

www.seadrifttx.org



CITY OF SEADRIFT

Post Office Box 159/501 S. Main St. Seadrift, Texas 77983 Tel: (361) 785-2251 Fax: (361) 785-2208 seadrift@seadrifttx.org



MAYOR ELMER DEFOREST

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR PRO-TEM (ALDERMAN) RAINER BRIGHAM, STREETS & DRAINAGE

ALDERMAN TRACEY JOHNSON, PARKS & RECREATION

ALDERMAN GEOFFREY HUNT, *MUNICIPAL HARBOR*

ALDERMAN ELDON DALE GAINES, SOLID WASTE ALDERMAN KENNETH REESE, *PUBLIC UTILITIES*

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATE PACKET

May 4, 2024

Positions for Election

One (1) Mayor Position Incumbent: Elmer DeForest

Two (2) City Alderman/Council Member Positions Incumbent: Ranier Brigham Incumbent: Eldon Dale Gaines



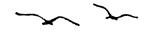
- January 1, 2024 First day to apply for ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) <u>This must be sent to Calhoun Election Clerk's Office</u>
- January 17, 2024 First Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot
- February 16, 2024 Last Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot
- February 23, 2024 Last Day for Ballot Candidate to withdraw from the election
- February 23, 2024 Drawing for Order of Names on Ballot
- April 4, 2024 Last Day to Register to Vote or make a change of address effective for the May 6, 2023, Election
- Early Voting April 22nd April 26th & April 29th April 30th
 - Monday, April 22 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. (First Day of Early Voting)
 - o Tuesday, April 23 7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. (12 Hours)
 - Wednesday, April 24 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 25 7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. (12 Hours)
 - Friday, April 26 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 - Monday, April 29 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, April 30 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. (Last Day of Early Voting)

• MAY 4, 2024 – ELECTION DAY – 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

- May 6, 2024 Last day to receive ballot by mail
 - Saturday, May 4, 2024 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Monday, May 6, 2024 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply)
- May 15, 2024 Canvass Meeting
- May 15, 2023 Elected Officials may qualify and assume duties of office (Officials may not take office until canvass is complete)

For more information go to: www.seadrifttx.org/elections





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January 5, 2024

Dear Prospective Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the City of Seadrift's General Election to be held on May 4, 2024. The City of Seadrift is a Type A General Law Municipality. The City Council consists of a Mayor and five Council Members serving two-year terms. Regular Council Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Qualifications for Office are included in this packet.

One Mayor and two City Council/Alderman positions are up for this election. The terms of office will be from May 2024 – May 2026.

These positions are currently filled by:

Mayor:	Alderman:	Alderman:
Elmer DeForest	Ranier Brigham	Eldon Dale Gaines

Your candidacy entails many obligations. It is the duty of the candidate/officeholder to become familiar with and follow the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to campaigns for office. This packet is provided to assist you. Enclosed you will find the paperwork necessary to apply for a place on the ballot as well as informational guides and tools to assist you with the election process. Title 15 of the Texas Election Code pertains to campaign contributions and expenditures. Financial reports must be completed by the candidate's campaign treasurer (but signed only by the candidate) and filed in my office. The role of the City Secretary's Office is to accept and file the various candidate applications, affidavits, and statements required and note the date of filing thereon. The City Secretary should not be expected to judge or comment upon the timeliness or sufficiency of reports filed but serves only as the custodian of the records for the benefit and convenience of the public.

All applications, affidavits, statements, and campaign reports filed with the City Secretary's office are public information.

The first day you may file an application to be on the ballot is January 17, 2024. After you file the appointment of your Campaign Treasurer (Form CTA) and your application for a place on the ballot, you will need to file the required Texas Ethics Committee paperwork during and after your campaign. The deadline to file an application to be on the ballot is February 16, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. – no exceptions. Correct and complete applications must be received by the City Secretary at this time. Incorrect or incomplete applications that are not correctly amended by 5:00 PM will be ruled invalid.

