution adopted by the governing body. **(b)** The mayor may call a special meeting on the mayor's own motion and shall call a special meeting on the application of three aldermen. Each member of the governing body, the secretary, and the municipal attorney must be notified of the special meeting. The notice may be given personally or left at the person's usual place of residence. **(c)** The governing body shall determine the rules of its proceedings and may compel the attendance of absent members and punish them for disorderly conduct. **(d)** An alderman shall be fined \$3 for each meeting that the alderman fails to attend unless the absence is caused by the alderman's illness or the illness of a family member.

Sec. 22.039. QUORUM. A majority of the number of aldermen established by Section 22.031 for the municipality constitutes a quorum. However, at a called meeting or at a meeting to consider the imposition of taxes, two-thirds of the number of aldermen established by that section constitutes a quorum unless provided otherwise.

Sec. 22.040. CHANGE OF WARDS. **(a)** The governing body of the municipality may divide the municipality into as many wards as it considers necessary for the good of the residents and may change ward boundaries. The wards must contain an equal number of voters as far as practicable. **(b)** The governing body may not change the number of wards or boundaries of a ward during the three-month period preceding the date of a municipal election. **(c)** The wards of a municipality that changes to a Type A general-law municipality under Subchapter B, Chapter 6, are not affected by that action.

Sec. 22.041. VACANCY ON GOVERNING BODY IS CREATED. **(a)** If an alderman moves from the ward from which the alderman is elected, the alderman's office is considered vacant. **(b)** If a member of the governing body is absent for three regular consecutive meetings, the member's office is considered vacant unless the member is sick or has first obtained a leave of absence at a regular meeting. **(c)** In addition to an absence described by Subsection **(b)**, a member of a governing body is also considered absent for the purposes of that subsection if the member is not present at the adjournment of a meeting at which a quorum is established, unless the member is first allowed to withdraw by the unanimous vote of the members present. This subsection applies only to a municipality that is located in a county with a population of 800,000 or more that is adjacent to an international border.

Sec. 22.042. POWERS AND DUTIES OF MAYOR. **(a)** The mayor is the chief executive officer of the municipality. The mayor shall at all times actively ensure that the laws and ordinances of the municipality are properly carried out. The mayor shall perform the duties and exercise the powers prescribed by the governing body of the municipality. **(b)** The mayor shall inspect the conduct of each subordinate municipal officer and shall cause any negligence, carelessness, or other violation of duty to be prosecuted and punished. **(c)** The mayor shall give to the governing body any information, and shall recommend to the governing body any measure, that relates to improving the finances, police, health, security, cleanliness, comfort, ornament, or good government of the municipality. **(d)** The mayor may administer oaths of office. **(e)** In the event of a riot or unlawful assembly or to preserve the peace and good order in the municipality, the mayor may order and enforce the closing of a theater, ballroom, or other place of recreation or entertainment, or a public room or building and may order the arrest of a person who violates a state law or a municipal ordinance in the presence of the mayor.

## Tab 5

# Application for Place on Ballot and Instructions

**ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED OPTIONAL**

<b>APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT</b>					
TO: City Secretary/Secretary of Board					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official ballot as a candidate for the office indicated below.					
<b>OFFICE SOUGHT</b> (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)				<b>INDICATE TERM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED	
<b>FULL NAME</b> (First, Middle, Last)			<b>PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT</b> <sup>1</sup>		
<b>PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS</b> (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe the address at which you receive personal mail and location of residence.)			<b>PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS</b> (Campaign mailing address, if available.)		
<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>
<b>PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS</b> (If available)		<b>OCCUPATION</b> (Do not leave blank)		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>  / /	<b>VOTER REGISTRATION VOID NUMBER</b> (Optional) <sup>2</sup>
<b>TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION</b> (Optional) Home:  Work:  Cell:		<b>LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE APPLICATION SWORN</b>			
		<b>IN STATE</b>  _____ year (s)  _____ month(s)		<b>IN TERRITORY FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED</b> <sup>3</sup>  _____ year (s)  _____ month(s)	
If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election.					
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says:					
"I, (name) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been finally convicted of a felony for which I have not been pardoned or had my full rights of citizenship restored by other official action. I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code.					
I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."					
<b>X</b> _____					
SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me at _____, this the _____ day of _____, _____.					
<b>SEAL</b>					
Signature of Officer Administering Oath <sup>4</sup>			Title of Officer Administering Oath		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY SECRETARY OR SECRETARY OF BOARD:					
(See Section 1.007)		Date Received _____		Signature of Secretary _____	
<b>Voter Registration Status Verified</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					



## INSTRUCTIONS

An application to have the name of a candidate placed on the ballot for any general election may not be filed earlier than 30 days before the deadline prescribed by this code for filing the application. An application filed before that day is void. All fields **must** be completed unless specifically marked optional.

The general election filing deadline is 5:00 p.m. 78 days prior to election day for any uniform election date.

If you have questions about the application, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 800-252-8683.

## NEPOTISM LAW

The candidate must sign this statement indicating his awareness of the nepotism law. The nepotism prohibitions of chapter 573, Government Code, are summarized below:

No officer may appoint, or vote for or confirm the appointment or employment of any person related within the second degree by affinity (marriage) or the third degree by consanguinity (blood) to himself, or to any other member of the governing body or court on which he serves when the compensation of that person is to be paid out of public funds or fees of office. However, nothing in the law prevents the appointment, voting for, or confirmation of anyone who has been continuously employed in the office or employment for the following period prior to the election or appointment of the officer or member related to the employee in the prohibited degree: six months, if the officer or member is elected at the general election for state and county officers.

