

CITY OF TIMPSON  
GENERAL ELECTION  
MAY 2, 2026

# **CANDIDATE PACKET**

Instructions, Information, Forms and Guidelines

For the purpose of electing a Mayor and two City Council Members

# CITY OF TIMPSON

General Election

May 2, 2026

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6. Application for a place on the General Election Ballot
  - The loyalty oath is included on this application and must be notarized. This form Must be filed in the City Secretary's office no earlier than Wednesday, January 14, 2026, by 5:00 pm CST. Office hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. And, Filed no later than 5:00pm on Friday February 13, 2026
7. Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer by Candidate (Form CTA)
  - This form is to be filed in the City Secretary's office at the same time as the Application for Place on Ballot. Must be filed before accepting contributions or making expenditures. A candidate who does not intend to accept more than \$1110 in political contributions or make more than \$1110 in political expenditures should sign Page 2 of the form declaring "Modified Reporting" thereby eliminating the pre-elections reporting requirements. NOTE: If you select "Modified Reporting" and later exceed \$1110 in political contributions or expenditures, you must file form C/OH Campaign Finance Reports according to the regular filing schedule. The CTA instruction guide is also included.
8. Code of Fair Campaign Practices (Form CFCP)
  - Voluntary Filing. Although not required, all candidates are encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.
9. Certificate of Appointment of Poll Watcher by a Candidate
  - This is an optional filing; explanation and instruction is enclosed.
10. Authorization to Release Email
  - This form is required to release the email address listed on your application for a place on the ballot.
11. Political Advertising, what you need to know.

# City of Timpson

456 Jacob Street, Timpson, Texas 75975  
Phone: 936-254-2421 Fax: 936-254-2933  
[www.cityoftimpson.com](http://www.cityoftimpson.com)

January 14, 2026

Dear Prospective Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in serving as a City Councilmember for the City of Timpson, Texas. This is your initial Candidate Application Packet. It contains the necessary forms for filing an application for place on the ballot in the May 02, 202 City Council Election. The material contains critical information you will need to run for office. Please note that all election records and campaign reports are considered open records and may be viewed as such.

There is no filing fee. **Please note--City staff cannot notarize your application.** The completed, notarized application for a place on the City of Timpson General Election Ballot must be filed in my office no earlier than 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and no later than 5:00 p.m., February 13, 2026.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to become familiar with the laws applicable to campaigning for office. The duty of the Office of the City Secretary is limited to accepting and filing the various applications, affidavits, and statements. Applications for place on the ballot will be thoroughly reviewed to determine if they comply with the Election Code requirements as to content. Please file your application as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for this review. If a defect is discovered after the filing deadline, the application could be deemed invalid. This could affect anyone who files immediately prior to the 5 p.m. deadline on February 13, 2026.

Please remember that Election Law, and especially campaign finance law, is complex. The Office of the City Secretary and the City Attorney's Office cannot advise you or groups who support or oppose candidates on matters of election or campaign finance law. The City Attorney provides legal services to the City, and the City must maintain neutrality in the electoral process.

Any questions on reporting procedures, contributions, or expenditures should be addressed to the Texas Ethics Commission at 800-325-8506 or 512-463-5800 or online at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us). You may direct questions about election laws to the Secretary of State at 800.252.8683 or 512.463.5650, or go online at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us).

As City Secretary, I will be happy to answer general questions regarding filing your application and due dates for reporting and filings. The Office of the City Secretary is specifically limited by law to the acceptance and filing of various applications, affidavits, statements and reports, and noting the date and time of such filings.

Thank you for your consideration to offer your services to the citizens of the City of Timpson. I look forward to working with you during the election process.

Sincerely,



Misty Burgess  
City Secretary

# **CITY OF TIMPSON**

## **2026 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE POSITIONS**

### **MAYOR**

May 2026 – 2028 term

### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER**

May 2026 – 2028 term

### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER**

May 2026 – 2028 term

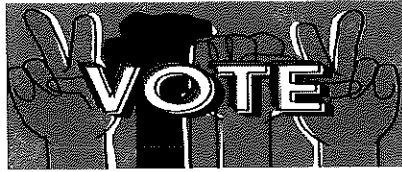
# **CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY**

## **Election Code**

### **Title 9 Chapter 141**

In accordance with the standard eligibility requirements for a city office, a candidate must:

1. Be a United States citizen
2. Be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election; and
3. Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
  - (A) Totally mentally incapacitated; or
  - (B) Partially incapacitated
4. Have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities; and
5. Have resided continuously in the state of Texas for twelve (12) months, and in the City of Timpson for six (6) months, immediately preceding the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot (for a write-in candidate, preceding the date of the election); and
6. Be a registered voter; and
7. Not hold any other public office or employment of trust; and
8. Not be interested in the profits or payment of any contract, job, work, or service for the City; and
9. Not be interested in the sale to the City of any supplies equipment or material; and
10. Not be indebted to the City.