The following two forms are required when filing for a place on the ballot:

(1) Application for a place on the ballot

- Applications may be filed Monday through Friday beginning January 17, 2024, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. February 16, 2024, at City Hall, 501 South Main St., Seadrift, TX, 77983.
- An oath is included in this application and must be administered by and signed in front of a notary. Both the City Secretary and Court Clerk are notaries and are able to assist you if you need this service.
- Please note that each application must be carefully reviewed to determine whether it complies with the Election Code requirements. Please file your application as soon as practicable to allow sufficient time for this review.
- State law requires the City Secretary to completely review the application no later than the fifth day after the application is received.
- <u>All applications and related forms submitted become public record and are open for public</u> <u>inspection.</u>

(2) Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer By a Candidate (Form CTA)

• State law requires that you file this form when you become a candidate even if you do not intend to accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures.

A copy of the Texas Ethics Commission's Code of Fair Campaign Practices Form CFCP is also included in this packet. This form may be signed and submitted voluntarily; it is not mandatory.

The Ethics Commission has provided the following online video to assist you: www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/video_training.html or you can request a DVD of the training by contacting the Commission Disclosure Filing Division at 512.463.5800.

If you have any questions regarding the forms, instructions, filing schedules, or other filing materials, or if you have any questions about campaign finance laws, you are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State's Office and/or the Texas Ethics Commission as follows:

For the election process and laws: Secretary of State 1.800.252.8683 www.sos.state.tx.us	Campaign Practices, Contribution, and Expenditure Reports: Texas Ethics Commission 1.800.325.8506 www.ethics.state.tx.us	Voter Information: Calhoun County Elections 361.553.4440 www.calhouncoelections.org
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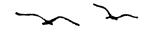
If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Good luck with your campaign!

Sincerely, Gabriela Torres City Secretary

City of Seadrift Office: (361) 785-2251, Ext. 6 Email: <u>g.torres@seadrifttx.org</u>





CITY OF SEADRIFT

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Qualifications for Office

Type A City (Local Gov't Code, Section 22.032)

Mayor

Residence -- 1 year in the state prior to the filing deadline; 1 year in the city prior to Election Day Age -- 18

Fax:

Must be a registered voter in territory elected from by the filing deadline*

(Local Gov't Code, Section 22.032 a.)

(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.

Alderman

Residence -- 1 year in the state prior to filing deadline; 6 months in the city (or ward) prior to filing deadline (Texas Elec. Code, Section 141.001(a); Brown v. Patterson, 609 SW 2nd 287) Age -- 18

Must be a registered voter in territory elected from by the filing deadline*

(Local Gov't Code, Section 22.032 b.)

(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.

* Effective September 1, 2015, House Bill 484 amends Election Code Section 141.001 to provide a new general rule (for most offices) that a candidate must be a registered voter of the territory elected from as of the filing deadline (unless outside law conflicts). Given the effective date, the candidacy portion of the new law was NOT effective for candidates with applications due August 24, 2015, for the November 3, 2015 election (regular filing deadline) or any special election to fill a vacancy ordered before September 1, 2015. However, the new law applied to candidates in a special election ordered on or after September 1, 2015. Thus, candidates in a special election ordered on or after September 1, 2015. Thus, candidates in a special election.

The new law also adds Government Code Section 601.009 to provide a new general rule that office-holders must be registered voters of the area they were elected from as of the time they are sworn in. Given the effective date, the officer-elect portion of the new law will be in effect for new officers elected November 3, 2015. This portion of the law is similar to requirements most general law cities and school districts already have. The new law will also apply to home-rule cities. Under the new law, the officer-elect must be registered to vote by the time of swearing in (qualifying for office).

