
1. What are the contribution limits in Texas?

Unless you are contributing to a judge, judicial candidate, or specific-purpose political committee supporting or opposing a judge or judicial candidate, there are no contribution limits under state law. You can find information about the judicial contribution and expenditure limits in the Judicial Campaign Finance Guide (/data/resources/judicial/jcoh_guide.pdf). You should check with your local filing authority (city, county, school district, or other type of political subdivision) to find out whether there are any local restrictions.

2. Do I still need to file a campaign treasurer appointment if I am not planning on accepting political contributions or making political expenditures?

Yes, as long as you are a candidate, you must have a treasurer appointment on file. See Forms/Instructions ▶ Treasurer Appointment Forms (</forms/TREASindex.php>) tab at the top of this page for detailed steps on how to file your treasurer appointment form.

3. Who is eligible to be a campaign treasurer? Can I appoint myself?

Generally, 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. See Elec. Code § 252.0011 (</statutes/title15.php#252.0011>). Otherwise, you can appoint any person, including yourself, as campaign treasurer.

4. Where do I file my campaign treasurer appointment?

Where you file your treasurer appointment depends on whether you are running for a “local” office or one that is required to file with the Texas Ethics Commission.

If you are a local candidate, you will file your treasurer appointment and your required reports with your local filing authority. Local offices may include:

- offices (county commissioner, tax assessor/collector, precinct chair, constable, justice of the peace, sheriff, etc.)
- City offices (mayor, council member, secretary, etc.)
- Political Subdivision offices (school board, community college trustee, municipal utility district, water district, etc.)

The filing authority for a local candidate or officeholder depends on the nature of the office sought or held:

- County Clerk. The county clerk (or the county elections administrator or tax assessor, as applicable) is the appropriate filing authority for a candidate for:
 - a county office
 - a precinct office
 - a district office (except for multi-county district offices)
 - an office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision is within the boundaries of a single county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.
- Other local filing authority. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority is the *clerk or secretary of the governing body* of the political subdivision. If

the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, the appropriate filing authority is the governing body's presiding officer.

If you are a statewide candidate or statewide political committee, you will file your treasurer appointment and your required reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. Statewide offices and other offices that file with the Texas Ethics Commission include:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Railroad Commissioner, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, State Chair of political party
- Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives
- Multi-county District Attorney
- State Board of Education
- Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Justice, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and district judges
- Office of a political subdivision other than a county located in more than one county and with a governing body that has not been formed (*Example: A newly created utility district with boundaries crossing a county line*)
- Specific-purpose political committee supporting or opposing a person that files with the Commission
- General-purpose political committee, including a political party executive committee
- Legislative Caucus

See Elec. Code §§ 252.005 (</statutes/title15.php#252.005>), .006 (</statutes/title15.php#252.006>), .007 (</statutes/title15.php#252.007>), and/or .009 (</statutes/title15.php#252.009>).

5. What must I do if I need to correct or amend my treasurer appointment?

If any of the information required to be reported on your Campaign Treasurer Appointment (TA) changes, you should file an **amended** TA.

You must use the appropriate TA AMENDMENT FORM to report the changes. To find your appropriate amendment TA form, see the Forms/Instructions ▶ Treasurer Appointment Forms (</forms/TREASindex.php>) tab at the top of this page. You will need to select your proper filer type and then use the AMENDMENT form, not the original APPOINTMENT form.

6. Where do I file my campaign finance reports?

Campaign finance reports are filed with the filing authority with whom a person's campaign treasurer appointment is required to be filed. See question 4 (/resources/FAQs/2020election_faqs.php#Q4), above.

7. Do I still need to file a campaign finance report for a period in which I do not have activity?

Generally yes, unless you are a local officeholder who has filed a final report and has had less than \$500 in political activity. You can find more information in the Campaign Finance Guide (/data/resources/guides/coh_state_guide.pdf) and Local Campaign Finance Guide (/data/resources/guides/coh_local_guide.pdf).