**CITY OF TIMPSON**  
**GENERAL ELECTION – MAY 2, 2026**

January 14, 2026	First day to file an application for a place on the ballot
February 13, 2026	Last day to file an application for a place on the ballot (received by 5 pm)
February 17, 2026	Last day for a write in candidate (received by 5 pm)
April 2, 2026	Last day to register to vote & be able to vote in May 2 <sup>nd</sup> election
April 20, 2026	First day of Early Voting
April 20, 2026	Last day to apply for ballots to be voted by mail (received by 5 pm)
April 28, 2026	Last day of Early Voting
May 2, 2026	Last day to receive ballot by mail if envelope is NOT postmarked, or May 2 <sup>nd</sup> (next business day) at 5:00 PM if envelope is postmarked by 7:00 PM at the location of the election on Election Day
<b>May 2, 2026</b>	<b>***ELECTION DAY*** 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM</b>
Seats Open	Council Member Teri Alexander Council Member Penny Ramsey Mayor Debra Smith

## First Steps for Candidates Running for a City Office

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

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

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

### 2. Opposed Candidates: Will you accept or spend more than **\$1,110\*** for the election?

- YES:

- You do not qualify to file on the modified reporting schedule.
- You are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports using Form C/OH if you have an opponent on the ballot. Find Form C/OH and its instructions on our "Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder" webpage.
- Pre-election reports are due 30 days and 8 days prior to each election. To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date.

- NO:

- You can elect to file on the modified reporting schedule by completing the *Modified Reporting Declaration* on page two of Form CTA. File Form CTA with the city clerk or city secretary.
- If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule, you do not have to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to the election.

- Exceed \$1,110\*: If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule but later exceed \$1,110 in either contributions or expenditures, what reports you will be required to file depends upon when you exceed \$1,110\*.

- If you exceed \$1,110\* on or before the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to an election using Form C/OH. To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date. Find Form C/OH and its instructions on our "Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder" webpage.
- If you exceed \$1,110\* after the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file an Exceeded Modified Reporting Limit report using Form C/OH. To be timely filed, this report must be filed with the city clerk or city secretary within 48 hours of exceeding \$1,110.\* You must also file the pre-election report due 8 days prior to an election. Find Form C/OH and its instructions on our "Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder" webpage. If you exceed \$1,110\* on or before the 8th day before the election, you are **required** to file a pre-election campaign finance report due 8 days prior to an election using Form C/OH. To be timely filed, the pre-election

report must be received by the city clerk or city secretary no later than the due date. Find Form C/OH and its instructions on our "Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder" webpage.

**3. Unopposed Candidates.**

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

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

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

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

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

**6. Need More Information?**

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

**\*NOTE:** The \$1,110 threshold is specific to transactions made in 2025.



**APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT**ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED AS OPTIONAL<sup>1</sup> Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application.

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT					
To: State/County Chair (Democratic or Republican)					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.					
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)			INDICATE TERM <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED		INCUMBENT DECLARATION: (Check this box if you are the incumbent.) INCUMBENT <input type="checkbox"/>
FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last)			PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*		
PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.)			PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.)		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) (Address at which you receive campaign related emails, if available.)		OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)		DATE OF BIRTH / /	VOTER REGISTRATION VOID NUMBER <sup>2</sup> (Optional)
TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional)					
Home:		Office:		Cell:	
FELONY CONVICTION STATUS (You MUST check one) <input type="checkbox"/> I have not been finally convicted of a felony. <input type="checkbox"/> I have been finally convicted of a felony, but I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of that felony conviction and I have provided proof of this fact with the submission of this application. <sup>3</sup>			LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE THIS APPLICATION WAS SWORN IN THE STATE OF TEXAS _____ year(s) _____ month(s) IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED _____ year(s) _____ month(s)		
*If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan or contain a title, nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election. Please review Sections 52.031, 52.032 and 52.033 of the Texas Election Code regarding the rules for how names may be listed on the official ballot.					
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name of candidate) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says: "I, (name of candidate) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code. I am aware that I must disclose any prior felony conviction, and if so convicted, must provide proof that I have been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities of any such final felony conviction. I am aware that knowingly providing false information on the application regarding my possible felony conviction status constitutes a Class B misdemeanor. I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."					
<div style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">X</div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;">SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE</div>					
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the _____ day of _____, _____, by _____ (name of candidate)					
Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath <sup>4</sup>			Printed Name of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath		
Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath			Notarial or Official Seal		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR SECRETARY OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Status Verified					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or petition of _____ pages received. (See Section 1.007)					
_____/_____/_____ Date Filed			_____ Signature of Chair or Designee Receiving Filed Application		
_____/_____/_____ or _____/_____/_____ Date Accepted Date Rejected			_____ Signature of Chair or Secretary Upon Determination of Application		

## INSTRUCTIONS

An application for a place on the general primary election ballot must be filed with the state party chair, for a statewide or district office filled by voters of more than one county. An application for an office filled by voters of a single county must be filed with the county party chair or the secretary of the county executive committee, if any. (Section 172.022, Texas Election Code)

This candidate application must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a completed Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee. Please see Sections 172.021, 172.025, Texas Election Code, for the required number of signatures on a submitted Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee. The filing deadline is 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday in December of the odd-numbered year preceding the General Primary Election and the application may not be filed earlier than 30 days before the filing deadline. For additional information, please see the Candidate's Guide on the Secretary of State's website, including the page on Frequently Asked Questions on Party Affiliation and Candidacy.

## NEPOTISM LAW

The candidate must sign this statement indicating his awareness of the nepotism law. When a candidate signs the application, it is an acknowledgment that the candidate is aware of the nepotism law. The nepotism prohibitions of Chapter 573, Government Code, are summarized below:

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

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

## FOOTNOTES

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

<sup>2</sup>Inclusion of a candidate's VUID is optional. However, many candidates are required to be registered voters in the territory from which the office is elected at the time of the filing deadline.

