

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711-2070
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Randall H. Erben, Chair
Chris Flood, Vice Chair
Sean Gorman
Patrick W. Mizell

Geanie W. Morrison
Richard S. Schmidt
Joseph O. Slovacek
Mark Strama

MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Location: Room E1.014, Capitol Extension, Austin, Texas

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO VIEW AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE
BROADCAST OF THIS MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE ON THE
DAY OF THE MEETING HERE:**

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/meetings/meetings_2025-2029.php#2025

1. Call to order; roll call.
2. Discussion regarding dates for future quarterly Commission meeting.
3. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
 - o Executive Session – December 3, 2024; and
 - o Public Agenda – December 3, 2024.

RULEMAKING

Rule Adoption

4. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of rules and policies related to referrals to prosecuting attorneys. Chapter 13, Title 1, Texas Administrative Code.
5. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 8 of the TEC Rules, related to Advisory Opinions.
6. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(17), relating to the principal purpose of a political committee.

For more information, contact J.R. Johnson, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

Rule Publication

7. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 10 of the TEC Rules, related to Ethics Training Programs.
8. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 16 of the TEC Rules, related to Facial Compliance Reviews and Audits.
9. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 28 of the TEC Rules, related to Reports by a Candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives.
10. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 18, related to the process to request a waiver or reduction for a civil penalty imposed for a late report and civil penalties imposed for making a substantial correction to 8-day pre-election reports.
11. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 12, related to sworn complaint procedures including default orders, proposed settlements before a preliminary review hearing, and discovery during a preliminary review or before a formal hearing.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

12. Advisory Opinion Request No. 703: Whether a particular communication is political advertising, as defined by Section 251.001(16) of the Election Code.

This opinion construes Section 251.001 of the Election Code and Subchapter D of Chapter 571 of the Government Code.
13. Advisory Opinion Request No. 709: Whether a member of the Texas House of Representatives may accept office space contributed by a Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Whether a member of the Texas House of Representatives may continue to use contributed office space for a district office through the moratorium on political contributions prescribed by Section 253.034 of the Election Code.

This opinion construes Sections 251.001(5) and 253.034 of Tex. Elec. Code.
14. AOR-719: Whether a state judge may use political contributions to travel to an event hosted by the United States Navy.

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This opinion construes Section 253.035 of the Election Code.

15. Advisory Opinion Request No. 720: Whether the use of a corporate aircraft may be provided to members of the legislature to attend an event at which the legislators will address an audience and learn about issues facing the West Texas border region.

This opinion construes Chapter 36 of the Penal Code and Chapter 305 of the Government Code.

16. Advisory Opinion Request No. 721: At what moment does a particular permitting or enforcement matter come within the "official responsibility" of a TCEQ commissioner for purposes of the Section 572.054(b) revolving door prohibition?

Does a TCEQ commissioner "participate" in all matters for which a TCEQ investigation was conducted or an application/registration was received before the commissioner left office or only those matters that were presented to the commissioners for consideration?

This opinion construes Section 572.054(b) of the Government Code.

17. Advisory Opinion Request No. 722: Whether a part-time legislative staff member may accept outside employment assisting a registered lobbyist.

This opinion construes Chapters 36 and 39 of the Penal Code and Chapter 572 of the Government Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE WAIVER OF FINES, TREASURER TERMINATIONS AND REPORTS MORE THAN 30 DAYS LATE

18. Discussion and possible action on appeals of determinations made under 1 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 18.11, 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine, for the following filers:

Staff Recommendation: Waiver

- A. Duarte, Hilda (00086352)
- B. Raasch, Wayne (00066256)
- C. Smithee, John (00020664)

Staff Recommendation: Reduction

- D. Cox, Greg (87296)
- E. Gonzalez, Victoria (00086502)
- F. Litton, Todd C. (00088030)
- G. Lopez, Jose Aguilar (00057957)
- H. McFarland, Omar (00088158)

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- I. Purnell, Clinton D. (00084030)

Staff Recommendation: No Further Reduction or Waiver

- J. Denson, Jane, Campaign Treasurer, Northeast Travis County Democrats (00056769)
 - K. Hebron, Duni, Campaign Treasurer, Black Women of Greater Houston PAC (00084977)
19. Discussion and possible action regarding the termination of a campaign treasurer appointment for the following inactive candidates and political committees:

Candidates

1. Betancourt, Johnny J. (00084361)
2. Brazeal, Brian (00087943)
3. Feuerstein, Joshua (00088353)
4. Gilani, Sohrab (00086428)
5. Hale, Eric J. (00088261)
6. Howell, Benjamin C. (00088247)
7. Martin, Luther Wayne, III (00088362)
8. Martinez, Jacinto (00084552)

Political Committees

9. 2023 Solidarity Convention PAC, Brian J. Talbot, Jr., Treasurer (00087075)
10. Brownsville Police Officers Association PAC, Juan G. Arellano, Treasurer (00016112)
11. Concerned Citizens Against Proposition A, Dana Burkett, Treasurer (00088001)
12. El Paso Community Power, Miguel Escoto, Treasurer (00088215)
13. Freedom and Liberty Conservatives PAC, Maureen Ball, Treasurer (00082537)
14. Friends of Good Government, Steve Klein, Treasurer (00085831)
15. Good Government Fort Worth, Travis Q. Parmer, Treasurer (00083564)
16. Harris Forward, Michael A. Kolenc, Treasurer (00087069)
17. Homeowner-Taxpayer Association of Bexar County, Inc. Political Action Committee, Janet Ahmad, Treasurer (00017147)
18. Houston Business-Education Coalition PAC, Adrian Patterson, Treasurer (00065928)
19. Law Enforcement Community Partnership, Nancy Morales, Treasurer (00087855)
20. Lone Star Improvement Fund, Taylor J. Major, Treasurer (00086875)
21. Northwest Family First, Nicole J. Donatelli, Treasurer (00087350)
22. Panhandle First, Kimberly Snelgrooes, Treasurer (00087989)
23. Six Pac, Irasema Gonzalez, Treasurer (00082766)
24. South San Community PAC, George Castillo, Jr., Treasurer (00080766)
25. Taking Back TX, Aubree Campbell, Treasurer (00088139)
26. Texas Alliance Oil and Gas PAC, Jo Ann Baker, Treasurer (00058143)

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27. United Patriots PAC, Anthony Carpenter, Treasurer (00083796)
28. Vote NO, Aquilla ISD, Amy Hedtke, Treasurer (00088154)
29. Vote Yes for the SISD Bond, Michael Zweschper, Treasurer (00088022)

OTHER MATTERS

20. Briefing and discussion of legislation in the 2025 legislative session, including status of Ethics Commission legislative recommendations, the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission, and discussion and possible action regarding improvements to the Commission's electronic filing software.
21. Discussion and possible appointment of a Nominating Committee of Commissioners for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Texas Ethics Commission
22. Discussion and possible action related to planned renovations to the Sam Houston Building.
23. Adjourn.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable Texas Register filing requirements. Certifying Official & Agency Liaison: J.R. Johnson, Executive Director.

NOTICE: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, an individual with a disability must have an equal opportunity for effective communication and participation in public meetings. Upon request, the Texas Ethics Commission will provide auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired, readers, and large print or Braille documents. In determining the type of auxiliary aid or service, the Commission will give primary consideration to the individual's request. Those requesting auxiliary aids or services should notify Margie Castellanos at (512) 463-5800 or RELAY Texas at (800) 735-2989 two days before this meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please also contact Ms. Castellanos if you need assistance in having English translated into Spanish.