8. When are my reports due?

Please refer to the Filing Schedules (/filinginfo/schedules/filing_schedules.php).

9. What must I do if I need to correct my campaign finance report?

You may correct your campaign finance report filed with the Texas Ethics Commission or a local filing authority at any time. If you are required to file reports electronically with the Ethics Commission, then reports can be corrected through the software by selecting the option to "Correct a Filed Report." If you qualify to file reports on paper with the Ethics Commission, then you will need to submit a correction affidavit for your report type, an *affidavit for electronic filing exemption* (</forms/affd/affs.php#file>) for your filer type, and the pages of the report that are being corrected. If you are required to file reports with a local filing authority, you will need to submit a correction affidavit and the pages of the report that are being corrected. Depending on the type of report that is being corrected, you should use the appropriate correction affidavit form specific to your filer type found under the *Forms/Instructions* tab at the top of this page.

10. Do I have to open a campaign bank account?

Texas law requires political contributions to be kept in one or more bank accounts that are separate from any other bank account maintained by an individual. Please note, the Texas Ethics Commission does not interpret or enforce any law governing the name on a bank account or electronic identification numbers.

11. Can businesses and labor organizations make political contributions?

Corporations (including nonprofit corporations) and **labor organizations** may not make political contributions in connection with Texas and local elections. In addition, the following associations, whether incorporated or not, are considered to be corporations for purposes of the restriction on corporate political contributions: banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations or companies, insurance companies, reciprocal or inter-insurance exchanges, railroad companies, cemetery companies, government-regulated cooperatives, stock companies, and abstract and title insurance companies.

A corporation may, however, establish and administer its own political committee.

A **professional corporation** or **professional association** is not considered a "corporation" for purposes of the restrictions on corporate political contributions, and may make political contributions subject to the above restrictions. See Ethics Commission Rules § 20.1(4) (</rules/commission/ch20pl.php#20.1>).

A **limited liability company (LLC)**, **partnership**, **limited partnership**, or any other form of business entity, may not make a political contribution in connection with Texas and local elections *if the entity has any corporate ownership*. Otherwise, it is permitted to make political contributions.

12. Do I need to file a report after the election is over?

After an election is over, you may file a final report at any time. A final report terminates your campaign treasurer appointment. Please note, you may not make any political expenditures or accept political contributions if your campaign treasurer appointment has been terminated. If you have leftover campaign funds after the election, you should dispose of them before filing a final report. Otherwise, you will have to file annual reports of unexpended contributions. If you do not file a final report, you must file regular semiannual reports until you file a final report. For more information, please refer to the Campaign Finance Guide (/data/resources/guides/coh_state_guide.pdf) and Local Campaign Finance Guide (/data/resources/guides/coh_local_guide.pdf). Also see Ending Your Campaign (</resources/cf/StartEndCampaign.php#end>) or Dissolving a PAC (</resources/cf/StartEndPAC.php#end>).

13. What can I do with my political contributions, including leftover political contributions after my campaign is over?

Please see [Personal Use of Political Contributions \(/resources/cf/Personal_Use_Of_Contributions.php\)](/resources/cf/Personal_Use_Of_Contributions.php) and the [Campaign Finance Guide \(/data/resources/guides/coh_state_guide.pdf\)](/data/resources/guides/coh_state_guide.pdf) and [Local Campaign Finance Guide \(/data/resources/guides/coh_local_guide.pdf\)](/data/resources/guides/coh_local_guide.pdf). Also see [Ending Your Campaign \(/resources/cf/StartEndCampaign.php#end\)](/resources/cf/StartEndCampaign.php#end) or [Dissolving a PAC \(/resources/cf/StartEndPAC.php#end\)](/resources/cf/StartEndPAC.php#end).

All fields **MUST** be completed **UNLESS MARKED OPTIONAL**.¹ Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application.

