



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

TO: Candidates Filing for the Position of Councilmember Nos. Two (2) and Five (5)  
FROM: Raquel Martinez, TRMC, City Secretary  
DATE: December 12, 2025  
SUBJECT: Election Information and Forms for City of Friendswood, May 2, 2026, General Election

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The enclosed and/or attached materials contain information and forms for the May 2, 2026, City of Friendswood General Election for the positions of Councilmember Nos. Two (2) and Five (5). Please review the information carefully as this packet holds relevant dates, forms and other information related to the election process from beginning to end. The candidate packet contains the following information:

1. City of Friendswood Internet Posting Notice of Election Information (FAQs)
2. Notice of Deadline to File Applications for Place on the Ballot
3. Candidate Qualifications
4. Texas Election Code, Section 141.001 Eligibility Requirements for Public Office
5. Application for a Place on the Ballot
6. City of Friendswood Charter, Section 6.02 Filing for Public Office
  - a. Petition Instruction and Form for Sponsor Signatures
  - b. Public Disclosure Form
7. Instructions and Form for Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer by a Candidate
8. Instructions and Form for Candidate/Officeholders Finance Reports
  - a. Campaign Finance Guide for Candidate and Officeholders Who File with a Local Filing Authority
  - b. Texas Ethics Commission 2026 Filing Schedule for Report due in Connection with Elections
9. Instructions and Form for Code of Fair Campaign Practices
  - a. Title 15, Texas Election Code, Fair Campaign Practices
  - b. Chapter 258, Texas Elections Code, Regulating Political Funds and Campaigns
10. Notice of Drawing for a Place on the Ballot
11. Instructions and Form for Candidate Certificate of Withdrawal
12. City of Friendswood Map
13. City of Friendswood Charter
14. Friendswood City Code, Appendix A, Section 15(f) *“Temporary political signs”* & Texas Election Code, Chapter 259 *“Political Signs.”*
15. Texas Ethics Commission Signs & Political Advertising

It is the duty of the candidate to become familiar with the laws applicable to campaigns for public office. The duty of the City Secretary is limited to accepting and filing the various applications, affidavits, and statements, and noting the date and time of filing thereon. These documents are public records and are open for inspection by any person through the Texas Public Information Act. Should you need assistance with campaign laws, please contact the Secretary of State, Elections Division, via phone at 1-800-252-VOTE, via email to [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov) or visit their website at: <http://sos.state.tx.us>. For assistance regarding campaign finance laws and reporting requirements please contact the Texas Ethics Commission at 512-463-5800, via email to [reception@ethics.state.tx.us](mailto:reception@ethics.state.tx.us) or visit their website at its online service at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

Please make note of the following important dates:

01/14/2026	First day to file for place on ballot. A candidate for City Council must meet the requirements noted in the Texas Election Code, Section 141.001 “Eligibility Requirement for Public Office” as well as Section 6.02 “Filing for Office” of the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas.
02/13/2026	Last day to file an Application for Place on Ballot at 5:00 P.M. in City Secretary’s Office, City Hall.
02/17/2026	Last day for a Write-in Candidate to File for a Place on the Ballot. Filing must be received by the City Secretary’s Office no later than 5:00 P.M.
02/20/2026	Last day for Candidacy Withdrawal must be filed with the City Secretary’s Office no later than 5:00 P.M. Candidate Drawing at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chamber, City Hall.
04/02/2026	Due date for filing first Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures by Opposed Candidate (30 days prior to Election). Deadline to register to vote for May 2, 2026, Election (must register with Voter Registrar of the county of residence).
04/20/2026*	Last day to apply (by mail or fax) for an early voting ballot to be voted by mail; applications must be received not merely postmarked on this date. *Deadline falls on San Jacinto Day, moves to preceding business day
4/20 – 04/28	Early Voting Period by Personal Appearance (polling locations and schedule will be the same for both counties).
04/24/2026	Due date for filing second report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures (8 days prior to election).
05/02/2026	Election Day (7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.) (polling locations and schedule will be the same for both counties).
05/13/2026	Last Day to Canvass the Election, City Council is the canvassing authority that will canvass and declare the results of the election at a council meeting posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.
05/12/2026	Swearing-in of incoming council members at City Council Regular Meeting and first meeting of newly elected officials.
Any time after election	Final report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures.

The candidate packet with all of the forms and information you will need for this election is available in electronic format on the City’s website. You can access the information by scanning the QR Code below:



Lastly, should you file for a place on the ballot, please provide the City Secretary with a candidate picture and bio of no more than 500 words in electronic format for placement on the City’s Candidate webpage. For more information related to elections, please contact the City Secretary’s Office at [citysecretary@friendswood.com](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.com) or at 281-996-3270.

Best of luck to all of you!



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

PARA: Candidatos que se postulan para las Posiciones Concejal número Dos (2) y Cinco (5).  
DE: Raquel Martinez, TRMC, Secretaria de la Ciudad  
FECHA: 12 de diciembre de 2025  
ASUNTO: Información sobre la elección y formas de la Ciudad de Friendswood para la Elección General del 2 de mayo de 2026

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Los materiales incluidos y/o adjuntos incluyen información y formas para la Elección General de la Ciudad de Friendswood del 2 de mayo de 2026, para las Posiciones de Concejal número Dos (2) y Cinco (5). Repase la información atentamente porque este paquete incluye fechas importantes, formas y otra información relacionada con el proceso electoral de inicio a fin. El paquete para candidatos incluye la siguiente información:

1. Aviso de publicación en internet sobre información electoral (preguntas frecuentes) de la Ciudad de Friendswood
2. Aviso de fecha límite para presentar solicitudes de un lugar en la boleta
3. Requisitos de los candidatos
4. Sección 141.001 "Requisitos de elegibilidad para ocupar un cargo público" del Código Electoral de Texas
5. Presentación de solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de votación
6. Sección 6.02 "Postularse a un cargo público" de la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad de Friendswood
  - a. Instrucciones para petición y forma para firmas de patrocinadores
  - b. Forma de divulgación pública
7. Instrucciones y forma para designación de un tesorero de campaña por un candidato
8. Instrucciones y forma para informes financieros de candidatos/titulares de cargos
  - a. Guía financiera para la campaña para candidatos y titulares de cargos que presentan solicitudes a una autoridad local
  - b. Cronograma para presentaciones de 2026 para informes previstos en conexión con las elecciones de la Comisión de Ética de Texas
9. Instrucciones y forma del Código de Prácticas Justas de Campaña
  - a. Prácticas justas de campaña del Título 15 del Código Electoral de Texas
  - b. Regulación de fondos y campañas políticos del Capítulo 258 del Código Electoral del Texas
10. Aviso de sorteo para un lugar en la boleta de votación
11. Instrucciones y forma del Certificado de Retiro de Candidatura
12. Mapa de la Ciudad de Friendswood
13. Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad de Friendswood
14. Código de la Ciudad de Friendswood, Apéndice A, Sección 15(f), "Letreros políticos temporales" y Código Electoral de Texas, Capítulo 259, "Letreros políticos".
15. Publicidad política y letreros de la Comisión de Ética de Texas

Es obligación del candidato conocer bien las leyes aplicables a las campañas para ocupar un cargo público. La obligación de la Secretaria de la Ciudad se limita a aceptar y tramitar las diversas solicitudes, declaraciones juradas y

declaraciones, y asentar la fecha y la hora en dichas presentaciones. Estos documentos son registros públicos y están abiertos para inspección de cualquier persona mediante la Ley de Información Pública de Texas. En caso de necesitar asistencia con las leyes de campaña, póngase en contacto con la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado llamando al 1-800-252-VOTE, escribiendo un correo electrónico a [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov) o visitando su sitio web en: <http://sos.state.tx.us>. Para asistencia con respecto a las leyes financieras de campaña y requisitos de informe, póngase en contacto con la Comisión de Ética de Texas llamando al 512-463-5800, escribiendo un correo electrónico a [reception@ethics.state.tx.us](mailto:reception@ethics.state.tx.us) o visitando su sitio web a través de su servicio en línea en <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

Preste atención a las siguientes fechas importantes:

01/14/2026	Primer día para presentar la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta. Un candidato para el Consejo Municipal debe satisfacer los requisitos indicados en la Sección 141.001 “Requisitos de elegibilidad para ocupar un cargo público” del Código Electoral de Texas además de los de la Sección 6.02 “Postularse a un cargo” de la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad de Friendswood, Texas.
02/13/2026	Último día para presentar una solicitud para obtener un lugar en la boleta de votación a las 5:00 P.M. en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad en la Alcaldía.
02/17/2026	Último día para que un candidato por escrito presente una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de votación. La Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad debe recibir la solicitud antes de las 5:00 P.M.
02/20/2026	Último día para tramitar el retiro de un candidato en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad antes de las 5:00 P.M. Sorteo para candidatos a las 5:00 p.m. en la Cámara de Consejo en la Alcaldía.
04/02/2026	Fecha establecida para presentar el primer Informe de contribuciones y desembolsos de campaña de un candidato con opositores (30 días antes de la Elección). Fecha límite para registrarse para votar para la Elección del 2 de mayo de 2026 (deben acudir al Registro de Votantes del condado de residencia).
04/20/2026*	Último día para solicitar (por correo postal o fax) una boleta de votación anticipada para votar por correo postal; las solicitudes deben ser recibidas y no simplemente estar mataselladas para esta fecha. * Fecha límite coincide con el día de San Jacinto, se mueve al día hábil anterior
4/20 – 04/28	Período de Votación Anticipada en persona (los lugares y horarios de votación serán los mismos para ambos condados).
04/24/2026	Fecha establecida para presentar el segundo Informe de contribuciones y desembolsos de campaña (8 días antes de la elección).
05/02/2026	Día de Elección (7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.) Período de Votación Anticipada en persona (los lugares y horarios de votación serán los mismos para ambos condados).
05/13/2026	Último día para el escrutinio de la elección, el Consejo Municipal es la autoridad de escrutinio que hará el escrutinio y declarará los resultados de la elección en la asamblea del consejo publicada en conformidad con la Ley de Asambleas Públicas.
05/12/2026	Juramento al cargo de los concejales ingresantes en la asamblea ordinaria del Consejo Municipal y primera asamblea de los funcionarios recién electos.
Cualquier momento después de la elección	Informe final de contribuciones y desembolsos de campaña.

El paquete para candidatos con todas las formas e información que necesitará para esta elección está disponible en formato electrónico en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Puede acceder a la información escaneando el siguiente código QR:



Por último, en caso de que presentare una solicitud para ocupar un lugar en la boleta de votación, entréguele a la Secretaria de la Ciudad una foto del candidato y una biografía de no más de 500 palabras en formato electrónico para ser colocadas en la página web de candidatos de la Ciudad. Para obtener más información sobre las elecciones, comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad a través de [citysecretary@friendswood.com](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.com) o 281-996-3270.

¡Muchísima suerte para todos!



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

致： 申請議會成員第二(2)和第五(5)號席位的候選人  
寄件人： Raquel Martinez, TRMC, 市政秘書  
日期： 2025年12月12日  
主題： 2026年5月2日Friendswood市普通選舉的選舉資訊和表格

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隨附和/或所附材料包含2026年5月2日Friendswood市議會成員第二(2)和第五(5)號席位普通選舉的相關資訊和表格。請仔細閱讀這些資訊，因為這套資料包含了與整個選舉過程有關的日期、表格和其他資訊。這套候選人資料包含以下資訊：

1. Friendswood市選舉資訊網路發布通知（常見問題）
2. 申請選票席位截止日期通知
3. 候選人資格
4. 《Texas州選舉法》第141.001節「公職資格要求」
5. 選票席位申請
6. Friendswood市憲章第6.02節「申請公職」
  - a. 用於發起人簽名的請願書說明和表格
  - b. 公開披露表
7. 候選人任命競選財務主管之說明和表格
8. 候選人/在職官員財務報告之說明和表格
  - a. 向地方申報機構申報的候選人和在職官員之競選財務指南
  - b. Texas州道德委員會2026年與選舉有關的報告之提交時間表
9. 公平競選行為守則之說明和表格
  - a. 《Texas州選舉法》第15條「公平競選行為」
  - b. 《Texas州選舉法》第258章「規範政治資金和競選」
10. 選票席位抽籤通知
11. 候選人退選證明書之說明和表格
12. Friendswood市地圖
13. Friendswood市憲章
14. 《Friendswood市法典》附錄A第15(f)節「臨時政治標誌」和《Texas州選舉法》第259章「政治標誌」。
15. Texas州道德委員會標誌和政治廣告

候選人有責任熟悉適用於公職競選的法律法規。市秘書長的職責僅限於接受和歸檔各類申請、具結書及聲明，並在其上注明歸檔的日期和時間。這些文件屬於公共記錄，任何人可憑藉《Texas州公共資訊法案》進行查閱。如果您需要競選法律方面的幫助，可聯繫州務卿選舉處；請撥打1-800-252-VOTE，發送電子郵件到[elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov)，或瀏覽網站<http://sos.state.tx.us>。如果需要競選財務法律和報告要求方面的幫助，請聯繫Texas州道德委員會；請撥打512-463-5800，發送電子郵件到[reception@ethics.state.tx.us](mailto:reception@ethics.state.tx.us)，或瀏覽網站<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>獲取其線上服務。

請注意以下重要日期:

2026年1月14日	提交選票席位申請的第一天。市議會候選人須符合《Texas州選舉法》第141.001節「公職資格要求」以及Texas州Friendswood市憲章第6.02節「申請任職」中規定的要求。
2026年2月13日	提交選票席位申請的最後一天，截止時間是下午5:00，地點在市政廳的市秘書長辦公室。
2026年2月17日	自填候選人提交選票席位申請的最後一天。申報材料須於下午5:00前送達市秘書長辦公室。
2026年2月20日	候選人退選的最後一天，須於下午5:00前提交至市秘書長辦公室。 候選人抽籤於下午5:00舉行，地點在市政廳的議會廳。
2026年4月2日	有競爭對手的候選人提交第一份「競選捐款和支出報告」的截止日期（選舉前30天）。 2026年5月2日選舉的投票登記截止日期（必須在居住縣的選民登記官處登記）。
2026年4月20日*	申請以郵寄方式投票之提前投票選票的最後一天（通過郵件或傳真申請）；申請書須送達，而不僅僅以當日郵戳為憑。 * 截止日期適逢San Jacinto日，將改為前一個工作日。
4月20日 - 4月28日	提前出席親自投票（兩縣的投票地點與時間安排相同）。
2026年4月24日	提交第二份「競選捐款和支出報告」的截止日期（選舉前8天）。
2026年5月2日	選舉日（上午7:00至晚上7:00）（兩縣的投票地點與時間安排相同）。
2026年5月13日	審核選票的最後一天。市議會是審核機構，將在根據《公開會議法案》發布的議會會議上審核並宣佈選舉結果。
2026年5月12日	新任議會成員在市議會例會上宣誓就職，並舉行新當選官員的第一次會議。
選舉後的任何時間	提交最後一份「競選捐款和支出報告」。

本市網站上提供了電子版候選人資料包，其中包括了本次選舉所需的所有表格和資訊。您可以掃描下面的二維碼來獲取這些資訊：



最後，如果您申請選票席位，請向市秘書長提供一張候選人照片以及不超過500字的電子版簡歷，以便在本市的候選人網頁上公佈。如需瞭解有關選舉的更多資訊，請聯繫市秘書長辦公室，您可以發送電子郵件至 [citysecretary@friendswood.com](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.com) 或致電281-996-3270。

祝各位好運！



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

GỬI: Các Ứng Cử Viên cho Thành viên hội đồng thành phố Vị Trí Số Hai (2) và Năm (5)  
NGƯỜI GỬI: Raquel Martinez, TRMC, Thư Ký Hội Đồng Thành Phố  
NGÀY: Ngày 12 tháng Mười Hai, 2025  
VỀ VIỆC: Thông tin Bầu cử và các Mẫu điền cho Cuộc Tổng tuyển cử ngày 2 tháng Năm, 2026 của Thành phố Friendswood

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Các tài liệu đính kèm và / hoặc kèm theo chứa thông tin và các mẫu điền cho cuộc Tổng tuyển cử ngày 2 tháng Năm, 2026, Thành phố Friendswood cho các vị trí Thành viên Hội đồng thành phố vị trí số Hai (2) và Năm (5). Vui lòng xem lại kỹ thông tin vì tập tài liệu này chứa các ngày tháng, mẫu điền liên quan và các thông tin khác liên quan đến quá trình bầu cử từ đầu đến cuối. Tập tài liệu dành cho ứng viên bao gồm những thông tin sau đây:

1. Thành phố Friendswood Đăng tải Thông báo về Thông tin Bầu cử (FAQ) trên Internet
2. Thông Báo Thời Hạn Nộp Đơn Xin Ghi Tên trong Lá Phiếu
3. Trình Độ Năng Lực của Ứng Cử Viên
4. Bộ Luật Bầu Cử Texas, Mục 141.001, Các Yêu Cầu về Trình Độ Năng Lực cho Chức Vụ trong Chính Quyền
5. Đơn Xin ghi tên tranh cử trên Lá phiếu
6. Hiến Chương Thành Phố Friendswood, Mục 6.02 Nộp Đơn Xin Tranh Cử vào Chức Vụ trong Chính Quyền
  - a. Hướng dẫn Nộp đơn và Mẫu điền cho Chữ ký của bên Tài trợ
  - b. Mẫu điền tiết lộ thông tin
7. Hướng dẫn và Mẫu điền Bổ nhiệm Thủ quỹ Chiến dịch Tranh cử của Ứng viên
8. Hướng dẫn và Mẫu điền cho Báo cáo Tài chánh của Ứng viên/Người giữ chức vụ
  - a. Hướng dẫn Tài chánh của Chiến dịch Tranh cử dành cho Ứng viên và Người giữ chức vụ Nộp hồ sơ với Cơ quan nộp hồ sơ Tranh cử Địa phương
  - b. Ủy ban Đạo đức Texas 2026 Lịch trình nộp Báo cáo do Liên quan đến Bầu cử
9. Hướng dẫn và Mẫu điền cho Bộ Quy Tắc về Các Phương Thức Tổ Chức Chiến Dịch Tranh Cử Công Bằng
  - a. Tiêu đề 15, Bộ luật Bầu cử Texas, Các Phương Thức Tổ Chức Chiến Dịch Tranh Cử Công Bằng
  - b. Chương 258, Bộ luật bầu cử Texas, Quản lý Ngân quỹ và chiến dịch vận động chính trị
10. Thông Báo về Việc Rút Thăm Xác Định Vị Trí Ghi Tên trên Lá Phiếu
11. Hướng dẫn và Mẫu điền cho Chứng nhận Rút lui của Ứng Cử Viên
12. Bản đồ Thành Phố Friendswood
13. Hiến chương Thành Phố Friendswood
14. Bộ luật Thành phố Friendswood, Phụ lục A, Mục 15(f) “*Các biển hiệu vận động chính trị tạm thời*” & Bộ luật bầu cử Texas, Chương 259 “*Các Biển Hiệu Vận Động Chính Trị*”.
15. Quảng cáo Vận động Chính trị & Biển hiệu của Ủy ban Đạo Đức Texas

Ứng viên có nhiệm vụ làm quen với các điều luật áp dụng cho các chiến dịch tranh cử vào chức vụ trong chính quyền. Nhiệm vụ của Thư ký Thành phố chỉ giới hạn ở việc chấp nhận và nộp đơn xin, bản khai chứng thệ, và các bản tuyên

ngôn khác nhau, đồng thời lưu ý ngày và giờ nộp đơn. Những tài liệu này là hồ sơ công cộng và được công khai để kiểm tra bởi bất kỳ người nào theo Đạo luật Thông tin Công cộng Texas. Nếu quý vị cần hỗ trợ về luật liên quan đến chiến dịch vận động, vui lòng liên hệ với Tổng Trưởng Tiểu Bang, Phân Ban Bầu Cử, qua số điện thoại 1-800-252-VOTE, qua địa chỉ email [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov) hoặc ghé thăm trang nhà của họ tại : <http://sos.state.tx.us>. Để được hỗ trợ về luật tài trợ chiến dịch và các yêu cầu báo cáo, vui lòng liên hệ Ủy ban Đạo đức Texas tại số 1-800-252-8506, qua địa chỉ email [reception@ethics.state.tx.us](mailto:reception@ethics.state.tx.us), hoặc qua dịch vụ trực tuyến trên trang nhà của họ tại <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

Hãy ghi lại những ngày quan trọng sau đây:

01/14/2026	Ngày đầu tiên nộp đơn xin ghi tên trên lá phiếu: Một ứng cử viên tranh cử vào Hội đồng Thành phố phải đáp ứng các yêu cầu được ghi trong Bộ luật Bầu cử Texas, Mục 141.001 “Yêu cầu về Tình trạng hội đủ điều kiện cho Chức vụ trong Chính quyền” cũng như Mục 6.02 “Nộp đơn xin Tranh cử” của Hiến chương Thành phố Friendswood, Texas.
02/13/2026	Ngày cuối cùng nộp đơn xin ghi tên trên lá phiếu vào lúc 5 giờ chiều tại Văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố, Tòa thị chánh.
02/17/2026	Hạn chót nộp đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trong lá phiếu theo diện ứng cử viên ghi thêm. Văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố phải nhận được hồ sơ nộp trễ nhất là 5 giờ chiều.
02/20/2026	Ngày hạn chót nộp Đơn Rút lui Tranh cử cho Văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố trễ nhất là 5 giờ chiều. Ứng cử viên Rút thăm lúc 5 giờ 15 chiều tại Phòng họp của Hội đồng thành phố, Tòa thị chánh.
04/02/2026	Ngày hạn chót nộp Báo cáo đầu tiên về Các Khoản Đóng Góp và Chi Tiêu cho Chiến Dịch Tranh cử của Ứng Viên Có Đối Thủ Tranh Cử (30 ngày trước Cuộc Bầu Cử). Thời hạn ghi danh bỏ phiếu cho Cuộc Bầu Cử ngày 2 tháng Năm, 2026 (phải ghi danh với Văn Phòng Ghi Danh cử Tri của quận nơi cư ngụ).
04/20/2026*	Ngày cuối cùng nộp đơn (bằng thư hoặc fax) xin lá phiếu bầu sớm để bỏ phiếu qua đường bưu điện; đơn đăng ký phải được nhận không chỉ đơn thuần là có dấu bưu điện vào ngày này. * Hạn chót rơi vào Ngày San Jacinto, được chuyển sang ngày làm việc liền trước đó
4/20 – 04/28	Đích thân tới Bỏ Phiếu Sớm (các địa điểm phòng phiếu và lịch trình sẽ giống nhau cho cả hai quận).
04/24/2026	Ngày hạn chót nộp Báo cáo thứ hai về Các Khoản Đóng Góp và Chi Tiêu cho Chiến Dịch Tranh cử (8 ngày trước Cuộc Bầu Cử).
05/02/2026	Ngày Bầu Cử (7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối) (các địa điểm phòng phiếu và lịch trình sẽ giống nhau cho cả hai quận).
05/13/2026	Ngày cuối cùng kiểm phiếu cho cuộc bầu cử, Hội đồng thành phố là cơ quan thẩm quyền kiểm phiếu bầu sẽ kiểm phiếu và tuyên bố kết quả của cuộc bầu cử tại một cuộc họp hội đồng được đăng thông báo theo Đạo luật Nhóm họp Công khai.
05/12/2026	Thủ tục tuyên thệ của các thành viên hội đồng sắp vào tại Cuộc Họp Thường Lệ của Hội Đồng thành Phố và buổi gặp đầu tiên của các viên chức vừa trúng cử.
Bất kỳ lúc nào sau bầu cử	Báo cáo cuối cùng về Các Khoản Đóng Góp và Chi Tiêu cho Chiến Dịch Tranh cử.

Bộ hồ sơ ứng viên với tất cả các biểu mẫu và thông tin quý vị cần cho cuộc bầu cử này có sẵn dưới định dạng điện tử trên trang web của thành phố. Quý vị có thể truy cập thông tin bằng cách quét mã QR dưới đây:



Cuối cùng, nếu quý vị nộp đơn xin ghi tên trên lá phiếu, vui lòng cung cấp cho Thư ký Thành phố ảnh và tiểu sử ứng cử viên không quá 500 từ theo định dạng điện tử để đưa lên trang web Ứng cử viên của Thành phố. Để biết thêm thông tin liên quan đến bầu cử, vui lòng liên lạc với Văn Phòng Thư Ký Thành Phố tại [citysecretary@friendswood.com](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.com) hoặc tại 281-996-3270.

Chúc tất cả quý vị may mắn!



# CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD ELECTIONS

### When does the City of Friendswood hold its elections?

The City of Friendswood holds its elections on the first Saturday in May of every year. See §41.001(a)(1) & (2) TEC and §6.01 "City elections" Charter, City of Friendswood, Texas.

### What are the City Council positions?

The City Council is comprised of a Mayor and six Councilmembers. The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be elected from the City at large, and each shall occupy a position on the City Council. Councilmember positions shall be numbered 1 through 6 consecutively. The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be elected to serve for three-year terms, but no person shall be elected to serve on the City Council in any capacity for more than four three-year terms. The three-year terms of Office of Councilmembers and the Mayor shall be staggered, with the upcoming election and deadlines to file as follows:

Position	Election Date	Deadline to File
Mayor	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Councilmember, Position 1	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Councilmember, Position 2	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Councilmember, Position 3	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Councilmember, Position 4	05/06/2028	02/18/2028
Councilmember, Position 5	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Councilmember, Position 6	05/06/2028	02/18/2028

### What are the qualifications for council members?

A candidate for city council must meet all eligibility requirements of state law and the City's Charter, State law provides that a candidate for city council 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 or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
3. have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
  - a. totally mentally incapacitated; or
  - b. partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
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. be registered to vote in the territory the candidate seeks to represent by the filing deadline.

See §141.001 TEC

The City's Charter provides that a candidate must meet the requirements noted in Section 3.02 "Qualifications" and 6.02 "Filing for Public Office":

**Section 3.02** states in part that "the Mayor and each Councilmember shall meet the conditions of subsections 6.02(a), items (1), (2) and (3) while in office, and shall reside within the City while in office.

And

**Section 6.02** states in part that "each candidate for an elective City Office shall meet the following qualifications:

- (1) Shall be a qualified voter of the City.
- (2) Shall have resided for at least 12 months preceding the election within the corporate limits of the City, including territory annexed prior to the filing deadline.
- (3) Shall be at least 21 years of age.
- (4) Shall meet the requirements for sponsors stipulated in subsection 6.02(b) below."

**What are the salaries of the mayor and council members?**

The members of the Friendswood City Council are volunteers and receive no compensation for their service.

**When can I file for a place on the ballot?**

Texas Election Code, Section 143.007(a) states that an application may not be filed earlier than the 30th day before the date of the filing deadline. Texas Election Code, Section 143.007(c) states that for an election to be held on a uniform election date, the day of the filing deadline is the 78th day before Election Day.

**How do I file for a place on the ballot?**

The application for a place on the ballot can be accessed on the City's website or a copy may be requested from the City Secretary. The application must be completed, notarized and filed with the City Secretary, at Friendswood City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77520, Monday – Friday, during regular business hours. There is no fee associated with this process.

In addition to the Application for a Place on the Ballot, a candidate must also comply with Section 6.02(b) of the City Charter, which refers to a petition with at least 25-registered voters of the City sponsoring a candidate's placement on the ballot, said petition must be filed at the time the candidate files his/her Application for a Place on the Ballot. A copy of this information and its related petition form can be accessed on the City's website and/or requested from the City Secretary's Office.

Lastly, per Section 6.02(d) a candidate must file with the City Secretary a Financial Public Disclosure Statement on the 21<sup>st</sup> day prior to election day. Failure to file this statement in compliance with Section 6.02(d) will invalidate the candidate's filing for office. A copy of this information and its related form can be accessed on the City's website and/or requested from the City Secretary's Office.

**Is there a candidate packet?**

A candidate packet is made available at no cost to the public. A candidate may access the candidate packet on the City's website, or he/she may request a copy of the packet, which will be provided in electronic format on a thumb drive. This packet will include all forms, applications, guides, and important dates that will help guide the candidates through the election process.

**Do I need to appoint a campaign treasurer if I am not going to raise any money?**

Yes. The law requires every candidate to file a campaign treasurer appointment, even if the candidate does not intend to raise or spend money. You are allowed to appoint yourself as your treasurer. A campaign treasurer appointment must be on file prior to the acceptance of contributions.

**Where and when do I file my Campaign Contributions and Expenditure Report?**

Campaign Contributions and Expenditure Report related to the City's local elections must be filed with the City Secretary's Office, City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546. As a candidate for the May election, you must file your report on: (1) mid-January (Semiannual Report), (2) 30-days prior to the election, (3) 8-days prior to the election, (4) mid-July (Semiannual Report), and/or a final report after the election is completed. The City Secretary cannot advise a candidate on the form and content of the report and can only receive said record. For more information related to the campaign finance reports, please visit the Texas Ethics Commission at [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us).

**Do I still have to file reports if I chose modified reporting on my treasurer appointment?**

By selecting the modified reporting schedule, you are indicating that you plan to stay under the \$1,110 threshold in either contributions or expenditures in connection with an election. The modified reporting schedule exempts you from filing 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports. If you have selected the modified reporting schedule, you must still report activity during the entire period you were a candidate, either on a semiannual report or on a final report.

**What happens if I select modified reporting and then exceed \$1,110?**

If you select modified reporting and exceed \$1,110 (in either contributions or expenditures in connection with an election) before the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file required 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports. Keep in mind that unopposed candidates are not required to file these reports regardless of their level of activity. If you exceed the \$1,110 threshold after the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file an "exceeded \$1,110 report" within 48 hours of exceeding the threshold and, if the threshold is exceeded before the 8-day pre-election report is due, you must file the 8-day pre-election report.

**Who do I call if I have a complaint?**

For any election related issue or complaint, please contact the City Secretary's Office at 281-996-3270 or via email at [citysecretary@friendswood.org](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.org).



CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD  
OFICINA DE LA SECRETARIA DE LA CIUDAD

## INFORMACIÓN RELATIVA A LAS ELECCIONES DE LA CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD

### ¿Cuándo celebra sus elecciones la Ciudad de Friendswood?

La Ciudad de Friendswood celebra sus elecciones el primer sábado de mayo de todos los años. Consulte §41.001(a)(1) y (2) del TEC y §6.01 "Elecciones de la Ciudad" de la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad de Friendswood, Texas.

### ¿Qué son las posiciones del Consejo Municipal?

El Consejo Municipal está formado por un alcalde y seis concejales. El alcalde y cada concejal serán elegidos de la Ciudad en general y cada uno ocupará una posición en el Consejo Municipal. Las posiciones de los concejales recibirán números consecutivos del 1 al 6. El alcalde y cada concejal serán electos para trabajar por términos de tres años, pero ninguna persona será electa para trabajar en el Consejo Municipal en ninguna función por más de cuatro términos de tres años. Los términos de tres años del cargo de concejal y del alcalde serán escalonados, siendo las siguientes la próxima elección y las fechas límites para presentaciones:

Posición	Fecha de la elección	Fecha límite para presentaciones
Alcalde	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Concejal, Posición 1	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Concejal, Posición 2	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Concejal, Posición 3	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Concejal, Posición 4	05/06/2028	02/18/2028
Concejal, Posición 5	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Concejal, Posición 6	05/06/2028	02/18/2028

### ¿Qué requisitos deben reunir los concejales?

Un candidato al consejo municipal debe satisfacer todos los requisitos de elegibilidad de la ley estatal y de la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad. La ley estatal dispone que un candidato para el consejo municipal debe:

1. ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos;
2. tener 18 años de edad o más al primer día del término en el cargo que será ocupado en la elección o en la fecha de la designación, si corresponde;
3. no haber sido declarado, por el fallo final de un tribunal testamentario:
  - a. discapacitado mental total, o
  - b. discapacitado mental parcial, sin derecho al voto;
4. no tener una condena definitiva por un delito mayor del cual la persona no ha sido indultada o absuelta de alguna otra manera de las inhabilitaciones resultantes; y
5. estar registrado para votar en el territorio que el candidato pretende representar antes de la fecha límite de presentación de la candidatura.

Consulte §141.001 del TEC

La Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad dispone que un candidato debe satisfacer los requisitos indicados en la Sección 3.02 "Requisitos" y 6.02 "Postularse para un cargo público":

La **Sección 3.02** indica en parte que "el alcalde y cada concejal deberán satisfacer las condiciones de las subsecciones 6.02(a), apartados (1), (2) y (3) mientras ocupan el cargo, y deberán residir dentro de la Ciudad mientras ocupan el cargo.

Y

La **Sección 6.02** indica en parte que "cada candidato para un cargo electivo de la Ciudad deberá reunir los siguientes requisitos:

- (1) Será un votante habilitado de la Ciudad.
- (2) Habrá residido por al menos 12 meses precedentes a la elección dentro de los límites corporativos de la Ciudad, incluso en territorio anexado antes de la fecha límite de la presentación de la candidatura.
- (3) Tendrá al menos 21 años de edad.
- (4) Reunirá los requisitos para patrocinadores estipulados en la siguiente subsección 6.02(b)".

### **¿Cuál es el salario del alcalde y de los concejales?**

Los miembros del Consejo Municipal de Friendswood son voluntarios y no reciben remuneración por su trabajo.

### **¿Cuándo puedo presentar la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta de votación?**

La Sección 143.007(a) del Código Electoral de Texas establece que no se puede presentar una solicitud antes del 30.º día anterior a la fecha límite de presentación. La Sección 143.007(c) del Código Electoral de Texas establece que, para que una elección se celebre en una fecha de elección uniforme, el día de la fecha límite para presentar la solicitud es el 78.º día previo al Día de Elección.

### **¿Cómo presento la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta de votación?**

Se puede acceder a la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta de votación en el sitio web de la Ciudad o se puede pedir una copia a la Secretaria de la Ciudad. Se debe completar, validar y presentar la solicitud a la Secretaria de la Ciudad en la Alcaldía de Friendswood sita en 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77520, de lunes a viernes durante el horario habitual de atención. No hay ninguna tarifa asociada con este proceso.

Además de la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta, un candidato también debe cumplir con la Sección 6.02(b) de la Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad, que hace referencia a una petición con el patrocinio de la colocación del candidato en la boleta de al menos 25 votantes registrados de la Ciudad, petición que debe presentarse en el mismo momento que el candidato o la candidata presenta su solicitud de un lugar en la boleta. Se puede acceder a una copia de esta información y su forma de petición relacionada en el sitio web de la Ciudad y/o pedirla en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad.

Por último, según la Sección 6.02(d), un candidato debe entregarle a la Secretaria de la Ciudad una Declaración de divulgación financiera pública el 21.º día antes del día de la elección. En caso de no entregar esta declaración en cumplimiento de la Sección 6.02(d) se invalidará la postulación al cargo del candidato. Se puede acceder a una copia de esta información y su forma relacionada en el sitio web de la Ciudad y/o pedirla en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad.

### **¿Hay algún paquete del candidato?**

Se pone a disposición del público un paquete gratis del candidato. Un candidato puede acceder a dicho paquete en el sitio web de la Ciudad o puede solicitar una copia del paquete, que se proporcionará en formato electrónico en un dispositivo USB. El paquete incluirá formas, solicitudes, guías y fechas importantes que ayudarán a guiar a los candidatos a través del proceso electoral.

### **¿Necesito designar un tesorero de campaña, aunque no vaya a recaudar dinero?**

Sí. La ley exige que todos los candidatos presenten una designación de tesorero de campaña, aunque el candidato no tenga la intención de recaudar o gastar dinero. Está permitido que se nombre tesorero usted mismo. Debe haber una designación de tesorero de campaña archivada antes de la aceptación de las contribuciones.

### **¿Dónde y cuándo presento mi Informe de contribuciones y desembolsos de campaña?**

El Informe de contribuciones y desembolsos de campaña relacionado con las elecciones locales de la Ciudad debe presentarse en la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad en la Alcaldía sita en 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546. Como candidato para la elección de mayo, debe presentar su informe: (1) mediados de enero (informe semestral), (2) 30 días antes de la elección, (3) 8 días antes de la elección, (4) mediados de julio (informe semestral) y/o un informe final una vez finalizada la elección. La Secretaria de la Ciudad no puede informar al candidato sobre la forma y el contenido del informe, solo puede recibir dicho registro. Para obtener más información relacionada con los informes financieros de campaña, visite la Comisión de Ética de Texas en [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us).

### **¿Tengo que presentar informes, aunque escoja la presentación de informes modificada en mi designación de tesorero?**

Al seleccionar el calendario de presentación de informes modificado, usted indica que tiene la intención de permanecer por debajo del límite de \$1,110 ya sea en cuanto a las contribuciones o a los desembolsos relativos a la elección. El calendario de presentación de informes modificado lo exime de presentar los informes de 30 días y 8 días antes de la elección. Aunque haya escogido el calendario de presentación de informes modificado, tiene que informar la actividad durante todo el período en el que fue candidato, ya sea mediante un informe semestral o un informe final.

### **¿Qué sucede si selecciono una presentación de informes modificada y luego supero los \$1,110?**

Si selecciona la presentación de informes modificada y supera los \$1,110 (ya sea en contribuciones o desembolsos en relación con una elección) antes de la fecha de entrega del informe de 30 días antes de la elección, debe presentar los informes requeridos de los 30 días y 8 días antes de la elección. Tenga en cuenta que a los candidatos sin oponentes no se les exige la presentación de estos informes, independientemente de su nivel de actividad. Si excede el límite de \$1,110 luego de la fecha de entrega del informe de los 30 días antes de la elección, tiene que presentar un “informe por superación de los \$1,110” en el plazo de 48 horas de haber excedido el límite y, si el límite se excede antes de la fecha de entrega del informe de 8 días antes de la elección, tendrá que presentar el informe de 8 días antes a la elección.

### **¿A quién llamo si tengo una queja?**

Ante cualquier problema o queja relacionados con la elección, comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad a través del 281-996-3270 o por correo electrónico a [citysecretary@friendswood.org](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.org).



# FRIENDSWOOD 市

市秘書長辦公室

## FRIENDSWOOD市選舉相關資訊

### Friendswood市何時舉行選舉？

Friendswood市於每年五月份的第一個週六舉行選舉。見《Texas州選舉法》第41.001(a)(1)和(2)節以及Texas州Friendswood市憲章第6.01節「本市選舉」。

### 市議會有哪些席位？

市議會由一名市長和六名市議員組成。市長和每個市議員都應從本市不分區選舉產生，並在市議會中各占一個席位。市議員的席位應從1號席位連續編號至6號席位。市長和每個市議員的任期為三年，但任何人以任何身份當選為市議會成員的期限不得超過四個三年任期。市議員和市長職位的三年任期應相互交錯，即將舉行的選舉和申報截止日期如下所示：

席位	選舉日期	申報截止日期
市長	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
1號席位市議員	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
2號席位市議員	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
3號席位市議員	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
4號席位市議員	05/06/2028	02/18/2028
5號席位市議員	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
6號席位市議員	05/06/2028	02/18/2028

### 市議員需具備哪些資格？

市議會候選人必須符合州法律和本市憲章的所有資格要求，據州法律規定，市議會候選人必須符合以下條件：

1. 需為美國公民；
2. 需在選舉所任職務的任職期首日或任命當日（如適用）年滿18周歲；
3. 從未被認證法庭裁定為：
  - a. 無完全精神能力；或
  - b. 無部分精神能力而喪失投票權；
4. 從未最終判定犯有不可寬赦或免於擔責的重罪；且
5. 在申報截止日期之前，是候選人尋求代表區域的登記選民。

見《Texas州選舉法》第141.001節

本市憲章規定，候選人必須符合第3.02節「資格」及第6.02節「申請公職」中規定的要求：

**第3.02節**部分規定：「市長和每個市議員應在任職期間滿足第6.02(a)小節第(1)、(2)和(3)項的條件，並在任職期間居住於本市。

以及

**第6.02節**部分規定：「市政府民選職位的每個候选人都應符合以下資格：

- (1) 須為本市合資格選民。
- (2) 於選舉前12個月，須在本市轄區範圍（包括於申報截止日期之前兼併的領土）內擁有住所。
- (3) 應年滿21歲。
- (4) 應符合下文第6.02(b)小節中規定的對發起人的要求。

## 市長及市議員的薪酬如何？

Friendswood市議會成員是志願者，他們的服務沒有任何報酬。

## 我何時可以申請選票席位？

《Texas州選舉法》第143.007(a)節規定，申請的提交不得早於申報截止日期之前30天。《Texas州選舉法》第143.007(c)節規定，對於要在統一選舉日舉行的選舉，申報截止日期為選舉日前78天。

## 如何申請選票席位？

可在本市網站上查詢選票席位申請表，也可向市秘書長索要申請表。必須完成申請、經過公證並提交至市秘書長，地址為：Friendswood City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77520，接受申請時間為週一至週五的正常辦公時間。此流程不收費。

除了提交選票席位申請外，候選人還須遵守本市憲章第6.02(b)節的規定，即至少有25名本市登記選民為候選人的選票席位提出請願，該請願書必須在候選人提交選票席位申請時提交。本資訊的副本及其相關請願書可在本市網站上查詢，或向市秘書長辦公室索取。

最後，根據第6.02(d)節規定，候選人必須在選舉日前第21天向市秘書長提交一份財務公開披露聲明。如果未能按第6.02(d)節的規定提交該聲明，則候選人的職位申請無效。本資訊的副本及其相關表格可在本市網站上查詢，或向市秘書長辦公室索取。

## 是否有候選人資料包？

候選人資料包免費向公眾提供。候選人可在本市網站獲取候選人資料包，或索要存儲在U盤中的電子版候選人資料包。資料包將包括所有表格、申請書、指南和重要日期資訊，這將在整個選舉過程中給予候選人指引。

## 如果我不打算籌集任何資金，還需要任命競選財務主管嗎？

是的。根據法律規定，每位候選人即使不打算籌集或花費資金，仍需要提交競選財務主管的任命。您可以任命自己為財務主管。必須在接受捐款前提交競選財務主管之任命。

## 在何時何地提交我的競選捐款和支出報告？

與本市本地選舉相關的競選捐款和支出報告必須提交至市秘書長辦公室，地址為：City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546。五月選舉的候選人必須在以下日期提交報告：(1) 1月中旬（半年度報告），(2) 選舉前30天，(3) 選舉前8天，(4) 7月中旬（半年度報告），及/或選舉完成後的最終報告。市秘書長不得就報告的形式和內容給予候選人意見，只能收取上述報告。關於競選財務報告的更多資訊，請瀏覽Texas州道德委員會網站（[www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us)）。

## 如果我在財務主管任命中選擇了修改版報告安排，我是否還需要提交報告？

選擇了修改版報告安排，即表明您計劃將與選舉有關的捐款或支出控制在1,110.00美元的門檻之下。修改版報告安排讓您不必提交選舉前30天和8天的報告。如果您選擇了修改版報告安排，您仍需要在半年度報告或最終報告中報告作為候選人的整個期間的活動。

## 如果我選擇了修改版報告，但超過了1,110美元，會怎麼樣？

如果您選擇了修改版報告安排，且在提交選舉前30天報告前超過了1,110.00美元門檻（無論是與選舉相關的捐贈還是支出），您都必須提交所規定的選舉前30天和8天報告。請記住，無競爭對手的候選人無論是何活動水準，都無需提交這些報告。如果您在選舉前30天報告提交後超過了1,110.00美元的門檻，您必須在超過門檻48小時內提交「超過1,110美元報告」，而如果在選舉前8天報告提交前超過了門檻，您必須提交選舉前8天報告。

## 如果我要投訴，應該給誰打電話？

與選舉相關的問題或投訴，請聯繫市秘書長辦公室，電話：281-996-3270，電子郵箱：[citysecretary@friendswood.org](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.org)。



## THÀNH PHỐ FRIENDSWOOD

VĂN PHÒNG THƯ KÝ THÀNH PHỐ

### THÔNG TIN VỀ CÁC CUỘC BẦU CỬ CỦA THÀNH PHỐ FRIENDSWOOD

#### Khi nào Thành Phố Friendswood tổ chức các cuộc bầu cử?

Thành Phố Friendswood tổ chức các cuộc bầu cử của thành phố vào ngày thứ Bảy đầu tiên trong tháng Năm hàng năm. Xem §41.001(a)(1) & (2) TEC và §6.01 Hiến Chương "Các Cuộc Bầu Cử của Thành Phố", Thành Phố Friendswood, Texas.

