

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF  
MARCEL HOWARD,  
RESPONDENT

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§

BEFORE THE  
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION  
SC-32511424

**RECEIVED**  
**APR 7 2026**  
Texas Ethics Commission

## ORDER AND AGREED RESOLUTION

### I. Recitals

The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) met on <sup>September</sup> ~~May~~ 23, 2026, to consider sworn complaint SC-32511424, which was filed on November 10, 2025. A quorum of the TEC was present. The TEC determined that there is credible evidence of violations of Section 254.064 of the Election Code.

To resolve and settle this complaint without further proceedings, the TEC adopted this resolution imposing a \$300 civil penalty.

### II. Allegation

The sworn complaint alleges that as an opposed candidate for city council in the November 4, 2025 election, the respondent failed to file a 30-day or 8-day pre-election campaign finance report, in violation of Section 254.064 of the Election Code.

### III. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

Credible evidence available to the TEC supports the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. The respondent was an unsuccessful non-incumbent candidate for city council in Glenn Heights, Texas, in the November 4, 2025 election.
2. The respondent did not file a 30-day or 8-day pre-election campaign finance report for the November 4, 2025 election.
3. Section 254.064 of the Election Code requires each candidate for office to file pre-election campaign finance reports 30 days and 8 days before the election.
4. After the sworn complaint was filed, the respondent filed late reports. These reports revealed that he accepted around \$1,400 in monetary contributions, spent about the same amount in monetary political expenditures, and accepted a few thousand dollars in in-kind political contributions.

#### IV. Representations and Agreement by Respondent

By signing this Order and Agreed Resolution and returning it to the TEC:

1. The respondent neither admits nor denies the findings of fact and conclusions of law described under Section III, and consents to the entry of this Order and Agreed Resolution solely for the purpose of resolving the sworn complaint.
2. The respondent consents to this Order and Agreed Resolution and waives any right to further proceedings in this matter. The respondent consents to TEC staff presenting this Order and Agreed Resolution to the Commissioners outside of the respondent's presence.
3. The respondent acknowledges that in addition to other reports, a candidate must file pre-election campaign finance reports 30 days and 8 days before the election.

#### V. Confidentiality

This Order and Agreed Resolution describes violations that the TEC 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 TEC.

#### VI. Sanction

The TEC may impose a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 or triple the amount at issue, whichever amount is more. Tex. Gov't Code § 571.173. The TEC shall consider the following factors in assessing a sanction: 1) the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, consequences, extent, and gravity of the violation; 2) the history and extent of previous violations; 3) the demonstrated good faith of the violator, including actions taken to rectify the consequences of the violation; 4) the penalty necessary to deter future violations; and 5) any other matters that justice may require. Tex. Gov't Code § 571.177.

##### *Factor 1: The Seriousness of the Violation*

The respondent filed no campaign finance reports before the election. Therefore, the public had no information about the respondent's campaign finance activity. Obviously, this negatively impacted public disclosure.

##### *Factor 2: The History and Extent of Previous Violations*

The respondent has no previous violations.

##### *Factor 3: The Demonstrated Good Faith of the Violator*

The respondent was a first-time candidate. There is no evidence of any intent to conceal activity or cheat disclosure on the respondent's part. Further, the respondent has worked in good faith with the TEC's enforcement staff to file his late reports.

*Factor 4: The Penalty Necessary to Deter Future Violations*

A \$300 civil penalty is sufficient to deter future violations.

*Factor 5: Any Other Matters That Justice May Require*

The respondent requested reduction of the penalty because he is currently under financial hardship. He agrees that he can pay \$300. Given the other factors, a \$300 civil penalty is sufficient.

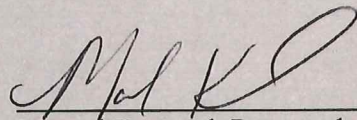
*Conclusion*

After considering the factors prescribed by Section 571.177 of the Government Code, the TEC imposes a \$300 civil penalty.

**VII. Order**

The TEC hereby orders that if the respondent consents to the proposed resolution, this order and agreed resolution is a final and complete resolution of SC-32511424.

AGREED to by the respondent on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

  
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Marcel Howard, Respondent

EXECUTED by the TEC on: 9-24-26.

Texas Ethics Commission

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Tinley  
Executive Director