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR A GENERAL ELECTION FOR A CITY, SCHOOL DISTRICT OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	NTHE					GENEF	RAL ELECTIO	ON BALLOT
TO: City Secretary/Secretary of Board			(name of	election)	. <u></u>			
I request that my name be placed on the	<u>above-</u> n		•	•	e for the office	e indicated be	elow.	
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PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not in you do not have a residence address, describe lo			al Route. If		AILING ADDRE	•••	•	ich you receive
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CITY	STATE	ZIP		СІТҮ			STATE	ZIP
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which you receive campaign related emails, if available.)						NUMBER ² (C	ptional)
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TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Opt	ional)							
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I have been finally convicted of a felor					voar(c)	WHICH TH		
pardoned or otherwise released from		0			year(s)		}	(calls)
disabilities of that felony conviction an					month(s)		r	nonth(s)
proof of this fact with the submission of						the fellowing		
*If using a nickname as part of your name to								
my nickname does not constitute a slogan							-	
been commonly known by this nickname fo					Please review s	ections 52.032	L, 52.032 and 5	2.033 of the Tex
Election Code regarding the rules for how n	iames ma	iy be listed o	n the offici	al ballot.				
Before me, the undersigned authority, on t			peared (nai	me of candi	date)			, who
	n aath ca							
being by me here and now duly sworn, upo	n Oath Sa	iys.						
being by me here and now duly sworn, upo "I, (name of candidate)				_, of			Coun	ty, Texas,
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2-49 Prescribed by Secretary of State Section 141.031, Chapters 143 and 144, Texas Election Code 09/2023

INSTRUCTIONS

An application for a place on the general election for a city, school district or other political subdivision, 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 of the application **must** be completed unless specifically marked optional.

For an election to be held on a uniform election date, the day of the filing deadline is the 78th day before Election Day.

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. When a candidate signs the application, it is an acknowledgment that the candidate is aware 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 the officer, or to any other member of the governing body or court on which the officer 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 an election other than 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.

FOOTNOTES

¹An application for a place on the ballot, including any accompanying petition, is public information immediately on its filing. (Section 141.035, Texas Election Code)

²Inclusion 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. <u>http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml</u>

³Proof of release from the resulting disabilities of a felony conviction would include proof of judicial clemency under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.701, proof of executive pardon under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.01, or proof of a restoration of rights under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.05. (Texas Attorney General Opinion KP-0251) **One of the following documents must be submitted with this application.** Judicial Clemency under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.701 Executive Pardon under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.01 Restoration of Rights under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.05

⁴All 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. See Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code for the complete list of persons authorized to administer oaths.

SOLICITUD DE INSCRIPCIÓN PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA DE UNA ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA UNA CIUDAD, DISTRITO ESCOLAR U OTRA SUBDIVISIÓN POLÍTICA

