

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711-2070
(512) 463-5800

Chris Flood, Chair
Patrick W. Mizell, Vice Chair
Randall H. Erben
Sean Gorman

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

MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time:	9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2026
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#2029

1. Call to order; roll call.

Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys; Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Sections 571.139, .140, Government Code, confidential sworn complaint matters, Closed Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING LITIGATION AND TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

2. Cause No. 25-0679, *Christopher D. Paddie, Sr. v. Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the 71st Judicial District Court, Harrison County, Texas.
 3. Case No. 4:23-cv-00808-P, *Institute for Free Speech, a nonprofit corporation and public interest law firm, vs. James Tinley in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.
 4. Cause No. 2023-DCL-01478, *Valleywide Pharmacy and DMI, Inc., vs. Texas Ethics Commission, by and through its Executive Director, J.R. Johnson, in his official capacity*, in the 445th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.
 5. Civil Action 1:24-CV-500, *LIA Network v. James Tinley in his official capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, et al.*, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.
 6. Cause No. 2024-DCL-03953, *Ruben Cortez, Jr. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 404th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas.
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For more information, contact James Tinley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

7. Discussion of contemplated litigation and to seek legal advice regarding the collection of imposed penalties.

OTHER MATTERS

8. Discussion and possible action related to personnel matters.
9. Confidential sworn complaint matters under Section 571.139 of the Government Code.
10. Reconvene in open session.
11. Recess or continue to “Agenda 2” noticed for the same time and place as this agenda.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable Texas Register filing requirements. Certifying Official & Agency Liaison: James Tinley, 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.

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1. Call to order; roll call.
2. Discussion regarding dates for the next quarterly Commission meeting.
3. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
 - o Executive Session – May 13, 2026; and
 - o Public Agenda – May 13, 2026.

RULEMAKING

Rule Adoption

4. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 16 of the TEC rules, related to facial compliance.
 5. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 18 of the TEC rules, related to adjustments to reporting thresholds.
 6. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding minor amendments to Chapter 20 of the TEC rules, related to Reporting Political Contributions and Expenditures.
 7. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 12 of the TEC rules, related to Informal
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For more information, contact James Tinley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

Notice of Alleged Violation.

Rule Publication

8. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 18 of the TEC rules, related to corrected, amended, or late reports.
9. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 46 of the TEC rules, related to the disclosure of interested parties.
10. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 50 of the TEC Rules, related to Legislative Per Diem.
11. Discussion and possible action regarding TEC's comprehensive review of its rules.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

12. Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-751: Whether communications and appearances while representing an intervening party during judicial review of an agency order constitute prohibited communications to or appearances before the agency's officers or employees by a former member of the governing body of the agency.

This opinion construes Section 572.054 of the Government Code.

13. Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-752: Whether the TEC may impose a civil penalty pursuant to Section 572.033 of the Government Code for a late personal financial statement (PFS) if the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) did not send the filer a notice to file as required by Section 572.030 of the Government Code.

This opinion construes Section 572.030 and 572.033 of the Government Code.

14. Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-753: Whether the requestor's legislative training materials require a legislative advertising disclosure statement.

Whether the requestor's planned business activities require her register as a lobbyist.

This opinion construes Chapter 305 of the Government Code.

15. Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-754: Whether contributions given to fund an individual voter's legal expenses are political contributions requiring reporting by either the individual or the specific purpose committee that the individual remains an active campaign treasurer for.

Whether the requestor has any Title 15 campaign-finance obligations for the contributions received and spent for their individual election contest litigation.

For more information, contact James Tinley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

This opinion construes Chapter 251 of the Election Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE WAIVER OF FINES AND TREASURER TERMINATIONS

16. 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 civil penalty to an untimely filed report, for the following filers:

Staff Recommendation: Waiver

- A. Adams, Patricia H., Campaign Treasurer, BracewellPAC (00015721)
- B. Crisp, Kelley (00090544)
- C. De León, Lorraine (00090467)
- D. Farrow, John, Campaign Treasurer, Bartlett Cocke General Contractors Political Action Committee (00066192)
- E. Gregory, Gabriel W. (00086184)
- F. Hall, III Robert L. (00067980)
- G. Mann, Arthur T. (00082890)
- H. Medrano, Dolores, Campaign Treasurer, Webb County Republican Party (CEC) (00028311)
- I. Mullin, Etta J. (00088322)
- J. Patterson, Alyssa J. (00090267)
- K. Satterwhite, Kimberly, Chairwoman, Congressional District 18 Democrats PAC (00088861)
- L. Sherrard, Dennis M. (00085733)
- M. Smith, Rhett (00057521)
- N. Wolf, Ondrea, Campaign Treasurer, El Paso County Republican Party (00058513)

Staff Recommendation: Reduction

- O. Aboud, Michael, Candidate for El Paso County Chair (00090621)
- P. Aboud, Michael, Chairman, El Paso County Republican Party (P) (00023906)
- Q. Boyda, Mira, Campaign Treasurer, Texas Land Developers Association PAC (00059607)
- R. Mozley, Farish (00087210)

Staff Recommendation: No Further Reduction or Waiver

- S. Alvarado, James F. (00090345)
- T. Christ, Kristin, Former Campaign Treasurer, Magnolia Republican Club (00085879)
- U. Fowler, Susan R., Campaign Treasurer, Texas Motion Picture Alliance PAC (00063437)
- V. Jones, Bill (00033614)

For more information, contact James Tinley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

- W. Lewis, Vernon, Campaign Treasurer, Houston Black American Democrats Political Action Committee (00027567)
- X. Mizani, Armin (00080883)
- Y. Sjoberg, Stephanie (00090518)

17. Discussion and possible action regarding the termination of a campaign treasurer appointment for the following inactive individuals and political committees:

Individuals

- 1. Adriatico, Nelvin Joseph (00085994)
- 2. Baird, Addie (000188407)
- 3. Balbuena, Jose Navarro (00089589)
- 4. Bar-Sela, Yannai A. (00088308)
- 5. Brown, Denise (00085725)
- 6. Crain, Darryl W. (00088348)
- 7. Gonzalez, Teresa Ramirez (00088424)
- 8. Hildner, Jonathan (00086414)
- 9. Isaac, Jason A. (00066236)
- 10. Jackson, Brenton K. (00089658)
- 11. Merugumala, Praveen D. (00088381)
- 12. Milliron, Nathan J. (00085829)
- 13. Ritchie, Mark H. (00088240)
- 14. Robnett, Leslie K. (00088164)
- 15. Surman III, Daniel G. (00086327)
- 16. Taylor, Fred G. (00088411)
- 17. Valerio, Bianca (00088102)
- 18. Washington, Kristen C.R. (00087741)
- 19. Worrick, Latricia (00089723)

Political Committees

- 1. Brown, Blake, Campaign Treasurer, Pflugerville Firefighters Political Action Committee (00057991)
- 2. McFeron, Sally, Campaign Treasurer, Better Together Project (00084878)

OTHER MATTERS

- 18. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Texas Ethics Commission.
- 19. Briefing and discussion of actions taken or in-progress to implement move of Texas Ethics Commission from Sam Houston Building to Barbara Jordan Building.
- 20. Discussion regarding contracts that are subject to enhanced contract monitoring.

21. Discussion and possible action regarding subcommittee report on TEC's legislative appropriations request and recommendations for statutory change.
22. 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: James Tinley, Executive Director.

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The draft meeting minutes will be available
on our website the day before the meeting, at
<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/DraftMinutes>.

If you would like a copy of the draft minutes, please
provide your email address below, and return this sheet to
Ethics Commission staff at the meeting.

Email address:

1 **EXHIBIT 4-A**

2 **Text of Proposed Rules**

3 The proposed language is indicated by underlined text.
4 The deleted language is indicated by strikethrough text.

5 **Chapter 16. FACIAL COMPLIANCE REVIEWS AND AUDITS.**

6 **§16.1. Definitions.**

7 The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings,
8 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

9 (1) Deficiency—An error, omission, inaccuracy, or violation of a law or rule administered
10 and enforced by the Commission~~[commission]~~ that is apparent on the face of a statement
11 or report filed with the Commission~~[commission]~~

12 (2) Compliance review report—A report sent to a filer detailing deficiencies in a report
13 that is the subject of a facial compliance review.