#### Hội Đồng Thành Phố có những vị trí nào?

Hội đồng thành phố bao gồm một Thị trưởng và sáu Thành viên hội đồng. Thị trưởng và mỗi Thành viên hội đồng thành phố sẽ được tuyển chọn từ trên toàn thành phố, và mỗi người sẽ đảm trách một vị trí trong Hội đồng thành phố. Các vị trí thành viên hội đồng thành phố sẽ được đánh số từ 1 đến 6 liên tiếp. Thị trưởng và mỗi Ủy viên Hội đồng sẽ được bầu để phục vụ nhiệm kỳ ba năm, nhưng không người nào được bầu để phục vụ trong Hội đồng thành phố ở bất kỳ cương vị nào trong hơn bốn nhiệm kỳ ba năm. Nhiệm kỳ ba năm của Chức vụ Ủy viên Hội đồng và Thị trưởng sẽ được chia theo giai đoạn, với cuộc bầu cử sắp tới và thời hạn nộp hồ sơ như sau:

Vị trí	Ngày Bầu Cử	Hạn chót nộp đơn
Thị Trưởng	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 1	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 2	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 3	05/01/2027	02/19/2027
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 4	05/06/2028	02/18/2028
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 5	05/02/2026	02/13/2026
Thành viên hội đồng, Vị trí 6	05/06/2028	02/18/2028

#### Các thành viên hội đồng cần hội đủ những điều kiện tiêu chuẩn gì?

Ứng cử viên cho hội đồng thành phố phải đáp ứng tất cả các yêu cầu về tiêu chuẩn điều kiện của luật tiểu bang và Hiến chương của thành phố, luật Tiểu bang quy định rằng một ứng cử viên cho hội đồng thành phố phải:

- là Công Dân Hoa Kỳ;
- ít nhất 18 tuổi vào ngày đầu tiên của nhiệm kỳ sẽ bầu chọn người đảm trách tại cuộc bầu cử hoặc vào ngày bỏ phiếu, nếu thích hợp;
- theo phán quyết chính thức của một toà án có thẩm quyền về chứng thực di chúc, được thấy là:
  - bị mất năng lực trí tuệ hoàn toàn; hoặc
  - bị mất năng lực trí tuệ một phần và không có quyền bỏ phiếu;
- không bị chính thức kết án phạm tội đại hình mà người đó chưa được tha bổng hoặc được miễn tội theo cách khác do tình trạng khuyết tật; và
- ghi danh bỏ phiếu tại địa hạt mà ứng cử viên đó muốn đại diện, trước ngày hạn chót nộp đơn.

Xem §141.001 TEC

Điều lệ của Thành phố quy định rằng một ứng cử viên phải đáp ứng các yêu cầu nêu trong Mục 3.02 "Trình độ năng lực" và 6.02 "Nộp đơn tranh cử vào Chức vụ trong Chính quyền":

**Mục 3.02** quy định một phần rằng "Thị Trưởng và mỗi Thành Viên Hội Đồng Thành Phố phải đáp ứng các điều kiện của các tiểu mục 6.02(a), các hạng mục (1), (2), và (3) trong thời gian đương nhiệm, và phải cư ngụ trong phạm vi Thành Phố trong thời gian đương nhiệm.

Và

**Mục 6.02** quy định một phần rằng "Mỗi ứng cử viên cho một Chức Vụ trong Văn phòng Thành phố được bầu chọn phải đáp ứng các tiêu chuẩn sau:

- Là cử tri hội đủ điều kiện của Thành Phố.
- Phải cư ngụ ít nhất 12 tháng trước cuộc bầu cử trong phạm vi ranh giới của Thành Phố, trong đó bao gồm cả địa giới được sáp nhập trước ngày hạn chót nộp đơn xin tranh cử.
- Phải đủ 21 tuổi.
- Phải hội đủ các yêu cầu đối với các bên tài trợ được quy định trong tiểu mục 6.02 (b) dưới đây.

### **Mức lương của thị trưởng và các thành viên hội đồng thành phố là như thế nào?**

Các thành viên của Hội đồng Thành phố Friendswood là những người tình nguyện và không nhận thù lao cho việc phục vụ.

### **Khi nào tôi có thể nộp đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu?**

Theo Bộ Luật Bầu Cử Texas, Mục 143.007(a), quý vị không được nộp đơn xin sớm hơn 30 ngày trước ngày hạn chót nộp đơn. Theo Bộ Luật Bầu Cử Texas, Mục 143.007(c), đối với một cuộc bầu cử diễn ra vào ngày bầu cử đồng loạt, ngày hạn chót nộp đơn là ngày thứ 78 trước Ngày Bầu Cử.

### **Làm thế nào để nộp đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu?**

Có thể lấy mẫu đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu trên trang web của Thành Phố hoặc có thể yêu cầu Thư Ký Thành Phố gửi một bản sao. Đơn phải được điền đầy đủ, công chứng và nộp cho Thư ký Thành phố, tại Friendswood City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77520, Thứ Hai - Thứ Sáu, trong giờ làm việc bình thường. Không có khoản phí nào liên quan tới thủ tục này.

Ngoài Đơn xin Ghi Tên trên Lá phiếu, ứng cử viên cũng phải tuân thủ Mục 6.02 (b) của Hiến chương Thành phố, đề cập đến một bản kiến nghị có ít nhất 25 cử tri đã đăng ký bỏ phiếu của Thành phố bảo trợ cho vị trí của ứng cử viên trên lá phiếu, đơn thỉnh cầu nói trên phải được nộp vào thời điểm ứng cử viên nộp Đơn xin Ghi Tên trên Lá phiếu. Bạn có thể truy cập bản sao của thông tin này và mẫu kiến nghị liên quan trên trang web của Thành phố và / hoặc yêu cầu từ Văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố.

Cuối cùng, theo Mục 6.02 (d), ứng cử viên phải nộp cho Thư ký Thành phố Bản Tuyên bố Công khai Tài chính vào ngày thứ 21 trước ngày bầu cử. Việc không nộp bản tuyên bố này theo Mục 6.02 (d) sẽ làm mất hiệu lực việc nộp đơn xin tranh cử của ứng viên. Quý vị có thể truy cập bản sao của thông tin này và mẫu đơn liên quan trên trang web của Thành phố và / hoặc yêu cầu từ Văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố.

### **Có bộ hồ sơ ứng cử viên không?**

Có bộ hồ sơ ứng cử viên miễn phí cho công chúng. Ứng cử viên có thể lấy bộ hồ sơ ứng cử viên trên trang web của Thành Phố hoặc có thể yêu cầu cung cấp một bộ hồ sơ dưới dạng điện tử trên ổ đĩa USB. Bộ hồ sơ này sẽ có tất cả các mẫu điền, đơn xin, hướng dẫn, và các ngày quan trọng, qua đó sẽ giúp các ứng cử viên nắm rõ các bước trong quy trình bầu cử.

### **Tôi có cần bỏ nhiệm một thủ quỹ chiến dịch vận động tranh cử nếu tôi không gây quỹ hay không?**

Có. Luật pháp quy định mỗi ứng cử viên phải nộp hồ sơ bỏ nhiệm thủ quỹ chiến dịch tranh cử, ngay cả khi ứng cử viên đó không có ý định gây quỹ hoặc chi tiền. Quý vị được phép tự bỏ nhiệm quý vị làm thủ quỹ. Việc bỏ nhiệm thủ quỹ chiến dịch tranh cử phải được lưu hồ sơ trước khi tiếp nhận các khoản đóng góp.

### **Tôi nộp Các Khoản Đóng Góp cho Chiến Dịch và Báo Cáo Chi Tiêu khi nào và ở đâu?**

Vui lòng nộp Các Khoản Đóng Góp cho Chiến Dịch và Báo Cáo Chi Tiêu liên quan đến các cuộc bầu cử địa phương của Thành Phố cho Văn Phòng Thư Ký Thành Phố (Office of City Clerk), City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546. Là ứng cử viên cho cuộc bầu cử Tháng 5, quý vị phải nộp báo cáo của mình vào: (1) giữa tháng 1 (Báo cáo Bán niên), (2) 30 ngày trước cuộc bầu cử, (3) 8 ngày trước cuộc bầu cử, (4 ) giữa tháng 7 (Báo cáo Bán niên), và / hoặc báo cáo cuối cùng sau khi cuộc bầu cử hoàn thành. Thư Ký Thành Phố không thể tư vấn cho ứng cử viên về mẫu điền và nội dung báo cáo mà chỉ có thể tiếp nhận hồ sơ đó mà thôi. Để biết thêm thông tin liên quan đến báo cáo tài chính của chiến dịch tranh cử, vui lòng truy cập trang mạng của Ủy Ban Đạo Đức Texas tại [www.ethics.state.tx.us](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us).

### **Tôi có cần phải nộp báo cáo ngay cả khi tôi chọn điều chỉnh thời điểm báo cáo về việc bỏ nhiệm thủ quỹ không?**

Khi chọn lịch trình báo cáo được điều chỉnh, quý vị xác nhận là quý vị dự định duy trì các khoản đóng góp hoặc chi tiêu ở mức dưới ngưỡng \$1,110 cho bầu cử. Với lịch trình báo cáo điều chỉnh, quý vị được miễn nộp các báo cáo 30 ngày và 8 ngày trước bầu cử. Nếu quý vị chọn lịch trình báo cáo điều chỉnh, quý vị vẫn phải báo cáo hoạt động trong toàn bộ thời gian quý vị là ứng cử viên, cho dù trong báo cáo bán niên hay báo cáo chính thức cuối cùng.

### **Nếu tôi chọn lịch trình báo cáo điều chỉnh nhưng sau đó vượt quá ngưỡng \$1,110 thì sao?**

Nếu quý vị chọn lịch trình báo cáo điều chỉnh và vượt ngưỡng \$1,110 (đối với các khoản đóng góp hay chi tiêu liên quan đến bầu cử) trước khi đến hạn nộp báo cáo 30 ngày trước bầu cử, thì quý vị phải nộp các báo cáo 30 ngày và 8 ngày trước bầu cử như yêu cầu. Lưu ý là những ứng cử viên không có đối thủ tranh cử không bắt buộc phải nộp các báo cáo này bất kể mức độ hoạt động ra sao. Nếu quý vị vượt ngưỡng \$1,110 sau thời hạn nộp báo cáo 30 ngày trước bầu cử, quý vị phải nộp "báo cáo vượt ngưỡng \$1,110 " trong vòng 48 giờ kể từ sau khi vượt ngưỡng đó và, nếu quý vị vượt ngưỡng đó trước thời hạn nộp báo cáo 8 ngày trước bầu cử, quý vị phải nộp báo cáo 8 ngày trước bầu cử.

### **Tôi có thể gọi cho ai nếu có khiếu nại?**

Nếu quý vị gặp bất kỳ vấn đề hay khiếu nại nào liên quan đến bầu cử, vui lòng liên lạc với Văn Phòng Thư Ký Thành Phố tại số điện thoại 281-996-3270 hoặc qua email tại [citysecretary@friendswood.org](mailto:citysecretary@friendswood.org).



# CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

## NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

Notice is hereby given that applications for a place on the City of Friendswood May 2, 2026, General Election ballot may be filed during the following dates and time:

### Filing Dates and Times:

Start Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

End Date: Friday, February 13, 2026, 5:00 P.M.

### Office Hours:

7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M., Monday – Thursday

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., Friday

In addition to the application for a place on the ballot, Section 6.02(a) and (d) of the Friendswood Charter also requires that a petition and financial disclosure statement be filed for a person to be a valid candidate on the Friendswood General Election ballot. For more information on the petition and statement process, please visit the City’s website at [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) or contact the City Secretary’s Office.

For the physical address for filing an application in person for a place on the ballot, its related petition and financial disclosure statement, please use:	Address to mail signed and sworn applications for a place on the ballot, its related petition and financial disclosure statement (if filing by mail), please use:	Email or Fax Number to send a signed, sworn, and scanned application for a place on the ballot, its related petition and financial disclosure statement, please use:
Friendswood City Hall City Secretary’s Office 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Mrs. Raquel Martinez, TRMC City Secretary 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Email: citysecretary@friendswood.com Fax: 281-482-1634



Signature of Filing Officer

Raquel Martinez, TRMC, City Secretary  
Printed Name of Filing Officer

Date Posted: December 12, 2025

This information is available in Spanish, English, Vietnamese and Chinese (Traditional) on the City of Friendswood website: [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) or by contacting the City Secretary’s Office at 281-996-3270.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE PARA PRESENTAR SOLICITUDES PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA DE VOTACIÓN

Se notifica por el presente, que las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de votación de la Elección General del 2 de mayo de 2026 de la Ciudad de Friendswood se pueden presentar durante las siguientes fechas y horarios:

#### Fechas y horarios de presentación de solicitudes:

Fecha de inicio: Miércoles 14 de enero de 2026

Fecha de cierre: Viernes 13 de febrero de 2026 a las 5:00 P.M.

#### Horario de oficina:

Lunes a jueves de 7:30 a.m. a 5:30 p.m.

Viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Además de la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta de votación, la Sección 6.02(a) y (d) de la Carta Orgánica de Friendswood también exige que para que una persona sea un candidato válido en la boleta de una Elección General de Friendswood debe presentar una petición y una declaración de divulgación financiera. Para obtener más información sobre el proceso de petición y declaración, visite el sitio web de la Ciudad en [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) o comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad.

Si desea usar la dirección física para presentar en persona una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de votación, su petición y declaración de divulgación financiera relacionadas, use:	Si desea usar la dirección postal para enviar por correo las solicitudes firmadas y certificadas para un lugar en la boleta de votación, su petición y declaración de divulgación financiera relacionadas (si la solicitud se presenta por correo), use:	Si desea usar el correo electrónico o el número de fax para enviar una solicitud firmada, certificada y escaneada para un lugar en la boleta de votación, su petición y declaración de divulgación financiera relacionadas, use:
Friendswood City Hall City Secretary's Office 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Mrs. Raquel Martinez, TRMC City Secretary 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Correo electrónico: citysecretary@friendswood.com Fax: 281-482-1634



Firma de la funcionaria encargada

Raquel Martinez, TRMC, Secretaria de la Ciudad

Nombre en letra de molde de la funcionaria encargada

Fecha de publicación: 12 de diciembre de 2025

Esta información está disponible en español, inglés, vietnamita y chino (tradicional) en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Friendswood: [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) o si se comunica con la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 281-996-3270.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### THÔNG BÁO VỀ THỜI HẠN CHỐT NỘP ĐƠN XIN GHI TÊN TRÊN LÁ PHIẾU

Theo đây xin thông báo ngày giờ có thể nộp đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu của Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử ngày 2 tháng Năm, 2026 của Thành Phố Friendswood là như sau:

#### Ngày giờ nộp:

Ngày Bắt Đầu: Thứ Tư, ngày 14 tháng Một, 2026

Ngày Kết Thúc: Lúc 5 giờ chiều, Thứ Sáu, ngày 13 tháng Hai, 2026

#### Giờ Làm Việc:

7:30 sáng – 5:30 chiều, thứ Hai – thứ Năm

8 giờ sáng – 5 giờ chiều, thứ Sáu

Ngoài đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu, Mục 6.02(a) và (d) của Hiến Chương Friendswood cũng quy định phải nộp một đơn đề cử và tuyên bố tiết lộ thông tin tài chính để một người trở thành một ứng cử viên hợp lệ trên lá phiếu của Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử của Thành Phố Friendswood. Để tìm hiểu thêm về quy trình đề cử và tuyên bố, vui lòng truy cập trang mạng của Thành Phố tại [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) hoặc liên lạc với Văn Phòng của Thư Ký Hội Đồng Thành Phố.

Địa chỉ nơi có thể đích thân tới nộp đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu, đơn đề cử và tuyên bố tiết lộ thông tin tài chính liên quan, vui lòng sử dụng:	Địa chỉ nhận đơn xin ghi tên trên lá phiếu đã có chữ ký và chứng thệ, đơn đề cử và tuyên bố tiết lộ thông tin tài chính liên quan ( <u>nếu gửi qua đường bưu điện</u> ), vui lòng sử dụng:	Địa chỉ email hoặc số fax nhận đơn xin ghi tên tranh cử trên lá phiếu đã có chữ ký, chứng thệ, và chụp lại, đơn đề cử và tuyên bố tiết lộ thông tin tài chính liên quan, vui lòng sử dụng:
Friendswood City Hall City Secretary's Office 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Mrs. Raquel Martinez, TRMC City Secretary 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546	Email: citysecretary@friendswood.com Fax: 281-482-1634



Chữ Ký của Viên Chức phụ trách Nộp Đơn

Raquel Martinez, TRMC, Thư Ký Hội Đồng Thành Phố

Tên Viết Bằng Chữ In của Viên Chức phụ trách Nộp Đơn

Ngày Niêm Yết: Ngày 12 tháng Mười Hai, 2025

Thông tin này có phiên bản tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Anh, tiếng Việt và tiếng Hoa (Phổ Thông) trên trang mạng của Thành Phố Friendswood tại: [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) hoặc bằng cách liên hệ với Văn Phòng của Thư Ký Hội Đồng Thành Phố theo số 281-996-3270.



# CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

## 申請登記選票席位截止公告

特此公告，申請登記Friendswood市於2026年5月2日舉辦的普通選舉之選票席位可在如下日期與時間辦理：

### 申請日期及時間：

開始日期：2026年1月14日，週三

截止日期：2026年2月13日，週五，下午5:00

### 辦公時間：

上午7:30至下午5:30，週一至週四

上午8:00至下午5:00，週五

除提交選票席位申請之外，依據Friendswood市政章程第6.02(a)與(d)條之規定，列於Friendswood普通選舉選票上的有效候選人需提交請願書與財務公佈聲明。有關請願書與聲明流程的更多信息，請訪問本市網站

[www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us)，或聯繫本市秘書辦公室。

用於親自辦理選票席位申請，與其相關的請願書與財務公佈聲明的地址，請使用：	用於郵寄辦理經過簽名和宣誓的選票席位申請，與其相關的請願書與財務公佈聲明的地址，請使用：	用於發送簽名、宣誓和掃描的選票席位申請，與其相關的請願書與財務公佈聲明的電子郵件或傳真號碼，請使用：
<p>Friendswood City Hall City Secretary's Office 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546</p>	<p>Mrs. Raquel Martinez, TRMC City Secretary 910 S. Friendswood Drive Friendswood, Texas 77546</p>	<p>電子郵件： citysecretary@friendswood.com 傳真： 281-482-1634</p>



辦理申請官員簽名

Raquel Martinez, TRMC, 市政秘書  
辦理申請官員印刷體姓名

公告日期： 2025年12月12日

本資訊在Friendswood市網站上以西班牙語、英語、越南語和中文（繁體）提供，網址：[www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us) 或可聯繫本市秘書辦公室，電話：281-996-3270。



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### Charter, City of Friendswood, Texas

#### ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

##### Sec. 6.02. - Filing for Office.

- (a) *Eligibility to file.* Each candidate for an elective City Office shall meet the following qualifications:
- (1) Shall be a qualified voter of the City.
  - (2) Shall have resided for at least 12 months preceding the election within the corporate limits of the City, including territory annexed prior to the filing deadline.
  - (3) Shall be at least 21 years of age.
  - (4) Shall meet the requirements for sponsors stipulated in subsection 6.02(b) below.
  - (5) If an incumbent seeks a different elected office or elected position of the City other than that which he/she then holds, he/she shall submit a letter of resignation to the City Council at least 60 days prior to the date of election for such desired office or position. Unless otherwise prohibited by operation of law or this Charter, such incumbent shall hold over in the office or position subject to resignation until his/her successor qualifies therefor, or until such incumbent qualifies for the different office or position sought, whichever first occurs.
  - (6) No candidate may file for more than one office or position number per election.
  - (7) No employee or person holding a City appointive office of emolument shall continue in such position after becoming a candidate for an elective office.
- (b) *Procedure and schedule for filing.* Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for an elective office by petition of not less than the greater of 25 registered voters or one-half of one percent of the total vote received in the City for the office of Mayor in the most recent Mayoral General Election. No voter shall sign more than one petition for a particular office or position number; if a voter signs more than one, his/her signature shall be void except as to the first filed of the petitions signed by him/her. The signatures shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil. Each signer shall indicate next to his/her signature the date of his/her signing and the place of his/her residence. The signed petition shall be filed with the City Secretary not earlier than 90 days prior to the election date for which such petition would apply, or later than the normal posted close of business for the office of the City Secretary on the last day for which applications for candidacy may be filed for such election under applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code.
- (c) *Certification of petition.* Within five days after the filing of a nominating petition the City Secretary shall notify the candidate whether or not the petition satisfied the requirements prescribed by this Charter. If a petition is found insufficient, the City Secretary shall return it immediately to the candidate with a statement certifying wherein it is insufficient. Within the regular time for filing petitions, a new petition may be filed by the same candidate. The City Secretary shall keep on file all petitions found sufficient at least until the expiration of the term of which the candidates are nominated in those petitions.
- (d) *Public disclosure.* Candidates shall file with the City Secretary 21 days prior to day of election a financial disclosure statement containing the following information. This should include information pertaining to the candidate, his/her spouse and dependent minor children.
- (1) List of all property owned or held in trust within the City limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City. This list should include location (address), size (general dimensions) and current use.
  - (2) List of all fees, salaries or gifts of value exceeding \$50.00 received from companies or individuals under contract with the City during the 12 months prior to filing for public office.
  - (3) Ownership of any stock in companies under contract to the City when such stock comprises greater than two percent of the company's total outstanding stock.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012)

**Editor's note**— Subsection 6.02(a)(3) prohibiting candidates for City Council to be in arrears in payment of taxes, etc., was repealed by Res. No. R92-19, § 3, adopted 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992.

**State Law reference**— Application requirements, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 141.031 et seq.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### Carta Orgánica de la Ciudad de Friendswood, Texas

#### ARTÍCULO VI. NOMINACIONES Y ELECCIONES

##### Sección 6.02. - Postularse a un cargo.

- (a) *Elegibilidad para postularse.* Cada candidato para un cargo electivo de la Ciudad deberá reunir los siguientes requisitos:
- (1) Será un votante habilitado de la Ciudad.
  - (2) Habrá residido por al menos 12 meses precedentes a la elección dentro de los límites corporativos de la Ciudad, incluso en territorio anexado antes de la fecha límite de la presentación de la candidatura.
  - (3) Tendrá al menos 21 años de edad.
  - (4) Reunirá los requisitos para patrocinadores estipulados en la siguiente subsección 6.02(b).
  - (5) Si un o una titular de cargo procura obtener un cargo electivo diferente o un puesto electivo de la Ciudad distinto al que en ese momento ocupa, él o ella deberá entregar una carta de renuncia al Consejo Municipal al menos 60 días antes de la fecha de la elección para dicho cargo o puesto deseado. A menos que esté prohibido de otro modo por efecto de la ley o esta Carta Orgánica, dicho titular de cargo se mantendrá en el cargo o puesto sometido a renuncia hasta lo que suceda primero entre que su sucesor sea habilitado para ocuparlo o hasta que dicho titular del cargo quede habilitado para el cargo o puesto diferente deseado.
  - (6) Ningún candidato puede postularse para más de un cargo o puesto por elección.
  - (7) Ningún empleado o persona que ocupa un cargo por designación remunerado de la Ciudad seguirá ocupando dicho puesto después de convertirse en un candidato para un cargo electivo.
- (b) *Procedimiento y cronograma de postulación.* Todo votante habilitado puede ser nominado para un cargo electivo por petición de no menos que el número mayor entre 25 votantes registrados o la mitad del uno por ciento del total de la votación recibida en la Ciudad para el cargo de alcalde en la Elección General de Alcalde más reciente. Ningún votante firmará más de una petición para un cargo o número de posición específicos; si un o una votante firmare más de una, su firma será anulada salvo la primera de las peticiones presentadas firmada por él o ella. Las firmas deberán realizarse en tinta o lápiz indeleble. Cada firmante indicará junto a su firma la fecha de colocación de la firma y su lugar de residencia. La petición firmada será presentada a la Secretaria de la Ciudad no antes de los 90 días antes de la fecha de la elección para la que se aplicare dicha petición ni después del cierre del horario de atención normal publicado de la oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad el último día en el que se pueden presentar solicitudes para candidaturas para dicha elección bajo las disposiciones aplicables del Código Electoral de Texas.
- (c) *Certificación de petición.* Dentro de los cinco días posteriores a tramitar una petición para nominación, la Secretaria de la Ciudad notificará al candidato si la petición satisfizo o no los requerimientos prescritos en esta Carta Orgánica. Si se halla que una petición es insuficiente, la Secretaria de la Ciudad la devolverá de inmediato al candidato con una declaración que certifica los puntos en los que es insuficiente. Dentro del plazo regular para tramitar peticiones, el mismo candidato puede presentar una nueva petición. La Secretaria de la Ciudad mantendrá en el archivo todas las peticiones halladas suficientes al menos hasta el vencimiento del término para el que los candidatos son nominados en esas peticiones.

- (d) *Divulgación pública.* Los candidatos deben presentarle a la Secretaria de la Ciudad 21 días antes del día de la elección una declaración de divulgación financiera que incluya la siguiente información. Debería incluir información respecto del candidato o candidata, su cónyuge y niños menores dependientes.
- (1) Enumerar todos los bienes pertenecientes o en fideicomiso dentro de los límites de la Ciudad y jurisdicción extraterritorial de la Ciudad. Esta lista debería incluir la ubicación (dirección), el tamaño (dimensiones generales) y el uso actual.
  - (2) Enumerar todas las tarifas, salarios u obsequios de valor que superen los \$50.00 recibidos de empresas o personas bajo contrato con la Ciudad durante los 12 meses anteriores a la postulación a un cargo público.
  - (3) Propiedad de cualquier acción en empresas bajo contrato con la Ciudad cuando dichas acciones conformen más del dos por ciento de las acciones totales circulantes de la empresa.

(Ord. Nro. 214, Sec. 1, 3-4-1974, elección 4-6-1974; Res. Nro. R3-82, Sec. 1, 3-1-1982; Res. Nro. R88-15, Sec. 3, 5-9-1988; Res. Nro. R92-19, Sec. 3, 3-24-1992, elección 5-2-1992; Res. Nro. R97-6, Sec. 1, 2-17-1997, elección 5-3-1997; Res. Nro. R2002-10, Sec. 7, 2-18-2002, elección 5-4-2002; Res. Nro. R2007-09, Sec. 1, 3-5-2007, elección 5-12-2007; Res. Nro. 2012-12, Sec. 4, 5-21-2012, elección 5-12-2012)

**Observación del editor:** La Subsección 6.02(a)(3) que prohíbe que los candidatos al Consejo Municipal estén en mora de pago de impuestos, etc., fue derogada por la Res. Nro. R92-19, § 3, adoptada el 3-24-1992, elección 5-2-1992.

**Referencia a la ley estatal:** Requerimientos de solicitud en la Sección 141.031 y siguientes del Código Electoral V.T.C.A.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### Hiến Chương, Thành Phố Friendswood, Texas

#### ĐIỀU KHOẢN VI. ĐỀ CỬ VÀ BẦU CỬ.

##### Mục 6.02. - Nộp Đơn Tranh Cử Chức Vụ

- (a) *Tiêu chuẩn điều kiện để nộp đơn tranh cử.* Mỗi ứng cử viên cho một Chức Vụ trong Văn phòng Thành phố được bầu chọn phải đáp ứng các tiêu chuẩn sau:
- (1) Là cử tri hội đủ điều kiện của Thành Phố.
  - (2) Phải cư ngụ ít nhất 12 tháng trước cuộc bầu cử trong phạm vi ranh giới của Thành Phố, trong đó bao gồm cả địa giới được sáp nhập trước ngày hạn chót nộp đơn xin tranh cử.
  - (3) Phải đủ 21 tuổi.
  - (4) Phải hội đủ các yêu cầu đối với các bên tài trợ được quy định trong tiểu mục 6.02 (b) dưới đây.
  - (5) Nếu một người đương nhiệm muốn tranh cử cho một chức vụ hoặc vị trí được bầu khác của Thành phố khác với chức vụ mà anh ta / cô ta đang nắm giữ, anh ta / cô ta sẽ gửi đơn từ chức cho Hội đồng Thành phố ít nhất 60 ngày trước ngày bầu cử cho mong muốn tranh cử chức vụ hoặc vị trí đó. Trừ khi bị ngăn cấm bởi hoạt động luật pháp hoặc Hiến Chương này, người đương nhiệm đó sẽ tiếp tục giữ chức vụ hoặc vị trí đã xin từ chức cho đến khi người kế nhiệm của họ đủ điều kiện hoặc cho đến khi người đương nhiệm đó đủ điều kiện cho chức vụ hoặc vị trí khác được tranh cử, tùy điều kiện nào xảy ra trước.
  - (6) Không ứng cử viên nào có thể nộp đơn cho nhiều hơn một chức vụ hoặc số vị trí cho mỗi cuộc bầu cử.
  - (7) Không một nhân viên hoặc người giữ văn phòng lương hưởng được bổ nhiệm của Thành phố sẽ tiếp tục ở vị trí đó sau khi trở thành ứng cử viên cho một chức vụ được bầu chọn.
- (b) *Thủ tục và lịch trình cho việc nộp đơn tranh cử.* Bất kỳ cử tri đủ tiêu chuẩn nào của Thành phố đều có thể được đề cử vào một chức vụ bầu cử bằng kiến nghị của không ít hơn 25 cử tri đã đăng ký hoặc một nửa của một phần trăm tổng số phiếu bầu nhận được trong Thành phố cho chức vụ Thị trưởng trong Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử Chức vụ Thị Trưởng gần đây nhất. Không cử tri nào được ký nhiều hơn một bản kiến nghị cho một số chức vụ hoặc vị trí cụ thể; nếu một cử tri ký nhiều hơn một thì chữ ký của họ sẽ bị vô hiệu trừ trường hợp đối với lá đơn đầu tiên của các kiến nghị có chữ ký của họ. Các chữ ký phải được thực hiện bằng mực hoặc bút chì không thể tẩy xóa. Bên cạnh chữ ký, mỗi người ký phải ghi rõ ngày ký và nơi ở của mình bên cạnh chữ ký. Bản kiến nghị đã ký sẽ được nộp cho Thư Ký Thành Phố không sớm hơn 90 ngày trước ngày bầu cử mà bản kiến nghị đó sẽ được áp dụng, hoặc muộn hơn thời gian đóng cửa giờ làm việc bình thường của văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố vào ngày cuối cùng mà đơn xin ứng cử có thể được nộp lên cho cuộc bầu cử đó theo các điều khoản hiện hành của Bộ luật Bầu cử Texas.
- (c) *Xác nhận đơn kiến nghị.* Trong vòng năm ngày sau khi nộp đơn đề cử, Thư ký Thành phố sẽ thông báo cho ứng cử viên biết đơn kiến nghị có đáp ứng các yêu cầu theo quy định của Hiến chương này hay không. Nếu một bản kiến nghị được nhận định là không đủ điều kiện, Thư ký Thành phố sẽ trả lại ngay cho ứng cử viên cùng với một tuyên bố xác nhận rằng bản kiến nghị đó là không đủ điều kiện. Trong thời gian thông thường để nộp đơn, một bản kiến nghị mới có thể được nộp bởi cùng một ứng cử viên. Thư ký Thành phố phải lưu giữ hồ sơ tất cả các kiến nghị được nhận định là hội đủ tiêu chuẩn ít nhất cho đến khi hết nhiệm kỳ mà các ứng cử viên được đề cử trong các kiến nghị đó.

- (d) *Công bố thông tin công khai.* Trong 21 ngày trước ngày bầu cử, các ứng cử viên phải nộp cho Thư Ký Thành phố một tuyên bố công khai thông tin tài chính bao gồm các thông tin sau đây. Hồ sơ này nên bao gồm thông tin liên quan đến ứng cử viên, vợ / chồng của anh ấy / cô ấy và con cái vị thành niên phụ thuộc.
- (1) Liệt kê tất cả tài sản sở hữu hoặc được ủy thác trong các giới hạn của Thành phố và quyền tài phán ngoài lãnh thổ của Thành phố. Danh sách này nên bao gồm vị trí (địa chỉ), kích thước (kích thước chung) và mục đích sử dụng hiện tại.
  - (2) Liệt kê tất cả các khoản phí, tiền lương hoặc những món quà tặng có giá trị vượt quá \$ 50,00 nhận được từ các công ty hoặc cá nhân theo hợp đồng với Thành phố trong 12 tháng trước khi nộp đơn vào văn phòng chính phủ.
  - (3) Quyền sở hữu bất kỳ cổ phiếu nào trong các công ty theo hợp đồng với Thành phố khi cổ phiếu đó chiếm hơn hai phần trăm tổng số cổ phiếu đang lưu hành của công ty.

Sắc Lệnh Số 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, cuộc bầu cử 4-6-1974; Nghị quyết Số R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Nghị quyết Số R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Nghị quyết Số R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, cuộc bầu cử 5-2-1992; Nghị quyết Số R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, cuộc bầu cử 5-3-1997; Nghị quyết Số R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, cuộc bầu cử 5-4-2002; Nghị quyết Số R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, cuộc bầu cử 5-12-2007; Nghị quyết Số 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, cuộc bầu cử 5-12-2012)

**Ghi chú của người biên tập**— Tiêu mục 6.02 (a) (3) nghiêm cấm các ứng cử viên cho Hội đồng Thành phố nợ tiền đóng thuế, v.v., đã bãi bỏ trong Nghị Quyết Số R92-19, § 3, thông qua ngày 3-24-1992, cuộc bầu cử 5-2-1992.

**Tham chiếu Luật Tiêu bang**— Yêu cầu về đơn đăng ký, V.T.C.A., Bộ luật Bầu cử § 141.031 và tiếp theo.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### Texas 州 Friendswood 市憲章

#### 第 VI 條。提名與選舉

##### 第 6.02(d) 節 – 申請任職。

- (a) *申報資格*。市政府民選職位的每個候選人都應符合以下資格：
- (1) 須為本市合資格選民。
  - (2) 於選舉前至少 12 個月須在本市轄區範圍內（包括在申請截止日期前吞併的領土）擁有住所。
  - (3) 應年滿 21 歲。
  - (4) 應符合下文第 6.02(b) 小節中規定的對發起人的要求。
  - (5) 若現任者尋求與其時任職位不同的本市民選職位或席位，則其應於上述所尋求職位或席位的選舉日期前至少 60 天向市議會遞交辭職信。除非法律或本章程另有禁止，否則該現任者應繼續擔任已辭職的職位或席位，直至其繼任者有資格擔任該職位或席位，或直至該現任者有資格擔任所尋求的不同職位或席位（以先發生者為準）。
  - (6) 候選人每次選舉不得申請超過一個職位或席位編號。
  - (7) 擔任本市任命性帶薪職務的僱員或人員在成為民選公職的候選人后，不得繼續擔任現有職務。
- (b) *(b) 申報程序和時間表*。本市任何合資格選民都可通過請願書獲得民選職位提名，請願者不得少於 25 名登記選民，或最近一次市長普通選舉中本市針對市長職位所獲總票數的二分之一，兩者中以較多者為準。任何選民都不得為某一職位或席位編號簽署多份請願書；若一位選民簽署了多份請願書，則其簽名無效，但其簽署的第一份請願書仍有效。簽名應以墨水筆或不可擦除的鉛筆完成。每個簽署人應在其簽名旁邊注明其簽署日期和居住地。經過簽名的請願書應提交給市秘書長，提交日期不得早於適用該請願書的選舉日前的 90 天，也不得晚於根據 Texas 州選舉法的相關規定，可針對上述選舉提交候選人申請的最後一天，截止時間是市秘書長辦公室正常辦公時間結束。
- (c) *請願書認證*。在提交提名請願書後五天內，市秘書長應告知候選人該請願書是否滿足本章程規定的要求。如果請願書被認定為不充分，則市秘書長應立即將其退還給候選人，並附上一份聲明，證明其不充分。在提交請願書的常規時間內，同一候選人可提交新的請願書。市秘書長應將所有被認定為充分的請願書存檔，至少存檔至這些請願書中提名的候選人任期屆滿。
- (d) *公開披露*。候選人應於選舉日前 21 天，向市秘書長提交一份包含以下資訊的財務披露聲明。其中應包括與候選人、其配偶和受撫養未成年子女有關的資訊。
- (1) 在本市範圍內和本市域外管轄範圍內擁有或代管的所有房產清單。這份清單應羅列地段（地址）、大小（一般面積）和目前使用狀況。
  - (2) 在申請公職之前的 12 個月內，從本市締約公司或個人處收到的價值超過 50.00 美元的所有費用、薪酬或禮物之清單。
  - (3) 對本市締約公司的任何股票的所有權，而這些股票須占該公司總流通股票的百分之二以上。

（第 214 號法令，§ 1, 3-4-1974，選舉 4-6-1974；第 R3-82 號決議案，§ 1, 3-1-1982；第 R88-15 號決議案，§ 3, 5-9-1988；第 R92-19 號決議案，§ 3, 3-24-1992，選舉 5-2-1992；第 R97-6 號決議案，§ 1, 2-17-1997，選舉 5-3-1997；第 R2002-10 號決議案，§ 7, 2-18-2002，選舉 5-4-2002；第 R2007-09 號決議案，§ 1, 3-5-2007，選舉 5-12-2007；第 2012-12 號決議案，§ 4, 5-21-2012，選舉 5-12-2012）

**編者註一** 第 6.02(a) (3) 小節（禁止市議會候選人拖欠交納稅款等）已被第 R92-19 號決議案 § 3（於 3-24-1992 年通過，選舉 5-2-1992）廢除。

**州法律參考一** 申請要求，V. T. C. A. 選舉法 § 141.031 及其後條款

## ELECTION CODE

## TITLE 9. CANDIDATES

## CHAPTER 141. CANDIDACY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE GENERALLY

## SUBCHAPTER A. ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Sec. 141.001. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. (a) To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, a public elective office in this state, a person 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 or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
- (3) have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

- (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or
- (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

- (4) have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;

- (5) have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date:

- (A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;

- (B) for an independent candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;

- (C) for a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written in;

- (D) for a party nominee who is nominated by any method other than by primary election, the date the nomination is made; and

- (E) for an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made;

- (6) on the date described by Subdivision (5), be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected; and

- (7) satisfy any other eligibility requirements prescribed by law for the office.

(a-1) For purposes of satisfying the continuous residency requirement of Subsection (a) (5), a person who claims an intent to return to a residence after a temporary absence may establish that intent only if the person:

(1) has made a reasonable and substantive attempt to effectuate that intent; and

(2) has a legal right and the practical ability to return to the residence.

(a-2) Subsection (a-1) does not apply to a person displaced from the person's residence due to a declared local, state, or national disaster.

(a-3) The authority with whom an application for a place on a general primary election ballot is filed under Section 172.022 shall, to the extent permitted by law, use Subsections (a) and (a-1) in determining whether a candidate meets the residency requirements for a public elective office.

(b) A statute outside this code supersedes Subsection (a) to the extent of any conflict.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an office for which the federal or state constitution or a statute outside this code prescribes exclusive eligibility requirements.

(d) Subsection (a) (6) does not apply to a member of the governing body of a district created under Section 52(b) (1) or (2), Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 614 (H.B. 417), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 504 (H.B. 484), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1047 (H.B. 831), Sec. 1, eff. January 1, 2020.

Sec. 141.002. EFFECT OF BOUNDARY CHANGE ON RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR PRECINCT OFFICE. (a) Instead of the six-month residence requirement prescribed by Section 141.001(a) (5), a candidate for or appointee to a precinct office must be a resident of the precinct on the date prescribed by Section 141.001(a) (5) and must have resided continuously in the county in which the precinct is located for six months immediately preceding that date if an order creating the precinct or changing the boundary of the precinct:

(1) was adopted less than seven months before that date; or

(2) was in litigation at any time during the seventh month immediately preceding that date.

(b) For the purpose of this section, an order is in litigation if the judgment concluding a judicial proceeding in which the order is mandated or the validity of the order is challenged has not become final.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.003. AGE AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME-RULE CITY OFFICE. (a) Different age and residence requirements from those prescribed by Section 141.001 may be prescribed by a home-rule city charter, but a minimum age may not be more than 21 years and a minimum length of residence in the state or city may not be more than 12 months immediately preceding election day.

(b) A charter provision is void if it prescribes a minimum age requirement of more than 21 years or a minimum length of residence requirement of more than 12 months.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.004. EFFECT OF BOUNDARY CHANGE ON RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR CITY OFFICE. In determining whether a person has complied with a residence requirement under Section 141.001 or 141.003 for a city office, residence in an area while the area was not part of the city is considered as residence within the city if the area is part of the city on the date that is the basis for determining the applicable period of residence.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

#### SUBCHAPTER B. APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON BALLOT

Sec. 141.031. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION. (a) A candidate's application for a place on the ballot that is required by this code must:

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) be signed and sworn to before a person authorized to administer oaths in this state by the candidate and indicate the date that the candidate swears to the application;
- (3) be timely filed with the appropriate authority; and
- (4) include:
  - (A) the candidate's name;

(B) the candidate's occupation;

(C) the office sought, including any place number or other distinguishing number;

(D) an indication of whether the office sought is to be filled for a full or unexpired term if the office sought and another office to be voted on have the same title but do not have place numbers or other distinguishing numbers;

(E) a statement that the candidate is a United States citizen;

(F) a statement that the candidate has not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

(i) totally mentally incapacitated; or

(ii) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

(G) an indication that the candidate has either not been finally convicted of a felony or if so convicted has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;

(H) the candidate's date of birth;

(I) the candidate's residence address or, if the residence has no address, the address at which the candidate receives mail and a concise description of the location of the candidate's residence;

(J) the candidate's length of continuous residence in the state and in the territory from which the office sought is elected as of the date the candidate swears to the application;

(K) the statement: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, 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";

(L) a statement that the candidate is aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code; and

(M) a public mailing address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign, if available, and an electronic mail address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign, if available.

(a-1) A person who has been convicted of a felony shall include in the application proof that the person is eligible for public office under Section 141.001(a)(4).

(b) Instead of the statement required by Subsection (a)(4)(F), a candidate eligible for office because of Section 1.020(a) shall include in

the application a statement that the person's mental capacity has been completely restored by a final judgment of a court.

(c) Instead of the statement required by Subsection (a)(4)(F), a candidate eligible for office because of Section 1.020(b) shall include in the application a statement that the person's guardianship has been modified to include the right to vote or the person's mental capacity has been completely restored, as applicable, by a final judgment of a court.

(d) The secretary of state may prescribe a different form for an application for a place on the ballot for each of the following:

- (1) an office of the federal government;
- (2) an office of the state government; or
- (3) an office of a political party.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 427, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 107, Sec. 3A.03, eff. Aug. 30, 1993; Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 76, Sec. 5.95(26), eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 614 (H.B. 417), Sec. 29, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1178 (S.B. 910), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1179 (S.B. 1073), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 469 (H.B. 2157), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 828 (H.B. 1735), Sec. 22, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1006 (H.B. 4555), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 141.0311. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE. (a) This section applies to candidates for the following judicial offices:

- (1) chief justice or justice of the supreme court;
- (2) presiding judge or judge of the court of criminal appeals;
- (3) chief justice or justice of a court of appeals;
- (4) district judge, including a criminal district judge; and
- (5) judge of a statutory county court.

(b) In addition to other requirements under this code, a candidate's application for a place on the ballot must:

- (1) include the candidate's state bar number for:
  - (A) this state; and
  - (B) any other state in which the candidate has been licensed to practice law;
- (2) disclose any public:
  - (A) sanction or censure, as those terms are defined by Section 33.001, Government Code, the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or a review tribunal has issued against the candidate;
  - (B) disciplinary sanction imposed on the candidate by the state bar; and
  - (C) disciplinary sanction imposed on the candidate by an entity in another state responsible for attorney discipline in that state;
- (3) include statements describing for the preceding five years:
  - (A) the nature of the candidate's legal practice, including any area of legal specialization; and
  - (B) the candidate's professional courtroom experience; and
- (4) disclose any final conviction of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor in the 10 years preceding the date the person would assume the judicial office for which the person is filing the application.

(c) A candidate for a judicial office described by Subdivision (a) (1), (2), or (3) who does not hold or has not previously held a judicial office described by those subdivisions must, in addition to the other requirements of this section and this code, include in the application a description of:

- (1) appellate court briefs the candidate has prepared and filed in the preceding five years; and
- (2) oral arguments the candidate has presented before any appellate court in the preceding five years.

(d) Each officially prescribed form for an application under this section must include a statement informing candidates that knowingly providing false information on the application, in addition to other penalties prescribed by law, constitutes professional misconduct subject to public sanctions or censure by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or the state bar, as applicable.

(e) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and content of the application materials under this section. The secretary of state may consult with the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, the supreme court, and the court of criminal appeals when prescribing the form and content of application materials under this section.

Added by Acts 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., Ch. 716 (H.B. [2384](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2023.