No candidate may take action to influence an employee of the office to which the candidate is seeking election or an employee or officer of the governmental body to which the candidate is seeking election regarding the appointment or employment of a person related to the candidate in a prohibited degree as noted above. This prohibition does not apply to a candidate's actions with respect to a bona fide class or category of employees or prospective employees.

Examples of relatives within the third degree of consanguinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: parent, child;
- (2) Second degree: brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild;
- (3) Third degree: great-grandparent, great-grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece.

These include relatives by blood, half-blood, and legal adoption. Examples of relatives within the second degree of affinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: spouse, spouse's parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law;
- (2) Second degree: brother's spouse, sister's spouse, spouse's brother, spouse's sister, spouse's grandparent.

Persons related by affinity (marriage) include spouses of relatives by consanguinity, and, if married, the spouse and the spouse's relatives by consanguinity. These examples are not all inclusive.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>For rules concerning the form of a candidate's name or nickname on the ballot, see Subchapter B, Chapter 52 of the Texas Election Code.

<sup>2</sup>Inclusion of a candidate's VUID is optional. However, many candidates are required to be registered voters in the territory from which the office is elected at the time of the filing deadline. Please visit the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's website for additional information. <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml>

<sup>3</sup>This refers to the length of residence inside the district or territory from which the office is elected. For example, length of residence in a school district, for a school trustee office elected at large. This field **MUST BE COMPLETED**.

<sup>4</sup>All oaths, affidavits, or affirmations made within this State may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by a judge, clerk, or commissioner of any court of record, a notary public, a justice of the peace, city secretary (for a city office), and the Secretary of State of Texas.

**DEBE PROPORCIONARSE LA INFORMACIÓN REQUERIDA A MENOS QUE SE INDIQUE QUE ES OPCIONAL**

<b>SOLICITUD PARA FIGURAR EN LA BOLETA DE _____ ELECCIÓN GENERAL</b>					
A: Secretario(a) de la Ciudad/ Secretario del Consejo					
Solicito que mi nombre figure en la boleta oficial indicada más arriba como candidato/a al cargo a continuación.					
<b>PUESTO OFICIAL SOLICITADO</b> (Incluya cualquier número de cargo u otro número distintivo, si el cargo lo tiene.)				<b>INDIQUE TÉRMINO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO COMPLETO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO INCOMPLETO	
<b>NOMBRE COMPLETO</b> (Primer nombre, segundo nombre, apellido)			<b>ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE COMO DESEA QUE FIGURE EN LA BOLETA<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>DIRECCIÓN RESIDENCIAL PERMANENTE</b> (No incluya una casilla postal o una ruta rural. Si usted no tiene una dirección residencial, describa el lugar en que recibe correspondencia personal y la ubicación de su residencia.)			<b>DIRECCIÓN POSTAL PÚBLICA</b> (Dirección en la que recibirá correspondencia relacionada a su campaña, si es disponible.)		
<b>CIUDAD</b>	<b>ESTADO</b>	<b>CÓDIGO POSTAL</b>	<b>CIUDAD</b>	<b>ESTADO</b>	<b>CÓDIGO POSTAL</b>
<b>CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PÚBLICO</b> (Si está disponible.)	<b>EMPLEO</b> (No deje este espacio en blanco.)		<b>FECHA DE NACIMIENTO</b>  / /	<b>VID – NÚMERO UNICO DE IDENTIFICACION DE VOTANTE</b> (Opcional) <sup>2</sup>	
<b>INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO</b> (Opcional) Tel. residencial:  Tel. laboral:  Tel. celular:		<b>DURACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA CONTINUA AL MOMENTO DE JURAMENTAR ESTA SOLICITUD</b>			
		<b>EN EL ESTADO</b>  ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)		<b>EN EL TERRITORIO POR EL CUAL SERIA ELECTO/A<sup>3</sup></b>  ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)	
En caso de usar un apodo como parte de su nombre en la boleta, usted también firma y jura lo siguiente: Asimismo, juro que mi apodo no constituye un lema político ni tampoco es una indicación de mis creencias o afiliaciones políticas, económicas, sociales o religiosas. Se me ha conocido por este apodo durante al menos tres años antes de esta elección.					
Ante mí, la autoridad suscrita, compareció (nombre) _____, quien frente a mí y bajo juramento debido, declara:  “Yo, (nombre) _____, del condado de _____, Texas, siendo candidato para el cargo oficial de _____, juro solemnemente que apoyaré y defenderé la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos y del Estado de Texas. Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos elegible para ocupar tal cargo oficial bajo la Constitución y las leyes de este Estado. No se me ha condenado por un delito mayor por el cual no haya sido absuelto o por el cual no se me hayan restituido enteramente mis derechos de ciudadanía por medio de otra acción oficial. No existe un fallo final de un tribunal testamentario que me declare total o parcialmente incapacitado mentalmente sin derecho a votar. Yo tengo conocimiento de la ley sobre el nepotismo según el Capítulo 573 del Código de Gobierno.  Además, juro que las declaraciones anteriores que incluyo en mi solicitud son verdaderas y correctas”.					
<b>X</b> _____			FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO		
Jurado y suscrito ante mí en _____, este día ____ de _____.					
Firma del oficial que administra el juramento <sup>4</sup> _____			Título del oficial que administra el juramento _____		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY SECRETARY OR SECRETARY OF BOARD:					
(See Section 1.007)		_____		_____	
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received		Signature of Secretary	

## INSTRUCCIONES

La solicitud para que el nombre de un candidato figure en la boleta para cualquier elección general no deberá registrarse antes de los treinta (30) días previos a la fecha límite para registrar la solicitud, según lo prescribe este código. Cualquier solicitud registrada antes de esa fecha se declarará inválida. Todos los campos **deben ser completados** a menos que se indique específicamente marcados como opcional.