14 (3) Facial compliance review—A review conducted under §~~[section]~~ 571.069 of the
15 Government Code of the information disclosed on a report, randomly selected in
16 accordance with §16.2 of this chapter (relating to Random Selection), filed with the
17 Commission~~[commission]~~ for facial completeness, accuracy, reliability, and compliance
18 with the law.

19 (4) Report—A personal financial statement, lobby registration, lobby activities report, or
20 campaign finance report filed with the Commission~~[commission]~~.

21 **§16.2. Random Selection.**

22 The report subject to a facial compliance review must be randomly selected from a list of all
23 reports filed by a particular filer type for a specific filing deadline.

24 **§16.3. Corrected or Amended Report Filed During a Facial Compliance Review; Late**
25 **Fines.**

26 (a) A correction filed for the report that is subject to the facial compliance review will not be
27 subject to a late fine if:

28 (1) The correction is filed not later than the 30th day after the date the filer receives the
29 compliance review report;

30 (2) The corrected information complies with the law; and

31 (3) The original report was filed in good faith and without an intent to mislead or
32 misrepresent the information contained in the report.

33 (b) A late fine will not be assessed for corrections filed to correct reporting errors made in any
34 report filed prior to the report that is subject to the facial compliance review if:

- (1) The filer learned of the errors through the facial compliance review;
 - (2) The correction is filed not later than the 30th day after the date the filer receives the compliance review report;
 - (3) The corrections comply with the law; and
 - (4) The original report was filed in good faith and without an intent to mislead or misrepresent the information contained in the report.
- (c) A correction filed in accordance with this section will not be considered a prior late offense for purposes of determining the waiver or reduction of a fine under chapter 18 of this title (relating to General Rules Concerning Reports).

§16.4. Additional Documents and Information Submitted in Response to a Facial Compliance Review; Timeliness.

- (a) The Commission~~[commission]~~ may request from a filer documentation and other information used by the filer to compile a report that is subject to a facial compliance review.
- (b) Documentation and other information requested by the Commission~~[commission]~~ is timely submitted if received by the Commission~~[commission]~~ not later than the 30th day after the date the filer receives the request for additional documentation.

§16.5. Commission Initiated Preliminary Review or Audit Resulting from a Facial Compliance Review.

- (a) The Commission~~[commission]~~ may initiate a preliminary review as authorized by §571.124 of the Government Code or perform a complete audit of a report that is subject to a facial compliance review under §571.069 of the Government Code if:

- (1) a correction is not resubmitted to the Commission~~[commission]~~ in accordance with §16.3 of this title (relating to Corrected or Amended Report Filed During a Facial Compliance Review; Late Fines)~~[16.2]~~;
- (2) documentation or other information requested by the Commission~~[commission]~~ during a facial compliance review is not submitted to the Commission~~[commission]~~ in accordance with §16.4 of this title (relating to Additional Documents and Information Submitted in Response to a Facial Compliance Review; Timeliness)~~[16.3]~~; or
- (3) the Commission~~[commission]~~ has determined by a vote of at least six Commission~~[commission]~~ members that the correction filed in response to a compliance review report, does not comply with the law.

§16.6. Notice of Audit of Report.

The Commission~~[commission]~~ shall notify a filer that the Commission~~[commission]~~ will perform a complete audit of a report that is the subject of a facial compliance review not later than the seventh day after the date the Commission~~[commission]~~ votes to initiate the audit.

1 **§16.7. Supporting Documentation in Response to Audit; Timeliness.**

2 (a) A filer must submit to the Commission~~[commission]~~, upon request and where applicable,
3 supporting documentation in the possession, custody, or control of the filer or filer's agents that
4 contains information necessary for filing the report that is subject to the audit, such as:

- 5 (1) bank statements;
- 6 (2) cancelled checks;
- 7 (3) receipts;
- 8 (4) credit card statements;
- 9 (5) invoices;
- 10 (6) loan documents;
- 11 (7) books or ledgers;
- 12 (8) employee timesheets and payroll records;
- 13 (9) certificates of formation or other business documents; and
- 14 (10) real property records.

15 (b) A filer must submit to the Commission~~[commission]~~ the supporting documentation in
16 response to an audit not later than the 30th calendar~~[business]~~ day from the date the filer receives
17 notice of the audit.

18 **§16.8. Complete Audit Report.**

19 (a) Commission staff must complete a draft audit report not later than the 30th day after the
20 Commission~~[commission]~~ receives from the filer the documentation requested under §16.7 of
21 this chapter (relating to supporting Documentation in Response to Audit; Timeliness) ~~[16.6]~~.

22 (b) The filer must have an opportunity to confer and object in writing to any findings in the draft
23 audit report before it is submitted to the Commission~~[commission]~~ for approval.

24 (c) Commission staff must consider the filer's objections before submitting the draft audit report
25 to the Commission~~[commission]~~ for approval.

26 (d) Upon approval of an audit, the Commission~~[commission]~~ shall send to the filer a final audit
27 report that includes:

- 28 (1) a notification that the Commission~~[commission]~~ has determined the report that was
29 subject to the audit complies with the law; or
- 30 (2) required corrective actions that the filer must take to cure any deficiency found in the
31 report that is subject to the audit.

(e) A filer must correct or amend a report to correct all deficiencies identified in a complete audit report not later than the 30th day from the date the filer receives the complete audit report.

§16.9. Representation by Attorney.

(a) A filer has the right to be represented by an attorney retained by the filer during a facial compliance review or an audit initiated by the Commission~~[commission]~~ as a result of a facial compliance review.

(b) A letter of representation must be submitted to the Commission~~[commission]~~ if the filer is represented by an attorney.

§16.10. Extension of Deadlines.

The executive director may extend all deadlines related to this chapter except as provided by §571.069(a) of the Government Code (relating to when a corrected or amended report is considered filed as of the date the report was originally filed).

§16.11. Waiver of Delivery by Certified Mail.

A filer may waive the right under §571.032 of the Government Code to receive written notices related to a facial compliance review or audit by registered or certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested, and may agree to receive written notices by first class mail, electronic mail, or other means.

§16.12. Facial Review of Total Amount of Political Contributions Maintained.

(a) In this section "expected total political contributions maintained" for a report subject to review is the total amount of political contributions maintained disclosed on the previous report and all monetary political contributions, loans, and credits, less all expenditures from political contributions disclosed on the report that is subject to review, excluding the purchase of investments that can be readily converted to cash.

(b) When there is a difference greater than the threshold set by §20.50(c) of this title (relating to Total Political Contributions Maintained) between the total amount of political contributions maintained disclosed in a report and the expected total political contributions maintained, the Commission~~[commission]~~ may request from the filer the bank statement showing the balance as of the last day of the reporting period for each account in which political contributions are maintained.

~~[(c) Producing the requested bank statements that show the total amount of political contributions was accurately reported in the report that is subject to review is sufficient to end the review of the total amount of political contributions maintained as disclosed in the report.]~~

EXHIBIT 5-A

Text of Proposed Rule Amendments

The proposed language is indicated by underlined text.
The deleted language is indicated by strikethrough text.

CHAPTER 18. GENERAL RULES CONCERNING REPORTS

§18.31. Adjustments to Reporting Thresholds.