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT (Democratic or Republican)					
TO: State/County Chair					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.					
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)				INDICATE TERM <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED	
FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last)			PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*		
PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.)			PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Address for which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.)		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (If available)		OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)		DATE OF BIRTH / /	VOTER REGISTRATION VOID NUMBER ² (Optional)
TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) Home: Work: Cell:		LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE APPLICATION SWORN IN STATE ____ year(s) ____ month(s)		IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED ____ year(s) ____ month(s)	
*If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan or contain a title, nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election.					
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 finally convicted of a felony for which I have not been pardoned or had my full rights of citizenship restored by other official action. 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 further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."					
X _____ SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the ____ day of _____, _____, by _____.					
			Month	Year	Name of Candidate
Signature of Officer Administering Oath ³			Title of Officer Administering Oath		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR DESIGNEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH, <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK, <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER, <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK, OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE.					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ is pages received.					
(See Section 1.007)					
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received	Date Accepted	Signature of Chair or Designee	

INSTRUCTIONS

The application shall be filed with the state chair for all statewide offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters in more than one county. The application shall be filed with the county chair for all county and precinct offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters of a single county. For those offices filled by the choice of voters of a single county, the application may also be filed with the secretary of the county executive committee, if there is one. (Section 172.022, Texas Election Code) The candidate application must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a completed Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee signed by a certain number of qualified voters. (Section 172.021, Texas Election Code) The filing deadline is 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday in December of odd-numbered years. (Section 172.023, Texas Election Code).

NEPOTISM LAW

The candidate must sign this statement indicating his awareness 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 himself, or to any other member of the governing body or court on which he serves when the compensation of that person is to be paid out of public funds or fees of office. However, nothing in the law prevents the appointment, voting for, or confirmation of anyone who has been continuously employed in the office or employment for the following period prior to the election or appointment of the officer or member related to the employee in the prohibited degree: one year, if the officer or member is elected at the general election for state and county officers.

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

Examples of relatives within the third degree of consanguinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: parent, child;
- (2) Second degree: brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild;
- (3) Third degree: great-grandparent, great-grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece.

These include relatives by blood, half-blood, and legal adoption. Examples of relatives within the second degree of affinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: spouse, spouse's parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law;
- (2) Second degree: brother's spouse, sister's spouse, spouse's brother, spouse's sister, spouse's grandparent.

Persons related by affinity (marriage) include spouses of relatives by consanguinity, and, if married, the spouse and the spouse's relatives by consanguinity. These examples are not all inclusive.

FOOTNOTES

¹ 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)

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

³All oaths, affidavits, or affirmations made within this State may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by a judge, clerk, or commissioner of any court of record, a notary public, a justice of the peace, and the Secretary of State of Texas. See Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code for the complete list.

FILING FEE SCHEDULE

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

Todos los campos DEBEN ser completados a MENOS QUE ESTÉN MARCADOS COMO OPCIONALES. ¹ El no proporcionar la información requerida puede resultar en el rechazo de la solicitud.