El último día para registrarse es a las 5 de la tarde setenta y ocho (78) días antes del día de la elección en el caso de elecciones uniformes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la solicitud, por favor póngase en contacto con la división de elecciones del Secretario de Estado al 800-252-8683.

## LEY SOBRE EL NEPOTISMO

El candidato deberá firmar esta declaración para indicar que tiene conocimiento sobre la ley sobre el nepotismo. A continuación figuran las prohibiciones del nepotismo según el capítulo 573 de Código Gobierno:

Ningún funcionario podrá nombrar, votar por o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de ninguno de sus parientes en segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o en tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre), o de los parientes de cualquier otro integrante del cuerpo directivo o tribunal en que el funcionario celebre sesión cuando la compensación para esa persona se pague con fondos públicos u honorarios de su puesto oficial. Sin embargo, la ley no prohíbe el nombramiento, el votar por o la confirmación de ninguna persona que haya trabajado en la oficina de manera continua o el empleo para el siguiente período antes de la elección o el nombramiento del funcionario o miembro emparentado con el empleado en el grado prohibido: seis meses, si el funcionario o miembro se elige en una elección general de funcionarios de estado y condado.

Ningún candidato podrá influir sobre un empleado relacionado al puesto oficial al cual el candidato aspira o un empleado o funcionario del cuerpo fiscal al cual el candidato aspira respecto del nombramiento o el empleo de un pariente del candidato en un grado prohibido según se indica arriba. Esta restricción no se dirige a las acciones de un candidato respecto de una clase o categoría de empleados o posibles empleados de buena fe.

Los ejemplos de parentesco en tercer grado por consanguinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: padre, madre, hijo(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: hermano(a), abuelo(a), nieto(a);
- (3) Tercer grado: bisabuelo(a), bisnieto(a), tío(a), sobrino(a).

Los siguientes incluyen parentescos de consanguinidad, medios hermanos y adopción legal. Los ejemplos de parentescos en segundo grado por afinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: cónyuge, suegro(a), yerno, nuera;
- (2) Segundo grado: cuñado(a), abuelo(a) del cónyuge.

Las personas que están emparentadas por afinidad (matrimonio) incluyen los cónyuges de parientes emparentados por consanguinidad, y, si casados, el cónyuge y los parientes del cónyuge por consanguinidad. No todos estos ejemplos son inclusivos.

## NOTAS

<sup>1</sup>Para reglas sobre la forma del nombre de un candidato o apodo en la boleta electoral, vea el subcapítulo B, Capítulo 52 del Código Electoral de Texas.

<sup>2</sup>La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en Inglés) es opcional. Sin embargo, para muchos candidatos, es un requisito estar registrados como votantes en el territorio por el cual serían electos a partir de la fecha límite de la solicitud. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre el requisito de registro de votante en nuestra página: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml>

<sup>3</sup>Esto se refiere a la duración de la residencia dentro del distrito o territorio de que se elige la oficina. Por ejemplo, la duración de residencia en un distrito escolar, para una oficina del consejero escolar elegida en general. Este campo **DEBE SER COMPLETADO**.

<sup>4</sup>Los juramentos, las declaraciones juradas o las afirmaciones que se efectúen dentro de este Estado podrán ser administradas por un juez, escribano o comisionado de alguna corte de registro, por un notario público, un juez de paz, un secretario de la ciudad o el Secretario de Estado de Texas, quienes cuentan con la capacidad de proporcionar un certificado del hecho.

## Tab 6

# Appointment of Campaign Treasurer Instructions and Form

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

## APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

### FORM CTA--INSTRUCTION GUIDE



Revised January 15, 2020

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

[www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us)

(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989

*Promoting Public Confidence in Government*

# FORM CTA—INSTRUCTION GUIDE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
DUTIES OF A CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER .....	1
QUALIFICATIONS OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER .....	1
DUTIES OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER .....	1
REQUIREMENT TO FILE BEFORE BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN .....	1
WHERE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT .....	2
FILING WITH A DIFFERENT AUTHORITY .....	3
FORMING A POLITICAL COMMITTEE .....	4
CHANGING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER .....	4
AMENDING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT .....	4
REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDERS .....	4
TERMINATING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT .....	4
FILING A FINAL REPORT .....	5
ELECTRONIC FILING .....	5
GUIDES .....	5
<b>SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
PAGE 1 .....	5
PAGE 2 .....	7

## **APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE**

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

*These instructions are for the APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (Form CTA). Use Form CTA only for appointing your campaign treasurer. Use the AMENDMENT (Form ACTA) for changing information previously reported on Form CTA and for renewing your choice to report under the modified schedule. Note: Candidates for most judicial offices use Form JCTA to file a campaign treasurer appointment.*

### **DUTIES OF A CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER**

As a candidate or officeholder, you alone, not the campaign treasurer, are responsible for filing this form and all candidate/officeholder reports of contributions, expenditures, and loans. Failing to file a report on time or filing an incomplete report may subject you to criminal or civil penalties.

### **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. Note: A candidate may appoint himself or herself as his or her own campaign treasurer.

### **DUTIES OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER**

State law does not impose any obligations on a candidate's campaign treasurer.