(a) Pursuant to section 571.064 of the Government Code, the reporting thresholds are adjusted as follows:

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
253.031(b)	PAC: Amount of contributions or expenditures permitted before TA is required	\$500	<u>\$1,140</u> ~~[\$1,110]~~
253.031(d)(2)	CEC: Amount of contributions or expenditures permitted before TA is required	\$25,000	<u>\$42,570</u> ~~[\$41,460]~~
253.032(a)	Contribution by Out-of-state PAC: Threshold above which certain paperwork is required	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> ~~[\$1,140]~~
253.032(a)(1)	Contribution to Out-of-state PAC: Threshold above which certain contribution information is required	\$100	\$230
253.032(e)	Contribution by Out-of-state PAC: Threshold at or below which certain information is required	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> ~~[\$1,140]~~
254.031(a)(1)	Contributions: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.031(a)(2)	Loans: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.031(a)(3)	Expenditures: Threshold over which more information is required	\$100	\$230
254.031(a)(5)	Contributions: Threshold at or below which more information is not required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.031(a)(5)	Expenditures: Threshold at or below which more information is not required	\$100	\$230
254.031(a)(9)	Interest, credits, refunds: Threshold over which more information is required	\$100	<u>\$150</u> ~~[\$140]~~
254.031(a)(10)	Sale of political assets: Threshold over which proceeds must be reported	\$100	<u>\$150</u> ~~[\$140]~~
254.031(a)(11)	Investment Gain: Threshold over which more information is required	\$100	<u>\$150</u> ~~[\$140]~~

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
254.031(a)(12)	Contribution Gain: Threshold over which more information is required	\$100	<u>\$150</u> ~~[\$140]~~
254.0311(b)(1)	Caucus, contributions from non-caucus members: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.0311(b)(2)	Caucus, loans: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.0311(b)(3)	Caucus, expenditures: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.0311(b)(4)	Caucus, contributions and expenditures: Threshold at or below which more information is not required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.0312	Contributions, Best Efforts: Threshold under which filer is not required to request contributor information to be in compliance	\$500	<u>\$900</u> ~~[\$870]~~
254.036	Electronic Filing Exemption: Threshold at or below which a filer may qualify	\$20,000	<u>\$35,830</u> ~~[\$34,890]~~
254.038(a)	Daily Reports by certain candidates and PACs: Contribution threshold triggering report	\$1,000	<u>\$2,350</u> ~~[\$2,290]~~
254.039	Daily Reports by GPACs: Contribution threshold triggering report	\$5,000	<u>\$8,030</u> ~~[\$7,820]~~
254.039	Daily reports by GPACs: DCE expenditure thresholds (single candidate/group of candidates)	\$1,000/\$15,000	<u>\$2,350/\$35,250</u> ~~[\$2,290/\$34,330]~~
254.0611(a)(2)	Judicial candidates, contributions: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.0611(a)(3)	Judicial candidates, asset purchase: Threshold over which more information is required	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> ~~[\$1,140]~~
254.0612	Statewide executive and legislative candidates, contributions: Threshold over which more information is required	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> ~~[\$1,140]~~
254.095	Local officeholders, contributions: Threshold under which reporting is not required	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> ~~[\$1,140]~~
254.151(6)	GPAC, contributions: Threshold over which more information is required	\$50	<u>\$120</u> ~~[\$110]~~
254.1541(a)	GPAC, higher itemization threshold: Threshold under which it applies	\$20,000	<u>\$34,060</u> ~~[\$33,170]~~

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
254.1541(b)	GPACs that meet higher itemization threshold: Threshold over which more contributor information is required	\$100	\$230
254.156(1)	MPAC: Threshold over which contribution, lender and expenditure information is required	\$10	\$20
254.156(2)	MPACs that meet higher itemization threshold: Threshold over which more contributor information is required	\$20	\$50
254.181, 254.182, 254.183	Candidate or SPACs, modified reporting: Contribution or expenditure threshold at or below which filers may avoid pre-election reports	\$500	<u>\$1,170</u> [~~\$1,140~~]
254.261	DCE filers: Threshold over which a report must be filed	\$100	\$170

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Lobby Registrations and Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
305.003(1)	Lobbyist, expenditures: Threshold over which registration is required	\$500, by 1 Tex. Admin. Code §34.41	<u>\$1,020</u> [~~\$990~~]
305.003(2)	Lobbyist, compensation: Threshold over which registration is required	\$1,000, by 1 Tex. Admin. Code §34.43	<u>\$2,040</u> [~~\$1,990~~]
305.004(7)	Lobbying for political party: Threshold at or below which registration is not required	\$5,000	<u>\$11,750</u> [~~\$11,440~~]
305.005(g)(2)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$10,000	<u>Less than \$23,500</u> [~~Less than \$22,890~~]
305.005(g)(3)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$25,000	<u>\$23,500 to less than \$58,750</u> [~~\$22,890 to less than \$57,220~~]
305.005(g)(4)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$50,000	<u>\$58,750 to less than \$117,500</u> [~~\$57,220 to less than \$114,430~~]
305.005(g)(5)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$100,000	<u>\$117,500 to less than \$234,990</u> [~~\$114,430 to less than \$228,870~~]
305.005(g)(6)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$150,000	<u>\$234,990 to less than \$352,490</u> [~~\$228,770 to less than \$343,300~~]

Lobby Registrations and Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
305.005(g)(7)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$200,000	<u>\$352,490 to less than \$469,980</u> [~~\$343,300 to less than \$457,730~~]
305.005(g)(8)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$250,000	<u>\$469,780 to less than \$587,480</u> [~~\$457,730 to less than \$572,160~~]
305.005(g)(9)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$300,000	<u>\$587,480 to less than \$704,980</u> [~~\$572,160 to less than \$686,600~~]
305.005(g)(10)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$350,000	<u>\$704,980 to less than \$822,470</u> [~~\$686,600 to less than \$801,030~~]
305.005(g)(11)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$400,000	<u>\$822,470 to less than \$939,970</u> [~~\$801,030 to less than \$915,460~~]
305.005(g)(12)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$450,000	<u>\$939,970 to less than \$1,057,460</u> [~~\$915,460 to less than \$1,029,890~~]
305.005(g)(13)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$500,000	<u>\$1,057,460 to less than \$1,174,960</u> [~~\$1,029,890 to less than \$1,144,330~~]
305.005(g-1)	Lobbyist: Compensation threshold	\$500,000	<u>\$1,174,960 or more</u> [~~\$1,144,330 or more~~]
305.0061(c)	Lobbyist, legislative/executive branch member: Threshold over which gifts, awards and mementos must be disclosed	\$50	<u>\$120</u> [~~\$110~~]
305.0061(e-1)	Lobbyist, food and beverage: threshold at or below which it is considered a gift and reported as such	\$50	<u>\$120</u> [~~\$110~~]
305.0063	Lobbyist, annual filer: expenditure threshold at or below which filer may file annually	\$1,000	<u>\$2,350</u> [~~\$2,290~~]

1

Personal Financial Statements: Section of Gov't Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
572.022(a)(1)	PFS threshold	less than \$5,000	less than <u>\$11,750</u> [~~\$11,440~~]
572.022(a)(2)	PFS threshold	\$5,000 to less than \$10,000	<u>\$11,750</u> [~~\$11,440~~] to less than <u>\$23,500</u> [~~\$22,890~~]

Personal Financial Statements: Section of Gov't Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
572.022(a)(3)	PFS threshold	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000	~~\$23,500~~ [~~\$22,890~~] to less than ~~\$58,750~~ [~~\$57,220~~]
572.022(a)(4)	PFS threshold	\$25,000 or more	~~\$58,750~~ [~~\$57,220~~] or more
572.005, 572.023(b)(1)	PFS, retainer: Threshold over which filer with a substantial interest in a business entity must report more information	\$25,000	~~\$58,750~~ [~~\$57,220~~]
572.023(b)(4)	PFS, interest, dividends, royalties and rents: Threshold over which information must be reported	\$500	~~\$1,170~~ [~~\$1,140~~]
572.023(b)(5)	PFS, loans: Threshold over which information must be reported	\$1,000	~~\$2,350~~ [~~\$2,290~~]
572.023(b)(7)	PFS, gifts: Threshold over which information must be reported	\$250	~~\$590~~ [~~\$570~~]
572.023(b)(8)	PFS, income from trust: Threshold over which information must be reported	\$500	~~\$1,170~~ [~~\$1,140~~]
572.023(b)(15)	PFS, government contracts: Threshold of aggregate over which more information must be reported	Exceeds \$10,000	Exceeds ~~\$12,990~~ [~~\$12,560~~]
572.023(b)(15)(A)	PFS, government contracts: Itemization threshold	\$2,500 or more	~~\$3,220~~ [~~\$3,140~~] or more
572.023(b)(16)(D)(i)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to legislator: Threshold	less than \$5,000	less than ~~\$6,450~~ [~~\$6,280~~]
572.023(b)(16)(D)(ii)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to legislator: Threshold	at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000	at least ~~\$6,450~~ [~~\$6,280~~] but less than ~~\$12,990~~ [~~\$12,560~~]
572.023(b)(16)(D)(iii)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to legislator: Threshold	at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000	at least ~~\$12,990~~ [~~\$12,560~~] but less than ~~\$32,250~~ [~~\$31,410~~]
572.023(b)(16)(D)(iv)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to legislator: Threshold	\$25,000 or more	~~\$32,250~~ [~~\$1,4120~~] or more
572.023(b)(16)(E)(i)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to individual's firm: Threshold	less than \$5,000	less than ~~\$6,450~~ [~~\$6,280~~]
572.023(b)(16)(E)(ii)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to individual's firm: Threshold	at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000	at least ~~\$6,450~~ [~~\$6,280~~] but less than ~~\$12,990~~ [~~\$12,560~~]
572.023(b)(16)(E)(iii)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to individual's firm: Threshold	at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000	at least ~~\$12,990~~ [~~\$12,560~~] but less than ~~\$32,250~~ [~~\$31,410~~]
572.023(b)(16)(E)(iv)	PFS, bond counsel fees paid to individual's firm: Threshold	\$25,000 or more	~~\$32,250~~ [~~\$1,4120~~] or more

