

The information below outlines how William D. Tate, an Attorney at Law and Mayor of Grapevine, violated Texas Disciplinary Rules 8.04(a)(3) and 8.04(a)(5) by engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation and attempting to improperly influence a government agency or official.

Despite receiving accurate financial and operational data about the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District (“GCISD”) through multiple meetings, public records, and official correspondence, Mayor Tate knowingly disseminated false information in a letter on October 6, 2025, and a subsequent television interview on October 8, 2025. His actions, including admitted and repeated attempts to “undermine” and “intimidate” GCISD officials, were intended to sway public opinion against potential school closures, particularly at Dove Elementary where his daughter teaches, eroding public trust and abusing his position as Mayor.

Statement of facts:

On **August 27th, 2025**, Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District (“GCISD”) launched a public website giving information about the work of its Educational Master Planning Committee (“EMPC”) that had been formed last January. All documents reviewed by the EMPC during their tenure were placed on that website, including the names of all committee members and a Frequently Asked Questions section to give readily available facts (<https://www.gcisd.net/page/education-master-planning-committee>).

On **September 18th, 2025**, Mayor Tate, a Grapevine City Councilman (Paul Slechta), the GCISD Superintendent (Brad Schnautz), and the President of the GCISD Board of Trustees (Shannon Braun) had an in-person meeting to discuss potential school closures, GCISD’s financial situation, and operational costs.

On **September 23rd, 2025**, Grapevine’s City Manager, Asst. City Manager, and Chief Financial Officer met with GCISD’s Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Operations Officer to pass on all of the factual information regarding GCISD’s finances and operations between government entities.

On **September 25, 2025, at 2:40 PM**, GCISD Board President Braun sent a follow-up email to Mayor Tate to summarize their in-person September 18th group meeting. At **3:58 PM** the same day, Mayor Tate responded to her letter, informing her what he was going to do to stop school closures, directly stating that he would “undermine” GCISD’s efforts by arguing about the unfairness of the planning committee’s makeup to Grapevine citizens. He also described his interactions with Board President Braun during the September 18th meeting: “I tried to offend you and I tried to intimate you to get your attention.”

On **October 1st and October 2nd, 2025**, two different members of the GCISD Board of Trustees, Dalia Begin and Kathy Spradley, both had 1:1 visits with Mayor Tate to discuss GCISD.

Also on **October 1st, around 5:10 PM**, GCISD Superintendent Schnautz sent an email to the Grapevine City Manager with two attachments: (1) September 2025 Priority Report and (2) the Tax Rate Adoption Presentation. These reports together summarized all current relevant data concerning GCISD's financial and operational situation.

On **October 6, 2025**, Mayor Tate sent an email on an official City of Grapevine letterhead signed by himself and the entire Grapevine City Council to the President of the GCISD Board of Trustees (Braun). The letter contained multiple, factually incorrect claims about GCISD's finances and operations, which were then directly rebutted by an email on **October 8, 2025**, signed by GCISD's Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Superintendent (Schnautz), and Board President (Braun).

On **October 8, 2025**, around 6 PM, after Mayor Tate received the rebuttal letter from GCISD, he went on television to publicize his October 6th email in an interview with WFAA Channel 8. The letter itself was featured on the screen. During that broadcast, an image of Mayor Tate's daughter (a teacher at Dove Elementary where the story was featured) and one of her students, was put up on screen before his interview. In his prior letter from October 6th, he made note of this personal connection to Dove Elementary teachers, saying "we were also told that the teachers at Dove Elementary were told that their campus will likely be closing at the end of the year."

On **October 19, 2025**, around 9 PM, Mayor Tate engaged on a Facebook page called "Colleyville Citizens for Accountability" on a post by a Mr. Ajit Purandare. The original post was published October 17th at 2:39 PM. In his engagement, Mayor Tate continued to carry out his threat of "undermining" GCISD by the exact method that he had described he would in his September 25th email: "I will argue to continue to argue in public is that the citizen committee is unfair and unpalatable to Grapevine residents. This will undermine you throughout" (all grammar mistakes are his). During his Facebook interaction, he stated "You are trying to attack me to distract from the boards [sic] appointment of a planning committee that was grossly unfair to Grapevine." Not only did Mayor Tate threaten to undermine GCISD by calling the planning committee unfair, he actually did it publicly and in writing.

Summary of facts:

Mayor Tate was given factual information by GCISD during an in-person group meeting on **September 18th, 2025**, and also two other in-person 1:1 meetings with different GCISD trustees

on **October 1, 2025**, and **October 2, 2025**, and in an official email rebuttal on **October 8, 2025**, all before he went on TV on the evening of October 8th and well before he sent the October 6th letter. He further went on to carry out his threat of undermining the district in a Facebook interaction on **October 19, 2025**, in the exact way he said he would in his **September 25th** letter.

Mayor Tate's staff was also fully informed of all facts related to GCISD's finances and operations through an in-person meeting between GCISD and City of Grapevine leadership back on **September 23rd, 2025**, allowing these staff members to be a factual resource for Mayor Tate as well. The Grapevine City Manager himself had the factual data directly emailed to him on **October 1, 2025**, before Mayor Tate's 2nd 1:1 meeting with trustee Kathy Spradley on **October 2, 2025**. The public website was also available prior to all of this on **August 27th, 2025**.