SOLICITUD PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA DE LA ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA GENERAL DEL PARTIDO _____					
A: Presidente Estatal del Partido/Presidente del Condado			(Democrático o Republicano)		
Solicito que mi nombre se coloque en la boleta oficial de la primaria mencionada anteriormente como candidato(a) para la nominación para el cargo que se indica a continuación.					
CARGO OFICIAL SOLICITADO (Incluya cualquier número de cargo u otro número distintivo, si el cargo lo tiene.)				INDIQUE TÉRMINO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO COMPLETO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO INCOMPLETO	
NOMBRE COMPLETO (Primer Nombre, Segundo Nombre, Apellido)			ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE COMO DESEA QUE APAREZCA EN LA BOLETA*		
DIRECCIÓN RESIDENCIAL PERMANENTE (No incluya una casilla postal o una ruta rural. Si usted no tiene una dirección residencial, describa la ubicación de su residencia.)			DIRECCIÓN POSTAL PÚBLICA (Dirección a la que recibirá correspondencia relacionada a su campaña, si está disponible.)		
CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL	CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PÚBLICO (Si está disponible)	OCUPACIÓN (No deje este espacio en blanco)	FECHA DE NACIMIENTO / /	VUID – NÚMERO ÚNICO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DE VOTANTE ² (Opcional)		
INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO (Opcional) Tel. de Domicilio: Tel. de Oficina: Tel. Celular:			DURACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA CONTINUA A PARTIR DE LA FECHA QUE USTED HAGA EL JURAMENTO DE ESTA SOLICITUD		
			EN EL ESTADO ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)		EN EL TERRITORIO/DISTRITO/PRECINTO POR EL CUAL SERIA ELECTO/A ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)
*Si usted incluye un apodo como parte de su nombre en la boleta, usted también firma y jura lo siguiente: Yo también juro que mi apodo no constituye un lema o contiene un título, ni tampoco es una indicación de mis creencias o afiliaciones políticas, económicas, sociales o religiosas. He sido conocido comúnmente por este apodo por lo menos tres años antes de esta elección.					
Ante mí, la autoridad suscrita, apareció en persona este día (nombre del candidato) _____, quien habiendo aquí y ahora prestado juramento debido, bajo juramento dice:					
“Yo, (nombre del candidato) _____, del condado de _____, Texas, siendo candidato para el cargo oficial de _____, solemnemente juro que apoyaré y defenderé la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos y del Estado de Texas. Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos elegible para ocupar tal cargo oficial bajo la Constitución y las leyes de este Estado. No he sido finalmente condenado por una felonía por la cual no he sido perdonado o por la cual no se me han restituido enteramente mis derechos de ciudadanía por medio de otra acción oficial. No se me ha determinado por un juicio final de una jurisdicción testamentaria tribunal que juzga, ser totalmente incapacitado mentalmente o parcialmente incapacitado sin el derecho de votar. Yo tengo conocimiento de la ley sobre el nepotismo según el Capítulo 573 del Código de Gobierno.					
Además juro que las anteriores declaraciones que incluyo en mi solicitud son verdaderas y son correctas en todo sentido.”					
X _____ FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO					
Jurado y suscrito ante mí en _____, este día ____ de _____, por _____.					
			Mes	Año	Nombre del Candidato
SELLO					
Firma del oficial administrando el juramento ³			Título del oficial administrando el juramento		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR DESIGNEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH, <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK, <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER, <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK, OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE.					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ is pages received.					
(See Section 1.007)					
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received	Date Accepted	Signature of Chair or Designee	

INSTRUCCIONES

La solicitud deberá presentarse ante el presidente estatal del partido para todas las oficinas estatales y todas las oficinas del distrito que se llenan por la selección de votantes en más de un condado. La solicitud deberá presentarse ante el presidente del condado para todas las oficinas del condado y del precinto y todas las oficinas del distrito que se llenan por la selección de votantes de un solo condado. Para aquellas oficinas llenas por la elección de los votantes de un solo condado, la solicitud también podrá presentarse al secretario del comité ejecutivo del condado, si hay uno. (Sección 172.022, Código Electoral de Texas) La solicitud del candidato debe ir acompañada de una cuota de presentación o una Petición Presentada en Sustitución del Pago de Derechos de Inscripción firmada por un cierto número de votantes calificados. (Sección 172.021, Código Electoral de Texas) La fecha límite de presentación es las 6:00 p.m. el segundo lunes de diciembre de años impares. (Sección 172.023, Código Electoral de Texas).

LEY SOBRE EL NEPOTISMO

El candidato deberá firmar esta declaración indicando que él/ella está enterado(a) de la ley sobre el nepotismo. Lo siguiente es un resumen de las prohibiciones del nepotismo de acuerdo al capítulo 573 de Código Gobierno:

Ningún oficial podrá nombrar, o votar por o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de alguna persona que está emparentada con él dentro del segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o dentro del tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre), o que está emparentada con cualesquier otro miembro del cuerpo directivo o corte en que él/ella celebra sesión cuando la compensación de esa persona estará pagada con fondos públicos o los honorarios del puesto oficial. Sin embargo, la ley no prohíbe el nombramiento, el votar por, o la confirmación de alguna persona que continuadamente ha sido empleado de la oficina o ha sido empleado durante el siguiente plazo antes de la elección o el nombramiento del oficial o miembro que está emparentado con el empleado en el grado prohibido: un año, si el oficial o miembro está elegido en la elección general para oficiales del estado y del condado.