### **REQUIREMENT TO FILE BEFORE BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN**

If you plan to run for a public office in Texas (except for a federal office), you must file this form when 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.

Additionally, the law provides that you must file this form 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.

If you are an officeholder, you may make officeholder expenditures and accept officeholder contributions without having a campaign treasurer appointment on file. If you do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and you wish to accept *campaign* contributions or make *campaign* expenditures in connection with your office or for a different office, you must file this form before doing so. In such a case, a sworn report of contributions, expenditures, and loans will be due no later than the 15th day after filing this form.

## WHERE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT

The appropriate filing authority depends on the office sought or held.

**a. Texas Ethics Commission.** The Texas Ethics Commission (Commission) is the appropriate filing authority for the Secretary of State and for candidates for or holders of the following offices:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner.
- State Senator or State Representative.
- Supreme Court Justice, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and Court of Appeals Judge.\*



- State Board of Education.
- A multi-county district judge\* or multi-county district attorney.
- A single-county district judge.\*
- 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.
- A chair of the state executive committee of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election.
- A county chair of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more.

\* Judicial candidates use FORM JCTA to appoint a campaign treasurer.

**b. County Clerk.** The county clerk (or the county elections administrator or tax assessor, as applicable) is the appropriate local 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.

**c. 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. Basically, any political subdivision that is authorized by the laws of this state to hold an election is considered a local filing authority. Examples are cities, school districts, and municipal utility districts.

## FILING WITH A DIFFERENT AUTHORITY

If you have a campaign treasurer appointment on file with one authority, and you wish to accept campaign contributions or make or authorize campaign expenditures in connection with another office that would require filing with a different authority, you must file a new campaign treasurer appointment *and* a copy of your old campaign treasurer appointment (certified by the old authority) with the new filing authority before beginning your campaign. You should also provide written notice to the original filing authority that your future reports will be filed with another authority.

## **FORMING A POLITICAL COMMITTEE**

As a candidate, you must file an APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM CTA). You may also form a specific-purpose committee to support your candidacy. Remember that filing a campaign treasurer appointment for a political committee does not eliminate the requirement that a candidate file his or her own campaign treasurer appointment (FORM CTA) and the related reports.

**NOTE:** *See the Campaign Finance Guide for Political Committees for further information about specific-purpose committees.*

## **CHANGING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER**

If you wish to change your campaign treasurer, simply file an amended campaign treasurer appointment (FORM ACTA). This will automatically terminate the outgoing campaign treasurer appointment.

## **AMENDING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT**

If *any* of the information reported on the campaign treasurer appointment (FORM CTA) changes, file an AMENDMENT: APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM ACTA) to report the change.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDERS**

If you are an officeholder who appoints a campaign treasurer after a period of not having one, you must file a report of contributions, expenditures, and loans no later than the 15th day after your appointment is effective. This requirement is not applicable if you are a candidate or an officeholder who is merely changing campaign treasurers.

## **TERMINATING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT**

You may terminate your campaign treasurer appointment at any time by:

- 1) filing a campaign treasurer appointment for a successor campaign treasurer, or
- 2) filing a final report.

Remember that you may not accept any campaign contributions or make or authorize any campaign expenditures without a campaign treasurer appointment on file. You may, however, accept officeholder contributions and make or authorize officeholder expenditures.

If your campaign treasurer quits, he or she must give written notice to both you and your filing authority. The termination will be effective on the date you receive the notice or on the date your filing authority receives the notice, whichever is later.

## FILING A FINAL REPORT

For filing purposes, you are a “candidate” as long as you have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file. If you do not expect to accept any further campaign contributions or to make any further campaign expenditures, you may file a final report of contributions and expenditures. A final report terminates your appointment of campaign treasurer and relieves you of the obligation of filing further reports as a candidate. If you have surplus funds, or if you retain assets purchased with political funds, you will be required to file annual reports. (*See instructions for FORM C/OH - UC.*) If you are an officeholder at the time of filing a final report, you may be required to file semiannual reports of contributions, expenditures, and loans as an officeholder.

If you do not have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file, you may not accept *campaign* contributions or make *campaign* expenditures. A payment on a campaign debt is a campaign expenditure. An officeholder who does not have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file may accept *officeholder* contributions and make *officeholder* expenditures.

To file a final report, you must complete the CANDIDATE/OFFICEHOLDER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT (FORM C/OH), check the “final” box on Page 1, Section 9, and complete and attach the DESIGNATION OF FINAL REPORT (FORM C/OH-FR).

## ELECTRONIC FILING

All persons filing campaign finance reports with the Commission are required to file those reports electronically unless the person is entitled to claim an exemption. Please check the Commission’s website at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us> for information about exemptions from the electronic filing requirements.

## GUIDES

All candidates should review the applicable Commission’s campaign finance guide. Guides are available on the Commission’s website at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

*Each numbered item in these instructions corresponds to the same numbered item on the form.*

### PAGE 1

- 1. TOTAL PAGES FILED:** After you have completed the form, enter the total number of pages of this form and any additional pages. A “page” is one side of a two-sided form. If you are not using a two-sided form, a “page” is a single sheet.
- 2. CANDIDATE NAME:** Enter your full name, including nicknames and suffixes (e.g., Sr., Jr., III), if applicable. Enter your name in the same way on Page 2, Section 11, of this form.