Sec. 141.032. REVIEW OF APPLICATION; NOTICE TO CANDIDATE. (a) On the filing of an application for a place on the ballot, the authority with whom the application is filed shall review the application to determine whether it complies with the requirements as to form, content, and procedure that it must satisfy for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the review shall be completed not later than the fifth day after the date the application is received by the authority.

(c) If an application is accompanied by a petition, the petition is considered part of the application, and the review shall be completed as soon as practicable after the date the application is received by the authority. However, the petition is not considered part of the application for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements applicable to each document, and a deficiency in the requirements for one document may not be remedied by the contents of the other document. Unless the petition is challenged, the authority is only required to review the petition for facial compliance with the applicable requirements as to form, content, and procedure.

(d) A determination under this section that an application complies with the applicable requirements does not preclude a subsequent determination that the application does not comply, subject to Section [141.034](#).

(e) If an application does not comply with the applicable requirements, the authority shall reject the application and immediately deliver to the candidate written notice of the reason for the rejection.

(f) This section does not apply to a determination of a candidate's eligibility.

(g) Except as otherwise provided by this code:

(1) a candidate may not amend an application filed under Section [141.031](#); and

(2) the authority with whom the application is filed may not accept an amendment to an application filed under Section [141.031](#).

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 728, Sec. 54, eff. Sept. 1, 1993; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1349, Sec. 51, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 254 (H.B. 1135), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 95 (S.B. 44), Sec. 1, eff. May 23, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. 3107), Sec. 76, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 141.033. FILING APPLICATIONS FOR MORE THAN ONE OFFICE PROHIBITED. (a) A candidate may not file applications for a place on the ballot for two or more offices that:

(1) are not permitted by law to be held by the same person; and  
(2) are to be voted on at one or more elections held on the same day.

(b) If a person files more than one application for a place on a ballot in violation of this section, each application filed subsequent to the first one filed is invalid.

(c) This section does not apply to candidacy for the office of president or vice-president of the United States and another office.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.034. LIMITATION ON CHALLENGE OF APPLICATION. (a) An application for a place on the ballot may not be challenged for compliance with the applicable requirements as to form, content, and procedure after the 50th day before the date of the election for which the application is made.

(b) This section does not apply to a determination of a candidate's eligibility.

(c) A challenge must state with specificity how the application does not comply with the applicable requirements as to form, content, and procedure. The authority's review of the challenge is limited to the specific items challenged and any response filed with the authority by the challenged candidate.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 2, Sec. 7.07, eff. Aug. 28, 1989; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 203, Sec. 2.57; Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 554, Sec. 28, eff. Sept. 1, 1991; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 728, Sec. 55, eff. Sept. 1, 1993. Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 95 (S.B. 44), Sec. 2, eff. May 23, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. 3107), Sec. 77, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 141.035. APPLICATION AS PUBLIC INFORMATION. An application for a place on the ballot, including an accompanying petition, is public information immediately on its filing.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.036. PRESERVATION OF APPLICATION. The authority with whom an application for a place on the ballot is required to be filed shall preserve each application filed with the authority for two years after the date of the election for which the application is made.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.037. FORM OF NAME CERTIFIED FOR PLACEMENT ON BALLOT. An authority responsible for certifying the names of candidates for placement on the ballot shall certify each name in the form indicated on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot, subject to Subchapter B, Chapter 52.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.038. REFUND OF FILING FEE. (a) A filing fee paid in connection with a candidate's application for a place on the ballot shall be refunded to the candidate or to the candidate's estate, as appropriate, if before the date of the election for which the application is made:

- (1) the candidate dies;
- (2) the candidate is declared ineligible; or
- (3) the candidate's application for a place on the ballot is determined not to comply with the requirements as to form, content, and procedure that it must satisfy for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot.

(b) A claim for a refund of a filing fee must be presented to the authority with whom the candidate's application for a place on the ballot is filed.

(c) A filing fee may not be refunded except as provided by this section.

(d) The refunding of filing fees for home-rule city offices may be regulated by the city charter, and those regulations supersede this section

to the extent of any conflict.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 2, Sec. 7.08, eff. Aug. 28, 1989; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 93, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 141.039. OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM. In addition to the other statements and spaces for entering information that appear on an officially prescribed form for an application for a place on the ballot, each official form for an application that a candidate is required to file under this code must include:

(1) a space for indicating the form in which the candidate's name is to appear on the ballot;

(2) a space for the candidate's public mailing address;

(3) spaces for the candidate's home and office telephone numbers and e-mail address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign;

(4) a statement informing candidates that the furnishing of the telephone numbers is optional;

(5) a statement informing candidates that knowingly providing false information on the application under Section [141.031\(a\)\(4\)\(G\)](#) constitutes a Class B misdemeanor; and

(6) a statement informing candidates that a candidate who indicates under Section [141.031\(a\)\(4\)\(G\)](#) that the candidate has been convicted of a felony must comply with the requirements of Section [141.031\(a-1\)](#).

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 279 (H.B. [1593](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 828 (H.B. [1735](#)), Sec. 23, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1006 (H.B. [4555](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 141.040. NOTICE OF DEADLINES AND FILING METHODS. (a) The authority with whom an application for a place on the ballot under this subchapter must be filed shall post notice of the dates of the filing period in a public place in a building in which the authority has an office not later than the 30th day before:

(1) the first day on which a candidate may file the application;  
or

(2) the last day on which a candidate may file the application, if this code does not designate a first day on which the candidate may file the application.

(b) This section does not apply to an office filled at the general election for state and county officers.

(c) An authority shall designate an e-mail address in the notice required by this section for the purpose of filing an application for a place on the ballot under Section [143.004](#).

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1235 (S.B. [1970](#)), Sec. 13, eff. September 1, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1164 (H.B. [2817](#)), Sec. 28, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. [3107](#)), Sec. 78, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. [3107](#)), Sec. 79, eff. September 1, 2021.

#### SUBCHAPTER C. PETITION

Sec. 141.061. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter applies to each petition filed in connection with a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 493, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 141.062. VALIDITY OF PETITION. (a) To be valid, a petition must:

- (1) be timely filed with the appropriate authority;
- (2) contain valid signatures in the number required by this code;

and

(3) comply with any other applicable requirements for validity prescribed by this code.

(b) A petition may consist of multiple parts.

(c) After the filing deadline:

(1) a candidate may not amend a petition in lieu of a filing fee submitted with the candidate's application; and

(2) the authority with whom the application is filed may not accept an amendment to a petition in lieu of a filing fee submitted with the candidate's application.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 254 (H.B. 1135), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2011.

Sec. 141.063. VALIDITY OF SIGNATURE. (a) A signature on a petition is valid if:

(1) except as otherwise provided by this code, the signer, at the time of signing, is a registered voter of the territory from which the office sought is elected or has been issued a registration certificate for a registration that will become effective in that territory on or before the date of the applicable election;

(2) the petition includes the following information with respect to each signer:

(A) the signer's residence address;

(B) the signer's date of birth or the signer's voter registration number and, if the territory from which signatures must be obtained is situated in more than one county, the county of registration;

(C) the date of signing; and

(D) the signer's printed name;

(3) the part of the petition in which the signature appears contains the affidavit required by Section 141.065;

(4) each statement that is required by this code to appear on each page of the petition appears, at the time of signing, on the page on which the signature is entered; and

(5) any other applicable requirements prescribed by this code for a signature's validity are complied with.

(b) The signature is the only information that is required to appear on the petition in the signer's own handwriting.

(c) The use of ditto marks or abbreviations does not invalidate a signature if the required information is reasonably ascertainable.

(d) The omission of the state from the signer's residence address does not invalidate a signature unless the political subdivision from which the signature is obtained is situated in more than one state. The omission of the zip code from the address does not invalidate a signature.

(e) The signer's residence address and registration address are not required to be the same if the signer would otherwise be able to vote for

that office under Section [11.004](#) or [112.002](#).

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1349, Sec. 52, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 726 (H.B. [1509](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. [3107](#)), Sec. 80, eff. September 1, 2021.

Sec. 141.064. METHOD OF ACQUIRING SIGNATURE. A person circulating a petition must:

- (1) before permitting a person to sign, point out and read to the person each statement pertaining to the signer that appears on the petition;
- (2) witness each signature;
- (3) ascertain that each date of signing is correct; and
- (4) before the petition is filed, verify each signer's registration status and ascertain that each registration number entered on the petition is correct.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.065. AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR. (a) Each part of a petition must include an affidavit of the person who circulated it, executed before a person authorized to administer oaths in this state, stating that the person:

- (1) pointed out and read to each signer, before the petition was signed, each statement pertaining to the signer that appears on the petition;
- (2) witnessed each signature;
- (3) verified each signer's registration status; and
- (4) believes each signature to be genuine and the corresponding information to be correct.

(b) If a petition contains an affidavit that complies with Subsection (a), for the purpose of determining whether the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures, the authority with whom the candidate's application is filed may treat as valid each signature to which the affidavit applies, without further verification, unless proven otherwise.

(c) A single notarized affidavit by any person who obtained signatures is valid for all signatures gathered by the person if the date of notarization is on or after the date of the last signature obtained by the person.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Amended by:

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 469 (H.B. 2157), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2017.

Sec. 141.066. SIGNING MORE THAN ONE PETITION PROHIBITED. (a) A person may not sign the petition of more than one candidate for the same office in the same election.

(b) The following statement must appear at the top of each page of a petition: "Signing the petition of more than one candidate for the same office in the same election is prohibited."

(c) A signature on a candidate's petition is invalid if the signer signed the petition subsequent to signing a petition of another candidate for the same office in the same election.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 94, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 141.067. WITHDRAWAL OF SIGNATURE. (a) A signature may be withdrawn from a petition as provided by this section.

(b) To withdraw a signature, the signer must request that the signer's signature be withdrawn.

(c) To be effective, a withdrawal request must:

(1) be in writing and be signed and acknowledged by the signer of the petition; and

(2) be filed with the authority with whom the petition is required to be filed not later than the date the petition is received by the authority or the seventh day before the petition filing deadline, whichever is earlier.

(d) A withdrawal request filed by mail is considered to be filed at the time of its receipt by the appropriate authority.

(e) The signer must deliver a copy of the withdrawal request to the candidate when the request is filed.

(f) The filing of an effective withdrawal request nullifies the signature on the petition and places the signer in the same position as if the signer had not signed the petition.

(g) If the withdrawal of a signature reduces the number of signatures on the petition below the prescribed minimum for the petition to be valid, the authority with whom the request is filed shall notify the candidate immediately by telephone, telegram, or an equally or more expeditious method of the number of withdrawn signatures. Before the third day after the date the candidate receives the notice, the candidate's petition may be supplemented with signatures equal in number to the number of signatures withdrawn.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 95, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 141.068. DUTY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY TO VERIFY SIGNATURES. (a) On request of the secretary of state, a voter registrar shall verify the voter registration status of a signer of a petition filed with the secretary who the petition indicates is registered or has been accepted for registration in the county served by the registrar.

(b) On request of the secretary of state, a county clerk shall ascertain from the records in the clerk's custody whether a signer of a petition filed with the secretary is shown to have voted in a particular election.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Sec. 141.069. VERIFYING SIGNATURES BY STATISTICAL SAMPLE. If signatures on a petition that is required to contain more than 1,000 signatures are to be verified by the authority with whom the candidate's application is required to be filed, the authority may use as the basis for the verification any reasonable statistical sampling method that ensures an accuracy rate of at least 95 percent.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 54, Sec. 16(b), eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1349, Sec. 53, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 141.070. ESTIMATING GUBERNATORIAL VOTE FOR TERRITORY WITH CHANGED BOUNDARY. (a) If, since the most recent gubernatorial general election, a district or precinct from which an officer of the federal, state, or county government is elected is created or has had its boundary changed, the number of votes received in the district or precinct by a political party's gubernatorial candidate or by all the gubernatorial

candidates shall be estimated, as provided by this section, for the purpose of computing the number of signatures required on a candidate's petition.

(b) The secretary of state, for a district, or the county clerk of the county in which the precinct is situated, for a precinct, shall estimate the applicable vote total on the request of:

(1) a candidate affected by the creation or change; or

(2) an authority with whom an affected candidate's application for a place on the ballot is required to be filed.

(c) Not later than the 30th day after the date the secretary of state or county clerk receives an estimate request, the secretary or clerk shall certify the secretary's or clerk's estimate in writing and deliver a copy of the certification to the candidate and to the authority with whom the candidate's application for a place on the ballot is required to be filed.

(d) If an estimate is not requested under Subsection (b), the authority with whom an affected candidate's application for a place on the ballot is required to be filed shall make the estimate before acting on a petition.

(e) If, before completing an estimate, the estimating authority determines that the total estimated vote will be large enough to make a computation of the number of signatures required to appear on the petition unnecessary, the authority may certify that fact in writing instead of completing the estimate.

(f) A candidate for an office that is affected by an estimate or by a determination made under Subsection (e) may challenge the accuracy of the estimate or determination by filing a petition, stating the ground of the challenge, in a district court having general jurisdiction in the territory involved. Review in the district court is by trial de novo, and the court's decision is not appealable.

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 211, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1986. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 96, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

#### SUBCHAPTER D. COERCION OF CANDIDACY

Sec. 141.101. COERCION AGAINST CANDIDACY PROHIBITED. (a) A person commits an offense if by intimidation or by means of coercion the person influences or attempts to influence a person to:

(1) not file an application for a place on the ballot or a declaration of write-in candidacy; or

(2) withdraw as a candidate.

(b) In this section, "coercion" has the meaning assigned by Section 1.07, Penal Code.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the intimidation or coercion is a threat to commit a felony, in which event it is a felony of the third degree.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 667, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1235 (S.B. 1970), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2009.

Transferred, redesignated and amended from Election Code, Section 2.054 by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 711 (H.B. 3107), Sec. 82, eff. September 1, 2021.

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

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.

<b>APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT</b>					
TO: City Secretary/Secretary of Board _____ (name of election)					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official ballot as a candidate for the office indicated below.					
<b>OFFICE SOUGHT</b> (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)				<b>INDICATE TERM</b> <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED	
<b>FULL NAME</b> (First, Middle, Last)			<b>PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*</b>		
<b>PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS</b> (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.)			<b>PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Optional)</b> (Address for which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.)		
<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>
<b>PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional)</b> (Address for which you receive campaign related emails, if available.)		<b>OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b> / /	<b>VOTER REGISTRATION VOID NUMBER<sup>2</sup> (Optional)</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional)</b> Home: _____ Office: _____ Cell: _____					
<b>FELONY CONVICTION STATUS (You MUST check one)</b>		<b>LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE THIS APPLICATION WAS SWORN</b>			
<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>		<b>IN THE STATE OF TEXAS</b>  _____ year(s)  _____ month(s)		<b>IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED</b>  _____ year(s)  _____ month(s)	
<b>This Box Must ONLY be Completed by Candidates for School District Board of Trustees</b>					
<b>Check the Box Below:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I am aware that I am not eligible to serve as a trustee of an independent school district if I am required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.					
*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.					
<b>X</b> _____ SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the _____ day of _____, _____, by _____. (day) (month) (year) (name of candidate)					
Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath <sup>4</sup>			Printed Name of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath		
_____			Notarial or Official Seal		
Title of Officer Authorized to Administer Oath					
<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY FILING OFFICER: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE (If Applicable) 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. This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ pages received. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Voter Registration Status Verified</b>					
_____/_____/_____ Date Received		_____/_____/_____ Date Accepted		(See Section 1.007) _____ Signature of Filing Officer or Designee	

## INSTRUCTIONS

An application for a place on the general election for a city, school district or other political subdivision, may not be filed earlier than 30 days before the deadline prescribed by this code for filing the application. An application filed before that day is void. All fields of the application **must** be completed unless specifically marked optional.

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

If you have questions about the application, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 800-252-8683.

## NEPOTISM LAW

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

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

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

## FOOTNOTES

<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. Please visit the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's website for additional information. <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/voter-reg-req-candidate-faq.shtml>

<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, city secretary (for a city office), and the Secretary of State of Texas. See Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code for the complete list of persons authorized to administer oaths.

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

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 UNA ELECCIÓN GENERAL DE _____</b>					
Para: Secretario(a) de la Ciudad/ Secretario(a) del Consejo			<b>(nombre de la elección)</b>		
Solicito que mi nombre se incluya en la boleta oficial mencionada anteriormente como candidato(a) al cargo indicado 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>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 en la que 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 (No deje este espacio en blanco)</b>	<b>FECHA DE NACIMIENTO</b> / /	<b>VOID – NÚMERO ÚNICO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DE VOTANTE<sup>2</sup> (Opcional)</b>	
<b>INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO TELEFÓNICO (Opcional)</b> Hogar: _____ Trabajo: _____ Celular: _____					
<b>ESTADO DE CONDENA POR DELITO GRAVE (DEBE marcar una)</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)
<b>Esta casilla SÓLO debe ser rellena por los candidatos para la Junta Directiva del Distrito Escolar</b> Marque la casilla a continuación: <input type="checkbox"/> Reconozco que no soy elegible para servir como fideicomisario de un distrito escolar independiente si estoy obligado a registrarme como delincuente sexual conforme al Capítulo 62 del Código de Procedimiento Penal.					
*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.					
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: “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.”					
			<b>X</b>		
			<b>FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO</b>		
Jurado y suscrito ante mí este día ____ de ____ del ____ por ____. (día) (mes) (año) (nombre de candidato)					
Firma del oficial autorizado para administrar el juramento <sup>4</sup> _____ Título del oficial autorizado para administrar el juramento			Nombre del oficial autorizado para administrar juramentos en letra de molde _____ Notarial o sello oficial		
<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY FILING OFFICER: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE (If Applicable) 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.					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ pages received. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Voter Registration Status Verified</b>					
_____/_____/_____		_____/_____/_____		_____/_____/_____	
Date Received		Date Accepted		Signature of Filing Officer or Designee	

## INSTRUCCIONES

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

Para una elección que se lleve a cabo en una fecha de elección uniforme, el día de la fecha límite de presentación es el 7<sup>º</sup> día antes del día de la elección.

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

## LEY DE NEPOTISMO

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

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

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

## NOTAS

<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. Por favor, visite el sitio web de la División de Elecciones de la Secretaría de Estado para obtener información adicional. <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/voter-reg-req-candidate-faq.shtml>

<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, secretario municipal (para una oficina de la ciudad) y el Secretario de Estado de Texas. Consulte el Capítulo 602 del Código del Gobierno de Texas para obtener la lista completa de personas autorizadas a administrar juramentos.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### **CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD PETITION INSTRUCTIONS AND FORM PURSUANT TO SECTION 6.02 “FILING FOR OFFICE” OF THE CHARTER, CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

**In accordance with Section 6.02(a)(4) and 6.02(b), a petition is required along with the application for a place on the City of Friendswood General Election ballot, as such below is the information on the process, and the petition form is attached for your convenience.**

(a) *Eligibility to file.* Each candidate for an elective City Office shall meet the following qualifications:

(4) Shall meet the requirements for sponsors stipulated in subsection 6.02(b) below.

(b) *Procedure and schedule for filing.*

- Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for an elective office by petition of not less than the greater of 25 registered voters or one-half of one percent of the total vote received in the City for the office of Mayor in the most recent Mayoral General Election.
- No voter shall sign more than one petition for a particular office or position number; if a voter signs more than one, his/her signature shall be void except as to the first filed of the petitions signed by him/her.
- The signatures shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil.
- Each signer shall indicate next to his/her signature the date of his/her signing and the place of his/her residence.
- The signed petition shall be filed with the City Secretary not earlier than 90 days prior to the election date for which such petition would apply, or later than the normal posted close of business for the office of the City Secretary on the last day for which applications for candidacy may be filed for such election under applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code.



## INSTRUCTIONS

The petition shall be filed with the same officer with whom an application for a place on the ballot for the office being sought is to be filed and must be filed at the same time as the application is presented to the filing authority.

The petition may consist of several parts, and each part may consist of several pages. The statement in the box at the head of the page must appear at the head of each page of signatures. The Affidavit of Circulator appears at the bottom of each page, but only needs to be completed once for each circulator even if there are multiple pages of voters' signatures.

The Affidavit of Circulator must be administered and signed by a person authorized to administer oaths under Chapter 602 of the Government Code.

## INSTRUCCIONES

Esta petición deberá presentarse ante el mismo oficial a quien se solicite inscripción en la boleta para el cargo que se busca y al mismo tiempo que la solicitud correspondiente.

La petición puede estar dividida en diversas secciones y cada sección a su vez puede constar de varias páginas. La declaración que está en el cuadro que encabeza el formulario deberá aparecer al principio de cada hoja que contenga firmas. La Declaración Jurada del Circulador aparece al pie de cada página, pero solo necesita ser completada una vez por cada circulator, incluso si hay múltiples páginas de firmas de votantes.

La Declaración Jurada del Circulador debe ser administrado y firmado por una persona autorizada a administrar los juramentos de acuerdo al Capítulo 602 del Código del Gobierno.

## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Insert candidate's name.

<sup>2</sup> Insert office title, including any place number or other distinguishing number.

<sup>3</sup> Either the voter unique identification number (VUID) or the date of birth is required.

<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, city secretary, 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.

## ANOTACIONES

<sup>1</sup> Indicar el nombre del candidato(a).

<sup>2</sup> Indicar el cargo oficial e incluir el número de cargo o cualquier otro número distintivo.

<sup>3</sup> Se requiere o el número de identificación único de votante o la fecha de nacimiento.

<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.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### **FORMULARIO DE PETICIÓN E INSTRUCCIONES DE LA CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD EN VIRTUD DE LA SECCIÓN 6.02 “POSTULARSE A UN CARGO” DE LA CARTA ORGÁNICA DE LA CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

**De acuerdo con la Sección 6.02(a)(4) y la 6.02(b), se debe presentar una petición junto con la solicitud de un lugar en la boleta de votación de la Elección General de la Ciudad de Friendswood, de la manera descrita en la siguiente información sobre el proceso, y se adjunta la forma de la petición para su comodidad.**

(a) *Elegibilidad para postularse.* Cada candidato para un cargo electivo de la Ciudad deberá reunir los siguientes requisitos:

(4) Reunirá los requisitos para patrocinadores estipulados en la siguiente subsección 6.02(b).

(b) *Procedimiento y cronograma de postulación.*

- Todo votante habilitado puede ser nominado para un cargo electivo por petición de no menos que el número mayor entre 25 votantes registrados o la mitad del uno por ciento del total de la votación recibida en la Ciudad para el cargo de alcalde en la Elección General de Alcalde más reciente.
- Ningún votante firmará más de una petición para un cargo o número de posición específicos; si un o una votante firmare más de una, su firma será anulada salvo la primera de las peticiones presentadas firmada por él o ella.
- Las firmas deberán realizarse en tinta o lápiz indeleble.
- Cada firmante indicará junto a su firma la fecha de colocación de la firma y su lugar de residencia.
- La petición firmada será presentada a la Secretaria de la Ciudad no antes de los 90 días antes de la fecha de la elección para la que se aplicare dicha petición ni después del cierre del horario de atención normal publicado de la oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad el último día en el que se pueden presentar solicitudes para candidaturas para dicha elección bajo las disposiciones aplicables del Código Electoral de Texas.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### 依據TEXAS州FRIENDSWOOD市憲章 第6.02節「申請任職」的 FRIENDSWOOD市請願書說明和表格

根據第6.02(a)(4)和6.02(b)節的規定，在申請Friendswood市普通選舉選票席位時，需提交一份請願書，因此，以下是有關這一過程的資訊，並附上請願書表格以方便您使用。

(a) *申報資格*。市政府民選職位的每個候選人都應符合以下資格：

(4) 應符合下文第6.02(b)小節中規定的對發起人的要求。

(b) *(b) 申報程序和時間表*。

- 本市任何合資格選民都可通過請願書獲得民選職位提名，請願者不得少於25名登記選民，或最近一次市長普通選舉中本市針對市長職位所獲總票數的二分之一，兩者中以較多者為準。
- 任何選民都不得為某一職位或席位編號簽署多份請願書；若一位選民簽署了多份請願書，則其簽名無效，但其簽署的第一份請願書仍有效。
- 簽名應以墨水筆或不可擦除的鉛筆完成。
- 每個簽署人應在其簽名旁邊注明其簽署日期和居住地。
- 經過簽名的請願書應提交給市秘書長，提交日期不得早於適用該請願書的選舉日前的90天，也不得晚於根據Texas州選舉法的相關規定，可針對上述選舉提交候選人申請的最後一天，截止時間是市秘書長辦公室正常辦公時間結束。



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### MẪU ĐIỀN VÀ HƯỚNG DẪN VỀ ĐƠN KIẾN NGHỊ CHIẾU THEO MỤC 6.02 “NỘP ĐƠN TRANH CỬ CHỨC VỤ” TRONG HIẾN CHƯƠNG, THÀNH PHỐ FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS

Theo Mục 6.02 (a) (4) và 6.02 (b), một đơn kiến nghị được yêu cầu nộp cùng với đơn xin một vị trí trên lá phiếu cho Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử của Thành phố Friendswood, do đó dưới đây là thông tin về quy trình, và mẫu đơn kiến nghị được đính kèm để thuận tiện cho quý vị.

(a) *Tiêu chuẩn điều kiện để nộp đơn tranh cử.* Mỗi ứng cử viên cho một Chức Vụ trong Văn phòng Thành phố được bầu chọn phải đáp ứng các tiêu chuẩn sau:

(4) Phải hội đủ các yêu cầu đối với các bên tài trợ được quy định trong tiêu mục 6.02 (b) dưới đây.

(b) *Thủ tục và lịch trình cho việc nộp đơn tranh cử.*

- Bất kỳ cử tri đủ tiêu chuẩn nào của Thành phố đều có thể được đề cử vào một chức vụ bầu cử bằng kiến nghị của không ít hơn 25 cử tri đã đăng ký hoặc một nửa của một phần trăm tổng số phiếu bầu nhận được trong Thành phố cho chức vụ Thị trưởng trong Cuộc Tổng Tuyển Cử Chức vụ Thị Trưởng gần đây nhất.
- Không cử tri nào được ký nhiều hơn một bản kiến nghị cho một số chức vụ hoặc vị trí cụ thể; nếu một cử tri ký nhiều hơn một thì chữ ký của họ sẽ bị vô hiệu trừ trường hợp đối với lá đơn đầu tiên của các kiến nghị có chữ ký của họ.
- Các chữ ký phải được thực hiện bằng mực hoặc bút chì không thể tẩy xóa.
- Bên cạnh chữ ký, mỗi người ký phải ghi rõ ngày ký và nơi ở của mình bên cạnh chữ ký.
- Bản kiến nghị đã ký sẽ được nộp cho Thư Ký Thành Phố không sớm hơn 90 ngày trước ngày bầu cử mà bản kiến nghị đó sẽ được áp dụng, hoặc muộn hơn thời gian đóng cửa giờ làm việc bình thường của văn phòng Thư ký Thành phố vào ngày cuối cùng mà đơn xin ứng cử có thể được nộp lên cho cuộc bầu cử đó theo các điều khoản hiện hành của Bộ luật Bầu cử Texas.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### **CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM INSTRUCTIONS AND FORM PURSUANT TO SECTION 6.02 “FILING FOR OFFICE” OF THE CHARTER, CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

**In accordance with Section 6.02(d), a financial disclosure statement must be filed with the City Secretary 21 days prior to the date of the election, in order for the candidate filing to be valid, as such below is the information on the process, and the petition form is attached for your convenience.**

#### **Sec. 6.02. - Filing for Office.**

(d) *Public disclosure.* Candidates shall file with the City Secretary 21 days prior to day of election a financial disclosure statement containing the following information. This should include information pertaining to the candidate, his/her spouse and dependent minor children.

- (1) List of all property owned or held in trust within the City limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City. This list should include location (address), size (general dimensions) and current use.
- (2) List of all fees, salaries or gifts of value exceeding \$50.00 received from companies or individuals under contract with the City during the 12 months prior to filing for public office.
- (3) Ownership of any stock in companies under contract to the City when such stock comprises greater than two percent of the company's total outstanding stock.

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a candidate for public office, and in compliance with Section 6.02. (d) of the Friendswood City Charter, do hereby disclose to the general public the following information relating to myself, my spouse, and dependent minor children:

PROPERTY OWNED OR HELD IN TRUST WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD.

<u>Location (Address) of Property</u>	<u>Size (General Dimensions)</u>	<u>Current Use</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

FEES, SALARIES, OR GIFTS OF VALUE EXCEEDING \$50.00 RECEIVED FROM COMPANIES OR INDIVIDUALS UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR TO MY FILING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

OWNERSHIP OF ANY STOCK IN COMPANIES UNDER CONTRACT TO THE CITY WHEN SUCH STOCK COMPRISES GREATER THAN 2% OF THE COMPANY'S TOTAL OUTSTANDING STOCK.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

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

Filed in the office of the City Secretary this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary  
Friendswood, Texas



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### **FORMULARIO DE DIVULGACIÓN FINANCIERA E INSTRUCCIONES DEL FORMULARIO DE LA CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD EN VIRTUD DE LA SECCIÓN 6.02 “POSTULARSE A UN CARGO” DE LA CARTA ORGÁNICA DE LA CIUDAD DE FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

**De acuerdo con la Sección 6.02(d), se debe presentar una declaración de divulgación financiera a la Secretaria de la Ciudad 21 días antes de la fecha de la elección, para que la postulación del candidato sea valida, de la manera descrita en la siguiente información sobre el proceso, y se adjunta la forma de la petición para su comodidad.**

#### **Sección 6.02. - Postularse a un cargo.**

(d) *Divulgación pública.* Los candidatos deben presentarle a la Secretaria de la Ciudad 21 días antes del día de la elección una declaración de divulgación financiera que incluya la siguiente información. Debería incluir información respecto del candidato o candidata, su cónyuge y niños menores dependientes.

- (1) Enumerar todos los bienes pertenecientes o en fideicomiso dentro de los límites de la Ciudad y jurisdicción extraterritorial de la Ciudad. Esta lista debería incluir la ubicación (dirección), el tamaño (dimensiones generales) y el uso actual.
- (2) Enumerar todas las tarifas, salarios u obsequios de valor que superen los \$50.00 recibidos de empresas o personas bajo contrato con la Ciudad durante los 12 meses anteriores a la postulación a un cargo público.
- (3) Propiedad de cualquier acción en empresas bajo contrato con la Ciudad cuando dichas acciones conformen más del dos por ciento de las acciones totales circulantes de la empresa.



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### 依據TEXAS州FRIENDSWOOD市憲章第6.02節「申請任職」的 FRIENDSWOOD市財務披露表說明和表格

根據第6.02(d)節的規定，為使選舉人申報有效，須於選舉日前21天向市秘書長提交財務披露聲明，因此，以下是有關這一過程的資訊，並附上請願書表格以方便您使用。

#### 第6.02(d)節 – 申請任職。

(d) *公開披露*。候選人應於選舉日前21天，向市秘書長提交一份包含以下資訊的財務披露聲明。其中應包括與候選人、其配偶和受撫養未成年子女有關的資訊。

- (1) 在本市範圍內和本市域外管轄範圍內擁有或代管的所有房產清單。這份清單應羅列地段（地址）、大小（一般面積）和目前使用狀況。
- (2) 在申請公職之前的12個月內，從本市締約公司或個人處收到的價值超過50.00美元的所有費用、薪酬或禮物之清單。
- (3) 對本市締約公司的任何股票的所有權，而這些股票須占該公司總流通股票的百分之二以上。



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

### **MẪU ĐIỀN VÀ HƯỚNG DẪN VỀ ĐƠN CÔNG KHAI THÔNG TIN TÀI CHÍNH CHIẾU THEO MỤC 6.02 “NỘP ĐƠN TRANH CỬ CHỨC VỤ” TRONG HIẾN CHƯƠNG, THÀNH PHỐ FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

**Theo Mục 6.02 (d), tuyên bố công khai thông tin tài chính phải được nộp cho Thư Ký Thành Phố 21 ngày trước ngày bầu cử, để hồ sơ ứng cử viên hợp lệ, do đó dưới đây là thông tin về quy trình, và mẫu đơn kiến nghị được đính kèm để thuận tiện cho quý vị.**

#### **Mục 6.02. - Nộp Đơn Tranh Cử Chức Vụ**

*(d) Công bố thông tin công khai.* Trong 21 ngày trước ngày bầu cử, các ứng cử viên phải nộp cho Thư Ký Thành phố một tuyên bố công khai thông tin tài chính bao gồm các thông tin sau đây. Hồ sơ này nên bao gồm thông tin liên quan đến ứng cử viên, vợ / chồng của anh ấy / cô ấy và con cái vị thành niên phụ thuộc.

(1) Liệt kê tất cả tài sản sở hữu hoặc được ủy thác trong các giới hạn của Thành phố và quyền tài phán ngoài lãnh thổ của Thành phố. Danh sách này nên bao gồm vị trí (địa chỉ), kích thước (kích thước chung) và mục đích sử dụng hiện tại.

(2) Liệt kê tất cả các khoản phí, tiền lương hoặc những món quà tặng có giá trị vượt quá \$ 50,00 nhận được từ các công ty hoặc cá nhân theo hợp đồng với Thành phố trong 12 tháng trước khi nộp đơn vào văn phòng chính phủ.

(3) Quyền sở hữu bất kỳ cổ phiếu nào trong các công ty theo hợp đồng với Thành phố khi cổ phiếu đó chiếm hơn hai phần trăm tổng số cổ phiếu đang lưu hành của công ty.



# 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>



# CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

**FORM C/OH  
COVER SHEET PG 2**

<b>15 C/OH NAME</b>		<b>16 Filer ID</b> (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>17 CONTRIBUTION TOTALS</b>	1. TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS MADE ELECTRONICALLY)	\$
	2. <b>TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS)	\$
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTALS</b>	3. TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL EXPENDITURE.	\$
	4. <b>TOTAL POLITICAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$
<b>CONTRIBUTION BALANCE</b>	5. TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED AS OF THE LAST DAY OF REPORTING PERIOD	\$
<b>OUTSTANDING LOAN TOTALS</b>	6. TOTAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL OUTSTANDING LOANS AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	\$

**18 SIGNATURE** I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate or Officeholder

**Please complete either option below:**

**(1) Affidavit**

NOTARY STAMP / SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by \_\_\_\_\_ this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath                      Printed name of officer administering oath                      Title of officer administering oath



**(2) Unsworn Declaration**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and my date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

My address is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.  
(month) (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate/Officeholder (Declarant)

# SUBTOTALS - C/OH

# FORM C/OH COVER SHEET PG 3

<b>19</b> FILER NAME		<b>20</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>21</b> SCHEDULE SUBTOTALS NAME OF SCHEDULE		SUBTOTAL AMOUNT
1. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE A1: MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
2. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE A2: NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
3. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE B: PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
4. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE E: LOANS		\$
5. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F1: POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
6. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F2: UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS		\$
7. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F3: PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
8. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE F4: EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD		\$
9. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE G: POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM PERSONAL FUNDS		\$
10. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE H: PAYMENT MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A BUSINESS OF C/OH		\$
11. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE I: NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$
12. <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULE K: INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER		\$

# MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

# SCHEDULE A1

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule A1:
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	<b>7</b> Amount of contribution (\$)
	<b>6</b> Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>8</b> Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		<b>9</b> Employer (See Instructions)
Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)
Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)
Date	Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	Amount of contribution (\$)
	Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**  
 If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

# NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## SCHEDULE A2

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule A2:	
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)	
<b>4</b> TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED IN-KIND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$	
<b>5</b> Date	<b>6</b> Full name of contributor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	<b>8</b> Amount of Contribution \$	<b>9</b> In-kind contribution description
	<b>7</b> Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
<b>10</b> Principal occupation / Job title (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)		<b>11</b> Employer (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
<b>12</b> Contributor's principal occupation (FOR JUDICIAL)		<b>13</b> Contributor's job title (FOR JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)	
<b>14</b> Contributor's employer/law firm (FOR JUDICIAL)		<b>15</b> Law firm of contributor's spouse (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)	
<b>16</b> If contributor is a child, law firm of parent(s) (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Full name of contributor</b> <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____)	<b>Amount of Contribution \$</b>	<b>In-kind contribution description</b>
	<b>Contributor address;</b> City; State; Zip Code		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
<b>Principal occupation / Job title (FOR NON-JUDICIAL) (See Instructions)</b>		<b>Employer (FOR NON-JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)</b>	
<b>Contributor's principal occupation (FOR JUDICIAL)</b>		<b>Contributor's job title (FOR JUDICIAL)(See Instructions)</b>	
<b>Contributor's employer/law firm (FOR JUDICIAL)</b>		<b>Law firm of contributor's spouse (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)</b>	
<b>If contributor is a child, law firm of parent(s) (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)</b>			

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

# PLEGGED CONTRIBUTIONS

# SCHEDULE B

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule B:	
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)	
<b>4</b> TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED PLEDGES		\$	
<b>5</b> Date	<b>6</b> Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> <b>7</b> Pledgor address;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	<b>8</b> Amount of Pledge \$	<b>9</b> In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
<b>10</b> Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		<b>11</b> Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	
Date	Full name of pledgor <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____) <hr/> Pledgor address;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	Amount of Pledge \$	In-kind contribution description
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)	

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

If contributor is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.

# LOANS

# SCHEDULE E

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule E:
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED LOANS		\$
<b>5</b> Date of loan	<b>7</b> Name of lender <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____ )	<b>9</b> Loan Amount (\$)
<b>6</b> Is lender a financial Institution?  Y N	<b>8</b> Lender address; City; State; Zip Code	<b>10</b> Interest rate
		<b>11</b> Maturity date
<b>12</b> Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		<b>13</b> Employer (See Instructions)
<b>14</b> Description of Collateral <input type="checkbox"/> none		<b>15</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if personal funds were deposited into political account (See Instructions)
<b>16</b> GUARANTOR INFORMATION  <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<b>17</b> Name of guarantor	<b>19</b> Amount Guaranteed (\$)
	<b>18</b> Guarantor address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>20</b> Principal Occupation (See Instructions)		<b>21</b> Employer (See Instructions)
Date of loan	Name of lender <input type="checkbox"/> out-of-state PAC (ID#: _____ )	Loan Amount (\$)
Is lender a financial Institution?  Y N	Lender address; City; State; Zip Code	Interest rate
		Maturity date
Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)
Description of Collateral <input type="checkbox"/> none		<input type="checkbox"/> Check if personal funds were deposited into political account (See Instructions)
GUARANTOR INFORMATION  <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	Name of guarantor	Amount Guaranteed (\$)
	Guarantor address; City; State; Zip Code	
Principal Occupation (See Instructions)		Employer (See Instructions)

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

**If lender is out-of-state PAC, please see Instruction guide for additional reporting requirements.**

# POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

# SCHEDULE F1

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

- |  |                               |                                |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Advertising Expense                        | Event Expense                 | Loan Repayment/Reimbursement   | Solicitation/Fundraising Expense           |
| Accounting/Banking                         | Fees                          | Office Overhead/Rental Expense | Transportation Equipment & Related Expense |
| Consulting Expense                         | Food/Beverage Expense         | Polling Expense                | Travel In District                         |
| Contributions/Donations Made By            | Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense | Printing Expense               | Travel Out Of District                     |
| Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee | Legal Services                | Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor  | Other (enter a category not listed above)  |
| Credit Card Payment                        |                               |                                |  |

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule F1:	<b>2</b> FILER NAME	<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Payee name	
<b>6</b> Amount (\$)	<b>7</b> Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(a)</b> Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	<b>(b)</b> Description
	<b>(c)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
<b>9</b> Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought                      Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought                      Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought                      Office held

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS

# SCHEDULE F2

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule F2:	<b>2</b> FILER NAME	<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
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<b>4</b> TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS	\$
--	----

<b>5</b> Date	<b>6</b> Payee name
---------------	---------------------

<b>7</b> Amount (\$)	<b>8</b> Payee address;	City;	State;	Zip Code
----------------------	-------------------------	-------	--------	----------

<b>9</b> TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political
------------------------------	---

<b>10</b> PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	

<b>11</b> Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought	Office held
--	-------------------------------	---------------	-------------

Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City;	State;	Zip Code
-------------	----------------	-------	--------	----------

TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political
---------------------	---

PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	

Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought	Office held
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**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## SCHEDULE F3

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule F3:
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Name of person from whom investment is purchased	
	..... <b>6</b> Address of person from whom investment is purchased;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	
	<b>7</b> Description of investment	
	<b>8</b> Amount of investment (\$)	
Date	Name of person from whom investment is purchased	
	..... Address of person from whom investment is purchased;                      City;                      State;                      Zip Code	
	Description of investment	
	Amount of investment (\$)	

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD

# SCHEDULE F4

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

- |  |                               |                                |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Advertising Expense                        | Event Expense                 | Loan Repayment/Reimbursement   | Solicitation/Fundraising Expense           |
| Accounting/Banking                         | Fees                          | Office Overhead/Rental Expense | Transportation Equipment & Related Expense |
| Consulting Expense                         | Food/Beverage Expense         | Polling Expense                | Travel In District                         |
| Contributions/Donations Made By            | Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense | Printing Expense               | Travel Out Of District                     |
| Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee | Legal Services                | Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor  | Other (enter a category not listed above)  |

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

USE A NEW PAGE FOR EACH CREDIT CARD ISSUER

<b>1 TOTAL PAGES SCHEDULE F4:</b>	<b>2 FILER NAME</b>	<b>3 FILER ID (Ethics Commission Filers)</b>
-----------------------------------	---------------------	--

<b>4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED EXPENDITURES CHARGED TO A CREDIT CARD</b>	\$
--	----

<b>5 CREDIT CARD ISSUER</b>	Name of financial institution
-----------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>6 PAYMENT</b>	(a) Amount Charged \$	(b) Date Expenditure Charged	(c) Date(s) Credit Card Issuer Paid
------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------

<b>7 PAYEE</b>	(a) Payee name	(b) Payee address; City, State, Zip Code
----------------	----------------	--

<b>8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	

<b>9 Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH</b>	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office Sought	Office Held
--	-------------------------------	---------------	-------------

<b>PAYMENT</b>	(a) Amount Charged \$	(b) Date Expenditure Charged	(c) Date(s) Credit Card Issuer Paid
----------------	--------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------

<b>PAYEE</b>	(a) Payee name	(b) Payee address; City, State, Zip Code
--------------	----------------	--

<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	

<b>Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH</b>	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office Sought	Office Held
--	-------------------------------	---------------	-------------

<b>PAYMENT</b>	(a) Amount Charged \$	(b) Date Expenditure Charged	(c) Date(s) Credit Card Issuer Paid
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<b>PAYEE</b>	(a) Payee name	(b) Payee address; City, State, Zip Code
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<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Political	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense	

<b>Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH</b>	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office Sought	Office Held
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**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM PERSONAL FUNDS

## SCHEDULE G

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)
Credit Card Payment			

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule G:	<b>2</b> FILER NAME	<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Payee name	
<b>6</b> Amount (\$)  <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	<b>7</b> Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>8</b> <b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(a)</b> Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	<b>(b)</b> Description
	<b>(c)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
<b>9</b> Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)  <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)  <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Payee name	
Amount (\$)  <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement from political contributions intended	Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# PAYMENT MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO A BUSINESS OF C/OH

## SCHEDULE H

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

Advertising Expense Accounting/Banking Consulting Expense Contributions/Donations Made By Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee Credit Card Payment	Event Expense Fees Food/Beverage Expense Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense Legal Services	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement Office Overhead/Rental Expense Polling Expense Printing Expense Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense Transportation Equipment & Related Expense Travel In District Travel Out Of District Other (enter a category not listed above)
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**The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.**

<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule H:	<b>2</b> FILER NAME	<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Business name	
<b>6</b> Amount (\$)	<b>7</b> Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(a)</b> Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	<b>(b)</b> Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>(c)</b> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
<b>9</b> Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Business name	
Amount (\$)	Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held
Date	Business name	
Amount (\$)	Business address;	City; State; Zip Code
<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	Description
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
Complete <u>ONLY</u> if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought Office held

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## SCHEDULE I

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule I:	<b>2</b> FILER NAME	<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
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<b>4</b> Date	<b>5</b> Payee name
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<b>6</b> Amount (\$)	<b>7</b> Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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<b>8</b> <b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(a)</b> Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	<b>(b)</b> Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
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Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
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Date	Payee name
------	------------

Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
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Date	Payee name
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Amount (\$)	Payee address;	City	State	Zip Code
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<b>PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE</b>	Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)
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**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER

## SCHEDULE K

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.		1 Total pages Schedule K:
2 FILER NAME		3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Name of person from whom amount is received  ..... 6 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	8 Amount (\$)
7 Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer		
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received  ..... Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	Amount (\$)
Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer		
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received  ..... Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	Amount (\$)
Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer		
Date	Name of person from whom amount is received  ..... Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code	Amount (\$)
Purpose for which amount is received <input type="checkbox"/> Check if political contribution returned to filer		

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS OR POLITICAL EXPENDITURES FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF TEXAS

## SCHEDULE T

If the requested information is not applicable, **DO NOT** include this page in the report.