Ningún candidato podrá obrar para influir a un empleado del puesto oficial al cual el candidato desea estar elegido o un empleado o oficial del cuerpo fiscal al cual el candidato desea estar elegido en cuanto al nombramiento o al empleo de una persona que está emparentada con el candidato en un grado prohibido como notado arriba. Esta restricción no se dirige a las acciones de un candidato respecto a una clase o categoría de buena fe de empleados o empleados anticipados.

Los ejemplos de parientes dentro del tercer grado de consanguinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: padre, madre, hijo(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: hermano(a), abuelo(a), nieto(a);
- (3) Tercer grado: bisabuelo(a), bisnieto(a), tío(a), sobrino(a).

Los siguientes incluyen parientes de linaje (sangre), medios hermanos, y adopción legal.

Los ejemplos de parientes dentro del segundo grado de afinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: esposo(a), suegro(a), yerno(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: cuñado(a), abuelo(a) del esposo o esposa.

Las personas que están emparentadas por afinidad (matrimonio) incluyen los esposos o esposas de parientes que están emparentados por consanguinidad, y, si casados, el esposo o esposa y los parientes del esposo o esposa por consanguinidad. No todos estos ejemplos son inclusivos.

ANOTACIONES

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

²La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en Inglés) es opcional. Sin embargo, para muchos candidatos, es un requisito estar registrados como votantes en el territorio por el cual serían electo/a a partir de la fecha límite de la solicitud.

³Todos los juramentos, declaraciones juradas o afirmaciones hechas dentro de este Estado pueden ser administrados y un certificado del hecho dado por un juez, secretario o comisionado de un tribunal 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.

LISTA DE CUOTAS DE REGISTRO

Senador de los Estados Unidos	\$5,000
Todos los otros puestos oficiales representando todo el Estado	\$3,750
Representante de los Estados Unidos	\$3,125
Senador del Estado	\$1,250
Representante del Estado	\$750
Miembro, Junta de Educación Estatal	\$300
Juez Presidente o Juez, Corte de Apelación (excepto como provisto abajo))	\$1,875
Juez presidente o juez de una corte de apelación que sirve una corte de apelación del distrito en el cual un condado con una población de más de un millón está situado total o parcialmente	\$2,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez mencionado específicamente por la Sec. 52.092(d) por el cual esta lista no prescribe de otro modo una gratificación	\$1,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez de Distrito Criminal de una corte en un distrito judicial situado completamente en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Juez de una Corte de Condado Estatutaria (excepto como provisto abajo)	\$1,500
Juez de una corte de condado estatutario en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Fiscal de Distrito o Fiscal de Distrito Criminal o Procurador del Condado que cumple con las mismas obligaciones de un fiscal del distrito	\$1,250
Juez de Condado, Comisionado del Condado, Secretario del Distrito, Secretario del Condado, Sherife, Asesor-Colector de Impuestos del Condado o Tesorero del Condado	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 habitantes o más	\$1,250
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000 habitantes	\$750
Juez de Paz o Agente de la policía	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 habitantes o más	\$1,000
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000 habitantes	\$375
Agrimensor del Condado, Pesador Público o Inspector de Pieles y Animales	\$75
Todos los puestos oficiales del condado que no se han mencionado	\$750

Form Notes

Name of Form: Application for a Place on the _____ Party General Primary Ballot.

Form Number: 2-2.

Section Reference: Sections 141.031, 172.021, 172.022, 172.023, 172.024, Texas Election Code

Purpose: To place candidate name on Primary Election ballot for a non-federal office.

Number of Copies Required: One.

Completed By: Candidate.

Filing Deadline: 6:00 p.m. of the second Monday in December of odd-numbered years.