<sup>3</sup>Proof of release from the resulting disabilities of a felony conviction would include proof of judicial clemency under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.701, proof of executive pardon under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.01, or proof of a restoration of rights under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.05. (Texas Attorney General Opinion KP-0251)

**One of the following documents must be submitted with this application.**

Judicial Clemency under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.701

Executive Pardon under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.01

Restoration of Rights under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 48.05

<sup>4</sup>All oaths, affidavits, or affirmations made within this State may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by a judge, clerk, or commissioner of any court of record, a notary public, a justice of the peace, and the Secretary of State of Texas. See Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code for the complete list of persons authorized to administer oaths.

**FILING FEE SCHEDULE (172.024 Texas Election Code)**

United States Senator	\$5,000
All Other Statewide Offices	\$3,750
United States Representative	\$3,125
State Senator	\$1,250
State Representative	\$750
Member, State Board of Education	\$300
Chief Justice or Justice, Court of Appeals, other than a justice specified by Subdivision (8)	\$1,875
Chief Justice or Justice of a Court of Appeals that serves a Court of Appeals District in which a county with a population of more than 1.2 million is wholly or partly situated, including the 15th Court of Appeals.	\$2,500
District Judge or Judge specified by Sec. 52.092(d) for which this schedule does not otherwise prescribe a fee	\$1,500
District or Criminal District Judge of a court in a judicial district wholly contained in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million	\$2,500
Judge of a Statutory County Court, other than a judge specified by subdivision (12)	\$1,500
Judge of a Statutory County Court in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million	\$2,500
District Attorney or Criminal District Attorney or County Attorney performing the duties of a District Attorney	\$1,250
County Judge, County Commissioner, District Clerk, County Clerk, Sheriff, County Tax-Assessor-Collector and County Treasurer	
County of 200,000 or more population	\$1,250
County of under 200,000 population	\$750
Justice of the Peace or Constable	
County of 200,000 or more population	\$1,000
County of under 200,000 population	\$375
County Surveyor	\$75
All County Offices not otherwise listed	\$750

**TODA LA INFORMACIÓN ES REQUERIDA A MENOS QUE SE INDIQUE COMO OPCIONAL<sup>1</sup>**  
El hecho de no proporcionar la información requerida puede resultar en el rechazo de la solicitud.

<b>SOLICITUD DE INSCRIPCIÓN PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA DE LA ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA GENERAL DEL PARTIDO</b> (Demócrata o Republicano)					
Para: Presidente Estatal/Presidente del Condado					
Solicito que mi nombre se incluya en la boleta oficial de la primaria mencionada anteriormente como candidato(a) para la nominación al cargo que se indica a continuación.					
<b>CARGO SOLICITADO</b> (Incluya cualquier número de cargo u otro número distintivo, si lo hay.)			<b>INDIQUE TÉRMINO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO COMPLETO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO INCOMPLETO		<b>DECLARACIÓN DE TITULAR ACTUAL:</b> (Indique si usted es el titular actual.) <b>TITULAR ACTUAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NOMBRE COMPLETO</b> (Primer Nombre, Segundo Nombre, Apellido)			<b>ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE COMO DESEA QUE APAREZCA EN LA BOLETA*</b>		
<b>DIRECCIÓN DE RESIDENCIA PERMANENTE</b> (No incluya un apartado postal o una ruta rural. Si usted no tiene una dirección de residencia, describa la ubicación de la residencia.)			<b>DIRECCIÓN DE CORREO PÚBLICO (Opcional)</b> (Dirección donde recibe la correspondencia relacionada con la campaña, si está disponible.)		
<b>CIUDAD</b>	<b>ESTADO</b>	<b>CÓDIGO POSTAL</b>	<b>CIUDAD</b>	<b>ESTADO</b>	<b>CÓDIGO POSTAL</b>
<b>DIRECCIÓN DE CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PÚBLICO (Opcional)</b> (Dirección donde recibe correo electrónico relacionado con la campaña, si está disponible.)		<b>Ocupación</b> (No deje este espacio en blanco)	<b>FECHA DE NACIMIENTO</b> <div style="text-align: center;">/ /</div>		<b>VOID – NÚMERO ÚNICO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DE VOTANTE<sup>2</sup></b> (Opcional)
<b>INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO TELEFÓNICO (Opcional)</b> Hogar: _____ Trabajo: _____ Celular: _____					
<b>ESTADO DE CONDENA POR DELITO GRAVE (DEBE marcar uno)</b>			<b>DURACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA CONTINUA A PARTIR DE LA FECHA EN QUE ESTA SOLICITUD FUE JURADA</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> No he sido finalmente condenado por un delito grave. <input type="checkbox"/> He sido finalmente condenado por un delito grave, pero he sido indultado o liberado de otro modo de las discapacidades resultantes de esa condena por delito grave y he proporcionado prueba de este hecho con la presentación de esta solicitud. <sup>3</sup>			<b>EN EL ESTADO DE TEXAS</b> _____ año(s) _____ mes(es)		<b>EN EL TERRITORIO/DISTRITO/PRECINTO DEL CUAL SE ELIGE EL CARGO BUSCADO</b> _____ año(s) _____ mes(es)
<p>*Si usa un apodo como parte de su nombre para aparecer en la boleta, también está firmando y jurando las siguientes declaraciones: Juro además que mi apodo no constituye un lema ni contiene un título, ni indica un punto de vista o afiliación política, económica, social o religiosa. He sido comúnmente conocido por este apodo durante al menos tres años antes de esta elección. Por favor, revise las secciones 52.031, 52.032 y 52.033 del Código Electoral de Texas con respecto a las reglas sobre cómo se pueden incluir los nombres en la boleta oficial.</p> <p>Ante mí, la autoridad abajo firmante, en este día apareció personalmente (nombre del candidato) _____, quien estando a mi lado aquí y ahora debidamente juramentado, bajo juramento dice:</p> <p>"Yo, (nombre del candidato) _____, del condado de _____, Texas, siendo candidato para el cargo de _____, juro que apoyaré y defenderé la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos y del Estado de Texas. Soy un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos elegible para ocupar dicho cargo según la Constitución y las leyes de este estado. No se me ha determinado por un fallo final de una corte que ejerce la jurisdicción testamentaria que esté totalmente incapacitado mentalmente o parcialmente incapacitado sin derecho a voto. Soy consciente de la ley de nepotismo según el Capítulo 573 del Código de Gobierno. Soy consciente de que debo divulgar cualquier condena previa de un delito grave y, si he sido condenado, debo proporcionar prueba de que he sido indultado o liberado de otro modo de las discapacidades resultantes de dicha condena final por delito grave. Soy consciente de que proporcionar a sabiendas información falsa en la solicitud con respecto a mi posible estado de condena por delito grave constituye un delito menor de Clase B. Juro además que las declaraciones anteriores incluidas en mi solicitud son, en todos los aspectos, verdaderas y correctas".</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>X</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO</b></p> <p>Jurado y suscrito ante mí este día _____ de _____ del _____ por _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(día) (mes) (año) (nombre de candidato)</p> <p>Firma del oficial autorizado para administrar el juramento<sup>4</sup> _____ Nombre del oficial autorizado para administrar juramentos en letra de molde _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Notarial o sello oficial</p> <p>Título del oficial autorizado para administrar el juramento _____</p>					
<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR SECRETARY OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Status Verified This document and \$_____ filing fee or petition of _____ pages received. (See Section 1.007) _____/_____/_____ Date Filed _____ Signature of Chair or Designee Receiving Filed Application _____/_____/_____ or _____/_____/_____ Date Accepted _____ Date Rejected _____ Signature of Chair or Secretary Upon Determination of Application					