Sequence of Events:

Wednesday,

August 27th, 2025:

- GCISD launched a public website giving all available facts about the Educational Master Planning Committee ("EMPC") and the information it had reviewed. This included a Frequently Asked Questions section (<https://www.gcisd.net/page/education-master-planning-committee>).

Thursday,

September 18th, 2025:

- GCISD Superintendent (Schnautz) & Board President (Braun) met with Mayor Tate and Grapevine City Council member Paul Slechta

Tuesday,

September 23, 2025:

- The Grapevine City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and CFO met with the GCISD Superintendent (Schnautz), CFO, and COO
 - Mayor Tate is the City Manager's boss
 - The President of the GCISD Board of Trustees (Braun) is the Superintendent's boss

Thursday,

September 25th, 2025:

- (2:40 PM): GCISD Board President Braun wrote an email to Mayor Tate to summarize the Sept. 18th meeting

- (3:58 PM): Mayor Tate responded to the GCISD Board President to inform her that he would “undermine” her efforts, describing his technique with her during the meeting as “I tried to offend you and I tried to intimate you to get your attention.” He also stated that he wanted GCISD to be the ones who would have to convince the public that there was no choice but to close Dove Elementary and that GCISD would have to “sell the school closing” on its own.

Wednesday,

October 1st, 2025:

- GCISD Trustee Dalia Begin met 1:1 with Mayor Tate
- GCISD Superintendent emailed key district data to the Grapevine City Manager regarding the district’s operations and finances

Thursday,

October 2nd, 2025:

- GCISD Trustee Kathy Florence Spradley met 1:1 with Mr. Tate

Monday,

October 6th, 2025:

- Mayor Tate sent an official City of Grapevine email to GCISD Board President (Braun) with the incorrect facts regarding GCISD’s finances and operations

Wednesday,

October 8th, 2025:

- The GCISD Superintendent (Schnautz), the Board President (Braun), the CFO, and the COO wrote a response letter to correct the false information

Wednesday,

October 8th, 2025 (~6 PM):

- Mayor Tate went on television (WFAA Channel 8), where he was briefly interviewed and an image of his letter from October 6th was featured, along with an image of his daughter in front of Dove Elementary

Sunday

October 19, 2025 (~9 PM)

- Mayor Tate engaged on a Facebook page called “Colleyville Citizens for Accountability” to carry out his threat of “undermining” GCISD by the exact method that he had described he would in his September 25th email

Mr. Tate's intentional misrepresentations engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, violating Texas Disciplinary Rule 8.04(a)(3):

In Mayor Tate's letter from October 6th to GCISD with the official City of Grapevine letterhead, he knew the information he was giving was false – there is no other conclusion. All of the information was publicly available and he had multiple 1:1 meetings and a group meeting during which the accurate and correct information was provided and explained to him. He also had access to the correct data through the district's website and through his own staff.

Mayor Tate's first intentional misrepresentation is in the opening paragraph of his letter. He claimed that "unused bonds" were paid off and that those bonds "could have been allocated towards expenses such as repairs, equipment, safety, and technology" to ease pressure on the general fund." This is false and Mayor Tate knew it.

GCISD responded to Mayor Tate with the clarification in GCISD's rebuttal letter from October 8th, in the 3rd paragraph, explaining that "the district did not pay off 'unused bonds.' Rather, the district executed a bond refunding (similar to refinancing a mortgage), and this responsible action resulted in taxpayer interest savings of more than \$12 million." This information is objectively verifiable and not subject to interpretation.

When Mayor Tate says that the bonds were "unused," he implies waste/mismanagement on the part of GCISD and ignores legal restrictions in district spending. Mayor Tate's omission of refunding savings deceives on fiscal prudence. He knew this from his 3 prior meetings with GCISD representatives.

Mayor Tate's second, intentional misrepresentation was when he stated that "the reduction of the tax rate apparently cost the District significant dollars, while at the same time, the Board in November 2024, asked the voters to approve the VATRE to deal with the District's financial shortfall. Unlike other districts, the VATRE passed in our District; yet we are still faced with budget problems in GCISD? It doesn't make a lot of sense to already be in this position." (A VATRE is a tax increase that gives money directly to the Maintenance and Operations portion of a district budget.)

GCISD's response letter from October 8th informed Mayor Tate that, while the VATRE did pass, "GCISD's enrollment continued its decline by an additional 222 students, therefore more revenue was lost because the amount of funding GCISD receives is ultimately based on the average daily attendance multiplied by the number of students enrolled." This means that the reduction in the tax rate did not "cost the District significant dollars," as Mayor Tate falsely represented, but rather, because the reduced revenue was tied to lower enrollment. In other words, the decline in students was the cause of the decline in funding.