3. **CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS:** Enter your complete mailing address, including zip code. This information will allow your filing authority to correspond with you. If this information changes, please notify your filing authority immediately.
4. **CANDIDATE PHONE:** Enter your phone number, including the area code and extension, if applicable.
5. **OFFICE HELD:** If you are an officeholder, please enter the office you currently hold. Include the district, precinct, or other designation for the office, if applicable.
6. **OFFICE SOUGHT:** If you are a candidate, please enter the office you seek, if known. Include the district, precinct, or other designation for the office, if applicable.
7. **CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME:** Enter the full name of your campaign treasurer, including nicknames and suffixes (e.g., Sr., Jr., III), if applicable.
8. **CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS:** Enter the complete street address of your campaign treasurer, including the zip code. You may enter either the treasurer's business or residential street address. If you are your own treasurer, you may enter either your business or residential street address. Please do not enter a P.O. Box.
9. **CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE:** Enter the phone number of your campaign treasurer, including the area code and extension, if applicable.
10. **CANDIDATE SIGNATURE:** Enter your signature after reading the summary. Your signature here indicates that you have read the following summary of the nepotism law; that you are aware of your responsibility to file timely reports; and that you are aware of the restrictions on contributions from corporations and labor organizations.
  - The Texas nepotism law (Government Code, chapter 573) imposes certain restrictions on both officeholders and candidates. You should consult the statute in regard to the restrictions applicable to officeholders.
  - A candidate may not take an affirmative action to influence an employee of the office to which the candidate seeks election in regard to the appointment, confirmation, employment or employment conditions of an individual who is related to the candidate within a prohibited degree.
  - A candidate for a multi-member governmental body may not take an affirmative action to influence an officer or employee of the governmental body to which the candidate seeks election in regard to the appointment, confirmation, or employment of an individual related to the candidate in a prohibited degree.
  - Two people are related within a prohibited degree if they are related within the third degree by consanguinity (blood) or the second degree by affinity (marriage). The degree of consanguinity is determined by the number of generations that separate them. If neither is descended from the other, the degree of consanguinity

is determined by adding the number of generations that each is separated from a common ancestor. Examples: (1) first degree - parent to child; (2) second degree - grandparent to grandchild; or brother to sister; (3) third degree - great-grandparent to great-grandchild; or aunt to niece who is child of individual's brother or sister. A husband and wife are related in the first degree by affinity. A wife has the same degree of relationship by affinity to her husband's relatives as her husband has by consanguinity. For example, a wife is related to her husband's grandmother in the second degree by affinity.

## **PAGE 2**

**11. CANDIDATE NAME:** Enter your name as you did on Page 1.

**12. MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION:** Sign this option if you wish to report under the modified reporting schedule.

The modified reporting option is not available for candidates for the office of state chair of a political party and candidates for county chair of a political party.

To the left of your signature, enter the year of the election or election cycle to which your selection of modified reporting applies.

Your selection of modified reporting is valid for an entire election cycle. For example, if you choose modified reporting before a primary election, your selection remains in effect for any runoff and for the general election and any related runoff. You must make this selection at least 30 days before the first election to which your selection applies.

An opposed candidate in an election is eligible to report under the modified reporting schedule if he or she does not intend to accept more than \$900 in political contributions or make more than \$900 in political expenditures in connection with an election. The amount of a filing fee paid to qualify for a place on the ballot does not count against the \$900 expenditure limit. An opposed candidate who reports under the modified schedule is not required to file pre-election reports (due 30 days and 8 days before an election) or runoff reports (due 8 days before a runoff). (Note: An *unopposed* candidate is not required to file pre-election reports in the first place.) The obligations to file semiannual reports, special pre-election reports (formerly known as telegram reports), or special session reports, if applicable, are not affected by selecting the modified schedule.

The \$900 maximums apply to each election within the cycle. In other words, you are limited to \$900 in contributions and expenditures in connection with the primary, an additional \$900 in contributions and expenditures in connection with the general election, and an additional \$900 in contributions and expenditures in connection with a runoff.

**EXCEEDING \$900 IN CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES.** If you exceed \$900 in contributions or expenditures in connection with an election, you must file according to the regular filing schedule. In other words, you must file pre-election reports and a runoff report, if you are in a runoff.

If you exceed either of the \$900 limits *after the 30th day before the election*, you must file a sworn report of contributions and expenditures within 48 hours after exceeding the limit. After that, you must file any pre-election reports or runoff reports that are due under the regular filing schedule.

Your selection is not valid for other elections or election cycles. Use the AMENDMENT (FORM ACTA) to renew your option to file under the modified schedule for a different election year or election cycle.

*For more information, see the Commission's campaign finance guide that applies to you.*

# APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

**FORM CTA  
PG 1**

<b>See CTA Instruction Guide for detailed instructions.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages filed:	
<b>2</b> CANDIDATE NAME	MS / MRS / MR	FIRST	MI
	.....		
	NICKNAME	LAST	SUFFIX
<b>3</b> CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE		
	Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked		
<b>4</b> CANDIDATE PHONE	AREA CODE	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION
	( )		
<b>5</b> OFFICE HELD (if any)	Receipt #		
	Amount \$		
	Date Processed		
	Date Imaged		
<b>6</b> OFFICE SOUGHT (if known)			
<b>7</b> CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME	MS/MRS/MR	FIRST	MI
	NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX		
<b>8</b> CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (residence or business)	STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX PLEASE); APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE		
<b>9</b> CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE	AREA CODE	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION
	( )		
<b>10</b> CANDIDATE SIGNATURE	I am aware of the Nepotism Law, Chapter 573 of the Texas Government Code.		
	I am aware of my responsibility to file timely reports as required by title 15 of the Election Code.		
	I am aware of the restrictions in title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations and labor organizations.		
	_____		_____
	Signature of Candidate		Date Signed

**GO TO PAGE 2**

# CANDIDATE MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION

FORM CTA  
PG 2

11 CANDIDATE  
NAME

12 MODIFIED  
REPORTING  
DECLARATION

## COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU ARE CHOOSING MODIFIED REPORTING

•• This declaration must be filed no later than the 30th day before the first election to which the declaration applies. ••

•• The modified reporting option is valid for one election cycle only. ••  
(An election cycle includes a primary election, a general election, and any related runoffs.)