## INSTRUCCIONES

Una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de la elección primaria general debe ser presentada al presidente estatal del partido, para un cargo estatal o un cargo de distrito elegido por votantes de más de un condado. Una solicitud para un cargo elegido por votantes de un solo condado debe ser presentada al presidente del condado del partido o al secretario(a) del comité ejecutivo del condado, si lo hay. (Sección 172.022, Código Electoral de Texas)

Esta solicitud de candidatura debe ir acompañada de un pago de inscripción o una Petición Presentada en Sustitución del Pago de Inscripción. Consulte las Secciones 172.021, 172.025, del Código Electoral de Texas para conocer el número de firmas requerido en una Petición Presentada en Sustitución del Pago de Inscripción. La fecha límite de presentación es a las 6:00 p.m. del segundo lunes de diciembre del año impar anterior a la elección primaria general y la solicitud no podrá presentarse antes de los 30 días anteriores de la fecha límite de presentación. Para obtener información adicional, consulte la Guía del Candidato en el sitio web de la Secretaría de Estado, incluida la página de Preguntas Frecuentes sobre afiliación del partido y candidatura.

## LEY DE NEPOTISMO

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

Ningún funcionario puede nombrar, votar o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de cualquier persona emparentada dentro del segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o del tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre) con el funcionario, o con cualquier otro miembro del órgano de gobierno o corte en la que sirve el funcionario cuando la compensación de esa persona debe pagarse con fondos públicos o honorarios del cargo. Sin embargo, nada en la ley impide el nombramiento, la votación o la confirmación de cualquier persona que haya estado empleada continuamente en la oficina o el empleo durante el período siguiente antes de la elección o el nombramiento del funcionario o miembro emparentado con el empleado en el grado prohibido: un año, si el funcionario o miembro es elegido en las elecciones generales para funcionarios estatales y del condado.

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

## NOTAS

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

<sup>2</sup>La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en inglés) es opcional. Sin embargo, a muchos candidatos se les exige que estén registrados como votantes en el territorio desde el cual se elige el cargo en el momento de la fecha límite de presentación.

<sup>3</sup>La prueba de liberación de las discapacidades resultantes de una condena por un delito grave incluiría prueba de clemencia judicial según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 42A.701, prueba de indulto ejecutivo según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 48.01, o prueba de una restauración de derechos según el Código de Procedimiento Penal de Texas 48.05. (Opinión de Fiscal General de Texas KP-0251)

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

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

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

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

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

### LISTA DE PAGOS DE INSCRIPCIÓN (172.024 Código Electoral de Texas)

Senador de los Estados Unidos	\$5,000
Todas las Demás Oficinas Estatales	\$3,750
Representante de los Estados Unidos	\$3,125
Senador Estatal	\$1,250
Representante Estatal	\$750
Miembro, Junta de Educación Estatal	\$300
Juez Presidente o Juez, Corte de Apelaciones, que no sea un juez especificado por la subdivisión (8)	\$1,875
Juez Presidente o Juez de Corte de Apelaciones que sirve una corte de apelación del distrito en el cual un condado con una población de más de 1.2 millones está situado total o parcialmente, incluyendo la Decimoquinta Corte de Apelaciones.	\$2,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez especificado por la Sec. 52.092(d) para el cual esta lista no prescribe de otro modo un honorario	\$1,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez de Distrito Criminal de una corte en un distrito judicial situado completamente en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Juez de una Corte Estatutaria del Condado, que no sea un juez especificado por la subdivisión 12	\$1,500
Juez de una Corte Estatutaria del Condado en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Procurador del Distrito o Procurador del Distrito Criminal o Procurador del Condado que ejerce las funciones del Procurador del Distrito	\$1,250
Juez de Condado, Comisionado del Condado, Secretario del Distrito, Secretario del Condado, Alguacil, Asesor-Collector de Impuestos del Condado o Tesorero del Condado	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 o más	\$1,250
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000	\$750
Juez de Paz o Condestable	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 o más	\$1,000
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000	\$375
Agrimensor del Condado	\$75
Todos los puestos oficiales del condado que no se han mencionado	\$750

# APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

FORM CTA  
PG 1

See CTA Instruction Guide for detailed instructions.		1 Total pages filed:	
2 CANDIDATE NAME	MS/MRS/MR FIRST MI	OFFICE USE ONLY	
	NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX		
3 CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE	Filer ID #	
		Date Received	
4 CANDIDATE PHONE	AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION	Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked	
	( )	Receipt # Amount \$	
5 OFFICE HELD (if any)		Date Processed	
6 OFFICE SOUGHT (if known)		Date Imaged	
7 CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME	MS/MRS/MR FIRST MI NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX		
8 CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (residence or business)	STREET ADDRESS; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE		
9 CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE	AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION		
10 CANDIDATE SIGNATURE	<p>I am aware of the Nepotism Law, Chapter 573 of the Texas Government Code.</p> <p>I am aware of my responsibility to file timely reports as required by title 15 of the Election Code.</p> <p>I am aware of the restrictions in title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations and labor organizations.</p> <p>_____ Signature of Candidate</p> <p>_____ Date Signed</p>		

GO TO PAGE 2

# CANDIDATE MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION

FORM CTA  
PG 2

11 CANDIDATE  
NAME

12 MODIFIED  
REPORTING  
DECLARATION

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

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

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

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

I do not intend to accept more than \$1,110 in political contributions or  
make more than \$1,110 in political expenditures (excluding filing  
fees) in connection with any future election within the election  
cycle. I understand that if either one of those limits is exceeded, I  
will be required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a  
runoff report.

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

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

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

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

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

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



# CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

FORM CFCP  
COVER SHEET

Pursuant to chapter 258 of the Election Code, every candidate and political committee is encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The Code may be filed with the proper filing authority upon submission of a campaign treasurer appointment form. Candidates or political committees that already have a current campaign treasurer appointment on file as of September 1, 1997, may subscribe to the code at any time.

*Subscription to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is voluntary.*

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked

Date Processed

Date Imaged

**1 ACCOUNT NUMBER**  
(Ethics Commission Filers)

**2 TYPE OF FILER**

CANDIDATE ☐

POLITICAL COMMITTEE ☐

*If filing as a candidate, complete boxes 3 - 6, then read and sign page 2.*

*If filing for a political committee, complete boxes 7 and 8, then read and sign page 2.*

**3 NAME OF CANDIDATE**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

**4 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CANDIDATE**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

AREA CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EXTENSION

( )

**5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

STREET / PO BOX;

APT / SUITE #;

CITY;

STATE;

ZIP CODE

**6 OFFICE SOUGHT BY CANDIDATE**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

**7 NAME OF COMMITTEE**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

**8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER**  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

**GO TO PAGE 2**

## CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate and political committee in this state has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional rights to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

- (1) I will conduct the campaign openly and publicly and limit attacks on my opponent to legitimate challenges to my opponent's record and stated positions on issues.
- (2) I will not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or the candidate's personal or family life.
- (3) I will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.
- (4) I will not use campaign material of any sort that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor will I use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or patriotism of my opponent.
- (5) I will not undertake or condone any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters, including any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (6) I will defend and uphold the right of every qualified voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process, and will not engage in any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (7) I will immediately and publicly repudiate methods and tactics that may come from others that I have pledged not to use or condone. I shall take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Texas or campaign treasurer of a political committee, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct the campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

---

Signature

---

Date

## CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF POLL WATCHER BY A CANDIDATE

To the Presiding Judge or Early Voting Clerk:

The following person has been appointed as a poll watcher in accordance with Sec. 33.002, Texas Election Code.

Name of Poll Watcher	Name of Candidate
Residence Address of Poll Watcher	Title and Date of Election
Voter Registration VUID Number of Poll Watcher	Location Poll Watcher is to serve

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate or  
Signature of Campaign Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Signer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Poll Watcher

### OATH OF A POLL WATCHER

The following oath must be repeated aloud by the poll watcher before being accepted for service.  
"I swear(or affirm) that I will not disrupt the voting process or harass voters in the discharge of my duties"

### AFFIDAVIT OF POLL WATCHER

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a poll watcher for the above appointing authority, do hereby  
(printed name of watcher)

swear or affirm that I do not have, in my possession, any type of mechanical or electronic means of recording images or sound while serving as a watcher or I will disable or deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and swear or affirm that I have not been finally convicted of a felony of the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with conduct directly attributable to an election.

### TRAINING REQUIREMENT

I understand that I must present a physical copy of the Certificate of Completion of the Secretary of State Poll Watcher Training before being accepted for service. [Sec. 33.051(a), Texas Election Code]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Poll Watcher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Election Judge/Deputy

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Election Judge/Deputy

## INSTRUCTIONS

Watchers may be appointed by each candidate whose name appears on the ballot or the list of declared write-in candidates in an election for:

- (1) a public office other than the office of vice-president of the United States; or
- (2) an office of a political party.