Filed With: The application must be filed with the state chair for all statewide offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters in more than one county. The application must be filed with the county chair for all county and precinct offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters of a single county. For those offices filled by the choice of voters of a single county, the application may also be filed with the secretary of the county executive committee, if there is one.

The candidate application must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a completed Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee signed by a certain number of qualified voters. The filing deadline is 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday in December of odd-numbered years.

Comments: Candidates for federal office should review Form 2-4 (Application for a Place on the _____ Party General Primary Ballot for a Federal Office).

Printing Notes: Actual form is printed 8½ x 11. They are available from the Secretary of State's Office or www.sos.state.tx.us.

Version: Current form is 9/2019.

Previous version form 8/2017 is still valid.

**GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE:
CONTROLLING ENTITY INFORMATION**

15 COMMITTEE NAME

16 CONTROLLING ENTITY INFORMATION	FULL NAME OF CONTROLLING ENTITY ACRONYM
	FULL NAME OF CONTROLLING ENTITY ACRONYM
	FULL NAME OF CONTROLLING ENTITY ACRONYM
	FULL NAME OF CONTROLLING ENTITY ACRONYM

17 CONTRIBUTION DECISION MAKERS	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix

18 EXPENDITURE DECISION MAKERS	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix
	First MI Last Suffix

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 3
ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED**

**GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE:
RECIPIENT COMMITTEES**

**FORM GTA
PG 3**

**19 COMMITTEE
NAME**

**20 RECIPIENT
GENERAL
PURPOSE
COMMITTEES**

Committee name

.....
Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

Committee name

.....
Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

Committee name

.....
Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

Committee name

.....
Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

Committee name

.....
Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

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

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 4
ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED**

**GENERAL-PURPOSE COMMITTEE:
STATEMENT AUTHORIZING DIRECT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES
FROM CORPORATION OR LABOR ORGANIZATION POLITICAL
CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER SECTION 252.003, ELECTION CODE**

**21 COMMITTEE
NAME**

**22 AFFIRMATION
(if applicable)**

I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury that the following statement is in all things true and correct:

(Check if
applicable)

The political committee named above is not established or controlled by a candidate or an officeholder, and will not use any political contribution from a corporation or a labor organization to make a political contribution to: (1) a candidate for elective office or an officeholder, or (2) a political committee that has not included in its campaign treasurer appointment a Direct Campaign Expenditures from Corporation or Labor Organization Political Contributions declaring the same.

PLEASE COMPLETE EITHER OPTION (1) OR (2) BELOW:

(1) **Affidavit Jurat:**

Signature of Committee Representative

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

OR

(2) **Unsworn Declaration Jurat:**

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____.

Signature of Committee Representative (Declarant)

Filers may send this form to the TEC electronically at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us or by mail to:

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



**TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
2020 FILING SCHEDULE FOR
GENERAL-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (GPAC),
INCLUDING COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES (CEC), AND
SPECIFIC-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES (SPAC)**

This is a filing schedule for general-purpose political committees, including county executive committees (referred to in this schedule as CEC), that have elected to file campaign finance reports under the *regular* filing schedule (referred to in this schedule as GPAC) and specific-purpose political committees (referred to in this schedule as SPAC). *NOTE:* A general-purpose political committee that has elected to file reports under the monthly filing schedule should use the 2020 FILING SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL-PURPOSE POLITICAL COMMITTEES FILING MONTHLY (MPAC). Please see the note attached at the end of this schedule pertaining to judicial candidates and officeholders.

Specific-Purpose Committees Involved in School Bond Elections

Specific-purpose committees created to support or oppose a measure on the issuance of bonds by a school district must file all campaign finance reports with the Texas Ethics Commission instead of with the school district. However, such committees will continue to file campaign treasurer appointments with the school district (with the secretary or presiding officer of the school district board). For more information see the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES on our website.

NOTE: A political committee must file pre-election reports if the committee is involved with an election. 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.