<b>The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.</b>		<b>1</b> Total pages Schedule T:
<b>2</b> FILER NAME		<b>3</b> Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
<b>4</b> Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
<b>5</b> Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
<b>6</b> Dates of travel	<b>7</b> Name of person(s) traveling	
	<b>8</b> Departure city or name of departure location	
	<b>9</b> Destination city or name of destination location	
<b>10</b> Means of transportation	<b>11</b> Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)	
Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
<b>Dates of travel</b>	<b>Name of person(s) traveling</b>	
	<b>Departure city or name of departure location</b>	
	<b>Destination city or name of destination location</b>	
<b>Means of transportation</b>	<b>Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)</b>	
Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee		
Contribution / Expenditure reported on: <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B(J) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F1 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F2 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule F4 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule H <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule COH-UC <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule B-SS		
<b>Dates of travel</b>	<b>Name of person(s) traveling</b>	
	<b>Departure city or name of departure location</b>	
	<b>Destination city or name of destination location</b>	
<b>Means of transportation</b>	<b>Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)</b>	

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED**

# CANDIDATE / OFFICEHOLDER REPORT: DESIGNATION OF FINAL REPORT

FORM C/OH - FR

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

•• Complete only if "Report Type" on page 1 is marked "Final Report" ••

1 C/OH NAME

2 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

### 3 SIGNATURE

I do not expect any further political contributions or political expenditures in connection with my candidacy. I understand that designating a report as a final report terminates my campaign treasurer appointment. I also understand that I may not accept any campaign contributions or make any campaign expenditures without a campaign treasurer appointment on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate / Officeholder

### 4 FILER WHO IS NOT AN OFFICEHOLDER

•• Complete A & B below *only* if you are not an officeholder. ••

#### A. CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Check only one:

- I do not have unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned from political contributions.
- I have unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned from political contributions. I understand that I may not convert unexpended political contributions or unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions to personal use. I also understand that I must file an annual report of unexpended contributions and that I may not retain unexpended contributions or unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions longer than six years after filing this final report. Further, I understand that I must dispose of unexpended political contributions and unexpended interest or income earned on political contributions in accordance with the requirements of Election Code, § 254.204.

#### B. ASSETS

Check only one:

- I do not retain assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions.
- I do retain assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions. I understand that I may not convert assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions to personal use. I also understand that I must dispose of assets purchased with political contributions in accordance with the requirements of Election Code, § 254.204.

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

### 5 OFFICEHOLDER

•• Complete this section *only* if you are an officeholder ••

- I am aware that I remain subject to filing requirements applicable to an officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer on file. I am also aware that I will be required to file reports of unexpended contributions if, after filing the last required report as an officeholder, I retain political contributions, interest or other income from political contributions, or assets purchased with political contributions or interest or other income from political contributions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Officeholder



# AFFIDAVIT FOR CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER: ELECTRONIC FILING EXEMPTION

An exemption affidavit must be submitted with each paper report.

Beginning on January 1, 2025, a candidate or officeholder who has accepted more than \$33,910 in political contributions or made more than \$33,910 in political expenditures in any calendar year must file all subsequent reports electronically.

Filer name	Filer ID #
------------	------------

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received	
Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked	
Receipt #	Amount \$
Date Processed	
Date Imaged	

- I swear or affirm that I have not accepted more than \$33,910 in political contributions or made more than \$33,910 in political expenditures in a calendar year.
- I further swear or affirm that I do not use computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that no person acting as my agent or consultant, and no person with whom I contract, uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I further swear or affirm that I understand that I am required to file my campaign finance reports electronically if I, my agent or consultant, or a person with whom I contract exceeds \$33,910 in political contributions or political expenditures in a calendar year, or uses computer equipment to keep current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to me.
- I am filing this affidavit with the \_\_\_\_\_ report due on \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that this affidavit is required to be filed with each campaign finance report for which I am claiming an exemption from electronic filing.

### Please complete either option below:

#### (1) Affidavit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Filer

NOTARY STAMP / SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me by \_\_\_\_\_ this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath	Printed name of officer administering oath	Title of officer administering oath
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**OR**

#### (2) Unsworn Declaration

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and my date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

My address is \_\_\_\_\_ (street), \_\_\_\_\_ (city), \_\_\_\_\_ (state), \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code), \_\_\_\_\_ (country).

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ (month) (year).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Filer (Declarant)

**FILERS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THE ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT ARE STILL REQUIRED TO FILE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS ON PAPER**



**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**2026 FILING SCHEDULE FOR REPORTS DUE IN CONNECTION WITH**  
**ELECTIONS HELD ON UNIFORM ELECTION DATES**

This is a filing schedule for reports to be filed in connection with elections held on uniform election dates in May and November. Examples of elections held on uniform election dates are elections for school board positions and city offices. The uniform election dates in 2026 are May 2 and November 3.

Candidates and officeholders must file semiannual reports (due on January 15, 2026, and July 15, 2026). In addition, a candidate who has an opponent on the ballot in an election held on a uniform election date must file two pre-election reports (unless the candidate has elected modified reporting).

The campaign treasurer of a political committee that is involved in an election held on a uniform election date must also file pre-election reports (unless the committee is a general-purpose political committee that files monthly or a specific-purpose political committee that files on the modified reporting schedule). This schedule sets out the due dates for pre-election reports in connection with elections on uniform election dates. Please consult the 2026 REGULAR FILING SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (GPAC), COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (CEC), AND SPECIFIC-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (SPAC) for a complete listing of political committee deadlines.

Candidates for and officeholders in local offices regularly filled at the general election for state and county officers (the November election in even-numbered years) should use the 2026 FILING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK OR ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR.

EXPLANATION OF THE FILING SCHEDULE CHART

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

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

COLUMN III: BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED - This column sets out the beginning date of the time period covered by the report. Use the latest one of the applicable dates. The "date of campaign treasurer appointment" is the beginning date only for the *first* report filed after filing a campaign treasurer appointment. For officeholders recently appointed to an elective office, the beginning date for the first report will be the date the officeholder took office, provided that he or she was not already filing as an officeholder or candidate at the time of the appointment. (*NOTE: If you are ever confused about the beginning date for a required report, remember this rule: **There should never be gaps between reporting periods and, generally, there should not be overlaps.***)

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

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

<u>COLUMN I</u> DUE DATE	<u>COLUMN II</u> TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)	<u>COLUMN III</u> BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED	<u>COLUMN IV</u> ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED
Thursday, January 15, 2026	<b>January semiannual</b> [FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,110 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period) [FORM GPAC] (all GPACs) [FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)	July 1, 2025, <i>or</i>  the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the last report ended.	December 31, 2025
Thursday, January 15, 2026	<b>Annual report of unexpended contributions</b> [FORM C/OH-UC] (former candidates and former officeholders who have filed a final report and who retained unexpended contributions or assets purchased with contributions)	January 1, 2025, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the final report was filed.	December 31, 2025

**REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE MAY 2, 2026, UNIFORM ELECTION**

Thursday, April 2, 2026  <b>NOTE: This report must be received by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 2, 2026.</b>	<b>30th day before the May 2, 2026, uniform election</b>  [FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the May 2 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)  [FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the May 2 election)  [FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the May 2 election)	January 1, 2026, <i>or</i>  the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i>  the day after the date the last report ended.	March 23, 2026
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**NOTE:** A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved in the election during each pre-election reporting period. **A political committee must file an 8-day pre-election report if the committee filed a 30-day pre-election report, even if there is no activity to report during the 8-day reporting period.** The campaign treasurer of a political committee may be required to file 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports in connection with elections not listed on this schedule.

<b><u>COLUMN I</u></b> <b>DUE DATE</b>	<b><u>COLUMN II</u></b> <b>TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</b>	<b><u>COLUMN III</u></b> <b>BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>	<b><u>COLUMN IV</u></b> <b>ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>
<p><b>Friday, April 24, 2026</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 24, 2026.</b></p>	<p><b>8th day before May 2, 2026, uniform election</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the May 2 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that are involved in the May 2 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the May 2 election)</p>	<p>March 24, 2026, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>April 22, 2026</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after April 22, 2026, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, July 15, 2026</b></p>	<p><b>July semiannual</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,140 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)</p>	<p>January 1, 2026, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>June 30, 2026</p>
<p><b>NOTE:</b> A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved in the election during each pre-election reporting period. <b>A political committee must file an 8-day pre-election report if the committee filed a 30-day pre-election report, even if there is no activity to report during the 8-day reporting period.</b> The campaign treasurer of a political committee may be required to file 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports in connection with elections not listed on this schedule.</p>			

<b><u>COLUMN I</u></b> <b>DUE DATE</b>	<b><u>COLUMN II</u></b> <b>TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</b>	<b><u>COLUMN III</u></b> <b>BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>	<b><u>COLUMN IV</u></b> <b>ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>
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**REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, UNIFORM ELECTION**

<p><b>Monday, October 5, 2026</b></p> <p><i>Deadline is extended because of weekend.</i></p> <p><b>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 5, 2026.</b></p>	<p><b>30th day before the November 3, 2026, uniform election</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the November 3 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the November 3 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the November 3 election)</p>	<p>July 1, 2026, <u>or</u></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <u>or</u></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>September 24, 2026</p>
<p><b>Monday, October 26, 2026</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 26, 2026.</b></p>	<p><b>8th day before the November 3, 2026, uniform election</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates who have an opponent on the ballot in the November 3 election and who do not file on the modified reporting schedule)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that are involved in the November 3 election)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs that do not file on the modified reporting schedule and that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report” or that supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the November 3 election)</p>	<p>September 25, 2026, <u>or</u></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <u>or</u></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>October 24, 2026</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after October 24, 2026, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p>

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

<b><u>COLUMN I</u></b> <b>DUE DATE</b>	<b><u>COLUMN II</u></b> <b>TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</b>	<b><u>COLUMN III</u></b> <b>BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>	<b><u>COLUMN IV</u></b> <b>ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</b>
<b>Friday, January 15, 2027</b>	<p><b>January semiannual</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH] (all local candidates and officeholders, except for officeholders who do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and who do not exceed \$1,140 in contributions or expenditures for the reporting period)</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs)</p> <p>[FORM SPAC] (all SPACs)</p>	<p>July 1, 2026, <i>or</i></p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	December 31, 2026
<b>Friday, January 15, 2027</b>	<p><b>Annual report of unexpended contributions</b></p> <p>[FORM C/OH-UC] (former candidates and former officeholders who have filed a final report and who retained unexpended contributions or assets purchased with contributions)</p>	<p>January 1, 2026, <i>or</i></p> <p>the day after the date the final report was filed.</p>	December 31, 2026

# 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

**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**TITLE 15, ELECTION CODE**  
**REGULATING POLITICAL FUNDS AND CAMPAIGNS**



**All Amendments Effective on September 1, 2023**

**(Revised 8/1/2023)**

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

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

**(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989**

*Promoting Public Confidence in Government*

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**ELECTION CODE**

**TITLE 15. REGULATING POLITICAL FUNDS AND CAMPAIGNS**

**CHAPTER 251. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 251.001. DEFINITIONS.** In this title:

(1) "Candidate" means a person who knowingly and willingly takes affirmative action for the purpose of gaining nomination or election to public office or for the purpose of satisfying financial obligations incurred by the person in connection with the campaign for nomination or election. Examples of affirmative action include:

(A) the filing of a campaign treasurer appointment, except that the filing does not constitute candidacy or an announcement of candidacy for purposes of the automatic resignation provisions of Article XVI, Section 65, or Article XI, Section 11, of the Texas Constitution;

(B) the filing of an application for a place on a ballot;

(C) the filing of an application for nomination by convention;

(D) the filing of a declaration of intent to become an independent candidate or a declaration of write-in candidacy;

(E) the making of a public announcement of a definite intent to run for public office in a particular election, regardless of whether the specific office is mentioned in the announcement;

(F) before a public announcement of intent, the making of a statement of definite intent to run for public office and the soliciting of support by letter or other mode of communication;

(G) the soliciting or accepting of a campaign contribution or the making of a campaign expenditure; and

(H) the seeking of the nomination of an executive committee of a political party to fill a vacancy.

(2) "Contribution" means a direct or indirect transfer of money, goods, services, or any other thing of value and includes an agreement made or other obligation incurred, whether legally enforceable or not, to make a transfer. The term includes a loan or extension of credit, other than those expressly excluded by this subdivision, and a guarantee of a loan or extension of credit, including a loan described by this subdivision. The term does not include:

(A) a loan made in the due course of business by a corporation that is legally engaged in the business of lending money and that has conducted the business continuously for more than one year before the loan is made; or

(B) an expenditure required to be reported under Section 305.006(b), Government Code.

(3) "Campaign contribution" means a contribution to a candidate or political committee that is offered or given with the intent that it be used in connection with a campaign for elective office or on a measure. Whether a contribution is made before, during, or after an election does not affect its status as a campaign contribution.

(4) "Officeholder contribution" means a contribution to an officeholder or political committee that is offered or given with the intent that it be used to defray expenses that:

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(A) are incurred by the officeholder in performing a duty or engaging in an activity in connection with the office; and

(B) are not reimbursable with public money.

(5) "Political contribution" means a campaign contribution or an officeholder contribution.

(6) "Expenditure" means a payment of money or any other thing of value and includes an agreement made or other obligation incurred, whether legally enforceable or not, to make a payment.

(7) "Campaign expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person in connection with a campaign for an elective office or on a measure. Whether an expenditure is made before, during, or after an election does not affect its status as a campaign expenditure.

(8) "Direct campaign expenditure" means a campaign expenditure that does not constitute a campaign contribution by the person making the expenditure. A campaign expenditure does not constitute a contribution by the person making the expenditure to a candidate or officeholder if the expenditure is made without the prior consent or approval of the candidate or officeholder on whose behalf the expenditure is made. A campaign expenditure made in connection with a measure does not constitute a contribution by the person making the expenditure if it is not made as a political contribution to a political committee supporting or opposing the measure.

(9) "Officeholder expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person to defray expenses that:

(A) are incurred by an officeholder in performing a duty or engaging in an activity in connection with the office; and

(B) are not reimbursable with public money.

(10) "Political expenditure" means a campaign expenditure or an officeholder expenditure.

(11) "Reportable activity" means a political contribution, political expenditure, or other activity required to be reported under this title.

(12) "Political committee" means two or more persons acting in concert with a principal purpose of accepting political contributions or making political expenditures. The term does not include a group composed exclusively of two or more individual filers or political committees required to file reports under this title who make reportable expenditures for a joint activity.

(13) "Specific-purpose committee" means a political committee that does not have among its principal purposes those of a general-purpose committee but does have among its principal purposes:

(A) supporting or opposing one or more:

(i) candidates, all of whom are identified and are seeking offices that are known; or

(ii) measures, all of which are identified;

(B) assisting one or more officeholders, all of whom are identified; or

(C) supporting or opposing only one candidate who is unidentified or who is seeking an office that is unknown.

(14) "General-purpose committee" means a political committee that has among its principal purposes:

(A) supporting or opposing:

(i) two or more candidates who are unidentified or are seeking offices that are unknown; or

(ii) one or more measures that are unidentified; or

(B) assisting two or more officeholders who are unidentified.

(15) "Out-of-state political committee" means a political committee that:

(A) makes political expenditures outside this state; and

(B) in the 12 months immediately preceding the making of a political expenditure by the committee inside this state (other than an expenditure made in connection with a campaign for a federal office or made for a federal officeholder), makes 80 percent or more of the committee's total political expenditures in any combination of elections outside this state and federal offices not voted on in this state.

(16) "Political advertising" means a communication supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a public office or office of a political party, a political party, a public officer, or a measure that:

(A) in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or

(B) appears:

(i) in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, or similar form of written communication; or

(ii) on an Internet website.

(17) "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.

(18) "Labor organization" means an agency, committee, or any other organization in which employees participate that exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work.

(19) "Measure" means a question or proposal submitted in an election for an expression of the voters' will and includes the circulation and submission of a petition to determine whether a question or proposal is required to be submitted in an election for an expression of the voters' will.

(20) "Commission" means the Texas Ethics Commission.

(21) "In-kind contribution" means a contribution of goods, services, or any other thing of value that is not money, and includes an agreement made or other obligation incurred, whether legally enforceable or not, to make the contribution. The term does not include a direct campaign expenditure.

**Sec. 251.0015. COMMUNICATION WITH CANDIDATE.** For purposes of Section 251.001(8), communication between a person and a candidate, officeholder, or candidate's or officeholder's agent is not evidence that the person obtained the candidate's or officeholder's consent or approval for a campaign expenditure made after the communication by the person on behalf of the candidate or officeholder unless the communication establishes that:

(1) the expenditure is incurred at the request or suggestion of the candidate, officeholder, or candidate's or officeholder's agent;

(2) the candidate, officeholder, or candidate's or officeholder's agent is materially involved in decisions regarding the creation, production, or distribution of a campaign communication related to the expenditure; or

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(3) the candidate, officeholder, or candidate's or officeholder's agent shares information about the candidate's or officeholder's plans or needs that is:

- (A) material to the creation, production, or distribution of a campaign communication related to the expenditure; and
- (B) not available to the public.

**Sec. 251.0016. COMMON VENDOR.** A person using the same vendor as a candidate, officeholder, or political committee established or controlled by a candidate or officeholder is not acting in concert with the candidate, officeholder, or committee to make a campaign expenditure unless the person makes the expenditure using information from the vendor about the campaign plans or needs of the candidate, officeholder, or committee that is:

- (1) material to the expenditure; and
- (2) not available to the public.

**Sec. 251.002. OFFICEHOLDERS COVERED.** (a) The provisions of this title applicable to an officeholder apply only to a person who holds an elective public office and to the secretary of state.

(b) For purposes of this title, a state officer-elect or a member-elect of the legislature is considered an officeholder beginning on the day after the date of the general or special election at which the officer-elect or member-elect was elected. This subsection does not relieve a state officer-elect or member-elect of the legislature of any reporting requirements the person may have as a candidate under this title.

**Sec. 251.003. PROHIBITION OF DOCUMENT FILING FEE.** A charge may not be made for filing a document required to be filed under this title.

**Sec. 251.004. VENUE.** (a) Venue for a criminal offense prescribed by this title is in the county of residence of the defendant, unless the defendant is not a Texas resident, in which case venue is in Travis County.

(b) Venue for the recovery of delinquent civil penalties imposed by the commission under this title is in Travis County.

**Sec. 251.005. OUT-OF-STATE COMMITTEES EXCLUDED.**

(a) An out-of-state political committee is not subject to Chapter 252 or 254, except as provided by Subsection (b), (c), or (d).

(b) If an out-of-state committee decides to file a campaign treasurer appointment under Chapter 252, at the time the appointment is filed the committee becomes subject to this title to the same extent as a political committee that is not an out-of-state committee.

(c) If an out-of-state committee performs an activity that removes the committee from out-of-state status as defined by Section 251.001(15), the committee becomes subject to this title to the same extent as a political committee that is not an out-of-state committee.

(d) An out-of-state political committee that does not file a campaign treasurer appointment shall comply with Section 254.1581.

**Sec. 251.006. FEDERAL OFFICE EXCLUDED.**

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this title does not apply to a candidate for an office of the federal government.

(b) A candidate for an elective office of the federal government shall file with the commission a copy of each document relating to the candidacy that is required to be filed under federal law. The document shall be filed within the same period in which it is required to be filed under the federal law.

**Sec. 251.007. TIMELINESS OF ACTION BY MAIL.** When this title requires a notice, report, or other document or paper to be delivered, submitted, or filed within a specified period or before a specified deadline, a delivery, submission, or filing by first-class United States mail or common or contract carrier is timely, except as otherwise provided by this title, if:

- (1) it is properly addressed with postage or handling charges prepaid; and
- (2) it bears a post office cancellation mark or a receipt mark of a common or contract carrier indicating a time within the period or before the deadline, or if the person required to take the action furnishes satisfactory proof that it was deposited in the mail or with a common or contract carrier within the period or before the deadline.

**Sec. 251.008. CERTAIN POLITICAL CLUB MEETINGS EXCLUDED.**

(a) An expense incurred in connection with the conduct of a meeting of an organization or club affiliated with a political party at which a candidate for an office regularly filled at the general election for state and county officers, or a person holding that office, appears before the members of the organization or club is not considered to be a political contribution or political expenditure if no political contributions are made to or solicited for the candidate or officeholder at the meeting.

(b) In this section, an organization or club is affiliated with a political party if it:

- (1) supports the nominees of that political party but does not support any candidate seeking the party's nomination for an office over any other candidate seeking that nomination; and
- (2) is recognized by the political party as an auxiliary of the party.

**Sec. 251.009. LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE.** A contribution to or expenditure by a legislative caucus, as defined by Section 253.0341, is not considered to be an officeholder contribution or officeholder expenditure for purposes of this title.

**SUBCHAPTER B. DUTIES OF COMMISSION**

**Sec. 251.032. FORMS.** In addition to furnishing samples of the appropriate forms to the authorities having administrative duties under this title, the commission shall furnish the forms to each political party's state executive committee and county chair of each county executive committee.

**Sec. 251.033. NOTIFICATION OF DEADLINE FOR FILING REPORTS.**

(a) The commission shall notify each person responsible for filing a report with the commission under Subchapters C through F, Chapter 254, of the deadline for filing a report, except that notice of the deadline is not required for a political committee involved in an election other than a primary election or the general election for state and county officers. Notification under this subsection may be sent by electronic mail.

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(b) If the commission is unable to notify a person of a deadline after two attempts, the commission is not required to make any further attempts to notify the person of that deadline or any future deadlines until the person has notified the commission of the person's current address or electronic mail address.

(c) Chapter 552, Government Code, does not apply to a notification under this section sent by electronic mail.

**CHAPTER 252. CAMPAIGN TREASURER**

**Sec. 252.001. APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER REQUIRED.**

Each candidate and each political committee shall appoint a campaign treasurer as provided by this chapter.

**Sec. 252.0011. INELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT AS CAMPAIGN TREASURER.**

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person is ineligible for appointment as a campaign treasurer if the person is the campaign treasurer of a political committee that does not file a report required by Chapter 254.

(b) The period for which a person is ineligible under Subsection (a) for appointment as a campaign treasurer ends on the date on which the political committee in connection with which the person's ineligibility arose has filed each report required by Chapter 254 that was not timely filed or has paid all fines and penalties in connection with the failure to file the report.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a person if, in any semiannual reporting period prescribed by Chapter 254:

(1) the political committee in connection with which the person's ineligibility arose did not accept political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000 or make political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000; and

(2) the candidate who or political committee that subsequently appoints the person does not accept political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000 or make political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000.

(d) Subsection (c) applies to a person who is the campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee regardless of whether the committee files monthly reports under Section 254.155. For purposes of this subsection, political contributions accepted and political expenditures made during a monthly reporting period are aggregated with political contributions accepted and political expenditures made in each other monthly reporting period that corresponds to the semiannual reporting period that contains those months.

(e) A candidate or political committee is considered to have not appointed a campaign treasurer if the candidate or committee appoints a person as campaign treasurer whose appointment is prohibited by Subsection (a).

(f) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of political contributions accepted or political expenditures made in violation of this section.

**Sec. 252.002. CONTENTS OF APPOINTMENT.**

(a) A campaign treasurer appointment must be in writing and include:

- (1) the campaign treasurer's name;
- (2) the campaign treasurer's residence or business street address;
- (3) the campaign treasurer's telephone number; and
- (4) the name of the person making the appointment.

(b) A political committee that files its campaign treasurer appointment with the commission must notify the commission in writing of any change in the campaign treasurer's address not later than the 10th day after the date on which the change occurs.

**Sec. 252.003. CONTENTS OF APPOINTMENT BY GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.**

(a) In addition to the information required by Section 252.002, a campaign treasurer appointment by a general-purpose committee must include:

(1) the full name, and any acronym of the name that will be used in the name of the committee as provided by Subsection (d), of each corporation, labor organization, or other association or legal entity that directly establishes, administers, or controls the committee, if applicable, or the name of each person who determines to whom the committee makes contributions or the name of each person who determines for what purposes the committee makes expenditures;

(2) the full name and address of each general-purpose committee to whom the committee intends to make political contributions;

(3) the name of the committee and, if the name is an acronym, the words the acronym represents; and

(4) before the committee may use a political contribution from a corporation or a labor organization to make a direct campaign expenditure in connection with a campaign for an elective office, an affidavit stating that:

(A) the committee is not established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder; and

(B) the committee will not use any political contribution from a corporation or a labor organization to make a political contribution to:

(i) a candidate for elective office;

(ii) an officeholder; or

(iii) a political committee that has not filed an affidavit under this subdivision or Section 252.0031(a)(2).

(a-1) Filing an affidavit under Subsection (a)(4) does not create any additional reporting requirements under Section 254.261.

(b) If any of the information required to be included in a general-purpose committee's appointment changes, excluding changes reported under Section 252.002(b), the committee shall file an amended appointment with the commission not later than the 30th day after the date the change occurs.

(c) The name of a general-purpose committee may not be the same as or deceptively similar to the name of any other general-purpose committee whose campaign treasurer appointment is filed with the commission. The commission shall determine whether the name of a general-purpose political committee is in violation of this prohibition and shall immediately notify the campaign treasurer of the offending political committee of that determination. The campaign treasurer of the political committee must file a name change with the commission not later than the 14th day after the date of notification. A campaign treasurer who fails to file a name change as provided by this subsection or a political committee that continues to use a prohibited name after its campaign treasurer has been notified by the commission commits an offense. An offense under this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) The name of a general-purpose committee must include the name of each corporation, labor organization, or other association or legal entity other than an individual that directly establishes, administers, or controls the committee. The name of an entity that is required to be included in the name of the committee may be a commonly recognized acronym by which the entity is known.

**Sec. 252.0031. CONTENTS OF APPOINTMENT BY SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.**

(a) In addition to the information required by Section 252.002, a campaign treasurer appointment by a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate for an office specified by Section 252.005(1) must include:

(1) the name of and the office sought by the candidate; and

(2) before the committee may use a political contribution from a corporation or a labor organization to make a direct campaign expenditure in connection with a campaign for an elective office, an affidavit stating that:

(A) the committee is not established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder; and

(B) the committee will not use any political contribution from a corporation or a labor organization to make a political contribution to:

(i) a candidate for elective office;

(ii) an officeholder; or

(iii) a political committee that has not filed an affidavit under this subdivision or Section 252.003(a)(4).

(a-1) If the information required to be provided under Subsection (a) changes, the committee shall immediately file an amended appointment reflecting the change.

(a-2) Filing an affidavit under Subsection (a)(2) does not create any additional reporting requirements under Section 254.261.

(b) The name of a specific-purpose committee for supporting a candidate for an office specified by Section 252.005(1) must include the name of the candidate that the committee supports.

**Sec. 252.0032. CONTENTS OF APPOINTMENT BY CANDIDATE.**

(a) In addition to the information required by Section 252.002, a campaign treasurer appointment by a candidate must include:

(1) the candidate's telephone number; and

(2) a statement, signed by the candidate, that the candidate is aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code.

(b) A campaign treasurer appointment that is filed in a manner other than by use of an officially prescribed form is not invalid because it fails to comply with Subsection (a)(2).

**Sec. 252.004. DESIGNATION OF ONESELF.** An individual may appoint himself or herself as campaign treasurer.

**Sec. 252.005. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM APPOINTMENT FILED: CANDIDATE.** An individual must file a campaign treasurer appointment for the individual's own candidacy with:

(1) the commission, if the appointment is made for candidacy for:

(A) a statewide office;

(B) a district office filled by voters of more than one county;

(C) a judicial district office filled by voters of only one county;

(D) state senator;

(E) state representative; or

(F) the State Board of Education;

(2) the county clerk, if the appointment is made for candidacy for a county office, a precinct office, or a district office other than one included in Subdivision (1);

(3) the clerk or secretary of the governing body of the political subdivision or, if the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, with the governing body's presiding officer, if the appointment is made for candidacy for an office of a political subdivision other than a county;

(4) the county clerk if:

(A) the appointment is made for candidacy for an office of a political subdivision other than a county;

(B) the governing body for the political subdivision has not been formed; and

(C) no boundary of the political subdivision crosses a boundary of the county; or

(5) the commission if:

(A) the appointment is made for candidacy for an office of a political subdivision other than a county;

(B) the governing body for the political subdivision has not been formed; and

(C) the political subdivision is situated in more than one county.

**Sec. 252.006. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM APPOINTMENT FILED: SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATE OR ASSISTING OFFICEHOLDER.** A specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate or assisting an officeholder must file its campaign treasurer appointment with the same authority as the appointment for candidacy for the office.

**Sec. 252.007. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM APPOINTMENT FILED: SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING MEASURE.** A specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a measure must file its campaign treasurer appointment with:

(1) the commission, if the measure is to be submitted to voters of the entire state;

(2) the county clerk, if the measure is to be submitted to voters of a single county in an election ordered by a county authority;

(3) the secretary of the governing body of the political subdivision or, if the political subdivision has no secretary, with the governing body's presiding officer, if the measure is to be submitted at an election ordered by an authority of a political subdivision other than a county;

(4) the county clerk if:

(A) the measure concerns a political subdivision other than a county;

(B) the governing body for the political subdivision has not been formed; and

(C) no boundary of the political subdivision crosses a boundary of a county; or

(5) the commission if:

(A) the measure concerns a political subdivision other than a county;

(B) the governing body for the political subdivision has not been formed; and

(C) the political subdivision is situated in more than one county.

**Sec. 252.008. MULTIPLE FILINGS BY SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE NOT REQUIRED.** If under this chapter a specific-purpose committee is required to file its campaign treasurer appointment with more than one authority, the appointment need only be filed with the commission and, if so filed, need not be filed with the other authorities.

**Sec. 252.009. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM APPOINTMENT FILED: GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.** A general-purpose committee must file its campaign treasurer appointment with the commission.

**Sec. 252.010. TRANSFER OF APPOINTMENT.**

(a) If a candidate who has filed a campaign treasurer appointment decides to seek a different office that would require the appointment to be filed with another authority, a copy of the appointment certified by the authority with whom it was originally filed must be filed with the other authority in addition to the new campaign treasurer appointment.

(b) The original appointment terminates on the filing of the copy with the appropriate authority or on the 10th day after the date the decision to seek a different office is made, whichever is earlier.

**Sec. 252.011. TIME APPOINTMENT TAKES EFFECT; PERIOD OF EFFECTIVENESS.**

(a) A campaign treasurer appointment takes effect at the time it is filed with the authority specified by this chapter.

(b) A campaign treasurer appointment continues in effect until terminated.

**Sec. 252.012. REMOVAL OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER.**

(a) A campaign treasurer appointed under this chapter may be removed at any time by the appointing authority by filing the written appointment of a successor in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) The appointment of a successor terminates the appointment of the campaign treasurer who is removed.

(c) If the campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose political committee required to file its campaign treasurer appointment with the commission or of a general-purpose political committee is removed by the committee, the departing campaign treasurer shall immediately file written notification of the termination of appointment with the commission.

**Sec. 252.013. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT ON VACATING POSITION.**

(a) If a campaign treasurer resigns or otherwise vacates the position, the appointment is terminated at the time the vacancy occurs.

(b) A campaign treasurer who vacates the treasurer's position shall immediately notify the appointing authority in writing of the vacancy.

(c) If the campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose political committee required to file its campaign treasurer appointment with the commission or of a general-purpose political

committee resigns or otherwise vacates the position, the campaign treasurer shall immediately file written notification of the vacancy with the commission.

**Sec. 252.0131. TERMINATION OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT.**

(a) The commission by rule shall adopt a process by which the commission may terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of an inactive candidate or political committee that is required to file a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission. The governing body of a political subdivision by ordinance or order may adopt a process by which the clerk or secretary, as applicable, of the political subdivision may terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of an inactive candidate or political committee that is required to file a campaign treasurer appointment with the clerk or secretary. For purposes of this section, a candidate or political committee is inactive if the candidate or committee:

- (1) has never filed or has ceased to file reports under Chapter 254;
- (2) in the case of a candidate, has not been elected to an office for which a candidate is required to file a campaign treasurer appointment with the authority who is seeking to terminate the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment; and
- (3) has not filed:
  - (A) a final report under Section 254.065 or 254.125; or
  - (B) a dissolution report under Section 254.126 or 254.159.

(b) Before the commission may terminate a campaign treasurer appointment, the commission must consider the proposed termination in a regularly scheduled open meeting. Before the clerk or secretary of a political subdivision may terminate a campaign treasurer appointment, the governing body of the political subdivision must consider the proposed termination in a regularly scheduled open meeting.

(c) Rules or an ordinance or order adopted under this section must:

- (1) define "inactive candidate or political committee" for purposes of terminating the candidate's or committee's campaign treasurer appointment; and
- (2) require written notice to the affected candidate or committee of:
  - (A) the proposed termination of the candidate's or committee's campaign treasurer appointment;
  - (B) the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the commission or governing body of the political subdivision, as applicable, will consider the proposed termination; and
  - (C) the effect of termination of the candidate's or committee's campaign treasurer appointment.

(d) The termination of a campaign treasurer appointment under this section takes effect on the 30th day after the date of the meeting at which the commission or governing body, as applicable, votes to terminate the appointment. Following that meeting, the commission or the clerk or secretary of the political subdivision, as applicable, shall promptly notify the affected candidate or political committee that the appointment has been terminated. The notice must state the effective date of the termination.

**Sec. 252.014. PRESERVATION OF FILED APPOINTMENTS.** The authority with whom a campaign treasurer appointment is filed under this chapter shall preserve the appointment for two years after the date the appointment is terminated.

**Sec. 252.015. ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN TREASURER.**

(a) Each specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate for an office specified by Section 252.005(1) or a statewide or district measure and each general-purpose committee may appoint an assistant campaign treasurer by written appointment filed with the commission.

(b) In the campaign treasurer's absence, the assistant campaign treasurer has the same authority as a campaign treasurer.

(c) Sections 252.011, 252.012, 252.013, and 252.014 apply to the appointment and removal of an assistant campaign treasurer.

**CHAPTER 253. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES**

**SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS**

**Sec. 253.001. CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE IN ANOTHER'S NAME PROHIBITED.**

(a) A person may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution in the name of or on behalf of another unless the person discloses in writing to the recipient the name and address of the person actually making the contribution in order for the recipient to make the proper disclosure.

(b) A person may not knowingly make or authorize a political expenditure in the name of or on behalf of another unless the person discloses in writing to the person on whose behalf the expenditure is made the name and address of the person actually making the expenditure in order for the person on whose behalf the expenditure is made to make the proper disclosure.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.003. UNLAWFULLY MAKING OR ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTION.**

(a) A person may not knowingly make a political contribution in violation of this chapter.

(b) A person may not knowingly accept a political contribution the person knows to have been made in violation of this chapter.

(c) This section does not apply to a political contribution made or accepted in violation of Subchapter F.

(d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), a person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(e) A violation of Subsection (a) or (b) is a felony of the third degree if the contribution is made in violation of Subchapter D.

**Sec. 253.004. UNLAWFULLY MAKING EXPENDITURE.**

(a) A person may not knowingly make or authorize a political expenditure in violation of this chapter.

(b) This section does not apply to a political expenditure made or authorized in violation of Subchapter F.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.005. EXPENDITURE FROM UNLAWFUL CONTRIBUTION.**

(a) A person may not knowingly make or authorize a political expenditure wholly or partly from a political contribution the person knows to have been made in violation of this chapter.

(b) This section does not apply to a political expenditure that is:

(1) prohibited by Section 253.101; or

(2) made from a political contribution made in violation of Subchapter F.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.006. CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY LOBBYISTS RESTRICTED.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution or political expenditure that is a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by:

- (1) the person as a candidate or officeholder;
- (2) a specific-purpose committee for the purpose of supporting the person as a candidate or assisting the person as an officeholder; or
- (3) a political committee that accepted a political contribution from a source described by Subdivision (1) or (2) during the two-year period immediately before the date the political contribution or expenditure was made.

**Sec. 253.007. PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING BY PERSON MAKING OR AUTHORIZING CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES.**

(a) In this section, "administrative action," "communicates directly with," "legislation," "member of the executive branch," and "member of the legislative branch" have the meanings assigned by Section 305.002, Government Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided by Subsection (c), a person who knowingly makes or authorizes a political contribution or political expenditure that is a political contribution to another candidate, officeholder, or political committee, or direct campaign expenditure, from political contributions accepted by the person as a candidate or officeholder may not engage in any activities that require the person to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, during the two-year period after the date the person makes or authorizes the political contribution or direct campaign expenditure.

(c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a person who:

(1) communicates directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch only to influence legislation or administrative action on behalf of:

(A) a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code;

(B) a group of low-income individuals; or

(C) a group of individuals with disabilities; and

(2) does not receive compensation other than reimbursement for actual expenses for engaging in communication described by Subdivision (1).

## **SUBCHAPTER B. CANDIDATES, OFFICEHOLDERS, AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES**

**Sec. 253.031. CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE WITHOUT CAMPAIGN TREASURER PROHIBITED.**

(a) A candidate may not knowingly accept a campaign contribution or make or authorize a campaign expenditure at a time when a campaign treasurer appointment for the candidate is not in effect.

(b) A political committee may not knowingly accept political contributions totaling more than \$500 or make or authorize political expenditures totaling more than \$500 at a time when a campaign treasurer appointment for the committee is not in effect.

(c) A political committee may not knowingly make or authorize a campaign contribution or campaign expenditure supporting or opposing a candidate for an office specified by Section 252.005(1) in a primary or general election unless the committee's campaign treasurer appointment has been filed not later than the 30th day before the appropriate election day.

(d) This section does not apply to a political party's county executive committee that accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures, except that:

(1) a county executive committee that accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures shall maintain the records required by Section 254.001; and

(2) a county executive committee that accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures that, in the aggregate, exceed \$25,000 in a calendar year shall file:

(A) a campaign treasurer appointment as required by Section 252.001 not later than the 15th day after the date that amount is exceeded; and

(B) the reports required by Subchapter F, Chapter 254, including in the political committee's first report all political contributions accepted and all political expenditures made before the effective date of the campaign treasurer appointment.

(e) This section does not apply to an out-of-state political committee unless the committee is subject to Chapter 252 under Section 251.005.

(f) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.032. LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTION BY OUT-OF-STATE COMMITTEE.**

(a) In a reporting period, a candidate, officeholder, or political committee may not knowingly accept political contributions totaling more than \$500 from an out-of-state political committee unless, before accepting a contribution that would cause the total to exceed \$500, the candidate, officeholder, or political committee, as applicable, receives from the out-of-state committee:

(1) a written statement, certified by an officer of the out-of-state committee, listing the full name and address of each person who contributed more than \$100 to the out-of-state committee during the 12 months immediately preceding the date of the contribution; or

(2) a copy of the out-of-state committee's statement of organization filed as required by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer of the out-of-state committee.

(b) This section does not apply to a contribution from an out-of-state political committee if the committee appointed a campaign treasurer under Chapter 252 before the contribution was made and is subject to the reporting requirements of Chapter 254.

(c) A person who violates Subsection (a) commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee shall include the statement or copy required by Subsection (a) as a part of the report filed under Chapter 254 that covers the reporting period to which Subsection (a) applies.

(e) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee that accepts political contributions totaling \$500 or less from an out-of-state political committee shall include as part of the report filed under Chapter 254 that covers the reporting period in which the contribution is accepted:

(1) the same information for the out-of-state political committee required for general-purpose committees by Sections 252.002 and 252.003; or

(2) a copy of the out-of-state committee's statement of organization filed as required by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer of the out-of-state committee.

**Sec. 253.033. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS EXCEEDING \$100 PROHIBITED.**

(a) A candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee may not knowingly accept from a contributor in a reporting period political contributions in cash that in the aggregate exceed \$100.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.034. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

(a) During the period beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular legislative session convenes and continuing through the 20th day after the date of final adjournment, a person may not knowingly make a political contribution to:

(1) a statewide officeholder;

(2) a member of the legislature; or

(3) a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature.

(b) A statewide officeholder, a member of the legislature, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature may not knowingly accept a political contribution, and shall refuse a political contribution that is received, during the period prescribed by Subsection (a). A political contribution that is received and refused during that period shall be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the date of receipt. A contribution made by United States mail or by common or contract carrier is not considered received during that period if it was properly addressed and placed with postage or carrier charges prepaid or prearranged in the mail or delivered to the contract carrier before the beginning of the period. The date indicated by the post office cancellation mark or the common or contract carrier documents is considered to be the date the contribution was placed in the mail or delivered to the common or contract carrier unless proven otherwise.

(c) This section does not apply to a political contribution that was made and accepted with the intent that it be used:

(1) in an election held or ordered during the period prescribed by Subsection (a) in which the person accepting the contribution is a candidate if the contribution was made after the person appointed a campaign treasurer with the appropriate authority and before the person was sworn in for that office;

(2) to defray expenses incurred in connection with an election contest; or

(3) by a person who holds a state office or a member of the legislature if the person or member was defeated at the general election held immediately before the session is convened or by a specific-purpose political committee that supports or assists only that person or member.

(d) This section does not apply to a political contribution made to or accepted by a holder of an office to which Subchapter F applies.

(e) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.0341. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES DURING AND FOLLOWING REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

(a) During the period beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular legislative session convenes and continuing through the 20th day after the date of final adjournment, a person not a member of the caucus may not knowingly make a contribution to a legislative caucus.

(b) A legislative caucus may not knowingly accept from a nonmember a contribution, and shall refuse a contribution from a nonmember that is received, during the period prescribed by Subsection (a). A contribution that is received and refused during that period shall be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the date of receipt. A contribution made by United States mail or by common or contract carrier is not considered received during that period if it was properly addressed and placed with postage or carrier charges prepaid or prearranged in the mail or delivered to the contract carrier before the beginning of the period. The date indicated by the post office cancellation mark or the common or contract carrier documents is considered to be the date the contribution was placed in the mail or delivered to the common or contract carrier unless proven otherwise.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) A person who knowingly makes or accepts a contribution in violation of this section is liable for damages to the state in the amount of triple the value of the unlawful contribution.

(e) In this section, "legislative caucus" means an organization that is composed exclusively of members of the legislature, that elects or appoints officers and recognizes identified legislators as members of the organization, and that exists for research and other support of policy development and interests that the membership hold in common. The term includes an entity established by or for a legislative caucus to conduct research, education, or any other caucus activity. An organization whose only nonlegislator members are the lieutenant governor or the governor remains a "legislative caucus" for purposes of this section.

**Sec. 253.035. RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) A person who accepts a political contribution as a candidate or officeholder may not convert the contribution to personal use.

(b) A specific-purpose committee that accepts a political contribution may not convert the contribution to the personal use of a candidate, officeholder, or former candidate or officeholder.

(c) The prohibitions prescribed by Subsections (a) and (b) include the personal use of an asset purchased with the contribution and the personal use of any interest and other income earned on the contribution.

(d) In this section, "personal use" means a use that primarily furthers individual or family purposes not connected with the performance of duties or activities as a candidate for or holder of a public office. The term does not include:

(1) payments made to defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with activities as a candidate or in connection with the performance of duties or activities as a public officeholder, including payment of rent, utility, and other reasonable housing or household expenses incurred in maintaining a residence in Travis County by

members of the legislature who do not ordinarily reside in Travis County, but excluding payments prohibited under Section 253.038; or

(2) payments of federal income taxes due on interest and other income earned on political contributions.

(e) Subsection (a) applies only to political contributions accepted on or after September 1, 1983. Subsection (b) applies only to political contributions accepted on or after September 1, 1987.

(f) A person who converts a political contribution to the person's personal use in violation of this section is civilly liable to the state for an amount equal to the amount of the converted contribution plus reasonable court costs.

(g) A specific-purpose committee that converts a political contribution to the personal use of a candidate, officeholder, or former candidate or officeholder in violation of this section is civilly liable to the state for an amount equal to the amount of the converted contribution plus reasonable court costs.

(h) Except as provided by Section 253.0351 or 253.042, a candidate or officeholder who makes political expenditures from the candidate's or officeholder's personal funds may reimburse those personal funds from political contributions in the amount of those expenditures only if:

(1) the expenditures from personal funds were fully reported as political expenditures, including the payees, dates, purposes, and amounts of the expenditures, in the report required to be filed under this title that covers the period in which the expenditures from personal funds were made; and

(2) the report on which the expenditures from personal funds are disclosed clearly designates those expenditures as having been made from the person's personal funds and that the expenditures are subject to reimbursement.

