

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
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PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time: 3:30 p.m., Thursday, February 27, 2020
Location: Room E1.014, Capitol Extension, Austin, Texas

1. Call to order; roll call.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the extension of deadlines to issue advisory opinions under Section 571.092 of the Government Code.
3. Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-629: Whether a city employee violates section 255.003(a) of the Election Code by allowing members of the public to display or distribute political advertising at a city-owned facility during or in connection with a candidate debate or forum if the city-owned facility is rented to and paid for by the sponsor of the candidate debate or forum.

Whether a city employee has knowingly authorized the spending of public funds for political advertising as prohibited under section 255.003(a) of the Election Code if members of the public display or distribute political advertising in a city-owned room that is rented to and paid for by the sponsor of a candidate debate or forum.

Whether a city employee has knowingly authorized the spending of public funds for political advertising as prohibited under section 255.003(a) of the Election Code if members of the public display or distribute political advertising in a corridor outside the city-owned room rented to and paid for by the sponsor of a candidate debate or forum or in the parking lot of the city-owned facility where the candidate debate or forum is being conducted.

For more information, contact Anne Temple Peters, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

This opinion construes Section 255.003(a) of the Election Code.

4. Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-630: Whether section 36.07 of the Penal Code or section 253.034(a) of the Election Code prohibits an elected officeholder from accepting from a political committee transportation, lodging, and meals, or reimbursement for expenses for transportation, lodging, and meals, during a regular legislative session to attend and perform official actions at the political committee's meetings.

This opinion construes Section 36.07 of the Penal Code and Section 253.034 of the Election Code.

5. Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-631: Whether section 572.069 of the Government Code prohibits a former employee of a state agency from accepting employment from a person, whose bid proposal the employee reviewed on behalf of the agency, when: (1) the agency solicited bid proposals from a list of purportedly eligible vendors provided by another state agency, (2) the person submitted a bid proposal in response to the solicitation from the agency, (3) the person was not eligible by law to enter into the contract with the agency and had been erroneously included in the list of eligible vendors provided by another state agency, and (4) the agency ended the procurement because there were no other bid proposals submitted for the contract.

This opinion construes Section 572.069, Government Code.

6. Draft Advisory Opinion No. AOR-632: Whether a contribution from a federal political committee to a federal "Super PAC" is considered a political expenditure made in connection with an election voted on in Texas for purposes of calculating whether the federal political committee is an out-of-state political committee.

This opinion construes Section 251.001(15) of the Election Code and Section 20.13(c) of the Ethics Commission Rules.

7. Reconsideration of Ethics Advisory Opinion No. EAO-550, adopted on June 28, 2019, and possible adoption of a revised advisory opinion regarding whether a public officer may use government resources for political advertising.

This opinion construes Section 39.02 of the Penal Code and Section 255.003(a) of the Election Code.

8. 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: Anne Temple Peters, 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.