•• Candidates for the office of state chair of a political party may NOT choose modified reporting. ••

I do not intend to accept more than \$900 in political contributions or make more than \$900 in political expenditures (excluding filing fees) in connection with any future election within the election cycle. I understand that if either one of those limits is exceeded, I will be required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a runoff report.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year of election(s) or election cycle to  
which declaration applies

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

**This appointment is effective on the date it is filed with the appropriate filing authority.**

TEC Filers may send this form to the TEC electronically at [treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us](mailto:treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us)  
or mail to  
Texas Ethics Commission  
P.O. Box 12070  
Austin, TX 78711-2070

**Non-TEC Filers must file this form with the local filing authority  
DO NOT SEND TO TEC**

For more information about where to file go to:  
<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php>



Tab 7

Texas Ethics Commission  
2020 Filing Schedule



**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**2020 FILING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS**  
**FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OR ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR**

This is a filing schedule for local candidates for, and local officeholders in, offices that are regularly filled at the general election for state and county officers (the November election in even-numbered years). Candidates for and officeholders in local offices that are filled on uniform election dates in May and November should use the 2020 FILING SCHEDULE FOR REPORTS DUE IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTIONS HELD ON UNIFORM ELECTION DATES. Examples of these types of offices include school board positions and city offices. If you are a judicial candidate or officeholder, please see the note attached to the end of this schedule.

EXPLANATION OF THE FILING SCHEDULE CHART

COLUMN I: REPORT DUE DATE - This is the date by which the report must be filed. For most filing deadlines, a report is considered timely filed if it is properly addressed to the filing authority with postage or handling charges prepaid and bears a postmark or receipt mark of a common or contract carrier indicating a time before the deadline or if it is hand-delivered to the filing authority by the filing deadline. The deadline for filing a report is 5:00 p.m. on the due date. 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. **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 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS 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
Wednesday, July 15, 2020	<b>July semiannual</b>  [FORM C/OH or JC/OH] (all candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$900 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)	January 1, 2020, <i>or</i>  the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the last report ended.	June 30, 2020  Filers who file the July 6, 2020, Primary Runoff report will NOT file the semiannual report due July 15, 2020.

**REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION**

<b>Monday, October 5, 2020</b>  <i>Deadline is extended because of weekend.</i>  <b>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 5, 2020.</b>	<b>30th day before the November 3, 2020, general election</b>  [FORM C/OH or JC/OH] (all candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the general election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)	July 1, 2020, <i>or</i>  the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the last report ended.	September 24, 2020
<b>Monday, October 26, 2020</b>  <b>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 26, 2020.</b>	<b>8th day before the November 3, 2020, general election</b>  [FORM C/OH or JC/OH] (all candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the general election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)	September 25, 2020, <i>or</i>  the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the last report ended.	October 24, 2020

<p align="center"><b><u>COLUMN I</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>DUE DATE</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>COLUMN II</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>COLUMN III</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>COLUMN IV</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, January 15, 2021</b></p>	<p><b>January semiannual</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH or JC/OH] (all candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$900 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p>	<p>July 1, 2020, <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, 2020</p>
<p><b>Friday, January 15, 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Annual report of unexpended contributions</b></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, 2020, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the final report was filed.</p>	<p>December 31, 2020</p>

Tab 8

Code of Fair Campaign  
Practices Form

# 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

<b>1 ACCOUNT NUMBER</b> (Ethics Commission Filers)	<b>2 TYPE OF FILER</b> CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If filing as a candidate, complete boxes 3 - 6, then read and sign page 2.</i> <i>If filing for a political committee, complete boxes 7 and 8, then read and sign page 2.</i>		
<b>3 NAME OF CANDIDATE</b> (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)	FIRST	MI ..... NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)
<b>4 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CANDIDATE</b> (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	AREA CODE ( )	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION
<b>5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE</b> (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	STREET / PO BOX;	APT / SUITE #;	CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE
<b>6 OFFICE SOUGHT BY CANDIDATE</b> (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)			
<b>7 NAME OF COMMITTEE</b> (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)			
<b>8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER</b> (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

Tab 9

Local Government Code

Chapter 171

Conflicts of Interest



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 5. MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SUBTITLE C. MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF MORE THAN ONE TYPE  
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 171. **REGULATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF OFFICERS OF MUNICIPALITIES,  
COUNTIES, AND CERTAIN OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Sec. 171.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter: **(1)** "Local public official" means a member of the governing body or another officer, whether elected, appointed, paid, or unpaid, of any district (including a school district), county, municipality, precinct, central appraisal district, transit authority or district, or other local governmental entity who exercises responsibilities beyond those that are advisory in nature. **(2)** "Business entity" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized by law.

Sec. 171.002. SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN BUSINESS ENTITY. **(a)** For purposes of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if: **(1)** the person owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or **(2)** funds received by the person from the business entity exceed 10 percent of the person's gross income for the previous year. **(b)** A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more. **(c)** A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a substantial interest under this section.