(i) "Personal use" does not include the use of contributions for:

(1) defending a criminal action or prosecuting or defending a civil action brought by or against the person in the person's status as a candidate or officeholder; or

(2) participating in an election contest or participating in a civil action to determine a person's eligibility to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, a public office in this state.

(j), (k) Repealed by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 5.20, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

**Sec. 253.0351. LOANS FROM PERSONAL FUNDS.**

(a) A candidate or officeholder who makes political expenditures from the candidate's or officeholder's personal funds may report the amount expended as a loan and may reimburse those personal funds from political contributions in the amount of the reported loan.

(b) Section 253.035(h) applies if the person does not report an amount as a loan as authorized by Subsection (a).

(c) A candidate or officeholder who deposits personal funds in an account in which political contributions are held shall report the amount of personal funds deposited as a loan and may reimburse the amount deposited as a loan from political contributions or unexpended personal funds deposited in the account. The reimbursement may not exceed the amount reported as a loan. Personal funds deposited in an account in which political contributions are held are subject to Section 253.035 and must be included in the reports of the total amount of political contributions maintained required by Sections 254.031(a)(8) and 254.0611(a).

**Sec. 253.036. OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS USED IN CONNECTION WITH CAMPAIGN.** An officeholder who lawfully accepts officeholder contributions may use those contributions in connection with the officeholder's campaign for elective office after appointing a campaign treasurer.

**Sec. 253.037. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE BY GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.**

(a) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 209 (H.B. 3580), Sec. 5(1), eff. September 1, 2019.

(b) A general-purpose committee may not knowingly make a political contribution to another general-purpose committee unless the other committee is listed in the campaign treasurer appointment of the contributor committee.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 209 (H.B. 3580), Sec. 5(1), eff. September 1, 2019.

(d) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.038. PAYMENTS MADE TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY OR TO RENT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY PROHIBITED.**

(a) A candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting the candidate or officeholder may not knowingly make or authorize a payment from a political contribution to purchase real property or to pay the interest on or principal of a note for the purchase of real property.

(a-1) A candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting the candidate or officeholder may not knowingly make or authorize a payment from a political contribution for the rental or purchase of real property from:

(1) a person related within the second degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, to the candidate or officeholder; or

(2) a business in which the candidate or officeholder or a person described by Subdivision (1) has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body, or serves as an officer.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) This section does not apply to a payment made in connection with real property that was purchased before January 1, 1992.

**Sec. 253.039. CONTRIBUTIONS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROHIBITED.**

(a) A person may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution while in the Capitol or a courthouse to:

(1) a candidate or officeholder;

(2) a political committee; or

(3) a person acting on behalf of a candidate, officeholder, or political committee.

(b) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee or a person acting on behalf of a candidate, officeholder, or political committee may not knowingly accept a political contribution, and shall refuse a political contribution that is received, in the Capitol or a courthouse.

(c) This section does not prohibit contributions made in the Capitol or a courthouse through the United States postal service or a common or contract carrier.

(d) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(h) In this section, "courthouse" means any building owned by the state, a county, or a municipality, or an office or part of a building leased to the state, a county, or a municipality, in which a justice or judge sits to conduct court proceedings.

**Sec. 253.040. SEPARATE ACCOUNTS.**

(a) Except as provided by Section 253.0351(c), each candidate or officeholder shall keep the person's campaign and officeholder contributions in one or more accounts that are separate from any other account maintained by the person.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.041. RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.**

(a) A candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting the candidate or officeholder may not knowingly make or authorize a payment from a political contribution if the payment is made for personal services rendered by the candidate or officeholder or by the spouse or dependent child of the candidate or officeholder to:

(1) a business in which the candidate or officeholder has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business; or

(2) the candidate or officeholder or the spouse or dependent child of the candidate or officeholder.

(b) A payment that is made from a political contribution to a business described by Subsection (a) and that is not prohibited by that subsection may not exceed the amount necessary to reimburse the business for actual expenditures made by the business.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 253.042. RESTRICTIONS ON REIMBURSEMENT OF PERSONAL FUNDS AND PAYMENTS ON CERTAIN LOANS.**

(a) A candidate or officeholder who makes political expenditures from the candidate's or officeholder's personal funds may not reimburse those personal funds from political contributions in amounts that in the aggregate exceed the following amounts for each election in which the person's name appears on the ballot:

(1) for a statewide office other than governor, \$250,000; and

(2) for governor, \$500,000.

(b) A candidate or officeholder who accepts one or more political contributions in the form of loans, including an extension of credit or a guarantee of a loan or extension of credit, from one or more persons related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree by affinity or consanguinity may not use political contributions to repay the loans in amounts that in the aggregate exceed the amount prescribed by Subsection (a).

(c) The total amount of both reimbursements and repayments made by a candidate or officeholder under this section may not exceed the amount prescribed by Subsection (a).

(d) A person who is both a candidate and an officeholder covered by Subsection (a) may reimburse the person's personal funds or repay loans from political contributions only in one capacity.

(e) This section does not prohibit the payment of interest on loans covered by this section at a commercially reasonable rate, except that interest on loans from a candidate's or officeholder's personal funds or on loans from the personal funds of any person related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree by affinity or consanguinity is included in the amount prescribed by Subsection (a), (b), or (c).

(f) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(g) The commission shall study possible restrictions on amounts of reimbursements under Subsection (a) in connection with the offices of state senator and state representative and shall make appropriate recommendations to the legislature on those matters.

**Sec. 253.043. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS USED IN CONNECTION WITH APPOINTIVE OFFICE.** A former candidate or former officeholder who lawfully accepts political contributions may use those contributions to make an expenditure to defray expenses incurred by the person in performing a duty or engaging in an activity in connection with an appointive office of a state board or commission.

#### **SUBCHAPTER D. CORPORATIONS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS**

**Sec. 253.091. CORPORATIONS COVERED.** This subchapter applies only to corporations that are organized under the Texas Business Corporation Act, the Texas For-Profit Corporation Law, the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Law, federal law, or law of another state or nation.

**Sec. 253.092. TREATMENT OF INCORPORATED POLITICAL COMMITTEE.** If a political committee the only principal purpose of which is accepting political contributions and making political expenditures incorporates for liability purposes only, the committee is not considered to be a corporation for purposes of this subchapter.

**Sec. 253.093. CERTAIN ASSOCIATIONS COVERED.**

(a) For purposes of this subchapter, the following associations, whether incorporated or not, are considered to be corporations covered by this subchapter: banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations or companies, insurance companies, reciprocal or interinsurance exchanges, railroad companies, cemetery companies, government-regulated cooperatives, stock companies, and abstract and title insurance companies.

(b) For purposes of this subchapter, the members of the associations specified by Subsection (a) are considered to be stockholders.

**Sec. 253.094. CONTRIBUTIONS PROHIBITED.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization may not make a political contribution that is not authorized by this subchapter.

(b) A corporation or labor organization may not make a political contribution in connection with a recall election, including the circulation and submission of a petition to call an election.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 253.095. PUNISHMENT OF AGENT.** An officer, director, or other agent of a corporation or labor organization who commits an offense under this subchapter is punishable for the grade of offense applicable to the corporation or labor organization.

**Sec. 253.096. CONTRIBUTION ON MEASURE.** A corporation or labor organization may make campaign contributions from its own property in connection with an election on a measure only to a political committee for supporting or opposing measures exclusively.

**Sec. 253.097. CONTRIBUTION FROM CORPORATION OR LABOR ORGANIZATION.** A corporation or labor organization may make campaign contributions from its own property to a political committee that has filed an affidavit with the committee's campaign treasurer appointment in accordance with Section 252.003(a)(4) or 252.0031(a)(2).

**Sec. 253.098. COMMUNICATION WITH STOCKHOLDERS OR MEMBERS.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization may make one or more direct campaign expenditures from its own property for the purpose of communicating directly with its stockholders or members, as applicable, or with the families of its stockholders or members.

(b) An expenditure under this section is not reportable under Chapter 254.

**Sec. 253.099. NONPARTISAN VOTER REGISTRATION AND GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGNS.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization may make one or more expenditures to finance nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns aimed at its stockholders or members, as applicable, or at the families of its stockholders or members.

(b) An expenditure under this section is not reportable under Chapter 254.

**Sec. 253.100. EXPENDITURES FOR GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE.**

(a) A corporation, acting alone or with one or more other corporations, may make one or more political expenditures to finance the establishment or administration of a general-purpose committee. In addition to any other expenditure that is considered permissible under this section, a corporation may make an expenditure for the maintenance and operation of a general-purpose committee, including an expenditure for:

- (1) office space maintenance and repairs;
- (2) telephone and Internet services;
- (3) office equipment;
- (4) utilities;
- (5) general office and meeting supplies;
- (6) salaries for routine clerical, data entry, and administrative assistance necessary for the proper administrative operation of the committee;
- (7) legal and accounting fees for the committee's compliance with this title;
- (8) routine administrative expenses incurred in establishing and administering a general-purpose political committee;

(9) management and supervision of the committee, including expenses incurred in holding meetings of the committee's governing body to interview candidates and make endorsements relating to the committee's support;

(10) the recording of committee decisions;

(11) expenses incurred in hosting candidate forums in which all candidates for a particular office in an election are invited to participate on the same terms;

(12) expenses incurred in preparing and delivering committee contributions;

(13) creation and maintenance of the committee's public Internet web pages that do not contain political advertising.

(b) A corporation may make political expenditures, including fully or partially matching contributions to an organization that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to finance the solicitation of political contributions to a general-purpose committee assisted under Subsection (a) from the stockholders, employees, or families of stockholders or employees of one or more corporations.

(c) A labor organization may engage in activity authorized for a corporation by this section. For purposes of this section, the members of a labor organization are considered to be corporate stockholders.

(d) A corporation or labor organization may not make expenditures under this section for:

(1) political consulting to support or oppose a candidate;

(2) telephoning or telephone banks to communicate with the public;

(3) brochures and direct mail supporting or opposing a candidate;

(4) partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives;

(5) political fund-raising other than from its stockholders or members, as applicable, or the families of its stockholders or members;

(6) voter identification efforts, voter lists, or voter databases that include persons other than its stockholders or members, as applicable, or the families of its stockholders or members;

(7) polling designed to support or oppose a candidate other than of its stockholders or members, as applicable, or the families of its stockholders or members; or

(8) recruiting candidates.

(e) Subsection (d) does not apply to a corporation or labor organization making a campaign contribution to a political committee under Section 253.097 or an expenditure to communicate with its stockholders or members, as applicable, or with the families of its stockholders or members as provided by Section 253.098.

**Sec. 253.101. UNLAWFUL CONTRIBUTION OR EXPENDITURE BY COMMITTEE.**

(a) A political committee assisted by a corporation or labor organization under Section 253.100 may not make a political contribution or political expenditure in whole or part from money that is known by a member or officer of the political committee to be dues, fees, or other money required as a condition of employment or condition of membership in a labor organization.

(a-1) Subsection (a) does not prohibit a political committee from making a political contribution or political expenditure wholly or partly from a campaign contribution made by a corporation or labor organization to the political committee under Section 253.096 or 253.097.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 253.102. COERCION PROHIBITED.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization or a political committee assisted by a corporation or labor organization under Section 253.100 commits an offense if it uses or threatens to use physical force, job discrimination, or financial reprisal to obtain money or any other thing of value to be used to influence the result of an election or to assist an officeholder.

(b) A political committee assisted by a corporation or labor organization under Section 253.100 commits an offense if it accepts or uses money or any other thing of value that is known by a member or officer of the political committee to have been obtained in violation of Subsection (a).

(c) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 253.103. CORPORATE LOANS.**

(a) A corporation may not make a loan to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee for campaign or officeholder purposes unless:

(1) the corporation has been legally and continuously engaged in the business of lending money for at least one year before the loan is made; and

(2) the loan is made in the due course of business.

(b) This section does not apply to a loan covered by Section 253.096.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 253.104. CONTRIBUTION TO POLITICAL PARTY.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization may make a contribution from its own property to a political party to be used as provided by Chapter 257.

(b) A corporation or labor organization may not knowingly make a contribution authorized by Subsection (a) during a period beginning on the 60th day before the date of a general election for state and county officers and continuing through the day of the election.

(c) A corporation or labor organization that knowingly makes a contribution in violation of this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 253.105. CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE ONLY COMMITTEES.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization may make a political contribution from its own property to a political committee that:

(1) is not established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder;

(2) makes or intends to make direct campaign expenditures;

(3) does not make or intend to make political contributions to:

(A) a candidate;

(B) an officeholder;

(C) specific-purpose committee established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder; or

(D) a political committee that makes or intends to make political contributions to a candidate, an officeholder, or a specific-purpose committee established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder; and

(4) has filed an affidavit with the commission stating the committee's intention to operate as described by Subdivisions (2) and (3).

(b) A political contribution made by a corporation or labor organization under this section does not constitute a violation of Section 253.094(a) and the acceptance of the political contribution does not constitute a violation of Section 253.003(b).

## **SUBCHAPTER E. CIVIL LIABILITY**

### **Sec. 253.131. LIABILITY TO CANDIDATES.**

(a) A person who knowingly makes or accepts a campaign contribution or makes a campaign expenditure in violation of this chapter is liable for damages as provided by this section.

(b) If the contribution or expenditure is in support of a candidate, each opposing candidate whose name appears on the ballot is entitled to recover damages under this section.

(c) If the contribution or expenditure is in opposition to a candidate, the candidate is entitled to recover damages under this section.

(d) In this section, "damages" means:

- (1) twice the value of the unlawful contribution or expenditure; and
- (2) reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit.

(e) Reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit may be awarded to the defendant if judgment is rendered in the defendant's favor.

### **Sec. 253.132. LIABILITY TO POLITICAL COMMITTEES.**

(a) A corporation or labor organization that knowingly makes a campaign contribution to a political committee or a direct campaign expenditure in violation of Subchapter D is liable for damages as provided by this section to each political committee of opposing interest in the election in connection with which the contribution or expenditure is made.

(b) In this section, "damages" means:

- (1) twice the value of the unlawful contribution or expenditure; and
- (2) reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit.

(c) Reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit may be awarded to the defendant if judgment is rendered in the defendant's favor.

**Sec. 253.133. LIABILITY TO STATE.** A person who knowingly makes or accepts a political contribution or makes a political expenditure in violation of this chapter is liable for damages to the state in the amount of triple the value of the unlawful contribution or expenditure.

**Sec. 253.134. CIVIL PENALTIES IMPOSED BY COMMISSION.** This title does not prohibit the imposition of civil penalties by the commission in addition to criminal penalties or other sanctions imposed by law.

**SUBCHAPTER F. JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN FAIRNESS ACT**

**Sec. 253.151. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER.** This subchapter applies only to a political contribution or political expenditure in connection with the office of:

- (1) chief justice or justice, supreme court;
- (2) presiding judge or judge, court of criminal appeals;
- (3) chief justice or justice, court of appeals;
- (4) district judge;
- (5) judge, statutory county court; or
- (6) judge, statutory probate court.

**Sec. 253.152. DEFINITIONS.** In this subchapter:

(1) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes.

(2) "In connection with an election" means:

(A) with regard to a contribution that is designated in writing for a particular election, the election designated; or

(B) with regard to a contribution that is not designated in writing for a particular election, the next election for that office occurring after the contribution is made.

(3) "Judicial district" means the territory from which a judicial candidate is elected or appointed.

(4) "Law firm" means a partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, professional corporation, or other entity organized for the practice of law.

(5) "Law firm group" means:

(A) a law firm;

(B) a general-purpose committee established or controlled by the law firm or a member of the law firm;

(C) a member of the law firm; and

(D) the spouse of a member of the law firm.

(6) "Member of a law firm" means:

(A) a person designated "of counsel" or "of the firm";

(B) a partner of the law firm, whether an individual or an entity;

(C) an associate of the law firm;

(D) a shareholder of the law firm, whether an individual or an entity; or

(E) an employee of the law firm

(7) "Statewide judicial office" means the office of chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or judge, court of criminal appeals.

**Sec. 253.153. CONTRIBUTION PROHIBITED EXCEPT DURING ELECTION PERIOD.**

(a) A judicial candidate or officeholder, a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate, or a specific-purpose committee for assisting a judicial officeholder may not knowingly accept a political contribution except during the period:

(1) beginning on:

(A) the 210th day before the date an application for a place on the ballot or for nomination by convention for the office is required to be filed, if the election is for a full term; or

(B) the later of the 210th day before the date an application for a place on the ballot or for nomination by convention for the office is required to be filed or the date a vacancy in the office occurs, if the election is for an unexpired term; and

(2) ending on the 120th day after the date of the election in which the candidate or officeholder last appeared on the ballot, regardless of whether the candidate or officeholder has an opponent in that election.

(b) Subsection (a)(2) does not apply to a political contribution that was made and accepted with the intent that it be used to defray expenses incurred in connection with an election, including the repayment of any debt that is:

(1) incurred directly by the making of a campaign expenditure during the period beginning on the date the application for a place on the ballot or for nomination by convention was required to be filed for the election in which the candidate last appeared on the ballot and ending on the date of that election; and

(2) subject to the restrictions prescribed by Sections 253.162 and 253.1621.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1329, Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2009.

(d) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of the political contributions accepted in violation of this section.

**Sec. 253.154. WRITE-IN CANDIDACY.**

(a) A write-in candidate for judicial office or a specific-purpose committee for supporting a write-in candidate for judicial office may not knowingly accept a political contribution before the candidate files a declaration of write-in candidacy.

(b) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of the political contributions accepted in violation of this section.

**Sec. 253.1541. ACCEPTANCE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCY.**

(a) This section applies only to a person appointed to fill a vacancy in an office covered by this subchapter who, at the time of appointment, does not hold another office covered by this subchapter.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 253.153, a person to whom this section applies may accept political contributions beginning on the date the person assumes the duties of office and ending on the 60th day after that date.

**Sec. 253.155. CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

(a) A judicial candidate or officeholder may not knowingly accept political contributions from a person that in the aggregate, exceed the contribution limits prescribed by Subsection (b) in connection with each election in which the judicial candidate's name appears on the ballot.

(b) The contribution limits under this section are:

(1) for a statewide judicial office, \$5,000; or

(2) for any other judicial office:

(A) \$1,000, if the population of the judicial district is less than 250,000;

(B) \$2,500, if the population of the judicial district is 250,000 to one million; or

(C) \$5,000, if the population of the judicial district is more than one million.

(c) This section does not apply to a political contribution made by a general-purpose committee.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(1), eff. June 2, 2019.

(d-1) In addition to the contribution limits imposed on each contributor under this section, a judicial candidate or officeholder may not accept a political contribution in excess of \$50 from a person if:

- (1) the person is part of a law firm group; and
- (2) the contribution, when aggregated with all political contributions accepted by the candidate or officeholder from the same law firm group in connection with the election, would exceed six times the applicable contribution limit under this section.

(e) A person who receives a political contribution that violates this section shall return the contribution to the contributor not later than the later of:

- (1) the last day of the reporting period in which the contribution is received; or
- (2) the fifth day after the date the contribution is received.

(f) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of the political contributions accepted in violation of this section.

**Sec. 253.157. LIMIT ON CONTRIBUTION BY GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEES.**

(a) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(2), eff. June 2, 2019.

(a-1) A judicial candidate or officeholder may not knowingly accept political contributions from a general-purpose committee that, in the aggregate, exceed the contribution limits prescribed by this subsection in connection with an election in which the judicial candidate's name appears on the ballot. The contribution limits under this subsection are:

- (1) for a statewide judicial office, \$25,000; or
- (2) for any other judicial office, \$5,000.

(a-2) In addition to the contribution limits imposed on each contribution in Subsection (a-1), a judicial candidate or officeholder may not accept a political contribution in excess of \$50 from a general-purpose committee if the contribution, when aggregated with all political contributions from all general-purpose committees in connection with an election, would exceed:

- (1) for a statewide judicial office, \$300,000;
  - (2) for the office of chief justice or justice, court of appeals:
    - (A) \$75,000, if the population of the judicial district is more than one million; or
    - (B) \$52,500, if the population of the judicial district is one million or less;
- or
- (3) for an office other than an office included under Subdivision (1) or (2):
    - (A) \$52,500, if the population of the judicial district is more than one million;
    - (B) \$30,000, if the population of the judicial district is 250,000 to one million; or
    - (C) \$15,000, if the population of the judicial district is less than 250,000.

(b) A person who receives a political contribution that violates this section shall return the contribution to the contributor not later than the later of:

- (1) the last day of the reporting period in which the contribution is received; or
- (2) the fifth day after the date the contribution is received.

(c) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of the political contributions accepted in violation of this section.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(2), eff. June 2, 2019.

(e) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(2), eff. June 2, 2019.

**Sec. 253.158. CONTRIBUTION BY SPOUSE OR CHILD.**

(a) For purposes of this subchapter, a contribution by the spouse of an individual is not considered to be a contribution by the individual.

(b) For purposes of this subchapter, a contribution by a child of an individual is considered to be a contribution by the individual.

**Sec. 253.159. EXCEPTION TO CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.** Section 253.155 does not apply to an individual who is related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree by consanguinity, as determined under Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.

**Sec. 253.1601. CONTRIBUTION TO CERTAIN COMMITTEES CONSIDERED CONTRIBUTION TO CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER.** For purposes of Sections 253.155 and 253.157, a contribution to a specific-purpose committee for the purpose of supporting a judicial candidate, opposing the candidate's opponent, or assisting a judicial officeholder is considered to be a contribution to the candidate or officeholder.

**Sec. 253.161. USE OF CONTRIBUTION FROM NONJUDICIAL OR JUDICIAL OFFICE PROHIBITED.**

(a) A judicial candidate or officeholder, a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate, or a specific-purpose committee for assisting a judicial officeholder may not use a political contribution to make a campaign expenditure for judicial office or to make an officeholder expenditure in connection with a judicial office if the contribution was accepted while the candidate or officeholder:

- (1) was a candidate for an office other than a judicial office; or

(2) held an office other than a judicial office, unless the person had become a candidate for judicial office and the contribution was made in connection with an election for judicial office.

(b) A candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting the candidate or officeholder may not use a political contribution to make a campaign expenditure for an office other than a judicial office or to make an officeholder expenditure in connection with an office other than a judicial office if the contribution was accepted while the candidate or officeholder:

- (1) was a candidate for a judicial office; or

(2) held a judicial office, unless the person had become a candidate for another office and the contribution was made in connection with an election for judicial office.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(4), eff. June 2, 2019.

(d) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of political contributions used in violation of this section.

**Sec. 253.1611. CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS BY JUDICIAL CANDIDATES, OFFICEHOLDERS, AND COMMITTEES RESTRICTED.**

(a) A judicial candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate or assisting a judicial officeholder may not use a political contribution to knowingly make political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$100 in a calendar year to a candidate or officeholder.

(b) A judicial candidate or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate may not use a political contribution to knowingly make political contributions to a political committee in connection with a primary election.

(c) A judicial candidate or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate may not use a political contribution to knowingly make a political contribution to a political committee that, when aggregated with each other political contribution to a political committee in connection with a general election, exceeds \$500.

(d) A judicial officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for assisting a judicial officeholder may not, in any calendar year in which the office held is not on the ballot, use a political contribution to knowingly make a political contribution to a political committee that, when aggregated with each other political contribution to a political committee in that calendar year, exceeds \$250.

(e) This section does not apply to a political contribution made to the principal political committee of the state executive committee or a county executive committee of a political party that *provides* goods or services, including political advertising or a campaign communication, to or for the benefit of judicial candidates.

(e-1) This subsection applies only to a political party required to nominate candidates by primary election. This section does not apply to a political contribution made, for the purpose of sponsoring or attending an event, to a political committee affiliated with:

(1) an organization that has been designated as an auxiliary, coalition, or county chair association of a political party as provided by political party rule or state executive committee bylaw; or

(2) a local chapter of an organization described by Subdivision (1).

(f) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 905 (H.B. 3903), Sec. 2, eff. June 15, 2017.

(g) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of political contributions used in violation of this section.

**Sec. 253.1612. CERTAIN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.** The Code of Judicial Conduct may not prohibit, and a judicial candidate may not be penalized for, a joint campaign activity conducted by two or more judicial candidates.

**Sec. 253.162. RESTRICTIONS ON REIMBURSEMENT OF PERSONAL FUNDS AND PAYMENTS ON CERTAIN LOANS.**

(a) A judicial candidate or officeholder who makes political expenditures from the person's personal funds or who accepts one or more political contributions in the form of a loan, including an extension of credit or guarantee of a loan or extension of credit, from one or more persons related to the candidate or officeholder within the second degree of affinity or

consanguinity, as determined under Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code, may not reimburse those personal funds or repay those loans from political contributions in amounts that in the aggregate exceed, for each election in which the person's name appears on the ballot:

(1) for a statewide judicial office, \$100,000; or

(2) for an office other than a statewide judicial office, five times the applicable contribution limit under Section 253.155.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(5), eff. June 2, 2019.

(c) A person who is both a candidate and an officeholder may reimburse the person's personal funds in only one capacity.

(d) A person who violates this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount by which the reimbursement made in violation of this section exceeds the applicable limit prescribed by Subsection (a).

**Sec. 253.1621. APPLICATION OF CONTRIBUTION AND REIMBURSEMENT LIMITS TO CERTAIN CANDIDATES.**

(a) For purposes of the contribution limits prescribed by Section 253.155 or 253.157 and the limit on reimbursement of personal funds and repayment of certain loans prescribed by Section 253.162, the general and primary elections are considered separate elections for a candidate whose name appears on the ballot.

(b) For purposes of the contribution limits prescribed by Sections 253.155 and 253.157 and the limits on reimbursement of personal funds and repayment of certain loans prescribed by Section 253.162, a runoff election in which the candidate's name is on the ballot is considered a separate election.

**Sec. 253.167. CERTIFICATION OF POPULATION; NOTICE OF CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

(a) For purposes of this subchapter only, not later than June 1 of each odd-numbered year, the commission shall:

(1) make a written certification of the population of each judicial district for which a candidate for judge or justice must file a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission; and

(2) deliver to the county clerk of each county a written certification of the county's population, if the county:

(A) comprises an entire judicial district under Chapter 26, Government Code; or

(B) has a statutory county court or statutory probate court, other than a multicounty statutory county court created under Subchapter D, Chapter 25, Government Code.

(b) Following certification of population under Subsection (a), the commission or county clerk, as appropriate, shall make available to each candidate for an office covered by this subchapter written notice of the contribution limits applicable to the office the candidate seeks.

(c) The commission shall post the written certification required by this section on the commission's Internet website.

**Sec. 253.171. CONTRIBUTION FROM OR DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE BY POLITICAL PARTY.** A political expenditure that is made by the principal political committee of the state executive committee or a county executive committee

of a political party for a generic get-out-the-vote campaign or to create and distribute a written list of two or more candidates is not considered a contribution to a judicial candidate who benefits from the get-out-the-vote campaign or is included in the written list and is not subject to the limits of Section 253.155 or 253.157 if the get-out-the-vote campaign or written list:

- (1) identifies the party's candidates by name and office sought, office held, or photograph;
- (2) does not include any reference to the judicial philosophy or positions on issues of the party's judicial candidates; and
- (3) is not broadcast, cablecast, published in a newspaper or magazine, or placed on a billboard.

**Sec. 253.176. CIVIL PENALTY.**

(a) The commission may impose a civil penalty against a person as provided by this subchapter only after a formal hearing as provided by Subchapter E, Chapter 571, Government Code.

(b) The commission shall base the amount of the penalty on:

- (1) the seriousness of the violation;
- (2) the history of previous violations;
- (3) the amount necessary to deter future violations; and
- (4) any other matter that justice may require.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 384 (H.B. 3233), Sec. 17(7), eff. June 2, 2019.

**CHAPTER 254. POLITICAL REPORTING**

**SUBCHAPTER A. RECORDKEEPING**

**Sec. 254.001. RECORDKEEPING REQUIRED.** (a) Each candidate and each officeholder shall maintain a record of all reportable activity.

(b) Each campaign treasurer of a political committee shall maintain a record of all reportable activity.

(c) The record must contain the information that is necessary for filing the reports required by this chapter.

(d) A person required to maintain a record under this section shall preserve the record for at least two years beginning on the filing deadline for the report containing the information in the record.

(e) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

**SUBCHAPTER B. POLITICAL REPORTING GENERALLY**

**Sec. 254.031. GENERAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, each report filed under this chapter must include:

(1) the amount of political contributions, other than political contributions described by Subdivision (1-a), from each person that in the aggregate exceed \$50 and that are accepted during the reporting period by the person or committee required to file a report under this chapter, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions;

(1-a) the amount of political contributions from each person that are made electronically and that are accepted during the reporting period by the person or committee required to file a report under this chapter, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions;

(2) the amount of loans that are made during the reporting period for campaign or officeholder purposes to the person or committee required to file the report and that in the aggregate exceed \$50, the dates the loans are made, the interest rate, the maturity date, the type of collateral for the loans, if any, the full name and address of the person or financial institution making the loans, the full name and address, principal occupation, and name of the employer of each guarantor of the loans, the amount of the loans guaranteed by each guarantor, and the aggregate principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;

(3) the amount of political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$100 and that are made during the reporting period, the full name and address of the persons to whom the expenditures are made, and the dates and purposes of the expenditures;

(4) the amount of each payment made during the reporting period from a political contribution if the payment is not a political expenditure, the full name and address of the person to whom the payment is made, and the date and purpose of the payment;

(5) the total amount or a specific listing of the political contributions of \$50 or less accepted and the total amount or a specific listing of the political expenditures of \$100 or less made during the reporting period;

(6) the total amount of all political contributions accepted and the total amount of all political expenditures made during the reporting period;

(7) the name of each candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made during the reporting period by the person or committee required to file the report, and the office sought or held, excluding a direct campaign expenditure that is made by the principal political committee of a political party on behalf of a slate of two or more nominees of that party;

(8) as of the last day of a reporting period for which the person is required to file a report, the total amount of political contributions accepted, including interest or other income on those contributions, maintained in one or more accounts in which political contributions are deposited as of the last day of the reporting period;

(9) any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$100;

(10) any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$100;

(11) any investment purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$100;

(12) any other gain from a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$100; and

(13) the full name and address of each person from whom an amount described by Subdivision (9), (10), (11), or (12) is received, the date the amount is received, and the purpose for which the amount is received.

(a-1) A de minimis error in calculating or reporting a cash balance under Subsection (a)(8) is not a violation of this section.

(b) If no reportable activity occurs during a reporting period, the person required to file a report shall indicate that fact in the report.

**Sec. 254.0311. REPORT BY LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS.**

(a) A legislative caucus shall file a report of contributions and expenditures as required by this section.

(b) A report filed under this section must include:

(1) the amount of contributions from each person, other than a caucus member, that in the aggregate exceed \$50 and that are accepted during the reporting period by the legislative caucus, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions;

(2) the amount of loans that are made during the reporting period to the legislative caucus and that in the aggregate exceed \$50, the dates the loans are made, the interest rate, the maturity date, the type of collateral for the loans, if any, the full name and address of the person or financial institution making the loans, the full name and address, principal occupation, and name of the employer of each guarantor of the loans, the amount of the loans guaranteed by each guarantor, and the aggregate principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;

(3) the amount of expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$50 and that are made during the reporting period, the full name and address of the persons to whom the expenditures are made, and the dates and purposes of the expenditures;

(4) the total amount or a specific listing of contributions of \$50 or less accepted from persons other than caucus members and the total amount or a specific listing of expenditures of \$50 or less made during the reporting period; and

(5) the total amount of all contributions accepted, including total contributions from caucus members, and the total amount of all expenditures made during the reporting period.

(c) If no reportable activity occurs during a reporting period, the legislative caucus shall indicate that fact in the report.

(d) A legislative caucus shall file with the commission two reports for each year.

(e) The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1 or the day the legislative caucus is organized, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

(f) The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1 or the day the legislative caucus is organized, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

(g) A legislative caucus shall maintain a record of all reportable activity under this section and shall preserve the record for at least two years beginning on the filing deadline for the report containing the information in the record.

(h) In this section, "legislative caucus" has the meaning assigned by Section 253.0341.

**Sec. 254.0312. BEST EFFORTS.**

(a) A person required to file a report under this chapter is considered to be in compliance with Section 254.0612, 254.0912, or 254.1212 only if the person or the person's campaign treasurer shows that the person has used best efforts to obtain, maintain, and report the information required by those sections. A person is considered to have used best efforts to obtain, maintain, and report that information if the person or the person's campaign treasurer complies with this section.

(b) Each written solicitation for political contributions from an individual must include:

(1) a clear request for the individual's full name and address, the individual's principal occupation or job title, and the full name of the individual's employer; and

(2) an accurate statement of state law regarding the collection and reporting of individual contributor information, such as:

(A) "State law requires (certain candidates, officeholders, or political committees, as applicable) to use best efforts to collect and report the full name and address, principal occupation or job title, and full name of employer of individuals whose contributions equal or exceed \$500 in a reporting period."; or

(B) "To comply with state law, (certain candidates, officeholders, or political committees, as applicable) must use best efforts to obtain, maintain, and report the full name and address, principal occupation or job title, and full name of employer of individuals whose contributions equal or exceed \$500 in a reporting period."

(c) For each political contribution received from an individual that, when aggregated with all other political contributions received from the individual during the reporting period, equals or exceeds \$500 and for which the information required by Section 254.0612, 254.0912, or 254.1212 is not provided, the person must make at least one oral or written request for the missing information. A request under this subsection:

(1) must be made not later than the 30th day after the date the contribution is received;

(2) must include a clear and conspicuous statement that complies with Subsection (b);

(3) if made orally, must be documented in writing; and

(4) may not be made in conjunction with a solicitation for an additional political contribution.

(d) A person must report any information required by Section 254.0612, 254.0912, or 254.1212 that is not provided by the individual making the political contribution and that the person has in the person's records of political contributions or previous reports under this chapter.

(e) A person who receives information required by Section 254.0612, 254.0912, or 254.1212 after the filing deadline for the report on which the contribution is reported must include the missing information on the next report the person is required to file under this chapter.

**Sec. 254.0313. OMISSION OF ADDRESS FOR JUDGE AND FAMILY MEMBER.**

(a) In this section, "family member" has the meaning assigned by Section 31.006, Finance Code.

(b) On receiving notice from the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System of a judge's qualification for office or on receipt of a written request from a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, a state judge, or a family member of a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, or a state judge, the commission shall remove or redact the residence address of a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, a state judge, or the family member of a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, or a state judge from any report filed by the judge in the judge's capacity or made available on the Internet under this chapter.

**Sec. 254.032. NONREPORTABLE PERSONAL TRAVEL EXPENSE.** A political contribution consisting of personal travel expense incurred by an individual is not required to be reported under this chapter if the individual receives no reimbursement for the expense.

**Sec. 254.033. NONREPORTABLE PERSONAL SERVICE.** A political contribution consisting of an individual's personal service is not required to be reported under this chapter if the individual receives no compensation for the service.

**Sec. 254.034. TIME OF ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTION.**

(a) A determination to accept or refuse a political contribution that is received by a candidate, officeholder, or political committee shall be made not later than the end of the reporting period during which the contribution is received.

(b) If the determination to accept or refuse a political contribution is not made before the time required by Subsection (a), for purposes of this chapter, the contribution is considered to have been accepted on the last day of that reporting period.

(c) A political contribution that is received but not accepted shall be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the deadline for filing a report for the reporting period during which the contribution is received. A contribution not returned within that time is considered to be accepted.

(d) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee commits an offense if the person knowingly fails to return a political contribution as required by Subsection (c).

(e) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 254.035. TIME OF MAKING EXPENDITURE.**

(a) For purposes of reporting under this chapter, a political expenditure is not considered to have been made until the amount is readily determinable by the person making the expenditure, except as provided by Subsection (b).

(b) If the character of an expenditure is such that under normal business practice the amount is not disclosed until receipt of a periodic bill, the expenditure is not considered made until the date the bill is received.

(c) The amount of a political expenditure made by credit card is readily determinable by the person making the expenditure on the date the person receives the credit card statement that includes the expenditure.

(d) Subsection (c) does not apply to a political expenditure made by credit card during the period covered by a report required to be filed under Section 254.064(b) or (c), 254.124(b) or (c), or 254.154(b) or (c).

**Sec. 254.036. FORM OF REPORT; AFFIDAVIT; MAILING OF FORMS.**

(a) Each report filed under this chapter with an authority other than the commission must be in a format prescribed by the commission. A report filed with the commission that is not required to be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer must be on a form prescribed by the commission and written in black ink or typed with black typewriter ribbon or, if the report is a computer printout, the printout must conform to the same format and paper size as the form prescribed by the commission.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (e), each report filed under this chapter with the commission must be filed by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer, using computer software provided by the commission or computer software that meets commission specifications for a standard file format.

(c) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee that is required to file reports with the commission may file reports that comply with Subsection (a) if:

(1) the candidate, officeholder, or campaign treasurer of the committee files with the commission an affidavit stating that the candidate, officeholder, or committee, an agent of the candidate, officeholder, or committee, or a person with whom the candidate, officeholder, or committee contracts does not use computer equipment to keep the current records of political contributions, political expenditures, or persons making political contributions to the candidate, officeholder, or committee; and

(2) the candidate, officeholder, or committee does not, in a calendar year, accept political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$20,000 or make political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$20,000.

(c-1) An affidavit under Subsection (c) must be filed with each report filed under Subsection (a). The affidavit must include a statement that the candidate, officeholder, or political committee understands that the candidate, officeholder, or committee shall file reports as required by Subsection (b) if:

(1) the candidate, officeholder, or committee, a consultant of the candidate, officeholder, or committee, or a person with whom the candidate, officeholder, or committee contracts uses computer equipment for a purpose described by Subsection (c); or

(2) the candidate, officeholder, or committee exceeds \$20,000 in political contributions or political expenditures in a calendar year.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 249, Sec. 2.26.

(e) A candidate for an office described by Section 252.005(5) or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing only candidates for an office described by Section 252.005(5) or a measure described by Section 252.007(5) may file reports that comply with Subsection (a).

(f) In prescribing the format of a report filed under this chapter with an authority other than the commission, the commission shall ensure that:

(1) a report may be filed:

(A) by first class United States mail or common or contract carrier;

(B) by personal delivery; or

(C) by electronic filing, if the authority with whom the report is required to be filed has adopted rules and procedures to provide for the electronic filing of the report and the report is filed in accordance with those rules and procedures; and

(2) an authority with whom a report is electronically filed issues an electronic receipt for the report to the person filing the report.

(g) In prescribing the format of a report filed under this chapter, including a report filed with an authority other than the commission under Subsection (a), the commission shall ensure that the report requires for political expenditures made with a credit card that:

(1) the expenditures be reported in a single itemized list; and

(2) the list include, stated by credit card issuer:

(A) the name of the credit card issuer;

(B) the date and amount of each expenditure; and

(C) the date the credit card issuer was repaid for the expenditure.

(h) Each report filed under this chapter that is not filed by electronic transfer must be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the person required to file the report. The affidavit must contain the statement: "I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code." Each report filed under this chapter by electronic transfer must be under oath by the person required to file the report and must contain, in compliance with commission specifications, the digitized signature of the person required to file the report. A report filed under this chapter is considered to be under oath by the person required to file the report, and the person is subject to prosecution under Chapter 37, Penal Code, regardless of the absence of or a defect in the affidavit.

(i) Each person required to file reports with the commission that comply with Subsection (b) shall file with the commission a written statement providing the manner of electronic transfer that the person will use to file the report. A statement under this subsection must be filed not later than the 30th day before the filing deadline for the first report a person is required to file under Subsection (b). A person who intends to change the manner of filing described by the person's most recent statement shall notify the commission of the change not later than the 30th day before the filing deadline for the report to which the change applies. If a person does not file a statement under this subsection, the commission may accept as authentic a report filed in any manner that complies with Subsection (b). If the commission receives a report that is not filed in the manner described by the person's most recent statement under this

subsection, the commission shall promptly notify the person in writing that the commission has received a report filed in a different manner than expected.

(j) As part of the notification required by Section 251.033, the commission shall mail the appropriate forms to each person required to file a report with the commission during that reporting period.

(k) The commission shall prescribe forms for purposes of legislative caucus reports under Section 254.0311 that are separate and distinct from forms for other reports under this chapter.

(l) This section applies to a report that is filed electronically or otherwise.

**Sec. 254.0362. USE OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER TERMINAL FOR PREPARATION OF REPORTS.**

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a person who is required to file reports under this chapter may use a publicly accessible computer terminal that has Internet access and web browser software to prepare the reports.

(b) A public entity may prescribe reasonable restrictions on the use of a publicly accessible computer terminal for preparation of reports under this chapter, except that a public entity may not prohibit a person from using a computer terminal for preparation of reports during the public entity's regular business hours if the person requests to use the computer terminal less than 48 hours before a reporting deadline to which the person is subject.

(c) This section does not require a public entity to provide a person with consumable materials, including paper and computer diskettes, in conjunction with the use of a publicly accessible computer terminal.

(d) An officeholder may not use a computer issued to the officeholder for official use to prepare a report under this title.

(e) In this section:

(1) "Public entity" means a state agency, city, county, or independent school district.

(2) "Publicly accessible computer terminal" means a computer terminal that is normally available for use by members of the public and that is owned by a state agency, an independent school district, or a public library operated by a city or county.

**Sec. 254.037. FILING DEADLINE.**

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the deadline for filing a report required by this chapter is 5 p.m. on the last day permitted under this chapter for filing the report.

(b) The deadline for filing a report electronically with the commission as required by this chapter is midnight on the last day for filing the report.

**Sec. 254.038. SPECIAL REPORT NEAR ELECTION BY CERTAIN CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES.**

(a) In addition to other reports required by this chapter, the following persons shall file additional reports during the period beginning the ninth day before election day and ending at 12 noon on the day before election day:

(1) a candidate for an office specified by Section 252.005(1) who accepts political contributions from a person that in the aggregate exceed \$1,000 during that reporting period; and

(2) a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate described by Subdivision (1) and that accepts political contributions from a person that in the aggregate exceed \$1,000 during that reporting period.

(b) Each report required by this section must include the amount of the contributions specified by Subsection (a), the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions.

(c) A report under this section shall be filed electronically, by ~~[telegram or]~~ telephonic facsimile machine, or by hand, in the form required by Section 254.036. The commission must receive a report under this section filed by ~~[telegram,]~~ telephonic facsimile machine or hand not later than 5 p.m. of the first business day after the date the contribution is accepted. The commission must receive a report under this section filed electronically not later than midnight of the first business day after the date the contribution is accepted. A report under this section is not required to be accompanied by the affidavit required under Section 254.036(h) or to be submitted on a form prescribed by the commission. A report under this section that complies with Section 254.036(a) must be accompanied by an affidavit under Section 254.036(c)(1) unless the candidate or committee has submitted an affidavit under Section 254.036(c)(1) with another report filed in connection with the election for which a report is required under this section.

(d) To the extent of a conflict between this section and Section 254.036, this section controls.

**Sec. 254.039. SPECIAL REPORT NEAR ELECTION BY CERTAIN GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEES.**

(a) In addition to other reports required by this chapter, a general-purpose committee shall file additional reports during the period beginning the ninth day before election day and ending at 12 noon on the day before election day if the committee:

(1) accepts political contributions from a person that in the aggregate exceed \$5,000 during that reporting period; or

(2) makes direct campaign expenditures supporting or opposing either a single candidate that in the aggregate exceed \$1,000 or a group of candidates that in the aggregate exceed \$15,000 during that reporting period.

(a-1) A report under this section shall be filed electronically, by ~~[telegram or]~~ telephonic facsimile machine, or by hand, in the form required by Section 254.036. The commission must receive a report under this section not later than 5 p.m. of the first business day after the date the contribution is accepted or the expenditure is made. A report under this section is not required to be accompanied by the affidavit required under Section 254.036(h) or to be submitted on a form prescribed by the commission. A report under this section that complies with Section 254.036(a) must be accompanied by an affidavit under Section 254.036(c)(1) unless the committee has submitted an affidavit under Section 254.036(c)(1) with another report filed in connection with the election for which a report is required under this section.

(a-2) Each report required by Subsection (a)(1) must include the amount of the contributions specified by that subsection, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions.

(b) Each report required by Subsection (a)(2) must include the amount of the expenditures, the full name and address of the persons to whom the expenditures are made, and the dates and purposes of the expenditures.

(c) To the extent of a conflict between this section and Section 254.036, this section controls.