Speaker Election and Certain Ceremonial Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Type	Current Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
302.014(4)	Speaker: Expenditures over which more information must be reported	\$10	\$20
303.005(a)(1) – (10)	Governor for a Day/Speaker’s Day: Threshold over which more information must be reported	\$50	<u>\$120</u> [~~\$110~~]

1 Figure 4: No change.

2 Figure 5: No change.

3 (b) The changes made by this rule apply only to conduct occurring on or after the effective date
4 of this rule.

5 (c) The effective date of this rule is January 1, 2027[~~2026~~].

6 (d) In this section:

7 (1) “CEC” means county executive committee;

8 (2) “DCE” means direct campaign expenditure-only filer;

9 (3) “GPAC” means general-purpose political committee;

10 (4) “MPAC” means monthly-filing general-purpose political committee;

11 (5) “PAC” means political committee;

12 (6) “PFS” means personal financial statement;

13 (7) “SPAC” means specific-purpose political committee; and

14 (8) “TA” means treasurer appointment.

EXHIBIT 6-A

Text of Proposed Rule

The proposed language is indicated by underlined text.

The deleted language is indicated by strikethrough text.

CHAPTER 20. REPORTING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Subchapter B. GENERAL REPORTING RULES

§20.50. Total Political Contributions Maintained.

(a) For purposes of Election Code §254.031(a)(8) and §254.0611(a)(1), the total amount of political contributions maintained in one or more accounts includes the following:

(1) The balance on deposit in banks, savings and loan institutions and other depository institutions;

(2) The present value of any investments that can be readily converted to cash, such as certificates of deposit, money market accounts, stocks, bonds, treasury bills, etc.; and

(3) The balance of political contributions accepted and held in any online fundraising account over which the filer can exercise control by making a withdrawal, expenditure, or transfer.

(b) For purposes of Election Code §254.031(a)(8) and §254.0611(a)(1), the total amount of political contributions maintained includes personal funds that the filer intends to use for political expenditures only if the funds have been deposited in an account in which political contributions are held as permitted by Election Code §253.0351(c).

(c) For purposes of Election Code §254.031(a-1), the difference between the total amount of political contributions maintained that is disclosed in a report and the correct amount is a de minimis error if the difference does not exceed \$2,500.[:

~~(1) \$7,500; or~~

~~(2) the lesser of 10% of the amount disclosed or \$20,000.]~~

Subchapter C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

§20.211. Reporting Pledges.

Each report must include for each person from whom the candidate accepted a pledge or pledges to provide more than the threshold amount in money or goods or services worth more than the threshold amount:

(1) the full name of the person making the pledge;

(2) the address of the person making the pledge;

(3) the amount of each pledge;

- (4) the date each pledge was accepted;~~and~~
- (5) a description of any goods or services pledged; and
- (6) the total of all pledges accepted during the period for the threshold amount and less from a person.

§20.213. Reporting Loans.

Each report must include:

- (a) ~~Each report must include~~ for each person making a loan or loans to the candidate for campaign purposes if the total amount loaned by the person during the reporting period is more than the threshold amount:

- (1) the full name of the person or financial institution making the loan;
- (2) the address of the person or financial institution making the loan;
- (3) the amount of the loan;
- (4) the date of the loan;
- (5) the interest rate;
- (6) the maturity date;
- (7) the collateral for the loan, if any; and
- (8) if the loan has guarantors:
 - (A) the full name of each guarantor;
 - (B) the address of each guarantor;
 - (C) the principal occupation of each guarantor;
 - (D) the name of the employer of each guarantor; and
 - (E) the amount guaranteed by each guarantor.

- (b) the total amount of loans accepted during the period for the threshold amount and less from persons other than financial institutions engaged in the business of making loans for more than one year, except for a loan reported under paragraph (a) of this section.

§20.220. Additional Disclosure for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

- (a) For purposes of this section and §2155.003(e) of the Government Code, the term “vendor” means:

- (1) a person who, during the comptroller’s term of office, bids on or receives a contract under the comptroller’s purchasing authority that was transferred to the comptroller by §2151.004 of the Government Code; and

(2) an employee or agent of a person described by paragraph (a)(1) of this section who communicates directly with the chief clerk, or an employee of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts who exercises discretion in connection with the vendor's bid or contract, about a bid or contract.

(b) Each report filed by the comptroller or a specific-purpose committee created to support the comptroller, shall include:

(1) for each vendor whose aggregate campaign contributions equal or exceed the threshold amount during the reporting period, a notation that:

(A) the contributor was a vendor during the reporting period or during the 12-month period preceding the last day covered by the report; and

(B) if the vendor is an individual, includes the name of the entity that employs or that is represented by the individual; and

(2) for each political committee directly established, administered, or controlled by a vendor whose aggregate campaign contributions equal or exceed the threshold amount~~[\$610]~~ during the reporting period, a notation that the contributor was a political committee directly established, administered, or controlled by a vendor during the reporting period or during the 12-month period preceding the last day covered by the report.

§20.223. Form and Contents of Special Pre-Election Report.

(a) A special pre-election report shall be filed electronically as required by §254.036, Election Code, unless the report is exempt from electronic filing. A special pre-election report that is exempt from electronic filing under §254.036(c), Election Code, is not required to be on a form prescribed by the Commission.

(b) In this section~~[subsection]~~ “filer” means the candidate, general-purpose committee, or specific-purpose committee filing the report.

(c) A special pre-election report shall include the following information:

(1) the name of the filer;

(2) either:

(A) the office sought by the filer; or

(B) the full name of the campaign treasurer;

(3) the name of the person making the contribution or contributions that triggered the requirement to file a special pre-election report;

(4) the address of the person making the contribution or contributions;

(5) the amount of each contribution;

(6) the date each contribution was accepted; and

1 (7) a description of any in-kind contribution.

2 (d) A general-purpose committee making direct campaign expenditures must also include:

3 (1) the full name and address of the person or persons to whom each direct campaign
4 expenditure is made;

5 (2) the date of each direct campaign expenditure;

6 (3) a description of the goods or services for which each direct campaign expenditure was
7 made; and

8 (4) the identification of the candidates or group of candidates benefiting from the direct
9 campaign expenditure.

10 **§20.227. Contents of Special Session Report.**

11 A special session report shall include the following information:

12 (1) the filer's name;

13 (2) the filer's address;

14 (3) either:

15 (A) the office sought by the filer; or

16 (B) the full name of the campaign treasurer;

17 (4) if the filer is a specific-purpose committee:

18 (A) for each candidate supported or opposed by the specific-purpose committee:

19 (i) the full name of the candidate;

20 (ii) the office sought by the candidate; and

21 (iii) an indication of whether the committee supports or opposes the
22 candidate;

23 (B) for each officeholder supported or opposed by the committee:

24 (i) the full name of the officeholder;

25 (ii) the office held by the officeholder; and

26 (iii) an indication of whether the committee supports or opposes the
27 officeholder;

28 (5) the date each contribution was accepted;

29 (6) the full name of each person making a contribution;

30 (7) the address of each person making a contribution;

- (8) the amount of each contribution accepted during the reporting period;
- (9) a description of any in-kind contribution accepted during the reporting period; and
- (10) an affidavit, executed by the candidate, stating: “I swear, or affirm, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.”

