

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12070, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

Chad M. Craycraft
Chair

Mary K. "Katie" Kennedy
Vice Chair

Anne Temple Peters
Executive Director



Commissioners

Randall H. Erben
Chris Flood
Patrick W. Mizell
Richard S. Schmidt
Joseph O. Slovacek
Steven D. Wolens

June 29, 2020

To local filing authorities and local filers:

This notice is to provide general guidance to local filing authorities and local filers about campaign finance filings while communities deal with office closures and other disruptions caused by COVID-19.

On March 18, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 local elections. In response to this proclamation, most local filing authorities postponed their May 2, 2020, elections to November 3, 2020, which has also postpone dTexas Ethics Commission filing deadlines associated with that election.

All candidates and political committees (PACs) should verify the election date with the authority holding the election.

If a political subdivision opted to hold local elections on May 2, 2020, the deadlines for campaign finance reports filed by candidates, officeholders, and PACs for races and/or measures on the May 2, 2020, ballots remained the same. If a political subdivision opted to postpone their local election to November 3, 2020, the deadlines for campaign finance reports was likewise extended. All candidates, officeholders, and PACs that have an active Campaign Treasurer Appointment on file as of June 30, 2020, will owe a semiannual report on or before July 15, 2020, whether or not they raised or spent any money. The 30-day pre-election report for the November 3, 2020, uniform election is due by October 5, 2020. The 8-day pre-election report is due by October 26, 2020. A complete filing schedule for the November 3, 2020, uniform election can be found at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/filinginfo/schedules/s20uniform.pdf>. The filing schedule for candidates and officeholders at the county-level can be found at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/filinginfo/schedules/s20county.pdf>.

If your office is closed, it should still be possible for candidates and officeholders to file reports. Even when personal delivery is impossible, a campaign finance report may still be filed by mail, fax, or email. If a filer emails a report, you should retain the email transmitting the report to verify the filing date.

We understand that filers and local filing authorities may encounter difficulties filing and processing campaign finance reports due to COVID-19. If a filer has difficulty meeting the filing deadline, they should document this, and be able to provide that documentation if necessary. The Commission will consider all factors in the event of a sworn complaint.

www.ethics.state.tx.us

(512) 463-5800 • TDD (800) 735-2989
Promoting Public Confidence in Government