**Sec. 254.0391. REPORT DURING SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

(a) A statewide officeholder, a member of the legislature, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature, or a candidate for statewide office or the legislature or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing the candidate, that accepts a political contribution during the period beginning on the date the governor signs the proclamation calling a special legislative session and continuing through the date of final adjournment shall report the contribution to the commission not later than the 30th day after the date of final adjournment.

(b) A determination to accept or refuse the political contribution shall be made not later than the third day after the date the contribution is received.

(c) Each report required by this section must include the amount of the political contribution, the full name and address of the person making the contribution, and the date of the contribution.

(d) A report is not required under this section if a person covered by Subsection (a) is required to file another report under this chapter not later than the 10th day after the date a report required under this section would be due.

**Sec. 254.040. PRESERVATION OF REPORTS; RECORD OF INSPECTION.**

(a) Each report filed under this chapter shall be preserved by the authority with whom it is filed for at least two years after the date it is filed.

(b) Each time a person requests to inspect a report, the commission shall place in the file a statement of the person's name and address, whom the person represents, and the date of the request. The commission shall retain that statement in the file for one year after the date the requested report is filed. This subsection does not apply to a request to inspect a report by:

- (1) a member or employee of the commission acting on official business; or
- (2) an individual acting on the individual's own behalf.

**Sec. 254.0401. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS ON INTERNET.**

(a) The commission shall make each report filed with the commission under Section 254.036(b) available to the public on the Internet not later than the second business day after the date the report is filed.

(a-1) *Repealed.*

(b) *The clerk or secretary of a political subdivision's governing body or, if the governing body does not have a clerk or secretary, the governing body's presiding officer shall make a report filed with the political subdivision by a candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this subchapter available to the public on the political subdivision's Internet website not later than the 10th business day after the date the report is received..*

(c) *Repealed.*

(d) The access allowed by this section to reports is in addition to the public's access to the information through other electronic or print distribution of the information.

(e) Before making a report filed under Section 254.036(b) available on the Internet, the commission shall remove each portion, other than city, state, and zip code, of the address of a person listed as having made a political contribution to the person filing the report. The address information removed must remain available on the report maintained in the commission's office but may not be available electronically at that office.

*(e-1) Before making a report available on the Internet as required by Subsection (b), the authority with whom the report is filed may remove each portion, other than city, state, and zip*

*code, of the address of a person listed as having made a political contribution to the person filing the report. The address information removed must remain available on the report maintained in the authority's office.*

(f) The commission shall clearly state on the Internet website on which reports are provided that reports filed by an independent candidate, a third-party candidate, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing an independent or third-party candidate will not be available if the candidate or committee has not yet filed a report.

(g) Electronic report data saved in a temporary storage location of the authority with whom the report is filed for later retrieval and editing before the report is filed is confidential and may not be disclosed. After the report is filed with the authority, the information disclosed in the filed report is public information to the extent provided by this title.

(h) *A report made available on an Internet website under this section must be accessible on that website until the fifth anniversary of the date the report is first made available.*

***Sec. 254.04011. Repealed.***

**Sec. 254.0402. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF REPORTS.**

(a) Notwithstanding Section 552.222(a), Government Code, the authority with whom a report is filed under this chapter may not require a person examining the report to provide any information or identification.

(b) The commission shall make information from reports filed with the commission under Section 254.036(b) available by electronic means, including:

- (1) providing access to computer terminals at the commission's office;
- (2) providing information on computer diskette for purchase at a reasonable

cost; and

- (3) providing modem or other electronic access to the information.

**Sec. 254.0405. AMENDMENT OF FILED REPORT.**

(a) A person who files a semiannual report under this chapter may amend the report.

(b) A semiannual report that is amended before the eighth day after the date the original report was filed is considered to have been filed on the date on which the original report was filed.

(c) A semiannual report that is amended on or after the eighth day after the original report was filed is considered to have been filed on the date on which the original report was filed if:

(1) the amendment is made before any complaint is filed with regard to the subject of the amendment; and

(2) the original report was made in good faith and without an intent to mislead or to misrepresent the information contained in the report.

**Sec. 254.041. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR UNTIMELY OR INCOMPLETE REPORT.**

(a) A person who is required by this chapter to file a report commits an offense if the person knowingly fails:

- (1) to file the report on time;

(2) to file a report by computer diskette, modem, or other means of electronic transfer, if the person is required to file reports that comply with Section 254.036(b); or

(3) to include in the report information that is required by this title to be included.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(c) A violation of Subsection (a)(3) by a candidate or officeholder is a Class A misdemeanor if the report fails to include information required by Section 254.061(3) or Section 254.091(2), as applicable.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (a)(3) that:

(1) the information was required to be included in a semiannual report; and

(2) the person amended the report within the time prescribed by Section 254.0405(b) or under the circumstances described by Section 254.0405(c).

**Sec. 254.042. CIVIL PENALTY FOR LATE REPORT.**

(a) The commission shall determine from any available evidence whether a report required to be filed with the commission under this chapter is late. On making that determination, the commission shall immediately mail a notice of the determination to the person required to file the report.

(b) If a report other than a report under Section 254.064(c), 254.124(c), or 254.154(c) or the first report under Section 254.063 or 254.123 that is required to be filed following the primary or general election is determined to be late, the person required to file the report is liable to the state for a civil penalty of \$500. If a report under Section 254.064(c), 254.124(c), or 254.154(c) or the first report under Section 254.063 or 254.153 that is required to be filed following the primary or general election is determined to be late, the person required to file the report is liable to the state for a civil penalty of \$500 for the first day the report is late and \$100 for each day thereafter that the report is late. If a report is more than 30 days late, the commission shall issue a warning of liability by registered mail to the person required to file the report. If the penalty is not paid before the 10th day after the date on which the warning is received, the person is liable for a civil penalty in an amount determined by commission rule, but not to exceed \$10,000.

(c) A penalty paid voluntarily under this section shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

(d) Repealed by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 304, Sec. 5.20, eff. Jan. 1, 1992.

**Sec. 254.043. ACTION TO REQUIRE COMPLIANCE.**

(a) This section applies only to:

(1) a person required to file reports under this chapter with the commission; or

(2) a person required to file reports under this chapter with an authority other than the commission in connection with an office of a political subdivision in a county with a population of at least 500,000.

(b) A resident of the territory served by an office may bring an action for injunctive relief against a candidate for or holder of that office or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing such a candidate or assisting such an officeholder to require the person to file a report under this chapter that the person has failed to timely file.

(c) An action under this section may be brought against a person required to file reports under this chapter only if:

(1) the report is not filed before the 60th day after the date on which the report was required to be filed;

(2) not earlier than the 60th day after the date on which the report was required to be filed, the person bringing the action delivers written notice by certified mail to the person required to file the report, stating:

(A) the person's intention to bring an action under this section if the report is not filed; and

(B) that an action to require the filing of the report may be filed if the report is not filed before the 30th day after the date on which the person required to file the report receives the notice; and

(3) the report is not filed before the 30th day after the date on which the person required to file the report receives the notice required by Subdivision (2).

(d) The court shall award a plaintiff who prevails in an action under this section reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

**Sec. 254.044. REPORTING OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES MADE USING CREDIT CARD.**

*(a) A candidate or officeholder who accepts a political contribution made using a credit card shall:*

*(1) for a political contribution for which a processing fee is deducted by the credit card issuer from the political contribution amount:*

*(A) report as a political contribution the full amount, including the deducted amount; and*

*(B) report as a political expenditure the deducted amount; and*

*(2) for a political contribution for which a processing fee is paid by the person making the political contribution in excess of the political contribution amount, report only as a political contribution the full amount the candidate or officeholder accepts, not including the amount paid in excess of the political contribution amount.*

*(b) A candidate or officeholder who accepts a political contribution described by Subsection (a)(2) is not required to report the excess amount paid as a processing fee by the person making the political contribution.*

**SUBCHAPTER C. REPORTING BY CANDIDATE**

**Sec. 254.061. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS.** In addition to the contents required by Section 254.031, each report by a candidate must include:

(1) the candidate's full name and address, the office sought, and the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed;

(2) the campaign treasurer's name, residence or business street address, and telephone number;

(3) for each political committee from which the candidate received notice under Section 254.128 or 254.161:

(A) the committee's full name and address;

(B) an indication of whether the committee is a general-purpose committee or a specific-purpose committee; and

(C) the full name and address of the committee's campaign treasurer; and

(4) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of any payment from political contributions made to a business in which the candidate has a participating interest

of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business.

**Sec. 254.0611. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS BY CERTAIN JUDICIAL CANDIDATES.**

(a) In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.061, each report by a candidate for a judicial office covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253, must include:

(1) the total amount of political contributions, including interest or other income, maintained in one or more accounts in which political contributions are deposited as of the last day of the reporting period;

(2) for each individual from whom the person filing the report has accepted political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50 and that are accepted during the reporting period:

(A) the principal occupation and job title of the individual and the full name of the employer of the individual or of the law firm of which the individual or the individual's spouse is a member, if any; or

(B) if the individual is a child, the full name of the law firm of which either of the individual's parents is a member, if any;

(3) a specific listing of each asset valued at \$500 or more that was purchased with political contributions and on hand as of the last day of the reporting period;

(4) for each political contribution accepted by the person filing the report but not received as of the last day of the reporting period:

(A) the full name and address of the person making the contribution;

(B) the amount of the contribution; and

(C) the date of the contribution; and

(5) for each outstanding loan to the person filing the report as of the last day of the reporting period:

(A) the full name and address of the person or financial institution making the loan; and

(B) the full name and address of each guarantor of the loan other than the candidate.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Child" and "law firm" have the meanings assigned by Section 253.152.

(2) "Member" has the meaning assigned to "member of a law firm" by Section 253.152.

**Sec. 254.0612. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS BY CANDIDATE FOR STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE.**

In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.061, each report by a candidate for a statewide office in the executive branch or a legislative office must include, for each individual from whom the person filing the report has accepted political contributions that in the aggregate equal or exceed \$500 and that are accepted during the reporting period:

(1) the individual's principal occupation or job title; and

(2) the full name of the individual's employer.

**Sec. 254.062. CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDER ACTIVITY INCLUDED.** If an officeholder who becomes a candidate has reportable activity that is not reported under Subchapter D before the end of the period covered by the first report the candidate is required to file under this subchapter, the reportable activity shall be included in the first report filed under this subchapter instead of in a report filed under Subchapter D.

**Sec. 254.063. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR CANDIDATE.**

(a) A candidate shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, 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 June 30.

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, 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 December 31.

**Sec. 254.064. ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF OPPOSED CANDIDATE.**

(a) In addition to other required reports, for each election in which a person is a candidate and has an opponent whose name is to appear on the ballot, the person shall file two reports.

(b) The first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the 30th day before 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 chapter, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before election day.

(c) The second report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the eighth day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the 39th day before election day and continuing through the 10th day before election day.

(d) If a person becomes an opposed candidate after a reporting period prescribed by Subsection (b) or (c), the person's first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the regular deadline for the report covering the period during which the person becomes an opposed candidate. The period covered by the first report begins the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed.

(e) In addition to other required reports, an opposed candidate in a runoff election shall file one report for that election. The runoff election report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the eighth day before runoff election day. The report covers the period beginning the ninth day before the date of the main election and continuing through the 10th day before runoff election day.

**Sec. 254.065. FINAL REPORT.**

(a) If a candidate expects no reportable activity in connection with the candidacy to occur after the period covered by a report filed under this subchapter, the candidate may designate the report as a "final" report.

(b) The designation of a report as a final report:

(1) relieves the candidate of the duty to file additional reports under this subchapter, except as provided by Subsection (c); and

(2) terminates the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment.

(c) If, after a candidate's final report is filed, reportable activity with respect to the candidacy occurs, the candidate shall file the appropriate reports under this subchapter and is otherwise subject to the provisions of this title applicable to candidates. A report filed under this subsection may be designated as a final report.

**Sec. 254.066. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED.** Reports under this subchapter shall be filed with the authority with whom the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is required to be filed.

#### **SUBCHAPTER D. REPORTING BY OFFICEHOLDER**

**Sec. 254.091. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS.** In addition to the contents required by Section 254.031, each report by an officeholder must include:

(1) the officeholder's full name and address and the office held;

(2) for each political committee from which the officeholder received notice under Section 254.128 or 254.161:

(A) the committee's full name and address;

(B) an indication of whether the committee is a general-purpose committee or a specific-purpose committee; and

(C) the full name and address of the committee's campaign treasurer;

and

(3) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of any payment from political contributions made to a business in which the officeholder has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business.

**Sec. 254.0911. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS BY CERTAIN JUDICIAL OFFICEHOLDERS.** In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.091, each report by a holder of a judicial office covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253, must include the contents prescribed by Section 254.0611.

**Sec. 254.0912. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS BY STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICEHOLDERS AND LEGISLATIVE OFFICEHOLDERS.** In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.091, each report by a holder of a statewide office in the executive branch or a legislative office must include the contents prescribed by Section 254.0612.

**Sec. 254.092. CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDER EXPENDITURES EXCLUDED.** An officeholder is not required to report officeholder expenditures made from the officeholder's personal funds, except as provided by Section 253.035(h).

**Sec. 254.093. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR OFFICEHOLDER.**

(a) An officeholder shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this chapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30.

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the officeholder takes office, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this chapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31.

**Sec. 254.094. REPORT FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER.**

(a) An officeholder who appoints a campaign treasurer shall file a report as provided by this section.

(b) The report covers the period beginning the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this chapter or the day the officeholder takes office, as applicable, and continuing through the day before the date the officeholder's campaign treasurer is appointed.

(c) The report shall be filed not later than the 15th day after the date the officeholder's campaign treasurer is appointed.

**Sec. 254.095. REPORT NOT REQUIRED.** If at the end of any reporting period prescribed by this subchapter an officeholder who is required to file a report with an authority other than the commission has not accepted political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$500 or made political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$500, the officeholder is not required to file a report covering that period.

**Sec. 254.096. OFFICEHOLDER WHO BECOMES CANDIDATE.** An officeholder who becomes a candidate is subject to Subchapter C during each period covered by a report required to be filed under Subchapter C.

**Sec. 254.097. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED.** Reports under this subchapter shall be filed with the authority with whom a campaign treasurer appointment by a candidate for the office held by the officeholder is required to be filed.

**SUBCHAPTER E. REPORTING BY SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

**Sec. 254.121. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS.** In addition to the contents required by Section 254.031, each report by a campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee must include:

- (1) the committee's full name and address;
- (2) the full name, residence or business street address, and telephone number of the committee's campaign treasurer;
- (3) the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed, if applicable;
- (4) the name of each candidate and each measure supported or opposed by the committee, indicating for each whether the committee supports or opposes;
- (5) the name of each officeholder assisted by the committee;

(6) the amount of each political expenditure in the form of a political contribution that is made to a candidate, officeholder, or another political committee and that is returned to the committee during the reporting period, the name of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made, and the date it is returned;

(7) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of any payment from political contributions made to a business in which the candidate or officeholder has a participating interest of more than 10 percent, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business; and

(8) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of any contribution from a corporation or labor organization made and accepted under Subchapter D, Chapter 253.

**Sec. 254.1211. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES.** In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.121, each report by a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate for or assisting a holder of a judicial office covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253, must include the contents prescribed by Section 254.0611.

**Sec. 254.1212. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEE SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATE FOR STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICEHOLDERS OR LEGISLATIVE OFFICEHOLDERS OR ASSISTING STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE OFFICEHOLDERS OR LEGISLATIVE OFFICEHOLDERS.** In addition to the contents required by Sections 254.031 and 254.121, each report by a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate for or assisting a holder of a statewide office in the executive branch or a legislative office must include the contents prescribed by Section 254.0612.

**Sec. 254.122. INVOLVEMENT IN MORE THAN ONE ELECTION BY CERTAIN COMMITTEES.** If a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing more than one candidate becomes involved in more than one election for which the reporting periods prescribed by Section 254.124 overlap, the reportable activity that occurs during the overlapping period is not required to be included in a report filed after the first report in which the activity is required to be reported.

**Sec. 254.123. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEE.**

(a) The campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the committee'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 June 30.

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the committee'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 December 31.

**Sec. 254.124. ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATE OR MEASURE.**

(a) In addition to other required reports, for each election in which a specific-purpose committee supports or opposes a candidate or measure, the committee's campaign treasurer shall file two reports.

(b) The first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the 30th day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the committee's last required report, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before election day.

(c) The second report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the eighth day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the 39th day before election day and continuing through the 10th day before election day.

(d) If a specific-purpose committee supports or opposes a candidate or measure in an election after a reporting period prescribed by Subsection (b) or (c), the first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the regular deadline for the report covering the period during which the committee becomes involved in the election. The period covered by the first report begins the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the committee's last required report, as applicable.

(e) In addition to other required reports, the campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee that supports or opposes a candidate in a runoff election shall file one report for the runoff election. The runoff election report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the eighth day before runoff election day. The report covers the period beginning the ninth day before the date of the main election and continuing through the 10th day before runoff election day.

(f) This section does not apply to a specific-purpose committee supporting only candidates who do not have opponents whose names are to appear on the ballot.

**Sec. 254.125. FINAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATE OR MEASURE.**

(a) If a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a candidate or measure expects no reportable activity in connection with the election to occur after the period covered by a report filed under this subchapter, the committee's campaign treasurer may designate the report as a "final" report.

(b) The designation of a report as a final report:

(1) relieves the campaign treasurer of the duty to file additional reports under this subchapter, except as provided by Subsection (c); and

(2) terminates the committee's campaign treasurer appointment.

(c) If, after a committee's final report is filed, reportable activity with respect to the election occurs, the committee must file the appropriate reports under this subchapter and is otherwise subject to the provisions of this title applicable to political committees. A report filed under this subsection may be designated as a final report.

**Sec. 254.126. DISSOLUTION REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTING OFFICEHOLDER.**

(a) If a specific-purpose committee for assisting an officeholder expects no reportable activity to occur after the period covered by a report filed under this subchapter, the committee's campaign treasurer may designate the report as a "dissolution" report.

(b) The filing of a report designated as a dissolution report:

(1) relieves the campaign treasurer of the duty to file additional reports under this subchapter; and

(2) terminates the committee's campaign treasurer appointment.

(c) A dissolution report must contain an affidavit, executed by the committee's campaign treasurer, that states that all the committee's reportable activity has been reported.

**Sec. 254.127. TERMINATION REPORT.**

(a) If the campaign treasurer appointment of a specific-purpose committee is terminated, the terminated campaign treasurer shall file a termination report.

(b) A termination report is not required if the termination occurs on the last day of a reporting period under this subchapter and a report for that period is filed as provided by this subchapter.

(c) The report covers the period beginning the day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter and continuing through the day the campaign treasurer appointment is terminated.

(d) The report shall be filed not later than the 10th day after the date the campaign treasurer appointment is terminated.

(e) Reportable activity contained in a termination report is not required to be included in any subsequent report of the committee that is filed under this subchapter. The period covered by the committee's first report filed under this subchapter after a termination report begins the day after the date the campaign treasurer appointment is terminated.

**Sec. 254.128. NOTICE TO CANDIDATE AND OFFICEHOLDER OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.**

(a) If a specific-purpose committee accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures for a candidate or officeholder, the committee's campaign treasurer shall deliver written notice of that fact to the affected candidate or officeholder not later than the end of the period covered by the report in which the reportable activity occurs.

(b) The notice must include the full name and address of the political committee and its campaign treasurer and an indication that the committee is a specific-purpose committee.

(c) A campaign treasurer commits an offense if the campaign treasurer fails to comply with this section. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 254.129. NOTICE OF CHANGE IN COMMITTEE STATUS.**

(a) If a specific-purpose committee changes its operation and becomes a general-purpose committee, the committee's campaign treasurer shall deliver written notice of the change in status to the authority with whom the specific-purpose committee's reports under this chapter are required to be filed.

(b) The notice shall be delivered not later than the next deadline for filing a report under this subchapter that:

(1) occurs after the change in status; and

(2) would be applicable to the political committee if the committee had not changed its status.

(c) The notice must indicate the filing authority with whom future filings are expected to be made.

(d) A campaign treasurer commits an offense if the campaign treasurer fails to comply with this section. An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

**Sec. 254.130. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED.**

(a) Except as provided by subsection (b), reports filed under this subchapter shall be filed with the authority with whom the political committee's campaign treasurer appointment is required to be filed.

(b) A specific-purpose committee created to support or oppose a measure on the issuance of bonds by a school district shall file reports under this subchapter with the commission.

**SUBCHAPTER F. REPORTING BY GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE**

**Sec. 254.151. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF REPORTS.** In addition to the contents required by Section 254.031, each report by a campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee must include:

- (1) the committee's full name and address;
- (2) the full name, residence or business street address, and telephone number of the committee's campaign treasurer;
- (3) the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed, if applicable;
- (4) the name of each identified candidate or measure or classification by party of candidates supported or opposed by the committee, indicating whether the committee supports or opposes each listed candidate, measure, or classification by party of candidates;
- (5) the name of each identified officeholder or classification by party of officeholders assisted by the committee;
- (6) the principal occupation of each person from whom political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50 are accepted during the reporting period;
- (7) the amount of each political expenditure in the form of a political contribution made to a candidate, officeholder, or another political committee that is returned to the committee during the reporting period, the name of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made, and the date it is returned;
- (8) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of any contribution from a corporation or labor organization made and accepted under Subchapter D, Chapter 253; and
- (9) on a separate page or pages of the report, the identification of the name of the donor, the amount, and the date of any expenditure made by a corporation or labor organization to:
  - (A) establish or administer the political committee; or
  - (B) finance the solicitation of political contributions to the committee under Section 253.100.

**Sec. 254.152. TIME FOR REPORTING CERTAIN EXPENDITURES.** If a general-purpose committee makes a political expenditure in the form of a political contribution to another general-purpose committee or to an out-of-state political committee and the contributing committee does not intend that the contribution be used in connection with a particular election, the contributing committee shall include the expenditure in the first report required to be filed under this subchapter after the expenditure is made.

**Sec. 254.153. SEMIANNUAL REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR COMMITTEE.**

(a) The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee shall file two reports for each year as provided by this section.

(b) The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the committee'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 June 30.

(c) The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the committee'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 December 31.

**Sec. 254.154. ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE INVOLVED IN ELECTION.**

(a) In addition to other required reports, for each election in which a general-purpose committee is involved, the committee's campaign treasurer shall file two reports.

(b) The first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the 30th day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the committee's last required report, as applicable, and continuing through the 40th day before election day.

(c) The second report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the eighth day before election day. The report covers the period beginning the 39th day before election day and continuing through the 10th day before election day.

(d) If a general-purpose committee becomes involved in an election after a reporting period prescribed by Subsection (b) or (c), the first report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the regular deadline for the report covering the period during which the committee becomes involved in the election. The period covered by the first report begins the day the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed or the first day after the period covered by the committee's last required report, as applicable.

(e) In addition to other required reports, the campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee involved in a runoff election shall file one report for the runoff election. The runoff election report must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not earlier than the 10th day or later than the eighth day before runoff election day. The report covers the period beginning the ninth day before the date of the main election and continuing through the 10th day before runoff election day.

**Sec. 254.1541. ALTERNATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES.**

(a) This section applies only to a general-purpose committee with less than \$20,000 in one or more accounts maintained by the committee in which political contributions are deposited, as of the last day of the preceding reporting period for which the committee was required to file a report.

(b) A report by a campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee to which this section applies may include, instead of the information required under Sections 254.031(a)(1) and (5) and Section 254.151(6):

(1) the amount of political contributions from each person that in the aggregate exceed \$100 and that are accepted during the reporting period by the committee, the full name and address of the person making the contributions, the person's principal occupation, and the dates of the contributions; and

(2) the total amount or a specific listing of the political contributions of \$100 or less accepted and the total amount or a specific listing of the political expenditures of \$100 or less made during the reporting period.

**Sec. 254.155. OPTION TO FILE MONTHLY; NOTICE.**

(a) As an alternative to filing reports under Sections 254.153 and 254.154, a general-purpose committee may file monthly reports.

(b) To be entitled to file monthly reports, the committee must deliver written notice of the committee's intent to file monthly to the commission not earlier than January 1 or later than January 15 of the year in which the committee intends to file monthly. The notice for a committee formed after January 15 must be delivered at the time the committee's campaign treasurer appointment is filed.

(c) A committee that files monthly reports may revert to the regular filing schedule prescribed by Sections 254.153 and 254.154 by delivering written notice of the committee's intent not earlier than January 1 or later than January 15 of the year in which the committee intends to revert to the regular reporting schedule. The notice must include a report of all political contributions accepted and all political expenditures made that were not previously reported.

**Sec. 254.156. CONTENTS OF MONTHLY REPORTS.** Each monthly report filed under this subchapter must comply with Sections 254.031 and 254.151 except that the maximum amount of a political contribution, expenditure, or loan that is not required to be individually reported is:

(1) \$10 in the aggregate; or

(2) \$20 in the aggregate for a contribution accepted by a general-purpose committee to which Section 254.1541 applies.

**Sec. 254.157. MONTHLY REPORTING SCHEDULE.**

(a) The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee filing monthly reports shall file a report not later than the fifth day of the month following the period covered by the report. A report covering the month preceding an election in which the committee is involved must be received by the authority with whom the report is required to be filed not later than the fifth day of the month following the period covered by the report.

(b) A monthly report covers the period beginning the 26th day of each month and continuing through the 25th day of the following month, except that the period covered by the first report begins January 1 and continues through January 25.

**Sec. 254.158. EXCEPTION TO MONTHLY REPORTING SCHEDULE.** If the campaign treasurer appointment of a general-purpose committee filing monthly reports is filed after January 1 of the year in which monthly reports are filed, the period covered by the first monthly report begins the day the appointment is filed and continues through the 25th day of the month in which the appointment is filed unless the appointment is filed the 25th or a succeeding day of the month. In that case, the period continues through the 25th day of the month following the month in which the appointment is filed.

**Sec. 254.1581. REPORTING BY OUT-OF-STATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.** For each reporting period under this subchapter in which an out-of-state political committee accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures, the committee shall file with the commission a copy of one or more reports filed with the Federal Election Commission or with the proper filing authority of at least one other state that shows the political contributions accepted, political expenditures made, and other expenditures made by the committee. A report must be filed within the same period in which it is required to be filed under federal law or the law of the other state.

**Sec. 254.159. DISSOLUTION REPORT.** If a general-purpose committee expects no reportable activity to occur after the period covered by a report filed under this subchapter, the report may be designated as a "dissolution" report as provided by Section 254.126 for a specific-purpose committee and has the same effect.

**Sec. 254.160. TERMINATION REPORT.** If the campaign treasurer appointment of a general-purpose committee is terminated, the campaign treasurer shall file a termination report as prescribed by Section 254.127 for a specific-purpose committee.

**Sec. 254.161. NOTICE TO CANDIDATE AND OFFICEHOLDER OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.** If a general-purpose committee other than the principal political committee of a political party or a political committee established by a political party's county executive committee accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures for a candidate or officeholder, notice of that fact shall be given to the affected candidate or officeholder as provided by Section 254.128 for a specific-purpose committee.

**Sec. 254.162. NOTICE OF CHANGE IN COMMITTEE STATUS.** If a general-purpose committee changes its operation and becomes a specific-purpose committee, notice of the change in status shall be given to the commission as provided by Section 254.129 for a specific-purpose committee.

**Sec. 254.163. AUTHORITY WITH WHOM REPORTS FILED.** Reports filed under this subchapter shall be filed with the commission.

**Sec. 254.164. CERTAIN COMMITTEES EXEMPT FROM CIVIL PENALTIES.** The commission may not impose a civil penalty on a general-purpose committee for a violation of this chapter if the report filed by the committee that is the subject of the violation discloses

that the committee did not accept political contributions totaling \$3,000 or more, accept political contributions from a single person totaling \$1,000 or more, or make or authorize political expenditures totaling \$3,000 or more during:

(1) the reporting period covered by the report that is the subject of the violation;

or

(2) either of the two reporting periods preceding the reporting period described by Subdivision (1).

### **SUBCHAPTER G. MODIFIED REPORTING PROCEDURES; \$500 MAXIMUM IN CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES**

#### **Sec. 254.181. MODIFIED REPORTING AUTHORIZED.**

(a) An opposed candidate or specific-purpose committee required to file reports under Subchapter C or E may file a report under this subchapter instead if the candidate or committee does not intend to accept political contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$500 or to make political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$500 in connection with the election.

(b) The amount of a filing fee paid by a candidate is excluded from the \$500 maximum expenditure permitted under this section.

#### **Sec. 254.182. DECLARATION OF INTENT REQUIRED.**

(a) To be entitled to file reports under this subchapter, an opposed candidate or specific-purpose committee must file with the campaign treasurer appointment a written declaration of intent not to exceed \$500 in political contributions or political expenditures in the election.

(b) The declaration of intent must contain a statement that the candidate or committee understands that if the \$500 maximum for contributions and expenditures is exceeded, the candidate or committee is required to file reports under Subchapter C or E, as applicable.

#### **Sec. 254.183. MAXIMUM EXCEEDED.**

(a) An opposed candidate or specific-purpose committee that exceeds \$500 in political contributions or political expenditures in the election shall file reports as required by Subchapter C or E, as applicable.

(b) If a candidate or committee exceeds the \$500 maximum after the filing deadline prescribed by Subchapter C or E for the first report required to be filed under the appropriate subchapter, the candidate or committee shall file a report not later than 48 hours after the maximum is exceeded.

(c) A report filed under Subsection (b) covers the period beginning the day the campaign treasurer appointment is filed and continuing through the day the maximum is exceeded.

(d) The reporting period for the next report filed by the candidate or committee begins on the day after the last day of the period covered by the report filed under Subsection (b).

#### **Sec. 254.184. APPLICABILITY OF REGULAR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) Subchapter C or E, as applicable, applies to an opposed candidate or specific-purpose committee filing under this subchapter to the extent that the appropriate subchapter does not conflict with this subchapter.

(b) A candidate or committee filing under this subchapter is not required to file any reports of political contributions and political expenditures other than the semiannual reports required to be filed not later than July 15 and January 15.

## **SUBCHAPTER H. UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Sec. 254.201. ANNUAL REPORT OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) This section applies to:

(1) a former officeholder who has unexpended political contributions after filing the last report required to be filed by Subchapter D; or

(2) a person who was an unsuccessful candidate who has unexpended political contributions after filing the last report required to be filed by Subchapter C.

(b) A person covered by this section shall file an annual report for each year in which the person retains unexpended contributions.

### **Sec. 254.202. FILING OF REPORT; CONTENTS.**

(a) A person shall file the report required by Section 254.201 not earlier than January 1 or later than January 15 of each year following the year in which the person files a final report under this chapter.

(b) The report shall be filed with the authority with whom the person's campaign treasurer appointment was required to be filed.

(c) The report must include:

(1) the person's full name and address;

(2) the full name and address of each person to whom a payment from unexpended political contributions was made during the previous year;

(3) the date, amount, and purpose of each payment made under Subdivision (2);

(4) the total amount of unexpended political contributions as of December 31 of the previous year; and

(5) the total amount of interest and other income earned on unexpended political contributions during the previous year.

### **Sec. 254.203. RETENTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) A person may not retain political contributions covered by this title, assets purchased with the contributions, or interest and other income earned on the contributions for more than six years after the date the person either ceases to be an officeholder or candidate or files a final report under this chapter, whichever is later.

(b) If the person becomes an officeholder or candidate within the six-year period, the prohibition in Subsection (a) does not apply until the person again ceases to be an officeholder or candidate.

(c) A person who violates Subsection (a) commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

### **Sec. 254.204. DISPOSITION OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) At the end of the six-year period prescribed by Section 254.203, the former officeholder or candidate shall remit any unexpended political contributions to one or more of the following:

(1) the political party with which the person was affiliated when the person's name last appeared on a ballot;

(2) a candidate or political committee;

(3) the comptroller for deposit in the state treasury;

(4) one or more persons from whom political contributions were received, in accordance with Subsection (d);

(5) a recognized charitable organization formed for educational, religious, or scientific purposes that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and its subsequent amendments; or

(6) a public or private postsecondary educational institution or an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003(8), Education Code, solely for the purpose of assisting or creating a scholarship program.

(b) A person who disposes of unexpended political contributions under Subsection (a)(2) shall report each contribution as if the person were a campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee.

(c) Political contributions disposed of under Subsection (a)(3) may be appropriated only for financing primary elections.

(d) The amount of political contributions disposed of under Subsection (a)(4) to one person may not exceed the aggregate amount accepted from that person during the last two years that the candidate or officeholder accepted contributions under this title.

**Sec. 254.205. REPORT OF DISPOSITION OF UNEXPENDED CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) Not later than the 30th day after the date the six-year period prescribed by Section 254.203 ends, the person required to dispose of unexpended political contributions shall file a report of the disposition.

(b) The report shall be filed with the authority with whom the person's campaign treasurer appointment was required to be filed.

(c) The report must include:

(1) the person's full name and address;

(2) the full name and address of each person to whom a payment from unexpended political contributions is made; and

(3) the date and amount of each payment reported under Subdivision (2).

**SUBCHAPTER I. CIVIL LIABILITY**

**Sec. 254.231. LIABILITY TO CANDIDATES.**

(a) A candidate or campaign treasurer or assistant campaign treasurer of a political committee who fails to report in whole or in part a campaign contribution or campaign expenditure as required by this chapter is liable for damages as provided by this section.

(b) Each opposing candidate whose name appears on the ballot is entitled to recover damages under this section.

(c) In this section, "damages" means:

(1) twice the amount not reported that is required to be reported; and

(2) reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit.

(d) Reasonable attorney's fees incurred in the suit may be awarded to the defendant if judgment is rendered in the defendant's favor.

**Sec. 254.232. LIABILITY TO STATE.** A candidate, officeholder, or campaign treasurer or assistant campaign treasurer of a political committee who fails to report in whole or in part a political contribution or political expenditure as required by this chapter is liable in damages to the state in the amount of triple the amount not reported that is required to be reported.

#### **SUBCHAPTER J. REPORTING BY CERTAIN PERSONS MAKING DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES**

**Sec. 254.261. DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING \$100.**

(a) A person not acting in concert with another person who makes one or more direct campaign expenditures in an election from the person's own property shall comply with this chapter as if the person were the campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee that does not file monthly reports under Section 254.155.

(b) A person is not required to file a report under this section if the person is required to disclose the expenditure in another report required under this title within the time applicable under this section for reporting the expenditure.

(c) This section does not require a general-purpose committee that files under the monthly reporting schedule to file reports under Section 254.154.

(d) A person is not required to file a campaign treasurer appointment for making expenditures for which reporting is required under this section, unless the person is otherwise required to file a campaign treasurer appointment under this title.

**Sec. 254.262. TRAVEL EXPENSE.** A direct campaign expenditure consisting of personal travel expenses incurred by a person may be made without complying with Section 254.261.

**CHAPTER 255. REGULATING POLITICAL ADVERTISING AND CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATIONS**

**Sec. 255.001. REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING.**

(a) A person may not knowingly cause to be published, distributed, or broadcast political advertising containing express advocacy that does not indicate in the advertising:

- (1) that it is political advertising; and
- (2) the full name of:

- (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.

(b) Political advertising that is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing reports under this title shall be deemed to contain express advocacy.

(c) A person may not knowingly use, cause or permit to be used, or continue to use any published, distributed, or broadcast political advertising containing express advocacy that the person knows does not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a). A person is presumed to know that the use of political advertising is prohibited by this subsection if the commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. A person who learns that political advertising signs, as defined by Section 259.001, that have been distributed do not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a) or include a disclosure that does not comply with Subsection (a) does not commit a continuing violation of this subsection if the person makes a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs. A person who learns that printed political advertising other than a political advertising sign that has been distributed does not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a) or includes a disclosure that does not comply with Subsection (a) is not required to attempt to recover the political advertising and does not commit a continuing violation of this subsection as to any previously distributed political advertising.

(d) This section does not apply to:

- (1) tickets or invitations to political fund-raising events;
- (2) campaign buttons, pins, hats, or similar campaign materials; or
- (3) circulars or flyers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and

distribute.

(e) A person who violates this section is liable to the state for a civil penalty in an amount determined by the commission not to exceed \$4,000.

**Sec. 255.002. RATES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING.**

(a) The rate charged for political advertising by a radio or television station may not exceed:

- (1) during the 45 days preceding a general or runoff primary election and during the 60 days preceding a general or special election, the broadcaster's lowest unit charge for advertising of the same class, for the same time, and for the same period; or

- (2) at any time other than that specified by Subdivision (1), the amount charged other users for comparable use of the station.

(b) The rate charged for political advertising that is printed or published may not exceed the lowest charge made for comparable use of the space for any other purposes.

(c) In determining amounts charged for comparable use, the amount and kind of space or time used, number of times used, frequency of use, type of advertising copy submitted, and any other relevant factors shall be considered.

(d) Discounts offered by a newspaper or magazine to its commercial advertisers shall be offered on equal terms to purchasers of political advertising from the newspaper or magazine.

(e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly demands or receives or knowingly pays or offers to pay for political advertising more consideration than permitted by this section.

(f) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

**Sec. 255.003. UNLAWFUL USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING.**

(a) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a communication that factually describes the purposes of a measure if the communication does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure.

(b-1) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for a communication describing a measure if the communication contains information that:

(1) the officer or employee knows is false; and

(2) is sufficiently substantial and important as to be reasonably likely to influence a voter to vote for or against the measure.

(c) A person who violates Subsection (a) or (b-1) commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution for an offense under this section or the imposition of a civil penalty for conduct under this section that an officer or employee of a political subdivision reasonably relied on a court order or an interpretation of this section in a written opinion issued by:

(1) a court of record;

(2) the attorney general; or

(3) the commission.

(e) On written request of the governing body of a political subdivision that has ordered an election on a measure, the commission shall prepare an advance written advisory opinion as to whether a particular communication relating to the measure does or does not comply with this section.

(f) Subsections (d) and (e) do not apply to a port authority or navigation district.

**Sec. 255.0031. UNLAWFUL USE OF INTERNAL MAIL SYSTEM FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING.**

(a) An officer or employee of a state agency or political subdivision may not knowingly use or authorize the use of an internal mail system for the distribution of political advertising.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

(1) the use of an internal mail system to distribute political advertising that is delivered to the premises of a state agency or political subdivision through the United States Postal Service; or

(2) the use of an internal mail system by a state agency or municipality to distribute political advertising that is the subject of or related to an investigation, hearing, or other official proceeding of the agency or municipality.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) In this section:

(1) "Internal mail system" means a system operated by a state agency or political subdivision to deliver written documents to officers or employees of the agency or subdivision.

(2) "State agency" means:

(A) a department, commission, board, office, or other agency that is in the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government;

(B) a university system or an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; or

(C) a river authority created under the constitution or a statute of this state.

**Sec. 255.004. TRUE SOURCE OF COMMUNICATION.**

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person enters into a contract or other agreement to print, publish, or broadcast political advertising that purports to emanate from a source other than its true source.

(b) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person knowingly represents in a campaign communication that the communication emanates from a source other than its true source.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) A person commits an offense if the person, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election:

(1) creates a deep fake video; and

(2) causes the deep fake video to be published or distributed within 30 days of an election.

(e) In this section, "deep fake video" means a video, created with the intent to deceive, that appears to depict a real person performing an action that did not occur in reality.

**Sec. 255.005. MISREPRESENTATION OF IDENTITY.**

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the person's identity or, if acting or purporting to act as an agent, misrepresents the identity of the agent's principal, in political advertising or a campaign communication.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 255.006. MISLEADING USE OF OFFICE TITLE.**

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly enters into a contract or other agreement to print, publish, or broadcast political advertising with the intent to represent to an ordinary and prudent person that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold at the time the agreement is made.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly represents in a campaign communication that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold at the time the representation is made.

(c) For purposes of this section, a person represents that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold if:

(1) the candidate does not hold the office that the candidate seeks; and

(2) the political advertising or campaign communication states the public office sought but does not include the word "for" in a type size that is at least one-half the type size used for the name of the office to clarify that the candidate does not hold that office.

(d) A person other than an officeholder commits an offense if the person knowingly uses a representation of the state seal in political advertising.

(e) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 255.008. DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE.**

(a) This section applies only to a candidate or political committee covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253.

(b) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to comply with the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate may include the following statement: "Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee) in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act."

(c) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to comply with the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate that does not contain the statement prescribed by Subsection (b) must comply with Section 255.001.

(d) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to exceed the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate must include the following statement: "Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee), (who or which) has rejected the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act."

(e) The commission shall adopt rules providing for:

(1) the minimum size of the disclosure required by this section in political advertising that appears on television or in writing; and

(2) the minimum duration of the disclosure required by this section in political advertising that appears on television or radio.

(f) A person who violates this section or a rule adopted under this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed:

(1) \$15,000, for a candidate for a statewide judicial office or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate;

(2) \$10,000, for a candidate for chief justice or justice, court of appeals, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate; or

(3) \$5,000, for a candidate for any other judicial office covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate.

(g) Section 253.176 applies to the imposition and disposition of a civil penalty under this section.

**CHAPTER 257. POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Sec. 257.001. PRINCIPAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL PARTY.**

The state or county executive committee of a political party may designate a general-purpose committee as the principal political committee for that party in the state or county, as applicable.

**Sec. 257.002. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CORPORATE OR LABOR UNION CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(a) A political party that accepts a contribution authorized by Section 253.104 may use the contribution only to:

(1) defray normal overhead and administrative or operating costs incurred by the party; or

(2) administer a primary election or convention held by the party.

(b) A political party that accepts contributions authorized by Section 253.104 shall maintain the contributions in a separate account.

**Sec. 257.003. REPORT REQUIRED.**

(a) A political party that accepts contributions authorized by Section 253.104 shall report all contributions and expenditures made to and from the account required by Section 257.002.

(b) The report must be filed with the commission and must include the information required under Section 254.031 as if the contributions or expenditures were political contributions or political expenditures.

(c) Sections 254.001 and 254.032-254.037 apply to a report required by this section as if the party chair were a campaign treasurer of a political committee and as if the contributions or expenditures were political contributions or political expenditures.

(d) The commission shall prescribe by rule reporting schedules for each primary election held by the political party and for the general election for state and county officers.

**Sec. 257.004. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.**

(a) Beginning on the 60th day before the date of the general election for state and county officers and continuing through the day of the election, a political party may not knowingly accept a contribution authorized by Section 253.104 or make an expenditure from the account required by Section 257.002.

(b) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

**Sec. 257.005. CANDIDATE FOR STATE OR COUNTY CHAIR OF POLITICAL PARTY.**

(a) Except as provided by this section, the following are subject to the requirements of this title that apply to a candidate for public office:

(1) a candidate for state chair of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial general election; and

(2) a candidate for election to the office of county chair of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial general election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more.

(b) A political committee that supports or opposes a candidate covered by Subsection (a) is subject to the provisions of this title that apply to any other committee that supports or opposes candidates for public office, except as provided by this section.

(c) The reporting schedules for a candidate covered by Subsection (a) or a political committee supporting or opposing the candidate shall be prescribed by commission rule.

(d) Except as provided by this section, each contribution to and expenditure by a candidate covered by Subsection (a) is subject to the same requirements of this title as a political contribution to or a political expenditure by a candidate for public office. Each contribution to and expenditure by a political committee supporting or opposing a candidate covered by Subsection (a) is subject to the same requirements of this title as a political contribution to or political expenditure by any other specific-purpose committee.

(e) Section 251.001(1) does not apply to this section.

**Sec. 257.006. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

(a) Except as provided by Section 257.004, a person who knowingly uses a contribution in violation of Section 257.002 or who knowingly fails to otherwise comply with this chapter commits an offense.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**Sec. 257.007. RULES.** The commission shall adopt rules to implement this chapter.

**CHAPTER 258. FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

**Sec. 258.001. SHORT TITLE.** This chapter may be cited as the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

**Sec. 258.002. PURPOSE.**

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to encourage every candidate and political committee to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

(b) It is the intent of the legislature that every candidate and political committee that subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices will follow the basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play to encourage healthy competition and open discussion of issues and candidate qualifications and to discourage practices that cloud the issues or unfairly attack opponents.

**Sec. 258.003. DELIVERY OF COPY OF CODE.**

(a) When a candidate or political committee files its campaign treasurer appointment, the authority with whom the appointment is filed shall give the candidate or political committee a blank form of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of this chapter.

(b) The authority shall inform each candidate or political committee that the candidate or committee may subscribe to and file the code with the authority and that subscription to the code is voluntary.

**Sec. 258.004. TEXT OF CODE.** The Code of Fair Campaign Practices reads as follows:

**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.

**VOID – COPY ONLY - VOID<sup>1</sup>**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Sec. 258.005. FORMS.** The commission shall print copies of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and shall supply the forms to the authorities with whom copies of the code may be filed in quantities and at times requested by the authorities.