Sec. 171.0025. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER TO MEMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY. This chapter does not apply to a board member of a higher education authority created under Chapter 53, Education Code, unless a vote, act, or other participation by the board member in the affairs of the higher education authority would provide a financial benefit to a financial institution, school, college, or university that is: **(1)** a source of income to the board member; or **(2)** a business entity in which the board member has an interest distinguishable from a financial benefit available to any other similar financial institution or other school, college, or university whose students are eligible for a student loan available under Chapter 53, Education Code.

Sec. 171.003. PROHIBITED ACTS; PENALTY. **(a)** A local public official commits an offense if the official knowingly: **(1)** violates Section 171.004; **(2)** acts as surety for a business entity that has work, business, or a contract with the governmental entity; or **(3)** acts as surety on any official bond required of an officer of the governmental entity. **(b)** An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 171.004. AFFIDAVIT AND ABSTENTION FROM VOTING REQUIRED. **(a)** If a local public official has a substantial interest in a business entity or in real property, the official shall file, before a vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity or the real property, an affidavit stating the nature and extent of the interest and shall abstain from further participation in the matter if: **(1)** in the case of a substantial interest in a business entity the action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the business entity that is distinguishable from the

effect on the public; or **(2)** in the case of a substantial interest in real property, it is reasonably foreseeable that an action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the value of the property, distinguishable from its effect on the public. **(b)** The affidavit must be filed with the official record keeper of the governmental entity. **(c)** If a local public official is required to file and does file an affidavit under Subsection (a), the official is not required to abstain from further participation in the matter requiring the affidavit if a majority of the members of the governmental entity of which the official is a member is composed of persons who are likewise required to file and who do file affidavits of similar interests on the same official action.

Sec. 171.005. VOTING ON BUDGET. **(a)** The governing body of a governmental entity shall take a separate vote on any budget item specifically dedicated to a contract with a business entity in which a member of the governing body has a substantial interest. **(b)** Except as provided by Section 171.004(c), the affected member may not participate in that separate vote. The member may vote on a final budget if: **(1)** the member has complied with this chapter; and **(2)** the matter in which the member is concerned has been resolved.

Sec. 171.006. EFFECT OF VIOLATION OF CHAPTER. The finding by a court of a violation under this chapter does not render an action of the governing body voidable unless the measure that was the subject of an action involving a conflict of interest would not have passed the governing body without the vote of the person who violated the chapter.

Sec. 171.007. COMMON LAW PREEMPTED; CUMULATIVE OF MUNICIPAL PROVISIONS. **(a)** This chapter preempts the common law of conflict of interests as applied to local public officials. **(b)** This chapter is cumulative of municipal charter provisions and municipal ordinances defining and prohibiting conflicts of interests.

Sec. 171.009. SERVICE ON BOARD OF CORPORATION FOR NO COMPENSATION. It shall be lawful for a local public official to serve as a member of the board of directors of private, nonprofit corporations when such officials receive no compensation or other remuneration from the nonprofit corporation or other nonprofit entity.

Sec. 171.010. PRACTICE OF LAW. **(a)** For purposes of this chapter, a county judge or county commissioner engaged in the private practice of law has a substantial interest in a business entity if the official has entered a court appearance or signed court pleadings in a matter relating to that business entity. **(b)** A county judge or county commissioner that has a substantial interest in a business entity as described by Subsection (a) must comply with this chapter. **(c)** A judge of a constitutional county court may not enter a court appearance or sign court pleadings as an attorney in any matter before: **(1)** the court over which the judge presides; or **(2)** any court in this state over which the judge's court exercises appellate jurisdiction. **(d)** Upon compliance with this chapter, a county judge or commissioner may practice law in the courts located in the county where the county judge or commissioner serves.

Tab 10

Texas Ethics Commission  
Resolution

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12070, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

Jim Clancy  
Chair

Paul W. Hobby  
Vice Chair

David A. Reisman  
Executive Director



Commissioners

Hugh C. Akin  
Tom Harrison  
Bob Long  
Paula M. Mendoza  
Tom Ramsay  
Chase Untermeyer

## RESOLUTION

The Texas Ethics Commission unanimously condemns the use of misleading campaign communications regarding the activities of the Commission.

The use of the statements “a sworn complaint has been filed against Candidate A” or “the Texas Ethics Commission is investigating a complaint against Candidate A” are improper attempts to mislead the public. It is therefore the unanimous opinion of the bipartisan Texas Ethics Commission that the use of such language in campaign communications is an unfair practice and should be judged accordingly by voters.

By law, the Texas Ethics Commission investigates every sworn complaint, whether it has merit or not. Likewise, any citizen of the State of Texas has the right to file a sworn complaint, whether it has merit or not. The fact that a complaint has been filed or the Commission is investigating provides no meaningful information to the voting public. Anyone can file a complaint and the Commission must investigate the complaints it receives.

If violations of the statutes under the Commission’s jurisdiction have occurred, the proper way to inform the public of these violations is to describe the facts of the violation or the actual findings of the Commission after the conclusion of an investigation.

The Commission directs that this resolution be prominently referenced on the Commission’s website and that the resolution be sent to members of the legislature and state and county party chairs.