§20.235. Contents of Annual Report.

In addition to the information required by §254.202 of the Election Code, an annual report of unexpended contributions shall include the following information:

(1) for each payment made by the candidate from unexpended political contributions, unexpended interest or other income earned from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income earned from political contributions during the previous year:

(A) the full name of each person to whom a payment was made;

(B) the address of each person to whom a payment was made;

(C) the date of each payment;

(D) the nature of the goods or services for which the payment was made; and

(E) the amount of each payment.[:]

(2) the full name of each person to whom a payment from unexpended political contributions, unexpended interest or other income earned from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income earned from political contributions was made.

Subchapter E. REPORTS BY A GENERAL-PURPOSE OR SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE

§20.343. Contents of Dissolution Report.

A dissolution report must contain:

(1) the information described in §254.121 of the Election Code; and

(2) the following sworn statement, signed by the ~~specific-purpose~~ committee’s campaign treasurer, and properly notarized: “I, the undersigned campaign treasurer, do not expect the occurrence of any further reportable activity by this political ~~[specific-purpose]~~ committee for this or any other campaign or election for which reporting under the Election Code is required. I declare that all of the information required to be reported by me has been reported. I understand that designating a report as a dissolution report terminates the appointment of campaign treasurer. I further understand that a political ~~[specific-purpose]~~ committee may not make or authorize political expenditures or accept political contributions without having an appointment of campaign treasurer on file.”

**Subchapter I. REPORTS BY A CANDIDATE OR A COMMITTEE SUPPORTING OR
OPPOSING A CANDIDATE FOR STATE OR COUNTY PARTY CHAIR**

§20.577. Reporting Schedule for a Candidate for State Chair.

(a) A filer is required to file only the reports listed in this section and is not required to file any other reports required by candidates for public office under Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements).

(b) A filer is required to file semiannual reports as provided by this subsection.

(1) One semiannual report is due no earlier than July 1 and no later than July 15.

(A) The period covered by a report under this paragraph begins on the later of the following dates, as applicable:

(i) January 1;

(ii) the first day after the period covered by the last report required by this subchapter; or

(iii) the day the state chair's campaign treasurer appointment was filed, if this is the first report filed under this subchapter.

(B) The period covered by the report under this paragraph ends on June 30.

(2) One semiannual report is due no earlier than January 1 and no later than January 15.

(A) The period covered by a report under this paragraph begins on the later of the following dates, as applicable:

(i) July 1;

(ii) the first day after the period covered by the last report required by this subchapter; or

(iii) the day the state chair's campaign treasurer appointment was filed, if this is the first report filed under this subchapter.

(B) The period covered by the report under this paragraph ends on December 31.

(3) One pre-election report not earlier than the 39th day before the convening of the state convention and not later than the 30th day before the convening of the state convention. The report shall cover the period that begins on either the day the filer filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Commission or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed, as applicable, and ends on the 40th day before the convening.

(4) One pre-election report not earlier than the ninth day before the convening of the state convention and not later than the eighth day before the convening of the state convention. The report must cover the period that begins on either the day ~~after~~ the filer filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Commission or the first day after the period

covered by the last report required to be filed, as applicable, and ends on the 10th day before the convening.

§20.579. Candidates and Committees Supporting or Opposing Candidates for County Chair in Certain Counties.

(a) In addition to the semiannual reports due to be filed with the Commission by January 15 and July 15 under §20.577(b) of this chapter (relating to Reporting Schedule for a Candidate for State Chair), a candidate for county chair covered by this section who has an opponent whose name appears on the ballot in an election, or a committee supporting or opposing a candidate for county chair, shall file the following two reports with the Commission for each primary election except as provided by subsection (d).

(1) The first report shall be filed not later than the 30th day before primary election day. The report covers the period beginning the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before primary election day.

(2) The second report shall be filed not later than the eighth day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the 39th day before primary election day and continuing through the 10th day before primary election day.

(b) A candidate who has declared the intention to file reports in accordance with §20.205 of this chapter (relating to Modified Reporting) and who remains eligible to file under the modified schedule is not required to file special pre-election reports.

(c) In addition to other required reports, a filer covered by this section who is in a runoff election shall file one report with the Commission for the runoff election. The runoff election report shall be filed not later than the eighth day before runoff election day. The report covers the period beginning the ninth day before primary election day and continuing through the tenth day before runoff election day.

(d) Except as provided by §254.036(c) of the Election Code, each report filed with the Commission under this section must be filed by electronic transfer, using computer software provided by the Commission or computer software that meets Commission specifications for a standard file format.

1 **EXHIBIT 7-A**

2 **Text of Proposed Rule**

3 The proposed language is indicated by underlined text.

4 **Chapter 12. Sworn Complaints**

5 **Subchapter G. Other Enforcement Actions**

6 **§12.100. Informal Notice of Apparent Violation.**

7 (a) Beginning the 60th day before an election and running until election day, if the Commission is
8 notified of an apparent violation of a law or rule administered and enforced by the Commission,
9 the executive director may notify the person responsible for the apparent violation and encourage
10 the person to file a corrected report or otherwise remedy the apparent violation.

11 (b) The executive director shall report to the commission at its next regular meeting the notices
12 provided by the executive director under this section since its last regular meeting.

13 (c) Discussions between commissioners and Commission staff and documents gathered related to
14 the report under subsection (b) of this section are confidential under Section 12.15 of this chapter
15 (relating to Commission Initiated Complaint) and Sections 571.139 and 571.140 of the
16 Government Code.

1 **EXHIBIT 8-A**

2 **CHAPTER 18. GENERAL RULES CONCERNING REPORTS**

3 The proposed language is indicated by underlined text.

4 The deleted language is indicated by strikethrough text.

5 **§18.9. Corrected/Amended Reports.**

6 (a) A filer may correct/amend a report filed with the commission or a local filing authority at any
7 time.

8 (b) A corrected/amended report must clearly identify how the corrected/amended report is
9 different from the report being corrected/amended.

10 (c) A filer who files a corrected/amended report must submit an affidavit identifying the
11 information that was corrected/amended.

12 (d) A corrected/amended report filed with the commission after the original report is due is subject
13 to a late fine as provided by §18.13 of this title (relating to Fine for a Late Report).

14 (e) Subsection (d) does not apply to:

15 (1) a lobby registration or report, other than an activities report, that is corrected/amended
16 not later than the 14th business day after the date the filer became aware of the errors or
17 omissions in the original registration or report;

18 (2) a semiannual report that is corrected/amended before the eighth day after the original
19 report was filed;

20 (3) a semiannual report that is corrected/amended on or after the eighth day after the original
21 report was filed if:

22 (A) the correction/amendment is made before a sworn complaint is filed with regard
23 to the subject of the correction/amendment; and

24 (B) the original report was made in good faith and without an intent to mislead or
25 misrepresent the information contained in the report;

26 (4) an 8-day P[p]re-election report that is corrected/amended in accordance with §18.10 of
27 this title (relating to Guidelines for Substantial Compliance for a Corrected/Amended
28 8-day Pre-election r[~~R~~]eport);

29 (5) a report other than an 8-day P[p]re-election report that is corrected/amended not later
30 than the 14th business day after the date the filer learns the report as originally filed is
31 inaccurate or incomplete if:

32 (A) the errors or omissions were made in good faith; and

33 (B) the filer files an affidavit stating that the errors or omissions in the original report
34 were made in good faith.

(f) In this section, “8-day P[re-election report” has the same meaning assigned by §18.10(d)(e)] of this title.

(g) Except as provided by subsections (b) and (c), this section does not apply to a civil penalty assessed through the sworn complaint or facial compliance review process.

EXHIBIT 8-B

§18.13. Fine for a Late Report.

(a) Except as provided by subsection (b) or (c) of this section, the fine is \$500 for:

(1) a late report required to be filed with the commission under Election Code chapter 254 or 257, Government Code chapter 305, or Government Code chapter 572; or

(2) a late report filed with the commission under Local Government Code chapter 159, subchapter C.