raia. Secietario(a) (le la Ciudad/ Secretario(a) del	BOLETA DE UNA ELEC			nombro	de la elecciór	.)
	bre se incluya en la boleta ofic		iormente	•			•
· ·	(Incluya cualquier número de ca				_		
o hay.)							MINO INCOMPLETO
NOMBRE COMPLETC) (Primer Nombre, Segundo Nor	nbre, Apellido)	ESCRIBA	SU NOMBRE COM	O DESEA	QUE APAREZO	A EN LA BOLETA*
	DENCIA PERMANENTE (No inclu no tiene una dirección de residenc			ÓN DE CORREO PÚE Idencia relacionada co	-	• • • •	ión en la que recibe la onible.)
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	ONTACTO TELEFÓNICO (Opcion	-			olulari	1	
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No he sido final	mente condenado por un delito	grave.	EN E	L ESTADO DE TEXAS		EN EL TERRITORIO	D/DISTRITO/PRECINTO E EL CARGO BUSCADO
	nte condenado por un delito gra rado de otro modo de las discap	, ,		año(s)			
resultantes de e	sa condena por delito grave y h hecho con la presentación de es	e proporcionado		mes(es)		r	nes(es)
Ante mí, la autoridad a a mi lado aquí y ahora "Yo, (nombre del cand Texas, siendo candida Estados Unidos y del E No se me ha determin incapacitado sin derec	o se pueden incluir los nombres e abajo firmante, en este día aparec debidamente juramentado, bajo idato) to para el cargo de stado de Texas. Soy un ciudadanc ado por un fallo final de una corte cho a voto. Soy consciente de la	ció personalmente (nom juramento dice: o de los Estados Unidos e que ejerce la jurisdicció ley de nepotismo según	, del conc elegible par n testamen el Capítulo	lado de, juro que apoya a ocupar dicho cargo taria que esté totalm	ré y defe según la iente inc	nderé la Constit Constitución y l apacitado menta	ución y las leyes de las leyes de este estad
discapacidades resulta a mi posible estado de	evia de un delito grave y, si he s ntes de dicha condena final por de condena por delito grave constit	elito grave. Soy conscien	te de que p	roporcionar a sabiend	sido indi das infor	mación falsa en l	e de que debo divulg o de otro modo de a solicitud con respec
discapacidades resulta a mi posible estado de	ntes de dicha condena final por de	elito grave. Soy conscien uye un delito menor de	te de que p	roporcionar a sabiend	sido indi das infor	mación falsa en l	e de que debo divulg o de otro modo de la solicitud con respec
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discapacidades resulta a mi posible estado de son, en todos los aspe Jurado y suscrito au Firma del oficial auto Título del oficial auto TO BE COMPLETED CASH CHECK	ntes de dicha condena final por de condena por delito grave constit ctos, verdaderas y correctas." nte mí este día (día) rizado para administrar el juram BY FILING OFFICER: THIS APP MONEY ORDER CASHI \$ filing fee or a non /	elito grave. Soy conscien uye un delito menor de X fl de (mes) nento ⁴ hento LICATION IS ACCOMP ERS CHECK OR PE	te de que p Clase B. Jun RMA DEL (del(PANIED BY TITION IN pag	roporcionar a sabiend ro además que las de CANDIDATO por año) Nombre del oficial en letra de molde Notai	sido indi das infor claracior claracior (no autoriza rial o se LING FE EE. Voto	mación falsa en l nes anteriores i mbre de candid ndo para admin llo oficial E (If Applicable er Registratior	e de que debo divul o de otro modo de a solicitud con respen ncluidas en mi solicit alto) istrar juramentos e) PAID BY:

INSTRUCCIONES

Una solicitud para un lugar en la elección general para una ciudad, distrito escolar u otra subdivisión política, no puede ser presentada antes de los 30 días antes de la fecha límite prescrita por este código para presentar la solicitud. Una solicitud presentada antes de ese día es nula. Todos los campos de la solicitud **deben** completarse a menos que estén específicamente marcados como opcional.

Para una elección que se lleve a cabo en una fecha de elección uniforme, el día de la fecha límite de presentación es el 78 dia antes del día de la elección.

Si tiene preguntas sobre la solicitud, por favor póngase en contacto con la División de Elecciones del Secretario de Estado llamando al 800-252-8683.

LEY DE NEPOTISMO

El candidato debe firmar esta declaración indicando su conocimiento de la ley del nepotismo. Cuando un candidato firma la solicitud, es un reconocimiento de que el candidato conoce la ley del nepotismo. Las prohibiciones de nepotismo del capítulo 573, Código de Gobierno, se resumen a continuación:

Ningún funcionario puede nombrar, votar o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de cualquier persona emparentada dentro del segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o del tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre) con sí mismo, o con cualquier otro miembro del órgano de gobierno o corte en el que se desempeña cuando la compensación de esa persona debe pagarse con fondos públicos o honorarios del cargo. Sin embargo, nada en la ley impide el nombramiento, la votación o la confirmación de cualquier persona que haya estado empleada continuamente en la oficina o el empleo durante el período siguiente 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 es elegido en una elección que no sea la elección general para funcionarios estatales y del condado.

Ningún candidato puede tomar medidas para influir en un empleado del cargo al que aspira a ser elegido o en un empleado o funcionario del organismo gubernamental al que aspira a ser elegido en relación con el nombramiento o el empleo de una persona emparentada con el candidato en un grado prohibido, tal como se ha indicado anteriormente. Esta prohibición no se aplica a las acciones de un candidato con respecto a una clase o categoría de buena fe de empleados o empleados prospectos.