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 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 reporting periods, a report filed on paper is considered timely filed if it is deposited with the U.S. Post Office properly addressed with postage and handling charges prepaid to P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas, 78711-2070, or a common or contract carrier properly addressed with postage and handling charges prepaid, or hand-delivered to 201 E. 14th St., Sam Houston Building, 10th Floor, Austin, Texas, 78701, 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 filed on time.

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 a political committee filed a campaign treasurer 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 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
Wednesday, January 15, 2020	January semiannual [FORM GPAC] (all GPACs) [FORM SPAC] (all SPACs) [FORM CEC] (all CECs)	July 1, 2019, <i>or</i> the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i> the day after the date the last report ended.	December 31, 2019

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE MARCH 3, 2020, PRIMARY ELECTION

Monday, February 3, 2020 <i>Deadline is extended because of weekend.</i> NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than February 3, 2020.	30th day before the March 3, 2020, primary election [FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the March 3 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 March 3 election) *including a county chair candidate of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more [FORM CEC] (all CECs that are involved in the March 3 election)	January 1, 2020, <i>or</i> the date of campaign treasurer appointment, <i>or</i> the day after the date the last report ended.	January 23, 2020
--	--	--	------------------

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.

<p align="center"><u>COLUMN I</u></p> <p align="center">DUE DATE</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN II</u></p> <p align="center">TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN III</u></p> <p align="center">BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN IV</u></p> <p align="center">ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</p>
<p>Monday, February 24, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than February 24, 2020.</p>	<p>8th day before the March 3, 2020, primary election</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report,” or that are involved in the March 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 March 3 election)</p> <p>*including a county chair candidate of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more</p> <p>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report,” or that are involved in the March 3 election)</p>	<p>January 24, 2020, <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>February 22, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after February 22, 2020, 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.

<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
-----------------------------	---	---	---

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE MAY 2, 2020, UNIFORM ELECTION

<p>Thursday, April 2, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 2, 2020.</p>	<p>30th day before the May 2, 2020, uniform election</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs 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 supported or opposed an opposed candidate or a measure in the May 2 election)</p> <p>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that are involved in the May 2 election)</p>	<p>January 1, 2020, <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>March 23, 2020</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.

<p align="center"><u>COLUMN I</u></p> <p align="center">DUE DATE</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN II</u></p> <p align="center">TYPE OF REPORT (WHO FILES)</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN III</u></p> <p align="center">BEGINNING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</p>	<p align="center"><u>COLUMN IV</u></p> <p align="center">ENDING DATE OF PERIOD COVERED</p>
<p>Friday, April 24, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be received by the appropriate filing authority no later than April 24, 2020.</p>	<p>8th day before the May 2, 2020, uniform election</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>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report,” or that are involved in the May 2 election)</p>	<p>March 24, 2020, or</p> <p>the date of campaign treasurer appointment, or</p> <p>the day after the date the last report ended.</p>	<p>April 22, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after April 22, 2020, 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.

<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
-----------------------------	---	---	---

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE JULY 14, 2020, PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

<p>Monday, July 6, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than July 6, 2020.</p>	<p>Runoff report</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs that are involved in the July 14 runoff 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 July 14 runoff election)</p> <p>*including a county chair candidate of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more</p> <p>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that are involved in the July 14 runoff election)</p>	<p>February 23, 2020, <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>July 4, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after July 4, 2020, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p> <p>Filers who file the Runoff report will NOT file the semiannual report due July 15, 2020.</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.

<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
Wednesday, July 15, 2020	<p>July semiannual</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs) [FORM SPAC] (all SPACs) [FORM CEC] (all CECs)</p>	<p>January 1, 2020, <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, 2020</p> <p>Filers who file the July 6, 2020, Primary Runoff report will NOT file the semiannual report due July 15, 2020.</p>

REPORTS DUE BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL OR UNIFORM ELECTION

<p>Monday, October 5, 2020</p> <p><i>Deadline is extended because of weekend.</i></p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 5, 2020.</p>	<p>30th day before the November 3, 2020, general or uniform election</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>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that are involved in the November 3 election)</p>	<p>July 1, 2020, <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>September 24, 2020</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.