In an election for an office of the state government that is filled by voters of more than one county, watchers may also be appointed by the candidate's campaign treasurer.

In an election for an office of the federal government that is filled by voters of more than one county, watchers may also be appointed by the chair or treasurer of the candidate's principal campaign committee or by a designated agent of the chair or treasurer.

A watcher appointed to serve at a precinct polling place or at the Post-Election Hand Count Audit under Section 127.201, must deliver the following materials to the presiding judge of the polling place or the presiding judge of the EVBB for the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, as applicable, at the time the watcher reports for service:

- (1) a certificate of appointment; and
- (2) a certificate of completion from training completed by the watcher under [Section 33.008]

A watcher may not be accepted for service if the watcher has possession of a device capable of recording images or sound unless the watcher agrees to disable or deactivate the device. The presiding judge may inquire whether a watcher has possession of any prohibited recording device before accepting the watcher for service. A watcher also may not be accepted for service if the watcher has been finally convicted of a felony of the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with conduct directly attributable to an election.

A watcher may not be accepted for service if the watcher has possession of a device capable of recording images or sound unless the watcher agrees to disable or deactivate the device. The presiding judge may inquire whether a watcher has possession of any prohibited recording device before accepting the watcher for service.

If a watcher is not accepted for service, the certificates shall be returned to the watcher with a signed statement of the reason for the rejection.

On accepting a watcher for service, the election officer shall provide the watcher with a form of identification, prescribed by the secretary of state, to be displayed by the watcher during the watcher's hours of service at the polling place.

An election officer commits an offense if the officer intentionally or knowingly refuses to accept a watcher for service when acceptance of the watcher is required by this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

Before accepting a watcher, the officer presented with a watcher's certificate of appointment shall require the watcher to take the following oath, administered by the officer: "I swear (or affirm) that I will not disrupt the voting process or harass voters in the discharge of my duties."

# CITY OF TIMPSON

## Candidate Authorization Form to Release E-Mail Address

Candidate for the May 2, 2026 City of Timpson General Election.

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- On the "Application for a Place on the General Election Ballot" form, there is a box to list the candidate's e-mail address.
- Listing the e-mail address is indicated as an optional item to fill out.
- The application is subject to open records under the Public Information Act; however, Personal e-mails are considered confidential.

By signing this acknowledgement form, the candidate is indicating their approval to release their e-mail address should they include it on the application form.

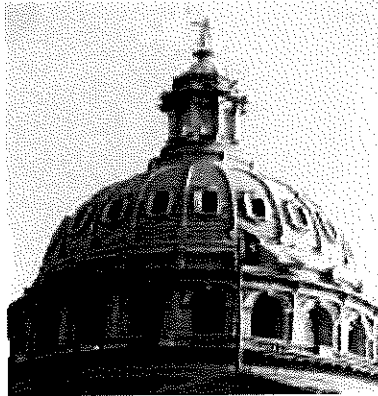
Acknowledged and Approved to release:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **POLITICAL ADVERTISING**

## **What You Need to Know**



The Texas Election Code requires certain disclosures and notices on political advertising. The law also prohibits certain types of misrepresentation in political advertising and campaign communications. This brochure explains what you need to know to insure that your political advertising and campaign communications comply with the law.

If you are not sure what the law requires, do the cautious thing. Use the political advertising disclosure statement whenever you think it might be necessary, and do not use any possibly misleading information in political advertising or a campaign communication. If you are using political advertising or campaign communications from a prior campaign, you should check to see if the law has changed since that campaign.

Candidates for federal office should check with the Federal Election Commission at (800) 424-9530 for information on federal political advertising laws.

**NOTICE:** This guide is intended only as a general overview of the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising as required under Chapter 255 of the Election Code, which is distinct from political reporting requirements under Chapter 254 of the Election Code.

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

**(512) 463-5800**

**TDD (800) 735-2989**

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

**Revised July 16, 2019**

## **REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING**

### **I. What Is Political Advertising?**

The disclosure statement and notice requirements discussed in this section apply to “political advertising.” In the law, “political advertising” is a specifically defined term. Do not confuse this special term with your own common-sense understanding of advertising.

To figure out if a communication is political advertising, you must look at what it says and where it appears. If a communication fits in one of the categories listed in Part A (below) and if it fits in one of the categories listed in Part B (below), it is political advertising.

#### **Part A. What Does It Say?**

1. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to either a public office or an office of a political party (including county and precinct chairs).
2. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing an officeholder, a political party, or a measure (a ballot proposition).

#### **Part B. Where Does It Appear?**

1. Political advertising includes communications that appear in pamphlets, circulars, fliers, billboards or other signs, bumper stickers, or similar forms of written communication.
2. Political advertising includes communications that are published in newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals in return for consideration.
3. Political advertising includes communications that are broadcast by radio or television in return for consideration.
4. Political advertising includes communications that appear on an Internet website.

### **II. When Is a Disclosure Statement Required?**

The law provides that political advertising that contains express advocacy is required to include a disclosure statement. The person who causes the political advertising to be published, distributed, or broadcast is responsible for including the disclosure statement.

The law does not define the term “express advocacy.” However, the law does provide that political advertising is deemed to contain express advocacy if it is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing campaign finance reports. Therefore, a disclosure statement is required any time a candidate, a candidate’s agent, or a political committee authorizes political advertising.