Mayor Tate had been informed of this, as had the entire GCISD community, through public board meetings, the district's public website, multiple newspaper articles (in local publications like Community Impact), local television broadcasts, personal visits by district officials, and his private meetings directly with GCISD trustees. Lower student enrollment in public schools has been directly and publicly discussed now for years and it is happening state-wide. It is the direct cause of less funding—not tax reductions. Again, this information is objectively verifiable and not subject to interpretation.

Mayor Tate's third intentional misrepresentation was when he stated that the school district "received about \$14 million more this year than last year from the State." This is also factually untrue. As per GCISD's response letter signed by the CFO, the state funding increase is "projected to be approximately \$6.2 million, or approximately 3.1% of total revenue." Mayor Tate's numbers are off by more than \$7 million dollars. Again, this information is objectively verifiable and not subject to interpretation.

Mayor Tate inflated the increase in funding to mislead the public on funding adequacy, even after meeting with GCISD representatives who directly explained the district's finances with hard data. He knowingly promoted false information to sway public opinion – it was propaganda because he is against the potential school consolidations that are being considered by GCISD (especially Dove Elementary where his daughter teaches).

Mayor Tate states his ability to improperly influence a government agency and official, violating Disciplinary Rule 8.04(a)(5):

Mayor Tate's response letter to the GCISD Board President's "recap" email of their September 18th meeting directly states his intention to "undermine" the Board President and the school district's efforts to move forward with school consolidations. In his own email, he states his argument for how he will undermine them (by calling into question the fairness of the district's committee making consolidation recommendations), and then he directly says "This will undermine you throughout." The full quote together is: "I will argue to continue to argue in public is that the citizen committee is unfair and unpalatable to Grapevine residents. This will undermine you throughout" (all grammar mistakes are his).

Mayor Tate carried out his threat of undermining GCISD by the exact method that he had described he would in a Facebook post discussion less than a month later. In that discussion, he stated "You are trying to attack me to distract from the boards [sic] appointment of a planning committee that was grossly unfair to Grapevine." Mayor Tate threatened to undermine GCISD by arguing publicly against the fairness of the planning committee, and then he did exactly that.

In his second paragraph of the same letter, Mayor Tate mentions Dove Elementary specifically, saying “I want the district to be t he one that has to convenience the public that you have no choice but to close Dove” (all grammar, spelling, and spacing errors are his). He is clearly trying to bully GCISD into not closing the specific school where his daughter works. Recall that her image was featured on WFAA Channel 8 just before Mayor Tate’s interview. His motives are clear – he is prioritizing his personal relationship with his daughter over his duties as Mayor and his ethical conduct as an attorney.

In Mayor Tate’s final paragraph of that same letter, he told the GCISD Board President how he treated her during that September 18th meeting, saying “I tried to offend you and I tried to intimidate you to get your attention.” He is directly trying to improperly influence her through bullying tactics unbefitting either an attorney or a Mayor.

Summary:

Lawyers holding public office assume legal responsibilities going beyond those of other citizens. A lawyer’s abuse of public office can suggest an inability to fulfill the professional role of attorney. Mayor Tate is publicly advocating against the actions of GCISD through promoting falsehoods that erode public trust. He is deliberately using his position as Mayor to influence public opinion and get news coverage because he disagrees with the school district. By his own admission in his email directly to the GCISD Board President, Mayor Tate stated his purpose was to “undermine” the district’s efforts publicly, which he has done on both TV orally and on social media in writing.

Even though Mayor Tate was given the facts about GCISD’s finances and operations directly from the district’s Superintendent and Board President, and two other Trustees, and then indirectly through his own staff who met with GCISD’s Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operations Officer, Mayor Tate knowingly and intentionally published factually inaccurate data and went on TV to further highlight his inaccurate data to the public at large.

Multiple material factual errors (e.g., bonds, funding amounts) form a pattern creating a deceptive narrative of GCISD waste or lack of transparency. If Mayor Tate, as an attorney with access to public records (e.g., audits, TEA data, GCISD website, district officials), knew or inferred falsity from circumstances, this constitutes “knowing” misrepresentation and deceit. Mayor Tate’s official letter to GCISD was meant to influence both public and GCISD Board opinion by amplifying suspected harm and falsehoods, which reflects adversely on his trustworthiness.

GCISD stated in its public response that “The sharing of incorrect financial information by city leadership undermines the necessary work being done and erodes public trust.” This is exactly

what Mayor Tate has successfully done – eroded public trust – and he did it intentionally (by his own admission).

As of today, **October 22nd, 2025**, Mayor Tate has made no public response to correct his factual errors or the impropriety of his influence. He is actively in violation of Texas Disciplinary Rule 8.04(a)(3) and Rule 8.04(a)(5).

Please find the following attachments, named by sequence and topic:

- September 25: GCISD's letter recapping the September 18th meeting & Mayor Tate's response
- October 1: September 2025 Priority Report to trustees
- October 1: Tax Rate Adoption Presentation
- October 6: Mayor Tate's letter from Grapevine City Council to GCISD
- October 8: GCISD's response to Mayor Tate from its leadership
- October 8: WFAA Channel 8 interview clip
- October 19: Tate Facebook Undermining Screenshots (4 total)