**Sec. 258.006. ACCEPTANCE AND PRESERVATION OF COPIES.**

(a) An authority with whom a campaign treasurer appointment is filed shall accept each completed copy of the code submitted to the authority that is properly subscribed to by a candidate or the campaign treasurer of a political committee.

(b) Each copy of the code accepted under this section shall be preserved by the authority with whom it is filed for the period prescribed for the filer's campaign treasurer appointment.

**Sec. 258.007. SUBSCRIPTION TO CODE VOLUNTARY.** The subscription to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices by a candidate or a political committee is voluntary.

**Sec. 258.008. INDICATION ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING.** A candidate or a political committee that has filed a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices may so indicate on political advertising in a form to be determined by the commission.

**Sec. 258.009. CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION.** This chapter does not create a civil cause of action for recovery of damages or for enforcement of this chapter.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is a copy of chapter 258, Election Code. To subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices, a candidate or campaign treasurer of a political committee must submit Texas Ethics Commission FORM CFCP, not a signed copy of this document.

**CHAPTER 259. POLITICAL SIGNS**

*[Section 259.001, Election Code, was moved from Section 255.007, Election Code, with amendments indicated.]*

**Sec. 259.001. NOTICE REQUIREMENT ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING SIGNS.** (a) The following notice must be written on each political advertising sign:

"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."

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) knowingly enters into a contract to print or make a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a); or

(2) instructs another person to place a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a).

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (b) that the political advertising sign was printed or made before September 1, 1997, and complied with Subsection (a) as it existed immediately before that date.

(e) In this section, "political advertising sign" means a written form of political advertising designed to be seen from a road but does not include a bumper sticker.

*[Section 259.002, Election Code, was moved from Section 202.009, Property Code, with amendments indicated.]*

**Sec. 259.002. REGULATION OF DISPLAY OF POLITICAL SIGNS BY PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

(a) In this section, "property owners' association" has the meaning assigned by Section 202.001, Property Code.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a property owners' association may not enforce or adopt a restrictive covenant that prohibits a property owner from displaying on the owner's property one or more signs advertising a candidate or measure for an election:

(1) on or after the 90th day before the date of the election to which the sign relates; or

(2) before the 10th day after that election date.

(c) This section does not prohibit the enforcement or adoption of a covenant that:

(1) requires a sign to be ground-mounted; or

(2) limits a property owner to displaying only one sign for each candidate or measure.

(d) This section does not prohibit the enforcement or adoption of a covenant that prohibits a sign that:

(1) contains roofing material, siding, paving materials, flora, one or more balloons or lights, or any other similar building, landscaping, or nonstandard decorative component;

(2) is attached in any way to plant material, a traffic control device, a light, a trailer, a vehicle, or any other existing structure or object;

(3) includes the painting of architectural surfaces;

- (4) threatens the public health or safety;
- (5) is larger than four feet by six feet;
- (6) violates a law;
- (7) contains language, graphics, or any display that would be offensive to the ordinary person; or
- (8) is accompanied by music or other sounds or by streamers or is otherwise distracting to motorists.

(e) A property owners' association may remove a sign displayed in violation of a restrictive covenant permitted by this section.

*[Section 259.003, Election Code, was moved from Section 216.903, Local Government Code, with amendments indicated.]*

**Sec. 259.003. REGULATION OF POLITICAL SIGNS BY MUNICIPALITY.**

(a) In this section, "private real property" does not include real property subject to an easement or other encumbrance that allows a municipality to use the property for a public purpose.

(b) A municipal charter provision or ordinance that regulates signs may not, for a sign that contains primarily a political message and that is located on private real property with the consent of the property owner:

- (1) prohibit the sign from being placed;
- (2) require a permit or approval of the municipality or impose a fee for the sign to be placed;
- (3) restrict the size of the sign; or
- (4) provide for a charge for the removal of a political sign that is greater than the charge for removal of other signs regulated by ordinance.

(c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a sign, including a billboard, that contains primarily a political message on a temporary basis and that is generally available for rent or purchase to carry commercial advertising or other messages that are not primarily political.

(d) Subsection (b) does not apply to a sign that:

- (1) has an effective area greater than 36 feet;
- (2) is more than eight feet high;
- (3) is illuminated; or
- (4) has any moving elements.

**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**  
**CHAPTER 258, ELECTION CODE**  
**FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**



**Effective September 1,  
1997 (Revised 9/1/2023)**

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

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

**(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989**

*Promoting Public Confidence in Government*

**CHAPTER 258, ELECTION CODE**  
**FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**  
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**ELECTION CODE**

**TITLE 15. REGULATING POLITICAL FUNDS AND CAMPAIGNS**

**CHAPTER 258. FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

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(a) The purpose of this chapter is to encourage every candidate and political committee to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

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(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.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

December 12, 2025

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
GALVESTON COUNTY &  
HARRIS COUNTY

### NOTICE OF DRAWING FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT

Notice is hereby given that a drawing will be held on the 13th day of February 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546, for the purpose of determining the order in which the names of candidates are to be printed on the ballot in the City of Friendswood General Election to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2026.

---

Raquel Martinez, TRMC  
City Secretary, City of Friendswood

12 de diciembre de 2025

EL ESTADO DE TEXAS  
CONDADO DE GALVESTON Y  
CONDADO DE HARRIS

### AVISO DE SORTEO DE LUGARES EN LA BOLETA DE VOTACIÓN

Se notifica por el presente que se realizará un sorteo el día 13 de febrero de 2026, a las 5:00 p.m. en la Cámara del Consejo de la Alcaldía ubicada en 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546 con el propósito de determinar el orden en que aparecerán impresos los nombres de los candidatos en la boleta de votación de la Elección General de la Ciudad de Friendswood que se llevará a cabo el 2 de mayo de 2026.

---

Raquel Martinez, TRMC  
Secretaria de la Ciudad, Ciudad de Friendswood



## CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

Ngày 12 tháng Mười Hai, 2025

TIÊU BANG TEXAS  
QUẬN GALVESTON &  
QUẬN HARRIS

### THÔNG BÁO VỀ VIỆC RÚT THĂM XÁC ĐỊNH VỊ TRÍ GHI TÊN TRÊN LÁ PHIẾU

Theo đây xin thông báo một buổi rút thăm sẽ diễn ra vào ngày 13th tháng Hai, 2026 lúc 5:00 chiều tại Phòng Họp Hội Đồng Thành Phố, Tòa Thị Chánh, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546 để xác định thứ tự ghi tên các ứng cử viên trên lá phiếu cho Cuộc Bầu Cử Thành Phố của Thành Phố Friendswood sẽ diễn ra vào ngày 2 tháng Năm, 2026.

Raquel Martinez, TRMC  
Thư Ký Thành Phố, Thành Phố Friendswood

2025年12月12日

TEXAS州  
GALVESTON縣和  
HARRIS縣

### 選票席位抽籤通知

茲此通知，議會廳（City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, 77546）將於2026年2月13日下午5:00舉行抽籤，針對將於2026年5月2日舉行的Friendswood市普通選舉，決定候選人姓名印於選票上的順序。

Raquel Martinez, TRMC  
市秘書長, Friendswood市

**CERTIFICATE OF WITHDRAWAL**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby withdraw my candidacy from the \_\_\_\_\_ election. The election is being conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ and is to be held on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(political subdivision/county/party) (date)

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

"The State of \_\_\_\_\_,

"County of \_\_\_\_\_,

"This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(withdrawing candidate)

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of officer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of officer)

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

*Forma prescrita por la Secretaría de Estado  
Fracción 145.001 del Código Electoral de Tejas*

**CONSTANCIA DE RETIRO DE CANDIDATURA**

*Yo, \_\_\_\_\_, candidato/a al cargo de \_\_\_\_\_, por este medio retiro mi candidatura de la elección \_\_\_\_\_. Dicha elección estará a cargo de \_\_\_\_\_ y se celebrará el \_\_\_\_\_.  
(subdivisión política/condado/partido) (fecha)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Firma del/de la Candidato/a*

*"El estado de \_\_\_\_\_,*

*"Condado de \_\_\_\_\_,*

*"El presente instrumento fue reconocido ante mí el \_\_\_\_\_ por \_\_\_\_\_  
(fecha)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(persona que retira su candidatura)*

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Firma del/de la Oficial*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Título del/de la Oficial)*

*(Mi cargo se vence el): \_\_\_\_\_*

**Name of Form:**

Certificate of Withdrawal.

**Section Reference:**

Section 145.001, Texas Election Code.

**Purpose:**

Have name removed from ballot.

**Number of Copies Required:**

One.

**Completed by:**

Candidate, person administering oath.

**Filing Deadline:**

- 74th day before the general election for state and county officers (Section 145.032).
- 62nd day before the primary election (Section 172.057).
- 5:00 p.m. of June 11, 2012 after general primary election for a primary runoff election (per paragraph r of the federal court order of March 19, 2012; Section 172.059).
- 53rd day before election day if filing deadline for application for place on the ballot is not later than the 62nd day before election day. (Section 145.092(b)).
- 5:00 p.m. of second day before beginning of early voting by personal appearance for other elections (Section 145.092(a)).
- For withdrawal deadlines for runoff elections other than primary runoff elections, see Section 145.092(c) & (d).

**Filed with:**

Secretary of State for state and district offices and County Clerk/Elections Administrator for county and precinct offices (Section 145.033).

To withdraw from the general or runoff primary election, the withdrawal must be filed with the state chair, for state and district offices, and with the county chair, for county and precinct offices (Sections 172.052 & 172.059).

The same authority with whom an application for place on ballot is filed for all other elections (Section 145.093).

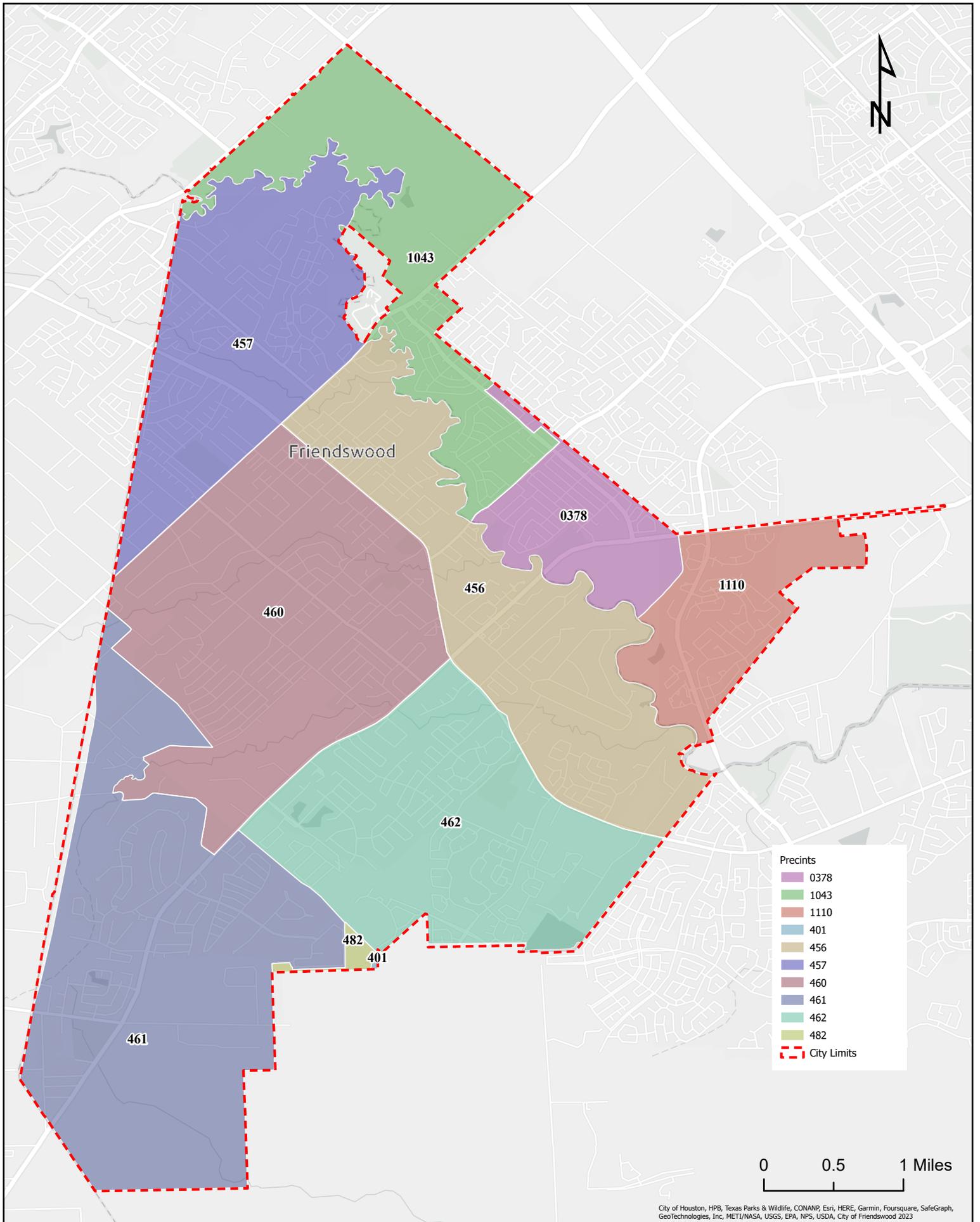
**Comments:**

Candidate's name is removed from ballot.

**Version:**

Current form is date 9/2023\*.

*\*Previous version of the form dated 3/2007 may still be used.*



City of Houston, HPB, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, City of Friendswood 2023



# City of Friendswood - Election Precincts

# CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD TEXAS

## CHARTER

This pamphlet is a reprint of the Charter of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Friendswood, Texas, published by order of the City Council, 2022.

**municode**



---

Municipal Code Corporation P.O. Box 2235 Tallahassee, FL 32316  
info@municode.com 800.262.2633 www.municode.com



# CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD TEXAS

## CHARTER

This pamphlet is a reprint of the Charter of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Friendswood, Texas, published by order of the City Council, 2022.

**municode**



---

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**PART I**

**CHARTER\***

**Preamble**

**Article I. Incorporation, Form of Government and Boundaries**

- Sec. 1.00. Glossary of Terms.
- Sec. 1.01. Incorporation.
- Sec. 1.02. Form of government.
- Sec. 1.03. Boundaries.
- Sec. 1.04. Reserved.

**Article II. Powers of the City**

- Sec. 2.01. General powers.
- Sec. 2.02. Change of boundaries and annexation of territory.
- Sec. 2.03. Eminent domain.
- Sec. 2.04. Streets and public property.
- Sec. 2.05. Street development and improvements.
- Sec. 2.06. Limitation of Liability for damages.
- Sec. 2.07. Zoning.

**Article III. City Council**

- Sec. 3.01. Number, selection, term, and term limitations.
- Sec. 3.02. Qualifications.
- Sec. 3.03. Judge of election qualifications.
- Sec. 3.04. Compensation.
- Sec. 3.05. Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.
- Sec. 3.06. Vacancies, forfeiture, filling of vacancies.
- Sec. 3.07. General powers and duties.
- Sec. 3.08. Prohibitions.
- Sec. 3.09. Meetings of the City Council.
- Sec. 3.10. Rules of procedure.
- Sec. 3.11. Ordinances in general.
- Sec. 3.12. Emergency ordinances.
- Sec. 3.13. Codes of technical regulations.

**\*Editor's note**—Printed herein is the Charter of the City of Friendswood, Texas, as adopted by referendum on October 16, 1971, and effective on the same date. Amendments to the Charter are indicated by parenthetical history notes following amended provisions. The absence of a history note indicates that the provision remains unchanged from the original referendum. Obvious misspellings have been corrected without notation. For stylistic purposes, a uniform system of headings, catchlines, numerical representation and citation to state statutes has been used. Additions made for clarity are indicated by brackets.

**State constitution reference**—Charter to be consistent with constitution and general laws, Tex. Const. art. XI, § 5.

**State law reference**—Home rule municipality, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 9.001 et seq.

## FRIENDSWOOD CITY CODE

- Sec. 3.14. Authentication and recording, codification, printing.
- Sec. 3.15. Bonds for City Employees.
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### Article IV. Administrative Services

- Sec. 4.01. City Manager.
- Sec. 4.02. Municipal Court.
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### Article V. Initiative, Referendum and Recall

- Sec. 5.01. General authority.
- Sec. 5.02. Initiation of proceedings; petitioners' committee; affidavit.
- Sec. 5.03. Petitions.
- Sec. 5.04. Determination of sufficiency.
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- Sec. 5.06. Action on petitions.
- Sec. 5.07. Results of election.
- Sec. 5.08. Power of recall.
- Sec. 5.09. Recall election.
- Sec. 5.10. Results of recall election.
- Sec. 5.11. Limitation on recall.
- Sec. 5.12. Failure of Council to call an election.
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### Article VI. Nominations and Elections; Oath of Office

- Sec. 6.01. City elections.
- Sec. 6.02. Filing for Office.
- Sec. 6.03. Ballots.
- Sec. 6.04. Canvassing and election results.
- Sec. 6.05. Oath of office.

### Article VII. Tax Administration

- Sec. 7.01. Reserved.
- Sec. 7.02. Power to tax.
- Sec. 7.03. Reserved.
- Sec. 7.04. Reserved.
- Secs. 7.05—7.07. Reserved.
- Sec. 7.08. Arrears of taxes offset to debt against City.
- Sec. 7.09. Reserved.
- Sec. 7.10. Reserved.

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### Article VIII. Financial Administration

- Sec. 8.01. Fiscal year.
- Sec. 8.02. Public record.
- Sec. 8.03. Annual Budget.
- Sec. 8.04. Amendments after adoption.
- Sec. 8.05. Borrowing for Capital Improvements.
- Sec. 8.06. Lapse of appropriations.
- Sec. 8.07. Administration of budget.
- Sec. 8.08. Purchasing.

### Article IX. Franchises and Public Utilities

- Sec. 9.01. Powers of the City.
- Sec. 9.02. Power to grant franchise.
- Sec. 9.03. Ordinance granting franchise.
- Sec. 9.04. Grant not to be exclusive.
- Sec. 9.05. Transfer of franchise.
- Sec. 9.06. Franchise value not to be allowed.
- Sec. 9.07. Right of regulation.
- Sec. 9.08. Extensions.
- Sec. 9.09. Regulation of rates.
- Sec. 9.10. Public service corporations to file annual reports.
- Sec. 9.11. Accounts of municipally owned utilities.
- Sec. 9.12. Sales of municipal services.
- Sec. 9.13. Franchise records.

### Article X. Reserved

Secs. 10.01—10.05. Reserved.

### Article XI. General Provisions

- Sec. 11.01. Public records.
- Sec. 11.02. City newspaper.
- Sec. 11.03. Personal financial interest.
- Sec. 11.04. Nepotism.
- Sec. 11.05. Assignment, execution, and garnishment.
- Sec. 11.06. Security or bond not required.
- Sec. 11.07. Separability clause.
- Sec. 11.08. Amending the Charter.
- Sec. 11.09. Charter Review Commission.
- Sec. 11.10. Submission of Charter to voters.



**PREAMBLE**

Good government can only be defined as that which is wholly and justly participated in by the people who are under its jurisdiction. For that purpose the citizens of Friendswood, in exercising their rights of self-government, do ordain the provisions set forth in the ensuing Charter of this City. This is just one more step of progress by the people of Friendswood.

**ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND BOUNDARIES****Sec. 1.00. Glossary of Terms.**

For the purposes of this Charter, the following words or terms shall have the meanings ascribed thereto, except when the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*City* shall mean the City of Friendswood, Texas, a home rule municipal corporation located in Galveston and Harris Counties, Texas.

*City Council* shall mean the governing body of the City, which includes the Mayor and each individual Councilmember. When used in this Charter, the term "Council" shall also mean the City Council.

*City Manager* shall mean the person appointed by the City Council pursuant to this Charter as the City Manager. When used in this Charter, the term "Manager" shall also mean the City Manager.

*Department Head* shall mean the individual appointed by the City Manager or City Council, as appropriate, as the Director for a particular Department of the City. The term "Director," as used in this Charter, is synonymous with the term "Department Head."

*Officer* shall mean an individual holding an appointive or elective City office who, individually or in concert with others, acts on behalf of and as an agent of the City, and whose duties are discretionary rather than advisory. Boards and commissions exercising discretionary authority shall be designated as such by City Council.

(Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

**Sec. 1.01. Incorporation.**

The inhabitants of the City of Friendswood, Galveston County, Texas, residing within its corporate limits as heretofore or hereafter established, are hereby constituted and shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate in perpetuity under the name of the "City of Friendswood," with such powers, privileges, rights, duties and immunities as are herein provided.

(Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

**Sec. 1.02. Form of government.**

The municipal government provided by this Charter shall be known as the "Council-Manager Government." Pursuant to its provisions and subject only to the limitations imposed by the State Constitution, the statutes of this State, and this Charter, all powers of the City shall be vested in an elective Council. The City Council shall enact local legislation, adopt budgets, determine policies and

appoint the City Manager, who in turn shall be held responsible to the City Council for the execution of the laws and the administration of the government of the City. All powers of the City shall be exercised in the manner prescribed by this Charter, or if the manner shall be not prescribed, then in such manner as may be prescribed by ordinance, the State Constitution or the statutes of the State.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

**State constitution reference**—State Constitution reference—Home rule, Tex. Const. art. 11, § 5.

**State law reference**—Home rule powers, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code §§ 26.001 et seq., 51.071 et seq.

### **Sec. 1.03. Boundaries.**

The bounds and limits of the City of Friendswood, Texas, are hereby established and described as being those boundaries heretofore established in the original incorporation proceedings of the said City of Friendswood, Texas, filed of record on November 14, 1960, in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Galveston County, Texas, and those boundaries established and changed thereafter in all annexation ordinances and proceedings of the City of Friendswood, Texas.

**State law reference**—Map of the City must be filed in the City Secretary's Office, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 41.001.

### **Sec. 1.04. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, adopted May 21, 2012, deleted the former § 1.04, entitled "Glossary of Terms," and enacted and renumbered new provisions set out as § 1.01 herein.

## **ARTICLE II. POWERS OF THE CITY\***

### **Sec. 2.01. General powers.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Charter, the City shall have all powers possible for a Home Rule city to have under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas as fully and completely as though they were expressly enumerated in this Charter, including the power to acquire property within Galveston, Harris, and Brazoria Counties.

(Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 6, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

### **Sec. 2.02. Change of boundaries and annexation of territory.**

The Council shall have the power by ordinance to fix the boundary limits of the City, and to provide by ordinance for the annexation of additional territory lying adjacent to the City with or without the consent of the inhabitants or owners of the territory to be annexed. The Council shall have the power to detach by ordinance any territory with or without the consent of the inhabitants or owners of such area to be detached. Such annexation or detachment of any such territory shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 160, Page 447, Acts of 1963, 58th Legislature, as the same is now or may hereafter be amended, same being article 970a, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas (V.T.C.A., Local Government Code

**\*State law reference**—Home rule powers, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 51.071 et seq.

§§ 42.001 et seq., 43.001 et seq., 212.003), entitled the Municipal Annexation Act; and upon the final passage of any such ordinance, the corporate limits of the City shall thereafter include the territory so annexed; and when any additional territory has been so annexed, same shall be a part of the City and the property situated therein shall bear its pro rata part of the taxes levied by the City, and the inhabitants thereof shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of all citizens, and shall be bound by the acts and ordinances, resolutions and regulations of the City.

In addition to the power to annex all additional property for all purposes, the City shall have the power by ordinance to fix, alter and extend the corporate boundary limits of the City for the limited purposes of planning and zoning and sanitation and health protection.

(Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982)

**State law reference**—Annexation, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 43.001 et seq.

**Sec. 2.03. Eminent domain.**

(a) General power. Except as limited by subsections (b) and (c) below, the City shall have the full right, power, and authority to exercise the power of eminent domain when necessary or desirable to carry out any of the powers conferred upon it by this Charter, or by the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas. The City may also exercise the power of eminent domain in any other manner authorized or permitted by the Constitution and laws of this State, or in the manner and form that shall be provided by ordinance of the City Council of the City. The power of eminent domain hereby conferred shall include the right of the City to take the fee in the lands so condemned and such power and authority shall include the right to condemn public property for such purposes. The City shall have and possess this power for condemnation for any municipal or public purpose, even though not specifically enumerated herein or in this article.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) above or any other provision of this Charter to the contrary, neither the City, nor any subdivision of or entity created by the City, shall be authorized to use the power of eminent domain for the purpose of taking private property to be used for economic development purposes without the consent of the owner of such private property. Provided further, private property acquired through eminent domain without the consent of the owner shall not be:

- (1) Dedicated, sold, leased in substantial part, or otherwise transferred to a private person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity for a period of ten years following the acquisition of the property by the City, except that property may be transferred or leased:
  - (a) To private entities that are public utilities or common carriers; and
  - (b) To private entities that occupy an incidental area in a public project; or
- (2) Used for any purpose other than as a public use facility.

For the purposes of this subsection, a "public use facility" shall mean a facility designed, constructed and maintained to serve members of the general public, including, but not limited to, public streets, drainage ways, utilities, parks, libraries, public safety buildings for police and fire protection, City Halls, and other similar public uses.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "economic development" shall mean any activity designed to increase tax revenue, tax base, employment, or general economic health, but does not include activities that result in:

- (1) The transfer of land to public ownership for public purposes, such as for roads, hospitals, or water or sanitary sewer facilities; or
- (2) The transfer of land to a private entity that is a common carrier or public utility.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

**State law references**—Eminent domain, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 251.001 et seq.; V.T.C.A., Property Code § 21.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 2.04. Streets and public property.**

The City shall have exclusive dominion, control and jurisdiction in, upon, over and under the public streets, sidewalks, alleys, highways, public squares and public ways within the corporate limits of the City, and in, upon, over, and under all public property of the City. With respect to each and every public street, sidewalk, alley, highway, public square, public park or other public way within the corporate limits of the City, the City shall have the power to establish, maintain, improve, alter, abandon, or vacate the same; to regulate the use thereof, including, but not limited to, the right to erect traffic signals, lights and signs thereon; and to abate and remove in a summary manner any encroachment thereon. The conveyance or lease or authorization of the conveyance or lease of any lands of the City shall be by ordinance.

#### **Sec. 2.05. Street development and improvements.**

The City shall have the power to develop and improve, or cause to be developed and improved, any and all public streets or ways within the corporate limits of the City by laying out, opening, narrowing, widening, straightening, extending, lighting, and establishing building lines along the same; by purchasing, condemning, and taking property therefor; by filling, grading, raising, lowering, paving, repaving, and repairing, in a permanent manner, the same; and by constructing, reconstructing, altering, repairing, and realigning curbs, gutters, drains, sidewalks, culverts, and other appurtenances and incidentals in connection with such development and improvement authorized hereinabove, or any combination or parts thereof. The cost of such development and improvement may be paid partly by assessments levied as a lien against the property abutting thereon and against the owners thereof.

When the City undertakes developing, improving and paving any and all public streets, sidewalks, alleys, highways and other public ways within its corporate limits, the City shall have the power and authority to proceed in accordance with V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 313.001 et seq. (Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2012-29, § 1(exh. A), 11-5-2012)

**State law references**—Use of streets and rights-of-way, V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 311.001 et seq.; street improvements and assessments, V.T.C.A., Transportation Code § 313.001 et seq.

**Sec. 2.06. Limitation of Liability for damages.**

In order to provide the City with the opportunity to investigate an alleged claim while facts are fresh and conditions remain substantially the same, enabling the City to guard against unfounded claims, to settle claims, and to prepare for trial; before the City shall be liable for damages for personal injuries of any kind, or for injuries to or destruction of property of any kind, the person injured, or the owner of the property injured or destroyed, if living, or his/her representatives, if deceased, or his/her agent or attorney, shall give the City Manager notice in writing of such injury or destruction, duly verified under oath, within 100 days after the same has been sustained (absent claimant providing a proper showing of why such notice could not be provided within such time), stating in such written notice in detail when and how the injury or destruction occurred, the City's alleged or possible fault producing or contributing to the injury, the apparent extent of damage thereof, the amount of all damage sustained, the amount for which claimant will settle, the actual residence of the claimant, the actual residence of such claimant for six months immediately preceding the occurrence of such injuries or destruction, and the names and addresses of all the witnesses upon whom he/she relies to establish the claim. No action shall be brought against the City for such claims prior to the expiration of 80 days after the notice hereinbefore described has been filed with the City Manager, absent a showing of good cause for the failure to provide timely notice as provided herein. The failure to notify the City Manager within the time and manner specified herein (which time for notice shall in no event ever exceed six months from the date of the alleged incident), shall exonerate, excuse and exempt the City from any liability whatsoever unless otherwise provided by law.

(Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012)

**State law reference**—Tort liability, V.T.C.A., Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 101.101 et seq.

**Sec. 2.07. Zoning.**

The Council shall have full power and authority to zone the City and to pass all necessary ordinances, rules and regulations governing the same under and by virtue of the authority given to cities and legislative bodies thereof by V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 211.001 et seq., and all amendments thereto and amendments which may hereafter be made thereto.

(Ord. No. 2012-29, § 1(exh. A), 11-5-2012)

**State law reference**—Zoning, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 211.001 et seq.

**ARTICLE III. CITY COUNCIL\*****Sec. 3.01. Number, selection, term, and term limitations.**

The City Council shall be comprised of a Mayor and six Councilmembers. The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be elected from the City at large, and each shall occupy a position on the City Council. Councilmember positions shall be numbered 1 through 6 consecutively.

The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be elected to serve for three-year terms as provided below, but no person shall be elected to serve on the City Council in any capacity for more than four three-year terms.

**\*State law reference**—Form of government, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 26.001 et seq.

The three-year terms of Office of Councilmembers and the Mayor shall be staggered, with the election for such three-year terms scheduled as follows:

- (a) For the Office of Mayor, and the Office of Councilmember, Positions number 1 and 3, the election for a three-year term shall be the General Election held in 2018;
- (b) For the Office of Councilmember, Positions number 4 and 6, the election for a three-year term shall be the General Election held in 2019; and
- (c) For the Office of Councilmember, Positions number 2 and 5, the election for a three-year term shall be the General Election held in 2020.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. R2017-16, § 4, 5-15-2017)

### **Sec. 3.02. Qualifications.**

In addition to any other qualifications prescribed by law, the Mayor and each Councilmember shall meet the conditions of subsections 6.02(a), items (1), (2), and (3) while in office, and shall reside within the City while in office.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988)

**Editor's note**—Subsection 6.02(a)(3) prohibiting candidates for City Council to be in arrears in payment of taxes, etc., was repealed by Res. No. R92-19, § 3, adopted 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992.

**State law reference**—Qualifications, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 141.001 et seq.

### **Sec. 3.03. Judge of election qualifications.**

The Council shall be the final judge of all elections and of qualifications of its members and any other elected officials of the City.

### **Sec. 3.04. Compensation.**

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation; provided, however, that they shall be entitled to all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official Council duties upon approval by the Council.

### **Sec. 3.05. Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.**

The Mayor shall be the official head of the City government. He/she shall be the chair and shall preside at all meetings of City Council, shall have an equal vote with each Councilmember on every proposition before the City Council, but shall have no power of veto. The Mayor shall see that all resolutions of the City Council are faithfully obeyed and enforced. He/she shall, when authorized by the City Council, sign all official documents such as ordinances, resolutions, conveyances, grant agreements, official plats, contracts and bonds. He/she shall appoint special committees as he/she deems advisable and/or as instructed by City Council. He/she shall perform such other duties consistent with this Charter or as may be authorized or directed by City Council.

The Mayor Pro Tem shall be a Councilmember elected by the City Council at the next regular City Council meeting following the canvassing of returns and declaring of results of each regular City

election or as soon thereafter as practical. The Mayor Pro Tem shall act as Mayor during the disability or absence of the Mayor and in this capacity shall have the rights and duties conferred upon the Mayor. (Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012)

**Sec. 3.06. Vacancies, forfeiture, filling of vacancies.**

(a) *Vacancies.* The Office of a Councilmember or Office of the Mayor shall become vacant upon his/her death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law, or forfeiture of his/her office.

(b) *Forfeiture of office.* A Councilmember or the Mayor shall forfeit his[/her] office if he/she:

- (1) Lacks at any time during his/her term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or by law;
- (2) Violates any express prohibition of this Charter;
- (3) Is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude; or
- (4) Fails to attend three consecutive regular Council meetings without being excused by the Council.

(c) *Filling vacancies.* When a vacancy shall develop, the Council shall provide for the filling of such vacancy in the manner provided by law; provided, however, that if the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacated office is twelve (12) months or less at the time the vacancy occurs, the City Council is authorized to fill the unexpired term by appointment, upon an affirmative vote of five (5) or more members of City Council.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2017-16, § 4, 5-15-2017)

**State law references**—Election dates, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 41.001 et seq.; vacancy, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 201.001 et seq.

**Sec. 3.07. General powers and duties.**

All powers of the City shall be vested in the Council, except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, and the Council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law.

**Sec. 3.08. Prohibitions.**

(a) *Holding other office.* Except where authorized by law, no Mayor or Councilmember shall hold any other City Office or City employment during his/her term as Mayor or Councilmember, and no former Mayor or Councilmember shall hold any compensated appointive City Office or City employment until one year after the expiration of his/her term as Mayor or Councilmember.

(b) *Appointments and removals.* Neither the Council [n]or any of its members shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any City Administrative officers or employees whom the City Manager or any of his/her subordinates are empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and fully and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

(c) *Interference with administration.* Except for the purpose of inquiries or investigations conducted under Section 3.16 of this Charter, neither the City Council nor any of its individual members shall direct any City Officer or employee who is subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager except through the City Manager. Neither the City Council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

**State law reference**—Dual officeholding, V.T.C.A., Government Code ch. 574.

### **Sec. 3.09. Meetings of the City Council.**

The City Council shall establish the days and times of its regular meetings but hold at least one regular meeting each month. Except during declared emergencies, all regular meetings of the City Council shall be held within the corporate limits of the City. All meetings of the council shall be open to the public, except as authorized by law.

(Res. No. R6-80, § 3, 4-7-1980; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 7, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law reference**—Open meetings, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.001 et seq.

### **Sec. 3.10. Rules of procedure.**

The Council shall, by resolution, determine its own rules and order of business and the rules shall provide that citizens of the City shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any meeting, including, but not limited to, those matters under consideration. The Council shall provide for minutes being taken and recorded of all meetings, and such minutes shall be a public record. Voting, except on procedural motions, shall be by roll call if requested by the Mayor or any Councilmember, and the ayes and nays shall be recorded in the minutes. Four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and no action of the Council, except as provided in Section 3.06 above, shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of four or more members of the Council. The Mayor and each Councilmember shall be entitled to an equal vote on all matters before the City Council. (See Section 3.01.)

(Res. No. R6-80, § 3, 4-7-1980; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2002-14, § 1, 3-4-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012)

### **Sec. 3.11. Ordinances in general.**

(a) *Form.* The Council shall legislate by ordinance only, and the enacting clause of every ordinance shall be: "Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Friendswood, State of Texas."

(b) *Effective Date.* Each proposed ordinance shall be introduced in written, electronic, or printed form and, upon passage, shall take effect at the time indicated therein; provided that any ordinance imposing a penalty, fine or forfeiture for a violation of its provisions shall become effective upon adoption or at a later time as specified in the ordinance. The City Secretary shall give notice of the passage of every ordinance imposing a penalty, fine or forfeiture for a violation of the provisions thereof, by causing the caption of any such ordinance to be published in the official newspaper in the City of Friendswood.

(c) *Readings.* Ordinances that require one reading are those ordinances that:

- (1) require a public hearing or more notice than required by the Texas Open Meetings Act;
- (2) relate to the adoption or amendment to the budget;
- (3) relate to the assessment, levy, or collection of taxes;
- (4) relate to the calling of an election, or the canvassing of the returns and declaration of results of an election;
- (5) relate to the incurring of indebtedness, including, specifically, the issuance or sale of bonds or certificates of obligation;
- (6) relate to the development or improvement of a street; or
- (7) relate to an emergency so declared by Council.

For all other ordinances, including the franchise for a public utility, the caption shall be read at two council meetings on separate days. An ordinance requiring two readings shall be deemed rejected if approval on final reading is not obtained within 90 days of the date approval on first reading is obtained.

(d) *Amendments/Printed Code.* The City Council shall have power to cause the ordinances of the City to be corrected, amended, revised, codified, and printed in code form as often as the Council deems advisable, and such printed code, when adopted by the Council, shall be in full force and effect without the necessity of publishing the same or any part thereof in a newspaper. Such printed code shall be admitted in evidence in all courts and places without further proof.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R6-80, § 3, 4-7-1980; Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Res. No. R2017-16, § 4, 5-15-2017; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 8, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**Charter reference**—Ordinance granting franchise, § 9.03.

**State law reference**—Publication of ordinances, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 52.013.

### Sec. 3.12. Emergency ordinances.

To meet emergencies the Council may adopt emergency ordinances. Such ordinances shall not grant, renew, or extend franchises, or regulate rates charged by a public utility. Each emergency ordinance shall contain a provision declaring the existence of an emergency. The affirmative vote of five members elected to Council shall be required for adoption.

(Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992)

**Sec. 3.13. Codes of technical regulations.**

The Council may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such an adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that:

- (a) The requirements of Section 3.11 for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of the code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinances; and
- (b) A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the City Secretary pursuant to subsection 3.14(a).

Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the City Secretary for distribution or for purchase at a reasonable price.

**Sec. 3.14. Authentication and recording, codification, printing.**

(a) Authentication and recording. The City Secretary shall authenticate by his/her signature and record in full in a properly indexed book kept for the purpose, all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Council. All ordinances shall be numbered numerically and consecutively in the order in which adopted. This record shall be open for public inspection.

(b) Codification. Within one year after adoption of this Charter and at least every ten years thereafter, the Council shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all general ordinances of the City. Every general ordinance enacted subsequent to such codification shall be enacted as an amendment to the Code. For the purposes of this section, general ordinances shall be deemed to be those ordinances of a permanent or continuing nature which affect the residents of the City at large. The codification shall be adopted by the Council by ordinance and shall be published promptly in bound or loose-leaf form, together with this Charter and any amendments thereto, pertinent provisions of the Constitution and other laws of the State of Texas, and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the Council may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as the Friendswood City Code and shall be in full force and effect without the necessity of such Code or any part thereof being published in any newspaper. The caption, descriptive clause, and other formal parts of the ordinances of the City may be omitted without affecting the validity of such ordinances when they are published as a Code. Copies of the Code shall be furnished to City Officers, placed in libraries and public offices for free reference and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price fixed by the Council.

(c) Printing of ordinances and resolutions. The Council shall cause each ordinance and each amendment to this Charter to be printed promptly following its adoption, and the printed ordinances and Charter amendments shall be distributed or sold to the public at reasonable prices to be fixed by the Council. Following publication of the first Friendswood City Code and at all times thereafter, the ordinances and Charter amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the Code currently in effect and shall be suitable in form for integration therein. The Council shall make such

further arrangements as it deems desirable with respect to reproduction and distribution of any current changes in or additions to the provisions of the Constitution and other laws of the State of Texas, or the codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations included in the Code.

(d) The City Council may, without approval of the voters, adopt an ordinance that corrects errors in spelling, cross-references, punctuation, non-substantive revisions/reorganizations or numbering of articles or sections in the Charter. A revision ordinance adopted under this section is not intended to and shall not be interpreted as authorizing any substantive change in any Charter provision.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

#### **Sec. 3.15. Bonds for City Employees.**

The Council shall require bonds of all municipal officers and employees who receive or pay out any monies of the City. The amount of such bonds shall be determined by the Council and the cost thereof shall be borne by the City.

#### **Sec. 3.16. Investigation by the City Council.**

The Council may make investigations into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City Department, Division, or Office and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Any person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the Council shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine which shall have been set, by ordinance, by the Council.

#### **Sec. 3.17. Officers and Employees protected from financial loss.**

Duly elected and appointed officers, employees and volunteers of the City shall be protected by the City from actual damages awarded against any such officer, employee or volunteer if the damages result from an act or omission committed while in the course and scope of their office, employment or service, and they arise from a cause of action for negligence. The City shall not pay for damages that result from willful or wrongful acts or omissions or from acts or omissions constituting gross negligence.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

### **ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **Sec. 4.01. City Manager.**

(a) *Appointment and qualifications.* The Council by an affirmative vote of five or more members of the Council shall appoint a City Manager. The method of selection shall be left to the discretion of the City Council so long as the method ensures orderly, nonpartisan action toward securing a competent and qualified person to fill the position. The City Manager shall be chosen solely upon the basis of his/her executive and administrative training, experience and ability and need not when appointed be a resident

of the City of Friendswood; however, the City Council may determine and impose a residency requirement as a condition of employment. The City Manager shall be bonded at City expense in an amount of not less than \$10,000.00.

(b) *Compensation.* The City Manager shall receive compensation as may be fixed by the Council according to his/her experience, education and training. The compensation should be agreed upon before appointment with the understanding that the Council may change it at its discretion.

(c) *Term and removal.* The City Manager shall not be appointed for a definite term but may be removed, at the discretion of the Council, by an affirmative vote of five or more members of the Council. The action of the Council in suspending or removing the City Manager shall be final. It is the intention of this Charter to vest all authority and fix all responsibilities of such suspension or removal in the Council.

(d) *Powers and duties.* The City Manager shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all the affairs of the City and to that end shall have the power and be required to:

- (1) See that all State Laws and City Ordinances are effectively enforced.
- (2) Appoint, suspend or remove all or any one of the Directors of Departments with the concurrence of the Council.
- (3) Attend all meetings of the Council except when excused by Council.
- (4) Prepare the budget annually and submit it to the Council and be responsible for its administration after its adoption.
- (5) Prepare and submit to the Council at the end of the fiscal year a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the City for the preceding year.
- (6) Keep the Council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the City and make such recommendations as may seem to him/her advisable.
- (7) Perform such duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or required of him/her by the Council, as consistent with this Charter.

(e) *Acting City Manager.* The City Manager shall designate, by letter filed with the City Secretary, a qualified Administrative Officer of the City to perform the duties of City Manager in his/her absence. In the event of long-term disability, resignation, or termination of the City Manager, the Council shall appoint an acting City Manager for the duration of any such disability, or until appointment of a permanent City Manager. No member of the City Council shall serve as acting City Manager.

(Res. No. R6-80, § 3, 4-7-1980; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; R2009-06, § 1, 1-12-2009, election 5-9-2009; R2009-28, § 4, 5-18-2009, election 5-9-2009; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Res. No. R2017-16, § 4, 5-15-2017)

#### **Sec. 4.02. Municipal Court.**

(a) There shall be established and maintained a court, designated as a "Municipal Court" for the trial of misdemeanor offenses, with all such powers and duties as are now, or may hereafter be prescribed by laws of the State of Texas relative to Municipal Courts.

(b) The Judge of said court shall be appointed by Council to serve for a term of two years. The Judge shall receive such salary as may be fixed by Council.

(c) The Council may appoint such Associate or Alternate Judges of said court as shall be deemed necessary and appropriate by said Council. Associate or Alternate Judges shall be appointed for terms and shall possess the same qualifications as are required for the regular Judge of said court.

(d) All costs and fines imposed by the Municipal Court shall be paid into the City Treasury for the use and benefit of the City.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992)

**State law references**—Municipal Courts, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 29.001 et seq.; rules of procedure, etc., V.T.C.A., Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 45.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 4.03. City Attorney.**

The Council shall appoint a competent and duly qualified and licensed attorney practicing law in the State of Texas, who shall be the attorney for the City (and may also be referred to as City Attorney). He/she shall receive for his/her services such compensation as may be fixed by the Council and shall hold his/her office at the pleasure of the Council. The City Attorney shall be the legal adviser of, and attorney for, all of the Offices and Departments of the City, and he/she shall represent the City in all litigation and legal proceedings; provided that the Council may retain special counsel at any time they deem appropriate and necessary. He/she shall review and concur or dissent upon all documents, contracts, and legal instruments in which the City may have an interest. The City Attorney shall perform other duties prescribed by this Charter, ordinance, or as directed by Council.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

#### **Sec. 4.04. City Secretary.**

(a) *Appointment.* The City Manager shall appoint a City Secretary who shall act as the secretary to the Council and shall hold office at the pleasure of the City Manager. He/she shall be provided an office in the City Hall sufficient to maintain the records entrusted to his/her care and shall be entitled to a seat at the Council table at all official meetings.