The precise language of political advertising authorized by someone other than a candidate, the candidate's agent, or a political committee will determine if the advertising contains express advocacy and is therefore required to include a disclosure statement. Generally, the question is whether the communication expressly advocates the election or defeat of an identified candidate, or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of a measure, such as a bond election. The inclusion of words such as "vote for," "elect," "support," "defeat," "reject," or "Smith for Senate" would clearly constitute express advocacy, but express advocacy is not limited to communications that use those words. Similar phrases, such as "Cast your ballot for X," would also constitute express advocacy. Additionally, in 2007, the United States Supreme Court held that an advertisement included express advocacy or its functional equivalent "if the ad is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate." *FEC v. Wis. Right to Life, Inc.*, 551 U.S. 449 (2007). It is a question of fact whether a particular communication constitutes express advocacy. If you are not sure whether political advertising contains express advocacy, do the cautious thing and include the disclosure statement. That way, there is no need to worry about whether you have violated the law.

Remember: The concept of "express advocacy" is relevant in determining whether political advertising is required to include a disclosure statement. However, the political advertising laws governing the right-of-way notice, misrepresentation, and use of public funds by political subdivisions will apply to political advertising regardless of whether the advertising contains express advocacy.

### **III. What Should the Disclosure Statement Say?**

A disclosure statement must include the following:

1. the words "political advertising" or a recognizable abbreviation such as "pol. adv."; and
2. the full name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the political advertising; (b) the political committee authorizing the political advertising; or (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate.

The disclosure statement must appear on the face of the political advertising or be clearly spoken if the political advertising is audio only and does not include written text.

The advertising should not be attributed to entities such as "Committee to Elect John Doe" unless a specific-purpose committee named "Committee to Elect John Doe" has filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Ethics Commission or a local filing authority.

### **IV. Are There Any Exceptions to the Disclosure Statement Requirement?**

The following types of political advertising do not need the disclosure statement:

1. t-shirts, balloons, buttons, emery boards, hats, lapel stickers, small magnets, pencils, pens, pins, wooden nickels, candy wrappers, and similar materials;
2. invitations or tickets to political fundraising events or to events held to establish support for a candidate or officeholder;



3. an envelope that is used to transmit political advertising, provided that the political advertising in the envelope includes the disclosure statement;
4. circulars or fliers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and distribute;
5. political advertising printed on letterhead stationery, if the letterhead includes the name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the advertising, (b) the political committee authorizing the advertising, or, (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate. (Note: There is also an exception for holiday greeting cards sent by an officeholder, provided that the officeholder's name and address appear on the card or the envelope.)
6. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the person posting or re-posting is not an officeholder, candidate, or political committee and did not make an expenditure exceeding \$100 in a reporting period for political advertising beyond the basic cost of hardware messaging software and bandwidth;
7. an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder, if the webpage clearly and conspicuously displays the full name of the candidate or officeholder; and
8. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the advertising is posted with a link to a publicly viewable Internet webpage that either contains the disclosure statement or is an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder that clearly and conspicuously displays the candidate's or officeholder's full name.

#### **V. What Should I Do If I Discover That My Political Advertising Does Not Contain a Disclosure Statement?**

The law prohibits a person from using, causing or permitting to be used, or continuing to use political advertising containing express advocacy if the person knows it does not include the disclosure statement. A person is presumed to know that the use is prohibited if the Texas Ethics Commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. If you receive notice from the Texas Ethics Commission that your political advertising does not comply with the law, you should stop using it immediately.

If you learn that a political advertising sign designed to be seen from the road does not contain a disclosure statement or contains an inaccurate disclosure statement, you should make a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs that have been distributed. You are not required to attempt to recover other types of political advertising that have been distributed with a missing or inaccurate disclosure statement.

#### **VI. The Fair Campaign Practices Act.**

The Fair Campaign Practices Act sets out basic rules of decency, honesty, and fair play to be followed by candidates and political committees during a campaign. A candidate or political committee may choose to subscribe to the voluntary code by signing a copy of the code and filing it with the authority with whom the candidate or committee is required to file its campaign

treasurer appointment. A person subscribing to the code may indicate that fact on political advertising by including the following or a substantially similar statement:

**(Name of the candidate or political committee, as appropriate) subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.**

## **VII. Special Notice to Political Subdivisions and School Districts.**

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

## **ROAD SIGNS**

### **I. When Is the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Required?**

All written political advertising that is meant to be seen from a road must carry a “right-of-way” notice. It is a criminal offense to omit the “right-of-way” notice in the following circumstances:

1. if you enter into a contract or agreement to print or make written political advertising meant to be seen from a road; or
2. if you instruct another person to place the written political advertising meant to be seen from a road.

### **II. What Should the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Say?**

Section 259.001 of the Texas Election Code prescribes the exact language of the notice:

**NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTERS 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE) TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY.**

### **III. Do Yard Signs Have to Have the “Right-Of-Way” Notice?**

Yes. The “right-of-way” notice requirement applies to signs meant to be seen from any road. The notice requirement assures that a person responsible for placing signs is aware of the restriction on placing the sign in the right-of-way of a highway.

### **IV. What About Bumper Stickers?**

Bumper stickers do not need the “right-of-way” notice. They do, however, need a political advertising disclosure statement.

### **V. Where May I Place My Signs and How Long May Signs Be Posted?**

For information about exactly where you may or may not place signs, or for information regarding the length of time your signs may be posted, check with your city or county government or your homeowner’s association. The Texas Ethics Commission does not have

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

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## MISREPRESENTATION

### I. Are There Restrictions on the Contents of Political Advertising?

Political advertising and campaign communications may not misrepresent a person's identity or official title, nor may they misrepresent the true source of the advertising or communication. The election law does not address other types of misrepresentation in political advertising or campaign communications.

