

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF
RONALD M. HANSEN,
RESPONDENT

§
§
§
§
§

BEFORE THE
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
SC-3180271

ORDER and AGREED RESOLUTION

I. Recitals

The Texas Ethics Commission (Commission) met on October 3, 2018, and considered sworn complaint SC-3180271. A quorum of the Commission was present. The Commission determined that there is credible evidence of violations of section 254.063 of the Election Code, a law administered and enforced by the Commission. To resolve and settle this complaint without further proceedings, the Commission adopted this resolution.

II. Allegations

The complaint alleged that the respondent did not file the July 2016, January 2017, July 2017, and January 2018 semiannual campaign finance reports.

III. Facts Supported by Credible Evidence

Credible evidence available to the Commission supports the following findings of fact:

1. At all times relevant to the complaint, the respondent was a candidate for the Coppell Independent School District (CISD) Board of Trustees.
2. The respondent filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the CISD on February 19, 2016, and was a candidate for the CISD Board of Trustees, Place 3, in the May 7, 2016, election. The respondent subsequently was a candidate for the CISD Board of Trustees, Place 4, in the May 6, 2017, election.
3. At all times relevant to the complaint, the respondent had not filed a final report and had an active campaign treasurer appointment on file.
4. The complaint alleged that the respondent did not file the July 2016, January 2017, July 2017, and January 2018 semiannual campaign finance reports.
5. In response to the complaint, the respondent filed campaign finance reports covering the reporting periods for each semiannual report. The reports, in combination, disclosed total political expenditures of \$7465.78 and total political contributions of \$100.

Filing of the July 2016 Semiannual Report

6. The respondent filed a 30-day pre-election report on April 7, 2016. The respondent filed an 8-day pre-election report on May 2, 2016 and disclosed \$1 in total political contributions maintained.
7. The deadline for the July 2016 semiannual report was July 15, 2016.
8. Records on file with the CISD indicate that the respondent did not file a July 2016 semiannual report by the deadline.

Filing of the January 2017 Semiannual Report

9. The deadline for the January 2017 semiannual report was January 17, 2017 (the deadline was extended because of the weekend and legal holiday).
10. Records on file with the CISD indicate that the respondent did not file a January 2017 semiannual report by the deadline.

Filing of the July 2017 Semiannual Report

11. The respondent filed an amended campaign treasurer appointment with the CISD on February 17, 2017. The respondent filed a 30-day pre-election report on April 18, 2017. The respondent filed an 8-day pre-election report on April 28, 2017 and disclosed \$394.60 in total political contributions maintained.
12. The deadline for the July 2017 semiannual report was July 17, 2017 (the deadline was extended because of the weekend).
13. Records on file with the CISD indicate that the respondent did not file a July 2017 semiannual report by the deadline.

Filing of the January 2018 Semiannual Report

14. The deadline for the January 2018 semiannual report was January 16, 2018 (the deadline was extended because of the legal holiday).
15. Records on file with the CISD indicate that the respondent did not file a January 2018 semiannual report by the deadline.

IV. Findings and Conclusions of Law

The facts described in Section III support the following findings and conclusions of law:

1. A 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. ELEC. CODE § 251.001(1). Examples of affirmative action include the filing of a campaign treasurer appointment. *Id.* § 251.001(1)(A).
2. A candidate shall file two reports for each year. *Id.* § 254.063(a). The first report shall be filed not later than July 15, and 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, as applicable, and continuing through June 30. *Id.* § 254.063(b). The second report shall be filed not later than January 15, and 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, as applicable, and continuing through December 31. *Id.* § 254.063(c).
3. If a candidate expects no reportable activity in connection with the candidacy to occur after the period covered by a report filed, the candidate may designate the report as a "final" report. *Id.* § 254.065(a). The designation of a report as a final report relieves the candidate of the duty to file additional reports and terminates the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment. *Id.* § 254.065(b).
4. The respondent was required to file the July 2016, January 2017, July 2017, and January 2018 semiannual reports because he had an active campaign treasurer appointment on file. Records on file with the CISD confirm that the respondent did not timely file those four semiannual reports.
5. Therefore, there is credible evidence of violations of section 254.063 of the Election Code.

V. Representations and Agreement by Respondent

By signing this order and agreed resolution and returning it to the Commission:

1. The respondent neither admits nor denies the facts described under Section III or the Commission's findings and conclusions of law described under Section IV, and consents to the entry of this order and agreed resolution solely for the purpose of resolving this sworn complaint.
2. The respondent consents to this order and agreed resolution and waives any right to further proceedings in this matter.
3. The respondent acknowledges that a candidate shall file two reports for each year. The first report shall be filed not later than July 15 and the second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The respondent agrees to comply with these requirements of the law.

VI. Confidentiality

This order and agreed resolution describes violations that the Commission has determined are neither technical nor *de minimis*. Accordingly, this order and agreed resolution is not confidential under section 571.140 of the Government Code and may be disclosed by members and staff of the Commission.

VII. Sanction

After considering the nature, circumstances, and consequences of the violations described under Sections III and IV, and after considering the sanction necessary to deter future violations, the Commission imposes a \$250 civil penalty.

VIII. Order

The Commission hereby orders that if the respondent consents to the proposed resolution, this order and agreed resolution is a final and complete resolution of SC-3180271.

AGREED to by the respondent on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Ronald M. Hansen, Respondent

EXECUTED by the Commission on: _____.

Texas Ethics Commission

By: _____
Seana Willing, Executive Director