<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
<p>Monday, October 26, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: This report must be <u>received</u> by the appropriate filing authority no later than October 26, 2020.</p>	<p>8th day before the November 3, 2020, general or uniform election</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>[FORM CEC] (all CECs that filed a “30th Day Before Election Report,” or that are involved in the November 3 election)</p>	<p>September 25, 2020, <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>October 24, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: Daily pre-election reports of contributions accepted and direct campaign expenditures made after October 24, 2020, may be required. Please consult the Campaign Finance Guide for further information.</p>

<p>Friday, January 15, 2021</p>	<p>January semiannual</p> <p>[FORM GPAC] (all GPACs) [FORM SPAC] (all SPACs) [FORM CEC] (all CECs)</p>	<p>July 1, 2020, <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>December 31, 2020</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.

MORATORIUM ON CONTRIBUTIONS

December 12, 2020 – Last day to accept contributions before the 2021 Regular Legislative Session.

June 21, 2021 – First day to accept contributions after the 2021 Regular Legislative Session.

Please note that December 12, 2020, is the last day on which legislators, certain statewide officers, and certain political committees may accept contributions. The moratorium on accepting contributions begins December 13, 2020, and continues through June 20, 2021.

The following are subject to the moratorium:

- Statewide officeholders, including officeholders-elect;
- Members of the legislature, including members-elect;
- Specific-purpose committees that support, oppose, or assist statewide officeholders or members of the legislature; and
- Legislative caucuses.

Judicial offices are not covered by this moratorium. Judicial offices are subject to other laws that provide specific judicial fundraising periods.

A statewide officeholder or member of the legislature who was defeated at the November 3, 2020, general election is not subject to the moratorium, nor is a specific-purpose political committee that supports or assists only such an officeholder or member.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

A candidate subject to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act must file a campaign treasurer appointment (Form JCTA) with the proper filing authority before accepting a campaign contribution or making or authorizing a campaign expenditure. NOTE: The Judicial Campaign Fairness Act applies to political contributions and expenditures in connection with the office of chief justice or justice, supreme court; presiding judge or judge, court of criminal appeals; chief justice or justice, court of appeals; district judge; judge, statutory county court; or judge, statutory probate court.

Limited Time Period for Accepting Contributions. A candidate subject to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act may accept political contributions (campaign contributions or officeholder contributions) only during a limited time period.

Beginning Date. Candidates seeking an office that will be filled at the November 3, 2020, general election may accept political contributions during a time period that begins on **May 13, 2019**. (A **write-in candidate** may begin accepting contributions only after filing a declaration of write-in candidacy with the secretary of state or county judge, as applicable.)

Ending Date. The time period ends on one of the following dates, as applicable:

July 1, 2020, for candidates who lost in the primary election.

September 23, 2020, for candidates who lost in the primary runoff election.

March 3, 2021, for candidates who last appeared on the ballot in the general election.

2019 Judicial District Populations. The restrictions in the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act include contribution and expenditure limits, which may vary according to the population of the judicial district. The 2019 population certification for each judicial district is located at www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/resources/judicial/JudicialDistrictPopulations.pdf on the Ethics Commission's website.

Other Restrictions. Candidates and officeholders subject to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act are subject to various campaign finance restrictions that do not apply to nonjudicial candidates and officeholders. For more information, see the CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS on the Ethics Commission's website.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

What You Need to Know



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

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

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

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

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

(512) 463-5800

TDD (800) 735-2989

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

Revised July 16, 2019

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING

I. What Is Political Advertising?

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

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

Part A. What Does It Say?

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

Part B. Where Does It Appear?

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

II. When Is a Disclosure Statement Required?

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

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

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

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

III. What Should the Disclosure Statement Say?

A disclosure statement must include the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VI. The Fair Campaign Practices Act.

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

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

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

VII. Special Notice to Political Subdivisions and School Districts.

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

ROAD SIGNS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IV. What About Bumper Stickers?

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

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

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

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

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](#).