(b) The fine for a report due eight days before an election is \$500 for the first day the report is late and \$100 for each day thereafter that the report is late, up to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

(c) The fine for the first semiannual report under Section 254.063[, 254.123,] or 254.153, Election Code, that is required to be filed by a candidate or political committee following the primary or general election is \$500 for the first day the report is late and \$100 for each day thereafter that the report is late, up to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

(d) A fine assessed under this chapter is in addition to any other sanction assessed under other law.

1 **EXHIBIT 9-A**

2 **Text of Proposed Rules**

3 The proposed language is indicated by underlined text

4 The deleted language is indicated by strikethrough text.

5 **CHAPTER 46. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES**

6 **§46.1. Application.**

7 (a) This chapter applies to §2252.908 of the Government Code.

8 ~~[(b) Section 2252.908 of the Government Code applies only to a contract of a governmental~~
9 ~~entity or state agency entered into \~~

10 ~~after December 31, 2015, that meets either of the following conditions:~~

11 ~~(1) the contract requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency;~~
12 ~~or~~

13 ~~(2) The value of the contract is at least \$1 million.]~~

14 ~~[(c)](b)~~ A contract does not require an action or vote by the governing body of a governmental
15 entity or state agency if:

16 (1) The governing body has legal authority to delegate to its staff the authority to execute
17 the contract;

18 (2) The governing body has delegated to its staff the authority to execute the contract; and

19 (3) The governing body does not participate in the selection of the business entity with
20 which the contract is entered into.

21 **§46.3. Definitions.**

22 (a) “Contract” means a contract between a governmental entity or state agency and a business
23 entity at the time it is voted on by the governing body or at the time it binds the governmental
24 entity or state agency, whichever is earlier, and includes an amended, extended, or renewed
25 contract.

26 (b) “Business entity” includes an entity through which business is conducted with a governmental
27 entity or state agency, regardless of whether the entity is a for-profit or nonprofit entity. The term
28 does not include a governmental entity or state agency.

29 (c) “Controlling interest” means:

30 (1) an ownership interest or participating interest in a business entity by virtue of units,
31 percentage, shares, stock, or otherwise that exceeds 10 percent;

32 (2) membership on the board of directors or other governing body of a business entity of
33 which the board or other governing body is composed of not more than 10 members; or

(3) service as an officer of a business entity that has four or fewer officers, or service as one of the four officers most highly compensated by a business entity that has more than four officers. This paragraph does not apply to an officer of a publicly held business entity or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

(d) "Interested party" means:

(1) a person who has a controlling interest in a business entity with whom a governmental entity or state agency contracts; or

(2) an intermediary.

(e) "Intermediary," for purposes of this rule, means, a person who actively participates in the facilitation of the contract or negotiating the contract, including a broker, adviser, attorney, or representative of or agent for the business entity who:

(1) receives compensation from the business entity for the person's participation;

(2) communicates directly with the governmental entity or state agency on behalf of the business entity regarding the contract; and

(3) is not an employee of the business entity or of an entity with a controlling interest in the business entity.

(f) "Signed" includes any symbol executed or adopted by a person with present intention to authenticate a writing, including an electronic signature.

(g) "Value" of a contract is based on the amount of consideration received or to be received by the business entity from the governmental entity or state agency under the contract.

§46.4. Changes to Contracts.

(a) Section 2252.908 of the Government Code does not apply to a change made to an existing contract, including an amendment, change order, or extension of a contract, except as provided by subsections (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) Section 2252.908 of the Government Code applies to a change made to an existing contract, including an amendment, change order, or extension of a contract, if a disclosure of interested parties form was not filed for the existing contract; and either:

(1) the changed contract requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency; or

(2) the value of the changed contract is at least \$1 million.

(c) Section 2252.908 of the Government Code applies to a change made to an existing contract, including an amendment, change order, or extension of a contract, if the business entity submitted a disclosure of interested parties form to the governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the existing contract; and either:

(1) there is a change to the disclosure of interested parties; or

(2) the changed contract requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency; or

(3) the value of the changed contract is at least \$1 million greater than the value of the existing contract.

§46.5. Disclosure of Interested Parties Form.

(a) A disclosure of interested parties form required by §2252.908 of the Government Code must be filed on an electronic form prescribed by the Commission. ~~[commission that contains the following:~~

~~(1) The name of the business entity filing the form and the city, state, and country of the business entity's place of business;~~

~~(2) The name of the governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed;~~

~~(3) The name of each interested party and the city, state, and country of the place of business of each interested party;~~

~~(4) The identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract for which the form is being filed and a short description of the services, goods, or other property used by the governmental entity or state agency provided under the contract; and~~

~~(5) An indication of whether each interested party has a controlling interest in the business entity, is an intermediary in the contract for which the disclosure is being filed, or both.]~~

(b) The certification of filing and the completed disclosure of interested parties form generated by the Commission's~~[commission's]~~ electronic filing application must be printed, signed by an authorized agency of the contracting business entity, and submitted to the governmental entity or state agency that is the party to the contract for which the form is being filed.

(c) A governmental entity or state agency that receives a completed disclosure of interested parties form and certification of filing shall notify the Commission~~[commission]~~, in an electronic format prescribed by the Commission~~[commission]~~, of the receipt of those documents not later than the 30th day after the date the governmental entity or state agency receives the disclosure.

(d) The commission shall make each disclosure of interested parties form filed with the Commission~~[commission]~~ under §2252.908(f) of the Government Code available to the public on the Commission~~[commission]~~ Internet website not later than the seventh business day after the date the Commission~~[commission]~~ receives the notice required under subsection (c) of this section.

1 **EXHIBIT 10-A**

2 **Text of Proposed Amendment**

3 The proposed new language is indicated by underlined text.

4 The deleted text is indicated by [~~striketrough~~] text.

5 **CHAPTER 50. LEGISLATIVE SALARIES AND PER DIEM**

6 **§ 50.1. Legislative Per Diem**

7 (a) The legislative per diem is \$290.40 [~~\$221~~]. The per diem is intended to be paid to each
8 member of the legislature and the lieutenant governor for each day during the regular
9 session and for each day during any special session.

10 (b) If necessary, this rule shall be applied retroactively to ensure payment of the \$290.40
11 [~~\$221~~] per diem for 2027 [~~2021~~].



Daily lodging rates (excluding taxes) | October 2026 - September 2027

Cities not appearing below may be located within a county for which rates are listed. To determine the county a destination is located in, visit the [Census Geocoder](#).

Filter results...

Primary destination ⓘ	County ⓘ	2026 Oct	Nov	Dec	2027 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Austin	Travis	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184	\$184

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries



Meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) rates and breakdown

The M&IE total is the full daily amount for a single calendar day when that day is neither the first nor last day of travel. The amount received on the first and last day of travel equals 75% of the M&IE total. See [M&IE breakdowns](#) for information related to the individual meal amounts.

Filter results...

Primary destination ⓘ	County ⓘ	M&IE total	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidental expenses	First and last day of travel
Austin	Travis	\$80	\$20	\$22	\$33	\$5	\$60.00

ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. xxx

[Date]

ISSUE

Whether communications and appearances while representing an intervening party during judicial review of an agency order constitute prohibited communications to or appearances before the agency's officers or employees by a former member of the governing body of the agency. (AOR-751)

SUMMARY

Representing an intervening party in judicial review proceedings necessarily requires communication with TCEQ personnel despite directing all advocacy to the reviewing court. Because the requestor's communications and representations before a court are with the intent to influence and are in connection to a matter on which the represented party and the TCEQ seek official action, the requestor's representation of an intervening party before the two-year communication prohibition would violate Section 572.054(a).

FACTS

Requestor is a former commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Requestor seeks to represent an intervenor party in state district court and appellate courts on judicial review of final TCEQ actions, including its permitting decisions, and further seeks to influence a court's decision.