Issued December 3, 2013

Tab 11

Political Advertising

What You Need to Know

# **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**

**TDD (800) 735-2989**

**Visit us at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us) on the Internet.**

## **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
2. 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.**

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## 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:

**Vote John Doe  
for Attorney General**

**John Doe  
For  
Attorney General**

### **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.

Tab 12

TXDOT Rules:

Placement of Campaign Signs

# POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS

NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS VISIBLE TO PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

## PRIMARY HIGHWAYS

*During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers which are welcome anywhere, putting campaign signs on public lands is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Texas beautiful.*

TxDOT only controls the location of commercial signs, and never controls the content of any signage. If you have questions about what may be on a political sign, please contact the Texas Ethics Commission at (512) 463-5800.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### Where can I place political signs?

You can place your signs anywhere so long as they are not in the highway right of way or in a location that poses a safety hazard (e.g. blocking sight to a driveway). Always make sure to check with local authorities (Cities, Counties, Homeowner's Associations, etc.) as they may have their own restrictions.

#### When can I place political signs?

Cities and counties may have their own time restrictions for political signs, however TxDOT does not enforce any timing restrictions.

#### There is a sign on private property posing a safety hazard

If you believe a sign or signs create a safety hazard, contact local law enforcement as they can have the owner remove or relocate their sign(s).

#### There are signs located on the Right of Way (ROW)

Signs cannot be placed on the ROW as per Texas Transportation Code (TTC) §393.002. "A sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court of a county may confiscate a sign placed in violation of Section 393.002." (TTC §393.003). For state-maintained highways, your local TxDOT district office also has the authority to remove signs located on state owned right of way.

#### Where is the ROW?

If you are unsure where the ROW starts or ends, you should contact your local TxDOT district office.

### ONLINE INFORMATION

This same information is available online on TxDOT's website and can be accessed by the below method:

Go to  
[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)



Select Inside TxDOT



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Tab 13

Governor's Proclamation

Suspending Certain Election Statues




GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

July 27, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2:00pm O'CLOCK

JUL 27 2020

  
Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation suspending certain statutes concerning elections on November 3, 2020.

The original of this proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment



# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## Governor of the State of Texas

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TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in each subsequent month effective through today, I have renewed the disaster declaration for all Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 continues to represent a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to legislative authorization under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, I have issued executive orders, proclamations, and suspensions of Texas laws in response to the COVID-19 disaster, aimed at using the least restrictive means available to protect the health and safety of Texans and ensure an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, Section 41.001(a) of the Texas Election Code provides that a general or special election in this state shall be held on a uniform election date, and the next uniform election date is occurring on November 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, I issued a proclamation on March 18, 2020, suspending Sections 41.0052(a) and (b) of the Texas Election Code and Section 49.103 of the Texas Water Code to the extent necessary to allow political subdivisions that would otherwise have held elections on May 2, 2020, to move their general and special elections for 2020 only to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date; and

WHEREAS, Texas law provides that eligible voters have a right to cast a vote in person; and

WHEREAS, as counties across Texas prepare for the upcoming elections on November 3, 2020, and establish procedures for eligible voters to exercise their right to vote in person, it is necessary that election officials implement health protocols to conduct elections safely and to protect election workers and voters; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that elections proceed efficiently and safely when Texans go to the polls to cast a vote in person during early voting or on election day for the November 3, 2020 elections, it is necessary to increase the number of days in which polling locations will be open during the early voting period, such that election officials can implement appropriate social distancing and safe hygiene practices; and

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WHEREAS, Section 85.001(a) of the Texas Election Code provides that the period for early voting by personal appearance begins 17 days before election day; and

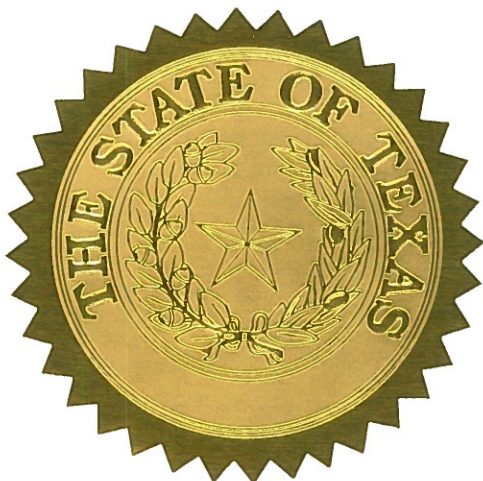
WHEREAS, Section 86.006(a-1) of the Texas Election Code provides that a voter may deliver a marked mail ballot in person to the early voting clerk's office while the polls are open on election day; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Texas Secretary of State, it has become apparent that for the November 3, 2020 elections, strict compliance with the statutory requirements in Sections 85.001(a) and 86.006(a-1) of the Texas Election Code would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the COVID-19 disaster, and that providing additional time for early voting will provide Texans greater safety while voting in person; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the legislature has expressly authorized the Governor to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of a state agency if strict compliance with the provisions, orders, or rules would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby suspend Section 85.001(a) of the Texas Election Code to the extent necessary to require that, for any election ordered or authorized to occur on November 3, 2020, early voting by personal appearance shall begin on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, and shall continue through the fourth day before election day. I further suspend Section 86.006(a-1) of the Texas Election Code, for any election ordered or authorized to occur on November 3, 2020, to the extent necessary to allow a voter to deliver a marked mail ballot in person to the early voting clerk's office prior to and including on election day.

The Secretary of State shall take notice of this proclamation and shall transmit a copy of this order immediately to every County Judge of this state and all appropriate writs will be issued and all proper proceedings will be followed to the end that said elections may be held and their results proclaimed in accordance with law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 27th day of July, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT  
Governor of Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2:00 PM O'CLOCK

JUL 27 2020

ATTESTED BY:



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RUTH R. HUGHS  
Secretary of State

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2:00 pm O'CLOCK

JUL 27 2020