NOTAS

¹Una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta electoral, incluida cualquier petición que la acompañe, es información pública inmediatamente después de su presentación. (Sección 141.035, Código Electoral de Texas)

²La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en Ingles) es opcional. Sin embargo, a muchos candidatos se les exige que estén registrados como votantes en el territorio desde el cual se elige el cargo en el momento de la fecha límite de presentación. Por favor, visite el sitio web de la Division de Elecciones de la Secretaría de Estado para obtener información adicional. http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-fag.shtml

³La prueba de liberación de las discapacidades resultantes de una condena por un delito grave incluiría prueba de clemencia judicial según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 42A.701, prueba de indulto ejecutivo según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de una restauración de derechos según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 48.05. (Opinión de Fiscal General de Texas KP-0251)

Se debe enviar uno de los siguientes documentos con esta solicitud:

Clemencia judicial según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 42A.701

Prueba de indulto ejecutivo según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 48.01

Prueba de una restauración de derechos según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 48.05

⁴Todos lo los juramentos, declaraciones juradas o afirmaciones hechas dentro de este estado pueden ser administrados y un certificado del hecho dado por un juez, secretario(a) o comisionado de cualquier corte de registro, un notario público, un juez de paz, secretario municipal (para una oficina de la ciudad) y el Secretario de Estado de Texas. Consulte el Capítulo 602 del Código del Gobierno de Texas para obtener la lista completa de personas autorizadas a administrar juramentos.

APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

1 Total pages filed: See CTA Instruction Guide for detailed instructions. MS / MRS / MR FIRST MI CANDIDATE **OFFICE USE ONLY** 2 NAME Filer ID # NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX Date Received ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE CANDIDATE 3 MAILING ADDRESS Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION Receipt# Amount \$ CANDIDATE 4 PHONE) (Date Processed 5 OFFICE Date Imaged HELD (if any) OFFICE 6 SOUGHT (if known) MS/MRS/MR FIRST МІ NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX 7 CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME STREET ADDRESS: APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE: ZIP CODE 8 CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (residence or business) AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION 9 CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE) **10** 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. Date Signed Signature of Candidate

GO TO PAGE 2

FORM CTA

CANDIDATE MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION

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 \$1,010 in political contributions or make more than \$1,010 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 Signature of Candidate which declaration applies
	1	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 <u>treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us</u> 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

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.

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 \$500 for the election?

- <u>YES:</u>
 - 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.
 - Pre-election reports are due 30 days and 8 days prior to each election. To be timely filed, preelection reports must be <u>received</u> by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date.
- <u>NO:</u>
 - 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.
- <u>Exceed \$500:</u> If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule but later exceed \$500 in either contributions or expenditures, what reports you will be required to file depends upon when you exceed \$500.
 - If you exceed \$500 prior to 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 <u>received</u> by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date.
 - If you exceed \$500 <u>after</u> the 30th day before the election, you are *required* to file an Exceeded \$500 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 \$500.
 - If you exceed \$500 prior to 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 <u>received</u> by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date.

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). See the "Ending Your Campaign" FAQ at *www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/EndingYourCampaign.pdf* for more information.

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 at *www.ethics.state.tx.us/File/* 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, get it notarized, and file it with the city clerk or city secretary by the appropriate deadline.

6. Need More Information?

TEC has published a campaign finance guide for local candidates and officeholders located at *www.ethics.state.tx.us/guides/coh_local_guide.pdf*. Also, you can visit our website at *www.ethics.state.tx.us* to find forms, instructions, common reporting errors (under "Hot Topics"), political advertising and fundraising guides, and other information you may find useful.



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

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION OF THE FILING SCHEDULE CHART

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

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

<u>COLUMN III: BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</u> - 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.**)

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

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

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

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE MAY 4, 2024, UNIFORM ELECTION

Thursday,	30th day before the May 4, 2024,	January 1, 2024, <u>or</u>	March 25, 2024
April 4, 2024	uniform election		
		the date of campaign treasurer	
NOTE: This report	[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates	appointment, <u>or</u>	
must be <u>received</u> by	who have an opponent on the ballot		
the appropriate filing	in the May 4 election and who do	the day after the date the last	
authority no later	not file on the modified reporting	report ended.	
than April 4, 2024.	schedule)		
	[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that		
	are involved in the May 4 election)		
	[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do		
	not file on the modified reporting		
	schedule and that supported or		
	opposed an opposed candidate or a		
	measure in the May 4 election)		
-	ittee must file pre-election reports if the co		U
reporting period. A politi	cal committee must file an 8-day pre-ele	ection report if the committee file	d a 30-day pre-election

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

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

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

DUE DATE

<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)

COLUMN III

BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED

COLUMN IV ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, UNIFORM ELECTION

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

this schedule.