Requestor states that when TCEQ is served with a petition for judicial review, the agency refers the matter to the Texas Attorney General's Office (OAG) to defend agency actions. Requestor asserts that the representation would involve communicating with OAG attorneys and appearing before the court without any need to communicate with TCEQ officers or employees. Requestor further contends that because TCEQ is an OAG client, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct bar direct communication with TCEQ. *See* Tex. Disciplinary Rules Prof'l Conduct R. 4.02, *reprinted in* Tex. Gov't Code Ann., tit. 2, subtit. G, App. A-1. 4.02. Requestor also notes that judicial review is conducted on a closed record and that all advocacy is directed to the reviewing court, which serves as the ultimate decision-maker, not TCEQ.

ANALYSIS

Requestor is subject to Tex. Gov't Code § 572.054(a).

For the purposes of the request, this advisory opinion assumes the requestor, as a commissioner for TCEQ, did not participate in the matter being litigated.

STAFF DRAFT. NOT FINAL UNLESS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

Under Section 572.054(a), the requestor, a former TCEQ commissioner, is prohibited from making any communication to or appearing before TCEQ officers and employees before the second anniversary of the date the requestor ceased to be a commissioner for TCEQ if the communication is made (1) with the intent to influence; and (2) on behalf of any person in connection with any matter on which the person seeks official action. Tex. Gov't Code § 572.054(a)(1–2).

In this instance, the requestor expects to communicate only with OAG and not with TCEQ personnel. In addition, requestor acknowledges that Rule 4.02(a) prohibits communication between the requestor and TCEQ personnel unless the requestor has the consent of the other lawyer or is legally authorized to do so. Tex. Disciplinary Rules Prof'l Conduct R. 4.02(a). However, limiting communications to the lawyers representing the TCEQ does not insulate the requestor from the two-year restriction.

An attorney fundamentally acts as an agent for the client. *See Link v. Wabash R.R.*, 370 U.S. 626, 633-34 (1962); *The Lawyer as Agent*, 67 Fordham Law Review 301 at 302 (“the lawyer-client relationship is a commonsensical illustration of agency.”). The lawyers representing the TCEQ act on its behalf. As an agent of the TCEQ, communications to its lawyers are indistinguishable from communications to its employees or officers for purposes of Section 574.054(a).

Regardless, even though here, the court, not the TCEQ, is the ultimate decision maker on the matter, TCEQ officers or employees could be present before the court in which the requestor communicates and advocates to. *Cf.* Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 637 (2022). Although the requestor does not seek to communicate with TCEQ officers or employees, the requestor's communications to the court would be with the intent to influence and on behalf of another in connection with the matter in which TCEQ seeks official action. Any motion, or brief, submitted as an intervenor would inherently be intended to be persuasive and may require TCEQ to alter their own arguments to address the requestor's assertions or settle the matter in favor of the requestor's client. As such, any communication or appearances in this manner made before the statutory two-year revolving door period would violate Section 572.054(a).

Therefore, a former TCEQ commissioner's communications to and appearances while representing an intervening party before a court for judicial review of final TCEQ actions constitute prohibited communications or appearances under Section 572.054(a).

ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. xxx

[Date]

ISSUE

Whether the TEC may impose a civil penalty pursuant to Section 572.033 of the Government Code for a late personal financial statement (PFS) if the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) did not send the filer a notice to file as required by Section 572.030 of the Government Code? (AOR-752)

SUMMARY

The TEC must impose a civil penalty pursuant to Section 572.033 of the Government Code for a late PFS even if it did not send the filer a notice to file as required by Section 572.030 of the Government Code.

FACTS

The TEC assumes the following facts for the purpose of this opinion. The requestor was required to file a PFS under Chapter 572 of the Government Code as a state officer. The TEC did not send the requestor notice of his filing requirement prior to the filing deadline. The requestor did not timely file his PFS, which would subject him to a civil penalty under Section 572.033 of the Government Code.

ANALYSIS

Under Section 572.021 of the Government Code, state officers are required to file a PFS with the TEC. The filing deadline for a state officer's PFS is dependent on the category of state officer at issue and whether the report is the first PFS filed by the individual. Tex. Gov't Code § 572.026. For example, some deadlines go by the date of appointment or the date an individual assumes the duties of the position, while other state officers must file by April 30th. *Id.* Based on these deadlines the TEC is required to send a state officer a notice to file within a specified time frame prior to the filing deadline. *Id.* § 572.030(c). The notices shall state in pertinent part, that the individual is required to file a PFS, the filing date, and how the individual may obtain the PFS form. *Id.* § 572.030(b). If the state officer does not timely file the required PFS, he is subject to a \$500 civil penalty as well as a criminal penalty. *Id.* §§ 572.033(b), 572.034;¹ 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.13(a)(1).

Based on this legal framework, the requestor asks whether the TEC may impose a civil penalty for a late PFS if the TEC did not provide the state officer the notice required under Section 572.030. Although sending the notice to file is a requirement placed on the TEC, the statute imposing the civil

¹ This penalty may increase if the PFS is filed more than 30 days late and the penalty is not timely paid. Tex. Gov't Code § 572.033(b); 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.15. Failure to timely file a PFS is also a Class B misdemeanor. *Id.* § 572.034.

STAFF DRAFT. NOT FINAL UNLESS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

penalty does not provide a penalty exception based on lack of notice. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 572.033. Rather, the imposition of the penalty is based solely on whether the PFS was filed in compliance with the deadlines set forth in Section 572.026. *Id.* § 572.033. Therefore, the TEC must impose a civil penalty on a state officer for a late PFS even if no notice to file was provided.² This position is further supported by the fact that Section 572.034 provides a state officer with a defense to a criminal penalty based on a late PFS if he did not receive copies of the PFS form if the filer requested the form. Chapter 572 provides no defense for the TEC's failure to provide notice. Had the legislature intended the similar defense be applied to the imposition of a civil penalty, it would have added that language to the civil penalty statute.

It is worth noting, though, that the TEC does provide filers with the opportunity to seek a waiver or reduction of a civil penalty associated with a late report. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.21. Assuming the filer files the report at issue, he may then submit a statement of defense to the TEC explaining the circumstances leading to the late report. *Id.* In the case of a late PFS, if the filer has no prior late offenses in the five years preceding the report at issue, the civil penalty will be waived. *Id.* § 18.25. If the filer has one or two late offenses, the penalty will be reduced. *Id.* However, the TEC does not consider a prior late report a "prior late offense" if no late notices were sent and a waiver or reduction was not requested. *Id.* § 18.24(a)(1). Therefore, if a filer files multiple late reports at the same time, and has no other late reports, the civil penalty assessed for each late report will be waived upon the filer's request for a waiver or reduction. *Id.* §§ 18.24(a)(1), 18.25.

Furthermore, even if a late report does not qualify for an automatic waiver or reduction, if the filer properly appeals the TEC's penalty determination, the Commission has the authority to waive or reduce a civil penalty at its own discretion based on the facts presented.

² Based on the same line of reasoning, it should be noted that a state officer's requirement to file a PFS is also not excused based on a lack of notice to file. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 572.021.

ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. XXX

[Date]

ISSUE

Whether the requestor's legislative training materials require a legislative advertising disclosure statement.

Whether the requestor's planned business activities require her register as a lobbyist. (AOR-753)

SUMMARY

The requestor's training materials do not require a legislative advertising disclosure statement because the materials do not constitute legislative advertising.

The requestor's planned business activities may require her to register as a lobbyist if she communicates directly with a member of the executive branch to sell her product to a state agency or office. Therefore, she should familiarize herself with Chapter 305 of the Government Code and Chapter 34 of the TEC Rules, which govern lobby registration.

FACTS

The requestor is the founder of a for-profit business which the requestor says provides non-partisan educational products for training citizens, staffers, and advocates on engaging with the Texas Legislature. Topics include, but are not limited to, navigating careers in the legislature, how the legislative process works, and how to engage the process meaningfully. The products will take the form of online courses, digital downloads, live trainings, and a paid Substack,¹ distributed through third-party platforms.

As part of the curriculum, the requestor uses both past bills and fabricated example bills to teach skills like drafting a policy memo, an agency letter, or a constituent letter. Additionally, as part of the business the requestor anticipates advertising her products to legislative offices, providing paid neutral training that is not tailored to specific causes, and hosting in-person trainings for legislative staff during which the requestor would give away items, such as branded stickers for the business, postcards, and mugs. The requestor also anticipates having informal coffees, meals, and conversations with current and former legislators and staffers based on the relationships she developed while working in and around the legislature. However, the requestor states that none of these interactions would involve advocating for or against legislation or administrative action.