Note that the misrepresentation rules apply to both political advertising and campaign communications. "Campaign communication" is a broader term than "political advertising."

A "campaign communication" means "a written or oral communication relating to a campaign for nomination or election to public office or office of a political party or to a campaign on a measure."

### II. Misrepresentation of Office Title.

A candidate may not represent that he or she holds an office that he or she does not hold at the time of the representation. **If you are not the incumbent in the office you are seeking, you must make it clear that you are seeking election rather than reelection by using the word "for" to clarify that you don't hold that office.** The word "for" must be at least one-half the type size as the name of the office and should appear immediately before the name of the office. For example, a non-incumbent may use the following formats:

**Vote John Doe  
for Attorney General**

**John Doe  
For  
Attorney General**

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

**Elect John Doe  
Attorney General**

**John Doe  
Attorney General**

### **III. Misrepresentation of Identity or Source.**

A person violates the law if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the source of political advertising or a campaign communication or if the person misrepresents his or her own identity or the identity of his or her agent in political advertising or in a campaign communication. (If someone else is doing something for you, that person is your agent.) For example, you may not take out an ad in favor of your opponent that purports to be sponsored by a notoriously unpopular group.

### **IV. Use of State Seal.**

Only current officeholders may use the state seal in political advertising.

### **V. Criminal Offenses.**

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

## SWORN COMPLAINTS

An individual may file a sworn complaint with the Ethics Commission alleging a violation of any of the laws it administers, and Sections 334.025 and 335.055, Local Government Code, concerning false and misleading campaign material supporting or opposing the authorization of a sports or community venue project. The Commission does not have the authority to enforce the Penal Code.

A sworn complaint sets in motion a process that may include a preliminary review hearing and a formal hearing, and which permits resolution of the matter at several points in the process. The Commission may ultimately resolve a sworn complaint by dismissal, referral for criminal prosecution, or imposition of a civil penalty. A final decision of the Commission in a sworn complaint process may be appealed to a district court for a trial de novo. During most stages of the process, the Commissioners and Commission staff members are required to keep the complaint confidential.

## ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATIVE POWERS

The Ethics Commission is authorized to undertake civil enforcement actions on its own motion or in response to a sworn complaint, hold enforcement hearings, issue orders, and impose civil penalties.

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*This pamphlet presents a brief overview of the Texas Ethics Commission. If you have a question about your own activities, we urge you to request an opinion from the Commission before engaging in the activity in question. Requests to the Commission for an advisory opinion must be in writing. You may also call the Commission's Legal Department at (512) 463-5800 for informal advice.*

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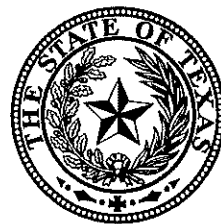
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# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

*Promoting Public Confidence  
In Government*



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*Revised January 10, 2017*

## **THE TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

On November 5, 1991, Texas voters approved an amendment that added Article III, Section 24a, to the Texas Constitution. The constitutional amendment created the Texas Ethics Commission. The amendment set out the method by which the eight members of the Commission are to be appointed, with four of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and two appointed by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. No more than four members may be from the same political party.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES**

The Texas Constitution provides that the Ethics Commission may recommend the salary of members of the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, subject to approval by the voters at the subsequent general election for state and county officers. Also, the Commission must set the *per diem* of members of the Legislature and of the Lieutenant Governor. The Legislature is to determine the other powers and duties of the Commission.

### **RULEMAKING**

The Ethics Commission has rulemaking authority with respect to the laws it administers. Adoption of a rule requires an affirmative vote by six Commissioners.

## **LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

Statutory duties of the Ethics Commission are in Chapter 571 of the Government Code. The agency is responsible for administering these laws: (1) Title 15, Election Code, concerning political contributions and expenditures, and political advertising; (2) Chapter 302, Government Code, concerning the election of the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives; (3) Chapter 303, Government Code, concerning the governor for a day and speaker's reunion day ceremonies; (4) Chapter 305, Government Code, concerning lobbyist registration, reports, and activities; (5) Chapter 572, Government Code, concerning personal financial disclosure of state officers and conduct of state officers and employees; (6) Chapter 2004, Government Code, concerning representation before state agencies; (7) Chapter 159, Local Government Code, concerning judges of statutory county courts or statutory probate courts who elect to file a financial statement with the Commission; (8) Government Code, Section 2152.064 (concerning Conflict of Interest in Certain Transactions involving the Texas Facilities Commission); and (9) Government Code, Section 2155.003 (concerning Conflict of Interest involving the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts).

## **ADVISORY OPINIONS**

The Commission has the authority to issue an advisory opinion in response to a request from a person subject to any of the laws it administers, as well as Chapter 36, Penal Code, concerning bribery and corrupt influence, and Chapter 39, Penal Code, concerning abuse of office. It is a defense to prosecution or the imposition of a civil penalty under any of these laws that a person reasonably relied on an advisory opinion of the Commission. The name of a person requesting an advisory opinion must be kept confidential by the Commission.

## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

The Ethics Commission serves as a repository of required disclosure statements for state officials, candidates, political committees, lobbyists, and certain district and county judicial officers.

## **TRAINING**

The Ethics Commission provides, in cooperation with state agencies, a program of ethics training for state employees, and also provides training for members and members-elect of the Texas Legislature concerning compliance with laws administered by the Commission. The Commission also produces educational materials and provides training programs for other groups affected by laws administered by the Commission.