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

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Pursuant to chapter 258 of the Election Code, every candidate and Date Received						
Pursuant to chapter 258 of political committee is enco Campaign Practices. The C authority upon submission form. Candidates or poli current campaign treasurer 1997, may subscribe to the <i>Subscription to the Code o</i>	Date Received Date Hand-delivered or R Date Processed Date Imaged	Postmarked				
1 ACCOUNT NUMBER	2 TYPE OF FIL	ER		_		
(Ethics Commission Filers)	CANDIDATE		PO	LITICAL COMM	ITTEE	
	If filing as a cand then read and sig	idate, complete boxes n page 2.		ing for a political cor es 7 and 8, then read	· · ·	
3 NAME OF CANDIDATE	TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)	FIRST		МІ		
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)						
	NICKNAME	LAST		SUFFIX (SR., J	R., III, etc.)	
4 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CANDIDATE	AREA CODE	PHONE NU	MBER	EXTENSION		
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	()					
5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE	STREET / PO BOX;	APT / SUITE #;	CITY;	STATE;	ZIP CODE	
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)						
6 OFFICE SOUGHT BY CANDIDATE						
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)						
7 NAME OF COMMITTEE						
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)						
8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN	TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)	FIRST		MI		
TREASURER (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)						
	NICKNAME	LAST		SUFFIX (SR., J	к., III, ӨІС.)	
	GO 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 untrammeled 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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity	FORM CIQ
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. <i>See</i> Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.	
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.	
1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.	
2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law re completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th busines you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)	s day after the date on which
3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.	
Name of Officer	
 4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government offi officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship wit Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attac CIQ as necessary. A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or I 	h the local government officer. h additional pages to this Form
other than investment income, from the vendor?	
Yes No	
B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable local governmental entity?	
Yes No	
 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 m other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an o ownership interest of one percent or more. 	
6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.0	
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	Date

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/ Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

(A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;

(B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or

(C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

 $(\bar{\textbf{i}})$ a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

- (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
- (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

	VERNMENT OFFICER RE STATEMENT (Instructions for completing and filing to		FORM CIS
This questionnaire re	eflects changes made to the law by H.B.	. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY
This is the notice to the appropriate local governmental entity that the following local government officer has become aware of facts that require the officer to file this statement in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code.			Date Received
¹ Name of Local G	overnment Officer		
2 Office Held			
3 Name of vendor described by Sections 176.001(7) and 176.003(a), Local Government Code			
4 Description of the nature and extent of each employment or other business relationship and each family relationship with vendor named in item 3.			
5 List gifts accepted by the local government officer and any family member, if aggregate value of the gifts accepted from vendor named in item 3 exceeds \$100 during the 12-month period described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B).			
Date Gift Accept	ed Description of G	ift	
Date Gift Accept	ed Description of G	ift	
Date Gift Accepte	ed Description of Gift		
(attach additional forms as necessary)			
6 SIGNATURE I swear under penalty of perjury that the above statement is true and correct. I acknowledge that the disclosure applies to each family member (as defined by Section 176.001(2), Local Government Code) of this local government officer. I also acknowledge that this statement covers the 12-month period described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code.			
Signature of Local Government Officer			
Please complete either option below:			
(1) Affidavit			
NOTARY STAMP/SE	EAL		
Sworn to and subscribe	ed before me by	this the	day of,
20, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.			
Signature of officer admini	stering oath Printed name of of	fficer administering oath	Title of officer administering oath
OR (2) Unsworn Declaration			
My name is		, and my date of birth is	
			,,
	(street)		e) (zip code) (country)
Executed in	County, State of	, on the day of (month)	, 20 (year)
		Signature of Local Gover	mment Officer (Declarant)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Section 176.003 of the Local Government Code requires certain local government officers to file this form. A "local government officer" is defined as a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity; a director, superintendent, administrator, president, or other person designated as the executive officer of a local governmental entity; or an agent of a local governmental entity who exercises discretion in the planning, recommending, selecting, or contracting of a vendor. This form is required to be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of this statement.