(b) *Duties of the City Secretary.* The duties of the City Secretary shall be as follows:

- (1) Record the minutes of all official meetings of the Council; provided, however, only the captions of duly enacted ordinances and resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes.
- (2) Be the custodian of all municipal records of the Council.
- (3) Recommend to the Council rules and regulations to be adopted by ordinances to protect the safety and security of the municipal records.
- (4) Hold and maintain the City seal and affix [it] to all instruments requiring such seal.
- (5) Cause written notice of appointment to be delivered to each person appointed by the Mayor or Council to any board, commission, committee, or other appointive office or position, within five working days following such appointment by the Mayor or Council.

(c) *Compensation.* The City Manager shall set the compensation of the City Secretary. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 9, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law reference**—Records management act, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 201.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 4.05. Administrative Departments.**

There shall be such Administrative Departments as are established by this Charter and may be established by ordinance and, excepting as otherwise provided in this Charter, these Administrative Departments shall be under the direction of the City Manager.

The Council shall have power by ordinance to establish Administrative Departments or offices not herein provided by this Charter. The Council may discontinue, redesignate, or combine any of the departments and/or Administrative Offices. No changes shall be made by the Council in the organization of the administrative service of the City until the recommendations of the City Manager thereon shall have been heard by the Council.

The head of each department shall be a Director who shall have supervision and control over his/her department. Two or more departments may be headed by the same individual and the City Manager may head one or more departments.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988)

#### **Sec. 4.06. Personnel system.**

(a) *Appointments and promotions.* Appointments and promotions in the administrative service of the City shall be made according to merit and fitness. To carry out this purpose the Council shall provide by ordinance a system for the classification of employees and rules for the appointment and promotion of employees within such classifications.

(b) *Classified service.* No officer, employee, member of a board, or other person, who is to be appointed by the Council under this Charter, and no Department Head, shall be included within the classified service of the City, but all other persons in the administrative services of the City shall be included therein unless specifically excluded therefrom by the ordinance providing for a system of classified services.

(c) *Prohibited acts.*

(1) *Discrimination.* No person employed in the administrative service of the City, or who seeks appointment thereto, shall be appointed, promoted, reduced, removed, or in any way favored or discriminated against because of his/her race, color, national origin, age, disability, veteran or military status, gender, political or religious opinion, or affiliation, or membership or non-membership in employee organizations.

(2) *Campaign Contributions by Salaried Officers or Employees.* Except to the extent authorized by State or Federal law in conflict therewith, no salaried officer or employee of the City shall make a contribution to the campaign fund of any person holding or seeking election to a City Office, nor shall he/she be solicited for this purpose, but his/her right to express an opinion or to cast a

vote as a citizen shall not be limited. Provided further, no person holding or seeking election to a City Office shall accept a contribution to such person's campaign fund from any salaried officer or employee of the City.

- (3) *Paid Appointments.* No person seeking appointment to or promotion in the administrative service of the City shall either directly or indirectly give, render, or pay any money, service, or other valuable thing to any person for or on account of or in connection with his/her appointment or promotion, or any examination conducted therefor.
- (4) *Sanctions.* Any person who shall individually or in concert with others knowingly or recklessly violate any provision of this subsection shall be deemed ineligible to hold any appointive or elective office or employment with the City for a period of four years following final determination of such violation. Upon the final determination of any such violation, the applicable officer or employee shall be immediately removed from the office or position then held. For the purposes of this subsection, a person acts "knowingly" when, with respect to the nature of his/her conduct, he/she is aware that his/her conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result. A person acts "recklessly" if he/she consciously disregards a substantial or unjustifiable risk that circumstances exist or will occur, and the risk is of such nature and degree that a person of ordinary prudence and sensibilities under the circumstances would have recognized it.

(d) *Employee pensions and insurance.* All rights and obligations under any plan for the payment of retirement benefits, pensions, or disability benefits to any City employee which is in force upon the effective date of this Charter shall be unaffected by the adoption hereof. The Council shall have the power, in its discretion and subject to such regulations and limitations as it may deem proper, to create, operate and contract plans or insurance which will provide health, life, accident, medical and hospital benefits, or any of these, for all or any group of City employees, and to pay or contribute toward the cost of such plan or insurance out of funds available for that purpose.

(e) *Personnel rules.* The City Manager shall prepare personnel policies. The Council shall adopt such policies with or without amendment. The personnel policies shall be reviewed on a regular basis. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

## ARTICLE V. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

### Sec. 5.01. General authority.

(a) *Initiative.* The qualified voters of the City shall have the power to propose ordinances to the Council and, if the Council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, to adopt or reject it at a City Election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget, or capital program or any ordinance relating to appropriation of money, levy of taxes or salaries of City Officers or employees. Such initiative power may be used to enact a new ordinance, or to repeal or amend sections of an existing ordinance.

(b) *Referendum.* The qualified voters of the City shall have the power to require reconsideration by the Council of any adopted ordinance and, if the Council fails to repeal any ordinance so reconsidered, to approve or reject it at a City Election, provided that such power shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any properly enacted emergency ordinance, ordinance relating to appropriation of money or levying of taxes or ordinance relating to the control of armed or violent insurrection, revolt, rebellion or riot.

**Sec. 5.02. Initiation of proceedings; petitioners' committee; affidavit.**

Any five qualified voters may begin initiative or referendum proceedings by filing with the City Secretary an affidavit stating they constitute the petitioners' committee and will be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form; stating their names and addresses and specifying the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent, and setting out in full the proposed initiative ordinance or the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

Immediately after the affidavit of the petitioners' committee is filed, the City Secretary shall issue the appropriate petition blanks to the petitioners' committee.

After the affidavit of the petitioners' committee has been filed, the ordinance sought to be amended or repealed shall not be repealed, or amended or reenacted by the Council unless:

- (a) The action taken by Council is that which the petition requests; or
- (b) The petition has not been filed within the prescribed time limit; or
- (c) There is a final determination of the insufficiency of the petition; or
- (d) The petition is withdrawn by the petitioners' committee; or
- (e) One year has elapsed since Council or voter action has been taken on the petition; or
- (f) The ordinance sought to be amended or repealed relates to the control of insurrection or riot.

**Sec. 5.03. Petitions.**

(a) *Number of signatures.* Initiative and referendum petitions must be signed by currently qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least ten percent of the total number of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular City Election.

(b) *Form and content.* All papers of a petition shall be uniform in size and style and shall be assembled as one instrument for filing. For a petition signature to be valid, the petition must contain, in addition to the signature, the signer's printed name, date of birth, voter registration number, county of registration, residence address, and date of signing. Petitions shall contain or have attached thereto throughout their circulation the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

(c) *Affidavit of circulator.* When filed, each paper of a petition shall have attached to it an affidavit executed by the circulator thereof stating that he/[she] personally circulated the paper, the number of signatures thereon, that all the signatures were affixed in his/her presence, that he/[she] believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be and that each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance proposed or sought to be reconsidered.

(d) *Time for filing petitions.* Referendum petitions must be filed within 30 days after adoption by the Council of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered. Initiative petitions must be filed within 30 days after issuance of the appropriate petition blanks to the petitioners' committee. Additional time as specified in subsection 5.04(e) shall be allowed for amending petitions.

(Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002)

**Sec. 5.04. Determination of sufficiency.**

(a) *Certificate of City Secretary.* Within ten days after the petition is filed, the City Secretary shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars wherein it is defective and shall immediately upon completion of certification send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered mail.

(b) *Sufficient petition, final determination.* If the petition is certified sufficient, the City Secretary shall present the certificate to the Council by the next Council meeting and the certificate shall then be a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

(c) *Insufficient petition, final determination.* If a petition is certified insufficient, and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend or request Council review under subsections (d) and (e) of this section within the time required, the City Secretary shall present a certificate to the Council by the next Council meeting which shall be a final determination of the sufficiency of the petition.

(d) *Insufficient petition, appeal.* If a petition has been certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not file notice of intention to amend it as in subsection 5.04(e), the committee may, within two working days after receiving the copy of such certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the Council. The Council shall review the certificate at its next meeting following the filing of such request and approve or disapprove it, and the Council's determination shall then be a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

(e) *Insufficient petition, amending.* A petition certified insufficient for lack of required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioners' committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the City Secretary within two working days after receiving the copy of his/her certificate, and files a supplementary petition with additional names within two weeks after receiving the copy of such certificate. Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of subsections 5.03(b) and (c).

Within five working days after an amended petition is filed, the City Secretary shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition as amended and shall within 24 hours send a copy of such certificate to the petitioners' committee by certified mail as in the case of an original petition. The final determination as to the sufficiency of an amended petition shall be determined in the same manner as prescribed for original petitions in subsections 5.04(b), (c), and (d), except that no petition, once amended, may be amended again.

(f) *Court review; new petition.* A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition shall be subject to review in a county court of record and higher. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, shall not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.

(Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997)

**Sec. 5.05. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Section 5.05, providing that ordinances be suspended from taking effect when a referendum petition has been filed with the City Secretary, was deleted pursuant to Res. No. R6-80, adopted April 7, 1980, declaring the results of an election held April 5, 1980.

**Sec. 5.06. Action on petitions.**

(a) *Action by Council.* Council shall promptly consider the proposed initiative ordinance in the manner prescribed for enacting ordinances or reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. Within 60 days after the date the initiative or referendum petition has been finally determined sufficient Council shall either:

- (1) Adopt a proposed initiative ordinance without any change in substance; or
- (2) Repeal a referred ordinance; or
- (3) Call an election on the proposed or referred ordinance, said election to be held on the first uniform election date falling 45 days or more after such determination by Council.

(b) *Submission to voters.* The vote of the City on a proposed or referred ordinance shall be held at a Special Election called for such purpose in accordance with subsection (a)(3) above. Copies of the proposed or referred ordinance shall be made available at the City Secretary's Office and posted on the City's website 15 days immediately preceding the election.

(c) *Withdrawal of petitions.* An initiative or referendum petition may be withdrawn at any time prior to the 20th day preceding the day scheduled for a vote of the City by filing with the City Secretary a request for withdrawal signed by at least four members of the petitioners' committee. Upon filing of such request, the petition shall have no further force or effect and all proceedings thereon shall be terminated. (Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 10, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**Sec. 5.07. Results of election.**

(a) *Initiative.* If a majority of the qualified electors voting on a proposed initiative ordinance vote in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results and shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as ordinances of the same kind adopted by Council. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

(b) *Limitation of Council repeal.* The Council may not repeal or amend the initiated ordinance for one year after the effective date and then only by the affirmative vote of five members of the Council.

(c) *Referendum.* If a majority of the qualified electors voting on a referred ordinance vote against it, it shall be considered repealed upon certification of the election results.

**Sec. 5.08. Power of recall.**

The qualified voters shall have the power to recall any elected official of the City on grounds of incompetency, noncompliance with this Charter, misconduct or malfeasance in office. Such power shall

be exercised by filing with the City Secretary a petition, signed by currently qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least ten percent of the total number of qualified voters registered to vote at the last regular City Election, demanding the removal of such elected official. The petition shall be signed and verified in the manner required for an initiative petition.

**Sec. 5.09. Recall election.**

The provisions regulating initiation, certification, amendment and withdrawal of initiative petitions shall apply to recall petitions. If the petition is certified by the City Secretary to be sufficient, the Council shall order an election forthwith to determine whether such officer shall be recalled.

**Sec. 5.10. Results of recall election.**

If a majority of the votes cast at a recall election shall be against removal of the elected official named on the ballot, he/she shall continue in office. If the majority of the votes cast at the election [shall] be for the removal of the elected official named on the ballot, the Council shall immediately declare his/her office vacant and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Charter for the filling of vacancies. An elected official thus removed shall not be a candidate to succeed himself/herself. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988)

**Sec. 5.11. Limitation on recall.**

No recall petition shall be filed against an elected official within six months of the beginning or the end of the term for which such official was elected, and no elected official shall be subjected to more than one recall election during a term of office. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

**Sec. 5.12. Failure of Council to call an election.**

In case all of the requirements of this Charter shall have been met and the Council shall fail or refuse to receive the recall petition, or order such recall election, or discharge other duties imposed upon said Council by the provisions of this Charter with reference to such recall, then in such event any qualified voter in the City may seek judicial relief in the District Court of Galveston County, Texas, to have any of the provisions of this Charter pertaining to recall carried out by the proper official. (Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982)

**Sec. 5.13. Failure of Council to call an election on recall.**

In case all of the requirements of this Charter shall have been met and the Council shall fail or refuse to receive the recall petition, or order such recall election, or discharge other duties imposed upon said Council by the provisions of this Charter with reference to such recall, then the County Judge of Galveston County, Texas, shall discharge any such duties herein provided to be discharged by the City Secretary or by the Council. In addition, any qualified voter in the City may seek judicial relief in the District Court of Galveston County, Texas, to have any of the provisions of this Charter pertaining to recall carried out by the proper official.

**ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS; OATH OF OFFICE\*****Sec. 6.01. City elections.**

General City Elections shall be held annually on the May uniform election date as set forth in the Texas Election Code. The City Council shall specify the places for holding such elections. All City Elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with all State and Federal Laws applicable thereto. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

**State law reference**—Uniform election dates, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 41.001.

**Sec. 6.02. Filing for Office.**

(a) *Eligibility to file.* Each candidate for an elective City Office shall meet the following qualifications:

- (1) Shall be a qualified voter of the City.
- (2) Shall have resided for at least 12 months preceding the election within the corporate limits of the City, including territory annexed prior to the filing deadline.
- (3) Shall be at least 21 years of age.
- (4) Shall meet the requirements for sponsors stipulated in subsection 6.02(b) below.
- (5) If an incumbent seeks a different elected office or elected position of the City other than that which he/she then holds, he/she shall submit a letter of resignation to the City Council at least 60 days prior to the date of election for such desired office or position. Unless otherwise prohibited by operation of law or this Charter, such incumbent shall hold over in the office or position subject to resignation until his/her successor qualifies therefor, or until such incumbent qualifies for the different office or position sought, whichever first occurs.
- (6) No candidate may file for more than one office or position number per election.
- (7) No employee or person holding a City appointive office of emolument shall continue in such position after becoming a candidate for an elective office.

(b) *Procedure and schedule for filing.* Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for an elective office by petition of not less than the greater of 25 registered voters or one-half of one percent of the total vote received in the City for the office of Mayor in the most recent Mayoral General Election. No voter shall sign more than one petition for a particular office or position number; if a voter signs more than one, his/her signature shall be void except as to the first filed of the petitions signed by him/her. The signatures shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil. Each signer shall indicate next to his/her signature the date of his/her signing and the place of his/her residence. The signed petition shall be filed with the City Secretary not earlier than 90 days prior to the election date for which such petition would apply, or later than the normal posted close of business for the office of the City Secretary on the last day for which applications for candidacy may be filed for such election under applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code.

**\*State law reference**—Elections, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 1.001 et seq.

(c) *Certification of petition.* Within five days after the filing of a nominating petition the City Secretary shall notify the candidate whether or not the petition satisfied the requirements prescribed by this Charter. If a petition is found insufficient, the City Secretary shall return it immediately to the candidate with a statement certifying wherein it is insufficient. Within the regular time for filing petitions, a new petition may be filed by the same candidate. The City Secretary shall keep on file all petitions found sufficient at least until the expiration of the term of which the candidates are nominated in those petitions.

(d) *Public disclosure.* Candidates shall file with the City Secretary 21 days prior to day of election a financial disclosure statement containing the following information. This should include information pertaining to the candidate, his/her spouse and dependent minor children.

- (1) List of all property owned or held in trust within the City limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City. This list should include location (address), size (general dimensions) and current use.
- (2) List of all fees, salaries or gifts of value exceeding \$50.00 received from companies or individuals under contract with the City during the 12 months prior to filing for public office.
- (3) Ownership of any stock in companies under contract to the City when such stock comprises greater than two percent of the company's total outstanding stock.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R3-82, § 1, 3-1-1982; Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007; Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012)

**Editor's note**—Subsection 6.02(a)(3) prohibiting candidates for City Council to be in arrears in payment of taxes, etc., was repealed by Res. No. R92-19, § 3, adopted 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992.

**State law reference**—Application requirements, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 141.031 et seq.

### Sec. 6.03. Ballots.

The ballots for all elections held by the City shall conform with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988)

**State law reference**—Ballots, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 52.001 et seq.

### Sec. 6.04. Canvassing and election results.

(a) *Canvassing.* Returns of the elections, general and special, shall be made by the election officers to the city council and the council shall canvass the returns and declare the results of such election in accordance with law.

(b) *Majority.* A majority vote for an elective office is that number of votes which is a majority of the total number of valid ballots cast for the office concerned. Any candidate for elective office who received a majority vote shall be declared elected. If none of the candidates for an elective position receives a majority vote, none of such candidates shall be elected.

(c) *Runoff election.* In the event no candidate for an elective office receives a majority of the votes cast for that position in the regular or Special Election or there is a tie for first place, a runoff election shall be held among the candidates who received the greatest number of votes for the first two places. Such runoff election shall be held in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

(d) *Notification and taking office.* It shall be the duty of the City Secretary to notify all persons elected. A candidate who is elected in the regular City Election or Special Election shall take office and enter upon his/her duties after qualifying by taking and subscribing to his/her oath of office at the next regular Council meeting after closing of the polls.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 11, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law reference**—Canvass of votes, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 65.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 6.05. Oath of office.**

Every officer of the City, whether elected or appointed, before entering upon the duties of office, shall take and subscribe to the appropriate oath or affirmation to be filed and kept in the office of the City Secretary.

(Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992)

**State law reference**—Oath of office, Tex. Const. art. 16, § 1.

### **ARTICLE VII. TAX ADMINISTRATION\***

#### **Sec. 7.01. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Section 7.01 regarding the Department of Taxation was repealed by Res. No. R92-19, § 3, adopted 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992.

#### **Sec. 7.02. Power to tax.**

The Council of the City shall have the power, and is hereby authorized to levy, assess and collect annual taxes not to exceed the maximum limits set by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas as they now exist or as they may be amended, on each \$100.00 assessed valuation of all property having a situs within the corporate limits of the City and not exempt from taxation by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

(Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

#### **Sec. 7.03. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Former §§ 7.03, 7.05—7.07, 7.09, and 7.10, which concerned procedures for tax assessment and collection and derived from the 1971 Charter, were repealed by Res. No. R88-15, § 3, adopted May 9, 1988.

**\*State law reference**—Taxation, V.T.C.A., Tax Code § 1.01 et seq.

**Sec. 7.04. Reserved.**

**Editor's note**—Section 7.04 regarding the Board of Equalization has been repealed by Res. No. R92-19, § 3, adopted 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992.

**Secs. 7.05—7.07. Reserved.**

**Note**—See the editor's note to Section 7.03 of this Charter.

**Sec. 7.08. Arrears of taxes offset to debt against City.**

The City shall be entitled to counterclaim and offset against any debt, claim, demand or account owed by the City to any person, firm or corporation who is in arrears to the City for taxes, in the amount of taxes so in arrears, and no assignment or transfer of such debt, claim, demand or account after the said taxes are due, shall affect the right of the City to so offset the said taxes against the same.

**Sec. 7.09. Reserved.**

**Note**—See the editor's note to Section 7.03 of this Charter.

**Sec. 7.10. Reserved.**

**Note**—See the editor's note to Section 7.03 of this Charter.

**ARTICLE VIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION\*****Sec. 8.01. Fiscal year.**

The fiscal year of the City shall begin on the first day of October and end on the last day of September.

**State law references**—Fiscal year, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 101.022; V.T.C.A., Tax Code § 1.05.

**Sec. 8.02. Public record.**

Copies of the budget as adopted shall be public records and shall be made available to the public upon request.

**State law references**—Local Government Records Act, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 201.001 et seq.; public information, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 552.001 et seq.; budgets, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 102.001 et seq.

**Sec. 8.03. Annual Budget.**

(a) *Content.* The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all City funds and activities and, except as required by law or this Charter, shall be in such form as the City Manager deems desirable or the Council may require. A budget message explaining the budget both in fiscal terms and in terms of the work programs shall be submitted with the budget. It shall outline the proposed financial policies of the City for the ensuing fiscal year, describe the important features of the budget, indicate any major changes

**\*State law references**—Budgets, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 102.001 et seq.; fiscal powers, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 101.021.

from the current year in financial policies, expenditures, and revenues, with reasons for such changes. It shall also summarize the City's debt position and include such other material as the manager deems desirable. The budget shall begin with a clear general summary of its contents; shall show in detail all estimated income, the proposed property tax levy, and all proposed expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year, including debt service and an itemized estimate of the expense of conducting each department of the City. The proposed budget expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated income. The budget shall be so arranged as to comply with state law.

(b) *Submission.* On or before the first day of August of each year, the City Manager shall submit to the Council a proposed budget and an accompanying message. The Council shall review the proposed budget and revise as deemed appropriate prior to general circulation for public hearing.

(c) *Public notice and hearing.* Any public hearing on the proposed budget shall be held and published in accordance with law.

(d) *Amendment before adoption.* After the public hearing, the Council may adopt the budget with or without amendment. In amending the budget, it may add or increase programs or amounts and may delete or decrease any programs or amounts, except expenditures required by law or for debt service or for estimated cash deficit, provided that no amendment to the budget shall increase the authorized expenditures to an amount greater than the total of estimated income plus funds available from prior years.

(e) *Adoption.* The Council shall adopt its annual budget by ordinance, on one reading, by the 15th day of September or as soon thereafter as practical. If the Council fails to adopt an annual budget before the start of the fiscal year to which it applies, appropriations of the last budget adopted shall be considered as adopted for the current fiscal year on a month to month, pro rata basis, until the annual budget is adopted. Adoption of the budget shall require an affirmative vote of at least a majority of all members of the Council. Adoption of the budget shall constitute appropriations of the amounts specified therein as expenditures from the funds indicated.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 12, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law reference**—Budgets, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 102.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 8.04. Amendments after adoption.**

(a) *Supplemental appropriations.* If during the fiscal year the manager certifies that there are available for appropriation revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the Council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriation for the year up to the amount of such excess.

(b) *Emergency appropriations.* To meet public emergencies created by natural disasters or manmade calamities that affect life, health, property, or the public peace, the City Council may authorize:

- (i) The re-appropriation of revenues previously budgeted for maintenance and operation expenses;
- (ii) The appropriation of unanticipated revenues; and/or
- (iii) The appropriation of restricted reserves.

All such appropriations or re-appropriations shall be by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. If there are insufficient funds available for appropriation or re-appropriation for such purposes, the City Council may by emergency ordinance authorize the issuance of emergency notes, which may be renewed from time to time.

(c) *Reduction of appropriations.* If at any time during the fiscal year it appears probable to the City Manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, he/she shall report to the Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken by him/her and his/her recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and for that purpose it may by ordinance reduce one or more appropriations.

(d) *Transfer of appropriations.* At any time during the fiscal year the City Manager may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department, division, or office and, upon written request by the City Manager, the Council may by ordinance transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one department, office or agency to another.

(e) *Limitations.* No appropriation for debt service may be reduced or transferred, and no appropriation may be reduced below any amount required by law to be appropriated or by more than the amount of the unencumbered balance thereof.

(f) *Effective date.* The supplemental and emergency appropriations and reduction or transfer of appropriations authorized by this section may be made effective immediately upon adoption of the ordinance.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R2007-09, § 1, 3-5-2007, election 5-12-2007)

**State law references**—Budgets, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 102.001 et seq.; changes in budget for municipal purposes, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 102.010.

#### **Sec. 8.05. Borrowing for Capital Improvements.**

(a) *Borrowing.* The Council shall have the power, except as prohibited by law, to borrow money by whatever method it may deem to be in the public interest.

(b) *General obligation bonds.* The City shall have the power to borrow money on the credit of the City and to issue general obligation bonds for permanent public improvements or for any other public purpose not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and this Charter, and to issue refunding bonds to refund outstanding bonds of the City previously issued. All such bonds shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas.

(c) *Revenue bonds.* The City shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of constructing, purchasing, improving, extending or repairing of public utilities, recreational facilities or any other self-liquidating municipal function not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, and to issue revenue bonds to evidence the obligation created thereby. Such bonds shall be a charge upon and payable from the properties, or interest therein pledged, or the income therefrom, or both. The holders of the revenue bonds shall never have the right to demand payment thereof out of monies raised or to be raised by taxation. All such bonds shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas.

(d) *Bonds incontestable.* All bonds of the City having been issued and sold and having been delivered to the purchaser thereof shall thereafter be incontestable and all bonds issued to refund in exchange for outstanding bonds previously issued shall and after said exchange be incontestable.

(e) *Addition of ordinance.* The procedure for adoption of any ordinance relative to borrowing for capital improvements shall be:

- (1) A copy of the proposed ordinance shall be furnished to each member of the City Council, the City Attorney and any citizen of the City upon request to the City Secretary, at least three days before the date of the meeting at which the ordinance is to be considered.
- (2) Any ordinance relative to borrowing for capital improvements may be adopted and finally passed at the meeting at which it is introduced.

(f) *Elections to authorize debt.* Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Section 8.05 to the contrary, the Council shall only issue debt pursuant to state law and shall be prohibited from issuing certificates of obligation without voter approval; provided, however, the Council shall be authorized to incur debt without the necessity of a Special Election if necessary due to an emergency or urgent public necessity, which emergency or urgent public necessity shall be expressed in the ordinance or resolution authorizing such debt.

(Ord. No. 214, § 1, 3-4-1974, election 4-6-1974; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 13, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law references**—Fiscal powers, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 101.002; specific authority for municipalities to issue securities, V.T.C.A., Government Code ch. 1501 et seq.

#### **Sec. 8.06. Lapse of appropriations.**

Every appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered. An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned; the purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if three years pass without any disbursement from or encumbrance of the appropriation.

#### **Sec. 8.07. Administration of budget.**

(a) *Payments and obligations prohibited.* No payment shall be made or obligation incurred against any allotment or appropriation except in accordance with appropriations duly made and unless the City Manager or his/her designee first certifies that there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in such allotment or appropriations and that sufficient funds therefrom are or will be available to cover the claim or meet the obligation when it becomes due and payable. Any authorization of payment or incurring of obligation in violation of the provisions of this Charter shall be void and any payment so made illegal. Such action shall be cause for removal of any officer who knowingly authorized or made such payment or incurred such obligations, and he/she shall also be liable to the City for any amount so paid. However, this prohibition shall not be construed to prevent the making or authorizing of payments or making of contracts for capital improvements to be financed wholly or partly by the issuance of bonds, time

warrants, certificates of indebtedness, or certificates of obligation, or to prevent the making of any contract or lease providing for payments beyond the end of the fiscal year, provided that such action is made or approved by ordinance.

(b) *Financial reports.* The City Manager shall submit to the Council each month a report detailing the financial condition of the City by budget amount versus fiscal year to date amount. The financial records of the City shall be maintained in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

(c) *Independent audit.* At the close of each fiscal year, and at such times as it may be deemed necessary, the Council shall cause an independent audit to be made of all accounts of the City by a certified public accountant. The certified public accountant so selected shall have no personal interest, directly or indirectly, in the financial affairs of the City or any of its officers. Upon completion of the audit, the results thereof in a summary form shall be placed on file in the City Secretary's office as a public record and in the Friendswood Public Library for the public's information.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997)

**State law reference**—Audit of municipal finances, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 103.001 et seq.

#### **Sec. 8.08. Purchasing.**

All purchases made and contracts executed by the City shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and statutes of the State of Texas.

**State law reference**—Purchases, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 252.001 et seq.

### **ARTICLE IX. FRANCHISES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES\***

#### **Sec. 9.01. Powers of the City.**

In addition to the City's power to buy, construct, lease, maintain, operate, and regulate public utilities and to manufacture, distribute, and sell the output of such utility operations, the City shall have such further power as may now or hereafter be granted under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

#### **Sec. 9.02. Power to grant franchise.**

The Council shall have the power by ordinance to grant, renew, and extend all franchises of all public utilities of every character operating within the City and, with consent of the franchise holder, to amend the same; provided, however, that no franchise shall be granted for an indeterminate term, and that no franchise shall be granted for a term of more than 30 years from the date of the grant, renewal, or extension.

**\*State law reference**—Water and utilities, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code ch. 401 et seq.

**Sec. 9.03. Ordinance granting franchise.**

Every ordinance granting, renewing, extending or amending a public utility franchise shall be read at two regular meetings of the Council. Within seven days following the first reading of the ordinance, the full text of the ordinance shall be published one time in the official newspaper, and the expense of such publication shall be borne by the prospective franchise holder.

(Res. No. R6-80, § 3, 4-7-1980, election 4-5-1980)

**Charter reference**—Ordinances in general, § 3.11.

**Sec. 9.04. Grant not to be exclusive.**

No grant or franchise to construct, maintain or operate a public utility and no renewal or extension of such grant shall be exclusive.

**Sec. 9.05. Transfer of franchise.**

No public utility franchise shall be transferable except with the approval of the Council as expressed by ordinance. The term "transferable," as used herein, shall not be construed in such a manner as to prevent the franchise holder from pledging said franchise as security for a valid debt or mortgage.

**Sec. 9.06. Franchise value not to be allowed.**

In fixing reasonable rates and charges for utility service within the City and in determining the just compensation to be paid by the City for public utility property which the City may acquire by condemnation or otherwise, nothing shall be included as the value of any franchise granted by the City under this Charter.

**Sec. 9.07. Right of regulation.**

All grants, renewals, extensions, or amendments of public utility franchises, whether it [they] be so provided in the ordinance or not, shall be subject to the right of the City:

- (a) To repeal the same by ordinance at any time for failure to begin construction or operation within the time prescribed or otherwise to comply with the terms of the franchise, such power to be exercised only after due notice and hearing.
- (b) To require an adequate extension of plant and service as is necessary to provide adequate service to the public, and maintenance of the plant and fixtures at the highest reasonable standard of efficiency.
- (c) To establish reasonable standards of service and quality of products and prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates.
- (d) To prescribe the form of accounts kept by each utility franchisee.
- (e) To impose regulations to ensure safe, efficient and continuous service to the public. The franchise holder in opening and refilling of all earth openings shall relay the pavement and do all other work necessary to complete restoration of streets, sidewalks or grounds to a condition equally as good or better as when disturbed.

- (f) To require at any time such compensation and rental as may be permitted by the laws of the State of Texas.

(Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2017-20, § 1(exh. A), 8-7-2017)

**Sec. 9.08. Extensions.**

All extensions of public utilities within the City limits shall become a part of the aggregate property of the public utility, shall be operated as such, and shall be subject to all the obligations and reserved rights contained in this Charter and in any original grant hereafter made. The right to use and maintain any extension shall terminate with the original grant and shall be terminable as provided in Section 9.07. In case of an extension of a public utility operated under a franchise hereafter granted, such right shall be terminable at the same time and under the same conditions as the original grant.

**Sec. 9.09. Regulation of rates.**

To the extent permitted by law, the Council shall have full power to regulate the rates, charges, and fares of each public utility franchise holder operating in the City.

(Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992)

**State law references**—Authority to regulate certain rates, V.T.C.A., Utilities Code § 33.001 et seq.; V.T.C.A., Utilities Code § 103.001 et seq.

**Sec. 9.10. Public service corporations to file annual reports.**

(a) The Council may require all public service corporations operating within the corporate limits of the City to file a sworn annual report of the receipts from the operation of the said business for the current year, how expended, how much thereof for betterments or improvements, the rate of tolls or charges for services rendered to the public, and any other facts or information that the Council may deem pertinent for its use, including reports on operations within the City in intelligently passing upon any questions that may arise between the City and the said public service corporations; said reports to be filed with the City Secretary, and preserved for the use of the City Council. Such reports shall be reviewed annually by the Council to determine the propriety of the rates being charged.

(b) Any public service corporation, partnership, or proprietorship who shall for a 30-day period willfully refuse or fail to report in the manner provided by this Charter shall forfeit and pay to the City the sum of \$1,000.00 per day for each and every day during which it shall continue in default; or, if any such enterprise shall file any report, knowing that the same does not truly report the facts about the matters mentioned therein, it shall forfeit and pay to the City the sum of \$5,000.00 for each such willfully false report and shall be liable for submittal of a corrected report within two weeks from notification by the City of any errors under the same penalty provisions as the original report.

(Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 14, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**Sec. 9.11. Accounts of municipally owned utilities.**

Accounts shall be kept for each public utility owned or operated by the City, in such manner as to show the true and complete financial results of such City ownership and operation, including all assets, appropriately subdivided into different classes, all liabilities subdivided by classes, depreciation reserve, other reserves, and surplus; also revenues, operating expenses including depreciation, interest payments,

rental, and other disposition of annual income. The accounts shall show the actual capital cost to the City of each public utility owned, also the cost of all extensions, additions and improvements, and the source of the funds expended for such capital purposes. They shall show as nearly as possible the cost of any service furnished to or rendered by any such utility to any other City or Governmental Department. The Council shall annually cause to be made by a certified public accountant and shall publish a report showing the financial results of such City ownership and operation, giving the information specified in this section or such data as the Council shall deem expedient.

**Sec. 9.12. Sales of municipal services.**

The Council shall have the power and authority by ordinance:

- (a) In or outside the limits of the City, to sell and distribute water; sell and provide sewer service; sell and provide garbage and trash collection and disposition; and to sell and provide other municipal services.
- (b) To establish specifications for materials and construction used within or beyond the limits of the City for such municipal services; inspect same and require such materials to be kept in good order and condition at all times; make such rules and regulations as shall be necessary and proper; and prescribe penalties for noncompliance with same.

**Sec. 9.13. Franchise records.**

The City shall compile and maintain a public record of public utility franchises.

**ARTICLE X. RESERVED\***

**Secs. 10.01—10.05. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 11.01. Public records.**

All public records of the City shall be maintained and available for public inspection as provided by applicable State and Federal open records laws.

(Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997)

**State law references**—Public information, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 552.001 et seq.; Local Government Records Act, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 201.001 et seq.

**\*Editor's note**—Res. No. R97-6, § 1, adopted Feb. 17, 1997, passed at the election of May 3, 1997, repealed Art. X, §§ 10.01—10.05, which pertained to transitional provisions.

**Sec. 11.02. City newspaper.**

The Council shall, at a minimum, biennially designate a public newspaper of general circulation in the City as official publication thereof, and to continue as such until another is designated, and shall cause to be published therein all ordinances, notices and other matters required by this Charter, by the ordinances of the City, or by the Constitution and/or laws of the State of Texas to be published. (Res. No. 2012-12, § 4, 5-21-2012, election 5-12-2012; Ord. No. 2022-13, § 15, 5-18-2022, election 5-7-2022)

**State law reference**—Official newspaper, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 2051.041 et seq.

**Sec. 11.03. Personal financial interest.**

No member of the Council or other officer or employee of the City shall have a pecuniary interest in any contract, the expense, price, or consideration of which is paid from the City Treasury, or have a pecuniary interest in any matter or item requiring the approval or consent of the City, unless in compliance with applicable laws of the State of Texas governing conflicts of interest. (Res. No. R2002-10, § 7, 2-18-2002, election 5-4-2002)

**State law reference**—Conflicts of interest, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 171.001 et seq.

**Sec. 11.04. Nepotism.**

No appointment to the service of the City shall violate the prohibitions against nepotism set forth in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 573.001 et seq., as amended. (Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Ord. No. 2012-29, § 1(exh. A), 11-5-2012)

**State law reference**—Nepotism, V.T.C.A., Government Code § 573.001 et seq.

**Sec. 11.05. Assignment, execution, and garnishment.**

The property, real and personal, belonging to the City shall not be liable to be sold or appropriated under any writ or execution or cost bill. The funds belonging to the City, in the hands of any person, firm or corporation, shall not be liable to garnishment, attachment, or sequestration; nor shall the City be liable to garnishment on account of any debt it may owe or funds or property it may have on hand or owing to any person. Neither the City nor any of its officers or agents shall be required to answer any such writ of garnishment on any account whatever. The City shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of wages or funds by its employees, agents or contractors.

**Sec. 11.06. Security or bond not required.**

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit or proceeding in which the City is a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be demanded or executed by or on behalf of said City in any of the State Courts, but in all such actions, suits, appeals, or proceedings same shall be conducted in the same manner as if such bond, undertaking, or security had been given as required by law.

**Sec. 11.07. Separability clause.**

If any section or part of section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which such

section or part of section so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire section or part of section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of section to which such holding shall directly apply.

**Sec. 11.08. Amending the Charter.**

Amendments to this Charter may be framed and submitted to the voters of the City in the manner provided by V.T.C.A., Local Government Code ch. 9, as now enacted or hereafter amended. (Ord. No. 2012-29, § 1(exh. A), 11-5-2012)

**Sec. 11.09. Charter Review Commission.**

The Council shall appoint at its first regular meeting in July of every fifth year after approval of this Charter, a Charter Review Commission composed of seven citizens of the City of Friendswood.

(a) *Duties of the Commission.*

- (1) Inquire into the operation of the City government under the Charter provisions and determine whether any such provisions require revision. To this end public hearings may be held.
- (2) Propose, if it deems desirable, amendments to this Charter to improve the effective application of the Charter to current conditions.
- (3) Report its findings and present its proposed amendments, if any, to the Council.

(b) *Action by the Council.* The Council shall receive the final report of the Charter Review Commission, shall consider any recommendations made, and if deemed appropriate by the Council, may order such amendment or amendments to be submitted to the voters of the City at a Special Election to be held for such purpose in accordance with law. The Council shall cause such proposed amendments to be published not less than 45 nor more than 90 days prior to the date set for such election. Notice of such election shall be given in accordance with law.

(c) *Term of office.* The term of office of such Charter Review Commission shall be six months, and at the completion of such term a report shall be presented to the Council, and all records of the proceedings of such Commission shall be filed with the City Secretary and shall become a public record.

(Res. No. R88-15, § 3, 5-9-1988; Res. No. R92-19, § 3, 3-24-1992, election 5-2-1992; Res. No. R97-6, § 1, 2-17-1997, election 5-3-1997)

**Sec. 11.10. Submission of Charter to voters.**

The Charter Review Commission in preparing this Charter concludes that it is impracticable to segregate each subject so as to permit a vote of "yes" or "no" on the same, for the reason that the Charter is so constructed that in order to enable it to work and function it is necessary that it should be adopted in its entirety. For these reasons, the Charter Review Commission directs that the said Charter be voted upon as a whole and that it shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City of Friendswood at an election to be held for that purpose on October 16, 1971. Not less than 30 days prior to such election, the City Council shall cause the City Secretary to mail a copy of this Charter to each qualified voter of the

CHARTER

§ 11.10

City of Friendswood as appears from the latest certified list of registered voters. If a majority of the qualified voters voting in such election shall vote in favor of the adoption of this Charter, it shall become the Charter of the City of Friendswood, and after the returns have been canvassed, the same shall be declared adopted and the City Secretary shall file an official copy of the Charter with the records of the City. The City Secretary shall furnish the Mayor a copy of said Charter, which copy of the Charter so adopted, authenticated and certified by his[/her] signature and the seal of the City, shall be forwarded by the Mayor to the Secretary of State of the State of Texas and shall show the approval of such Charter by majority vote of the qualified voters voting at such election.



### CHARTER COMPARATIVE TABLE

This table shows the location of the sections of the basic Charter and any amendments thereto.

Ordinance Number	Date	Section	Election Date	Section this Charter
Ord. No. 214	3-4-1974	1	4-6-1974	2.03
		1		2.05
		1		3.05
		1		3.06
		1		3.11
		1		3.17
		1		6.02
		1		8.05
Res. No. R6-80	4-7-1980	3	4-5-1980	3.09
		3		3.10
		3		3.11
		3		4.01
		3		9.03
Res. No. R3-82	3-1-1982	1		2.02
		1		3.05
		1		3.11
		1		5.06
		1		5.12
		1		6.02
Res. No. R88-15	5-9-1988	3		1.02
		3		3.01
		3		3.02
		3		3.05
		3		3.06
		3		3.08
		3		3.09
		3		3.10
		3		3.11
		3		3.14
		3		4.01
		3		4.02
		3		4.03
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		3		4.05
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		3		5.10
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3	6.02			
3	6.03			
3	6.04			
3	8.03			

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		3		8.04
		3		8.07
		3		11.04
		3		11.09
Res. No. R92-19	3-24-1992	3	5-2-1992	3.01
		3		3.11
		3		3.12
		3		4.02
		3		6.02
		3		6.05
		3		9.09
		3		11.09
Res. No. R97-6	2-17-1997	1	5-3-1997	2.03
		1		2.05
		1		2.06
		1		3.01
		1		3.09
		1		4.04
		1		4.06
		1		5.04
		1		5.06
		1		6.02
		1		6.04
		1		8.05
		1		8.07
		1		9.07
		1		9.10
		1		11.01
		1		11.09
Res. No. R2002-10	2-18-2002	7	5-4-2002	3.06
		7		3.09
		7		3.11
		7		3.17
		7		5.03
		7		6.01
		7		6.02
		7		8.03
		7		11.03
Res. No. R2002-14	3-4-2002	1	5-4-2002	3.10
Res. No. R2007-09	3-5-2007	1	5-12-2007	1.00
		1		1.02
		1		2.01
		1		2.03
		1		3.01
		1		3.05
		1		3.08
		1		3.09
		1		3.10
		1		3.17

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		1		4.06
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		1		6.01
		1		6.02
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Res. No. R2009-06	1-12-2009	1	5-9-2009	4.01
Res. No. R2009-28	5-18-2009	4	5-9-2009	4.01
Res. No. 2012-12	5-21-2012	4	5-12-2012	1.00
		4		2.06
		4		3.05
		4		3.09
		4		3.10
		4		3.11
		4		3.14
		4		4.01
		4		6.02
		4		11.02
Ord. No. 2012-29	11-5-2012	1(exh. A)		2.05
		1(exh. A)		2.07
		1(exh. A)		11.04
		1(exh. A)		11.08
Res. No. R2017-16	5-15-2017	4		3.11
		4		3.01
		4		3.06
		4		4.01
Ord. No. 2017-20	8-7-2017	1(exh. A)		1.00
		1(exh. A)		1.01
		1(exh. A)		1.02
		1(exh. A)		2.01
		1(exh. A)		3.14
		1(exh. A)		4.03
		1(exh. A)		7.02
		1(exh. A)		8.03
		1(exh. A)		9.07
Ord. No. 2022-13	5-18-2022	6	5- 7-2022	2.01
		7		3.09
		8		3.11
		9		4.04
		10		5.06(b)
		11		6.04(a)
		12		8.03(a), (c)
		13		8.05(f)
		14		9.10(a)
		15		11.02



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**FRIENDSWOOD CITY CODE**  
**Appendix A – SIGNS**  
**Sec. 153 – Temporary signs.**

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**Sec. 15. Temporary signs.**

- f. **Temporary political signs.** Temporary political signs shall comply with the regulations set forth in V.T.C.A., Election Code, ch. 259, *Political Signs*.
- (1) Private property. No permit shall be required under this chapter for a sign that contains primarily a political message and that is located on private real property with the consent of the property owner, provided that such sign:
    - (a) Does not have a surface area greater than thirty-six feet (36'), excluding the sign structure;
    - (b) Is not more than eight feet (8') high;
    - (c) Is not illuminated; and
    - (d) Has no moving elements.
  - (2) As used in this subsection, "private real property" does not include real property subject to an easement or other encumbrance that allows the city to use the property for a public purpose.
  - (3) Public property.
    - (a) *Prohibited.* Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section, a sign that contains primarily a political message is prohibited on public property, including the rights-of-way.
    - (b) *Exception.* A sign that contains primarily a political message may be in a designated area at least one hundred feet (100') from the main entrance to a polling place during a voting period at such polling place. An area may be designated by the city manager when a city facility is used as a polling place or by an official of another governmental entity when such entity's facility is used as a polling place. As used in this subsection, "voting period" means the continuous period beginning on the date that the polls are open for voting and ending on the date when the polls at such location are closed or the last voter has voted, whichever is later.
  - (4) *Removal.* The sign administrator may remove and dispose of any political sign placed on public property or within the public rights-of-way.
  - (5) *Permits.* Not required.

( Ord. No. 2023-26 , § 2, 10-2-2023)

ELECTION CODE  
TITLE 15. REGULATING POLITICAL FUNDS AND CAMPAIGNS  
CHAPTER 259. POLITICAL SIGNS

**Sec. 259.001. NOTICE REQUIREMENT ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING SIGNS.** (a) The following notice must be written on each political advertising sign: "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."

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) knowingly enters into a contract to print or make a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a); or

(2) instructs another person to place a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a).

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (b) that the political advertising sign was printed or made before September 1, 1997, and complied with Subsection (a) as it existed immediately before that date.

(e) In this section, "political advertising sign" means a written form of political advertising designed to be seen from a road but does not include a bumper sticker.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 288, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1134, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1349, Sec. 71, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Transferred and redesignated from Election Code, Section 255.007 by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 824 (H.B. 2554), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

# **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](#).

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## 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](#).