¹ Substack is an online publishing platform that allows individuals to share digital content directly with subscribers.

ANALYSIS

The requestor's training materials do not require a legislative advertising disclosure statement because the materials do not constitute legislative advertising.

The requestor asks whether her training materials, which relate to hypothetical legislation and prior bills, require a legislative advertising disclosure statement.

Legislative advertising that is printed, published, or broadcast must contain a legislative advertising disclosure statement. Tex. Gov't Code § 305.027(a). Legislative advertising is a communication that supports, opposes, or proposes legislation and that in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or appears in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, button, or similar form of written communication. *Id.* § 305.027(e). Legislation includes any matter: 1) pending in either house of the legislature, 2) that is or may be the subject of action by either house or by a legislative committee, or 3) pending in a constitutional convention or that may be the subject of action by a constitutional convention. *Id.* §305.022(6).

The requestor states that the training material, which may contain past or hypothetical bills, would be distributed digitally. Additionally, there is no indication from the facts that the materials would be published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or broadcast by radio or television in return for consideration, nor would it appear in a pamphlet, circular, flier, or other similar form of written communication. Therefore, based on the means of communication, the material does not meet the definition of legislative advertising and, thus, would not require a legislative advertising disclosure statement. *See* Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 464 (2005) (holding that communications available on a website or made by e-mail are not included in the types of communications defining legislative advertising and do not require a legislative advertising disclosure statement).

Regarding disclosures and/or disclaimers for her training material, the requestor also asks whether the TEC recommends specific language or placement of disclaimers stating that her business is not affiliated with the State of Texas. The TEC cannot provide a response to this question because it does not relate to any law or rule within the TEC's jurisdiction.

The requestor's planned business activities may require her to register as a lobbyist if she communicates directly with a member of the executive branch to sell her product to a state agency or office.

The requestor also asks whether the business activities she expects to engage in would require her to register as a lobbyist.

A person is required to register as a lobbyist if the person exceeds the expenditure threshold for lobby activities in a calendar quarter² to communicate directly with one or more members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action. Tex. Gov't Code § 305.003(a)(1). Additionally, registration is required if the person exceeds the compensation or reimbursement threshold in a calendar quarter³ for communicating directly with a member of the

² As of January 1, 2026, the expenditure threshold is \$990. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 34.41.

³ As of January 1, 2026, the expenditure threshold is \$1,990 and includes compensation or reimbursement that the

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legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action. *Id.* § 305.003(a)(2). For the purposes of lobby registration under Chapter 305 of the Government Code, “administrative action” means rulemaking, licensing, or any other matter that may be the subject of action by a state agency or executive branch office, including a matter relating to the purchase of products or services by the agency or office. *Id.* § 305.002(1).

According to the requestor none of her activities will involve contacting members of the legislative or executive branch to influence specific legislation or administrative action. Whether this is the case, however, will depend on who the requestor contacts. For example, the requestor plans to directly contact legislative offices to promote her product. Since these communications are made solely to support and promote her business to members of the legislative branch, and an individual purchase decision by the legislative branch that does not require a specific appropriation is not “legislation,” the requestor would not be required to register as a lobbyist. In contrast, if the requestor directly contacts a member of the executive branch to sell her product to a state agency or office, she will be acting to influence administrative action. In that situation the requestor may be required to register as a lobbyist if she also exceeds at least one of the registration thresholds specified above. *But see* Tex. Gov’t Code 305.0041(a)(1)-(2) (providing exceptions to registration for certain sales communications); 1 Tex. Admin Code § 34.43(b) (providing an exception to registration for de minimis lobbying).

Similarly, the events, giveaways, coffees, meals, and other interactions she anticipates would not require her to register if her communications with members of the legislative branch are done to support and promote her business, as opposed to generating goodwill to influence current or future legislation. However, as discussed above, if the requestor uses any of these interactions to sell her product to a state agency or office in the executive branch, she will be engaging in lobby activity.

The requestor also raises a question about any requests for input she receives from contracted clients regarding the effectiveness of their existing legislative strategy or product. If in addressing the client’s request, the requestor is not directly communicating with a legislator or executive branch official to influence legislation or administrative action related to the client’s strategy or product, then the requestor would not be engaging in lobby activity. Additionally, assuming the client is a registered lobbyist, the requestor would not be considered an assistant of the lobbyist as long as she is not employed or retained by the lobbyist to provide administrative or research assistance. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 34.63. In the facts provided, the agreements between the requestor and her clients are for her to provide neutral legislative training, not administrative or research assistance. Therefore, she would not be required to register as a lobbyist based on this activity.

Lastly, given that some of the requestor’s business activities may require her register as a lobbyist, she should familiarize herself with Chapter 305 of the Government Code and Chapter 34 of the TEC Rules, which govern lobby registration.

person receives or is entitled to receive pursuant to an agreement under which the person is retained or employed. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 34.43; Tex. Gov’t Code § 305.033(a)(2).

ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. xxx

[Date]

ISSUE

Whether contributions given to fund an individual voter's legal expenses are political contributions requiring reporting by either the individual or the specific purpose committee that the individual remains an active campaign treasurer for.

Whether the requestor has any Title 15 campaign-finance obligations for the contributions received and spent for their individual election contest litigation. (AOR-754)

SUMMARY

Contributions to fund an election contest are political contributions. If the requestor accepts contributions to fund his election contest, he and the contributors likely formed a political committee requiring reporting, assuming that either the contribution or expenditure total exceeded \$1,110.

FACTS

The requestor is a campaign treasurer for a specific-purpose committee (the SPAC or the Committee) that opposed a school bond measure. The school bond measure passed. After the election, the requestor filed an election contest in their capacity as an individual voter to challenge the measure in court. To litigate the election contest, the requestor seeks to accept contributions from individuals to use for legal expenses. First, the requestor asks to assume that the funds would be given directly to the requestor on the understanding that such funds are to assist in the requestor's litigation expenses. The contributions would not be deposited in the Committee's bank account, and the Committee would not control the funds. Additionally, the committee is not a party to the lawsuit. Next, the requestor asks to assume that the contributors understand that contributions given to the requestor are for litigation expenses and that the contributions are not contributions to the Committee. The contributions would be used to pay legal filing and service fees, court and transcript costs, attorney fees, or other legal expenses in the election contest. Finally, the election contest concerns a measure that the committee opposed, and the purpose of the lawsuit is to challenge the validity or implementation of the bond measure.

ANALYSIS

The requestor asks to consider whether contributions given directly to the requestor as an individual are political contributions. A "contribution" is a direct or indirect transfer of money and includes an agreement between two parties. Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(2). A "campaign contribution" is offered or given with the intent that it be used in connection with a campaign or on a measure. *Id.* § 251.001(3). Campaign contributions are political contributions. *Id.* § 251.001(5). Finally, the Texas

STAFF DRAFT. NOT FINAL UNLESS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

Ethics Legal fees for an election contest are expenses incurred in connection with the contested election. *See* Ethics Comm’n Op. No. 589 (2023). A “political committee” means two or more persons acting in concert with a principal purpose of accepting political contributions or making political expenditures. Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(12). The TEC has defined a principal purpose of accepting political contributions or making political expenditures as an important or main function of the group. For calculation purposes, if more than 49% of expenditures made by the group are political expenditures, then the group would be a PAC. *See* 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(15). The requestor stated that he would raise funds for the singular purpose of mounting an election contest. Given the facts provided by the requestor, the contributors and the requestor would be a group of two or more persons acting in concert with the principal purpose of accepting political contributions to fund the election contest, and making political expenditures to pay “filing fees, service fees, court costs, transcript costs, attorney fees, or other legal expenses in the election contest.”

The requestor’s original PAC would not be required to report any of these contributions or expenditures. However, if the new PAC, formed from the requestor and the contributors to the election contest, either accepts more than \$1,100 in political contributions, or makes more than \$1,100 in political expenditures, they would be required to file a campaign treasurer appointment and would be subject to the reporting requirements of a specific-purpose committee.