A local government officer commits an offense if the officer knowingly violates Section 176.003, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

Refer to chapter 176 of the Local Government Code for detailed information regarding the requirement to file this form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

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

1. Name of Local Government Officer. Enter the name of the local government officer filing this statement.

2. Office Held. Enter the name of the office held by the local government officer filing this statement.

3. Name of vendor described by Sections 176.001(7) and 176.003(a), Local Government Code. Enter the name of the vendor described by Section 176.001(7), Local Government Code, if the vendor: a) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A), Local Government Code; b) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code; or c) has a family relationship with the local government officer as defined by Section 176.001(2-a), Local Government Code.

4. Description of the nature and extent of each employment or other business relationship and each family relationship with vendor named in item 3. Describe the nature and extent of the employment or other business relationship the vendor has with the local government officer or a family member of the officer as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A), Local Government Code, and each family relationship the vendor has with the local government officer as defined by Section 176.001(2-a), Local Government Code.

5. List gifts accepted, if the aggregate value of the gifts accepted from vendor named in item 3 exceeds \$100. List gifts accepted during the 12-month period (described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), Local Government Code) by the local government officer or family member of the officer from the vendor named in item 3 that in the aggregate exceed \$100 in value.

6. Signature. Signature of local government officer. Complete this section after you finish the rest of this report. You have the option to either: (1) take the completed form to a notary public where you will sign above the first line that says "Signature of Local Government Officer" (an electronic signature is not acceptable) and your signature will be notarized, or (2) sign above both lines that say "Signature of Local Government Officer" (an electronic signature of Local Government)" (an electronic signature is not acceptable), and fill out the unsworn declaration section.

Local Government Code § 176.001(2-a): "Family relationship" means a relationship between a person and another person within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity, as those terms are defined by Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING What You Need to Know



The Texas Election Code 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 <u>Chapter 255 of the Election Code</u>, which is distinct from political reporting requirements under <u>Chapter 254 of the Election Code</u>.

Texas Ethics Commission P.O. Box 12070 Austin, Texas 78711-2070

(512) 463-5800

TDD (800) 735-2989

Visit us at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

Revised July 16, 2019

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 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. Wis. Right to Life, Inc., 551 U.S. 449 (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 is audio only and 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;
- 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.)
- postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the person posting or re-posting is not an officeholder, candidate, or political committee and did not make an expenditure exceeding \$100 in a reporting period for political advertising beyond the basic cost of hardware messaging software and bandwidth;
- 7. an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder, if the webpage clearly and conspicuously displays the full name of the candidate or officeholder; and
- 8. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the advertising is posted with a link to a publicly viewable Internet webpage that either contains the disclosure statement or is an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder that clearly and conspicuously displays the candidate's or officeholder's full name.

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 <u>Fair Campaign Practices Act</u> 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 Notice to Political Subdivisions and School Districts.

You may not use public funds or resources for political advertising. Please see our "Publications and Guides" section of our website for more information.

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 259.001 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 or your homeowner's association. The Texas Ethics Commission does not have

jurisdiction over matters involving the location of signs, and the length of time that they may be posted.

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

A non-incumbent may not be allowed to use the following verbiage:

Elect John Doe Attorney General John Doe 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 current officeholders may use the state seal in political advertising.

V. Criminal Offenses.

Be aware that many violations of the Election Code are criminal offenses. For example, unlawfully using public funds for political advertising can be a Class A misdemeanor. So can misrepresenting one's identity or office title in political advertising. For more details on these offenses and political advertising in general, see <u>Chapter 255 of the Election Code</u>.