

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711-2070
(512) 463-5800

Paul W. Hobby, Chair
Chase Untermeyer, Vice Chair
Hugh C. Akin
Jim Clancy

Wilhelmina Delco
Tom Harrison
Bob Long
Tom Ramsay

AGENDA

Date and Time:	10:00 a.m., Monday, November 30, 2015
Location:	Room E1.014, Capitol Extension, Austin, Texas

1. Call to order; roll call.
2. Comments by the Commissioners.
3. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
 - Executive Session (discussion of pending litigation) – October 5, 2015; and
 - AM Public Meeting – October 5, 2015.
4. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on the new Electronic Filing Applications and discussion on the electronic filing application for the implementation of House Bill 1295.

RULEMAKING

5. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of the rules and form required to be adopted by the Commission in accordance with House Bill 1295, 84th Legislative Session, 2015.
6. Public discussion and possible action on an amendment to forms adopted by the Commission in accordance with House Bill 23, 84th Legislative Session, 2015.
7. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 20.1(20), amending the definition of “principal purpose,” for purposes of Title 15 of the Election Code.
8. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 20.409(d), relating to the name of a general-purpose committee.

For more information, contact Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

9. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 34.91, relating to exemptions for the electronic filing of lobby reports.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

Discussion and possible action in response to the following Advisory Opinions:

10. Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-603: Regarding whether a judicial candidate or officeholder may receive free legal services from an attorney to defend a defamation lawsuit arising from the candidate's or officeholder's activities as a candidate, and whether a judicial candidate may be represented by an attorney on a contingent fee basis to prosecute and pursue a defamation lawsuit arising from the candidate's activities as a candidate.

This opinion request construes Title 15 of the Election Code and Section 36.08 of the Penal Code.

11. Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-605: Regarding whether a public servant may accept a benefit from a potential donor in certain circumstances.

This opinion request construes Section 36.08 of the Penal Code.

OTHER POLICY MATTERS

12. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on appeals to determinations made under Texas Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine, for the following individuals:

Bailey, Leigh Christine (00069494)
Moore, Texas (00023668)

13. Briefing, discussion, and possible action to waive or reduce the late-filing penalty in connection with a corrected report or to determine whether the corrected report as originally filed substantially complied with the applicable law for the following individual: Oldham, Joel K., IV (00016482).

14. Discussion and possible action regarding the termination of a campaign treasurer appointment of the following inactive political committees:

Coastal Bend Young Democrats (00066193)
Harris County Auto Recyclers Assn. PAC (00040240)
Port Arthur Firefighters PAC (00062125)
15. Discussion and possible action regarding the meaning of “fact finding trip” for purposes of the lobby law.
16. Discussion and possible action on a survey regarding campaign finance disclosure sent to independent school districts that held an election in May 2015.
17. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of Chair and Vice Chair.
18. Discussion on the 2016 Texas Ethics Commission meeting schedule.
19. Comments by the Executive Director.
20. Communication to the Commission from the public.
21. Adjourn.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable Texas Register filing requirements.

Certifying Official & Agency Liaison: Natalia Luna Ashley,
Executive Director

NOTICE: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, an individual with a disability must have an equal opportunity for effective communication and participation in public meetings. Upon request, the Texas Ethics Commission will provide auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired, readers, and large print or Braille documents. In determining the type of auxiliary aid or service, the Commission will give primary consideration to the individual's request. Those requesting auxiliary aids or services should notify Margie Castellanos at (512) 463-5800 or RELAY Texas at (800) 735-2989 two days before this meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please also contact Ms. Castellanos if you need assistance in having English translated into Spanish.