## **TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

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

Chad M. Craycraft, Chair Mary K. "Katie" Kennedy, Vice Chair Randall H. Erben Chris Flood Patrick W. Mizell Richard S. Schmidt Joseph O. Slovacek Steven D. Wolens

## **MEETING AGENDA**

Date and Time: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Via online broadcast

# INFORMATION ON HOW TO VIEW AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE BROADCAST OF THIS MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING HERE:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/meetings/meetings\_2020-2024.php#2020

- 1. Call to order; roll call.
- 2. Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.
  - A. Discussion of pending litigation to seek legal advice relating to the following:
    - i. Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan, in the 250<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in Travis County, Texas; Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; and Cause No. 18-0580: Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission, in the Supreme Court of Texas.
    - ii. Cause No. D-1-GN-15-004455: Texas Ethics Commission v. Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan, in the 345<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-16-00872-CV: Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.
  - B. Discussion of personnel matters

- C. Reconvene in open session.
- 3. Discussion regarding dates for next quarterly Commission meeting.
- 4. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
  - o Executive Session June 19, 2020; and
  - o Public Meeting June 19, 2020.

#### TREASURER TERMINATIONS AND APPEALS OF FINES

- 5. Discussion and possible action regarding the termination of a campaign treasurer appointment for the following inactive filers:
  - 1. Rio Grande Valley Apartment Assn. PAC, treasurer Chad W. Anderson (00037999)
  - 2. North Texas Committee on Judicial Excellence, treasurer Casey K. Bingham (00083096)
  - 3. Galveston Maritime Business Association Political Action Committee, treasurer Jonathan T. Edwards (00082769)
  - 4. Southside Today, PAC, treasurer Lorenzo Gonzalez (00081596)
  - 5. Move Hutto Forward, treasurer James Guzman (00083734)
  - 6. Texas Students United, treasurer Gabrielle Harris (00081393)
  - 7. SFA College Democrats, treasurer Gabrielle Harris (00083801)
  - 8. Vote Yes for Sweeny ISD, treasurer Dusty Lee Hopkins (00083712)
  - 9. Strategic International Development PAC, treasurer Prisylla Ann Jasso (00083277)
  - 10. Conservative Tea Party of Texas, treasurer David Leib (00080652)
  - 11. Texans for Pro-Life, treasurer David Leib (00080653)
  - 12. CodeRED TEXAS, treasurer Angie Morrison (00083596)
  - 13. Asian Leaders, treasurer Angie Morrison (00083597)
  - 14. Election Integrity Advocates, treasurer Nathan G. Schwarz (00083567)
  - 15. A Better Texas PAC, treasurer Michael J. Warner (00083091)
- 6. Discussion and possible action on appeals of determinations made under Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine, for the following filers:
  - 1. Elizabeth Choate (00066252)
  - 2. Mary E. Williams (00084541)
  - 3. Charles Lauersdorf (00082133)

#### **ADVISORY OPINIONS**

- 7. Draft Advisory Opinion No. AOR-636: Whether an apparel company may contract with candidates, political parties, and political committees to design, manufacture, market, and fulfill sales of campaign merchandise in return for a portion of the sales proceeds, and, if so, whether such a business model involves any reportable campaign contributions.
  - This opinion construes Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(3).
- 8. Amendment to Advisory Opinion No. EAO-556, issued June 19, 2020, to correct typographical error: Whether a registered lobbyist can be "present" at an event via videoconference technology. (AOR-635)

This opinion construes Sections 305.006(f) and 305.024(a) of the Government Code.

#### RULEMAKING

## **Rule Adoption**

9. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31, regarding the adjustments of reporting thresholds, and Ethics Commission Rules that are affected by the adoption of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31, including §§ 20.62, 20.65, 20.217, 20.219, 20.220, 20.221, 20.275, 20.279, 20.301, 20.303, 20.313, 20.329, 20.331, 20.333, 20.401, 20.405, 20.433, 20.434, 20.435, 20.553, 20.555, 22.1, 22.6, 22.7, 34.41, and 34.43.

## **Rule Publication**

- 10. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 18.23 and 18.24, regarding changes to administrative waiver rules.
- 11. Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 50.1 (Legislative Per Diem) relating to

the legislative per diem required to be set under Article III, Section 24a, of the Texas Constitution.

## 12. 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.

The draft meeting minutes will be available on our website the day before the meeting, at https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/DraftMinutes.

If you would like a copy of the draft minutes, please provide your email address below, and return this sheet to Ethics Commission staff at the meeting.

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## ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. \_\_\_

[DATE]

#### **ISSUE**

Whether an apparel company may contract with candidates, political parties, and political committees to design, manufacture, market, and fulfill sales of campaign merchandise in return for a portion of the sales proceeds, and, if so, whether such a business model involves any reportable campaign contributions. (AOR - 636)

#### **SUMMARY**

Because the Commission's rules exclude from the definition of "contribution" any "transfer for consideration of anything of value pursuant to a contract that reflects the usual and normal business practice of the vendor," an apparel company providing goods and services to candidates, political parties, and political committees before receiving payment from those purchasing the campaign apparel does not make a political contribution if the company offers the same terms "to political and non-political entities alike." *See* Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 533 (2015); Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 143 (1993).

However, the apparel company's customers *are* making political contributions when they purchase the campaign merchandise. Accordingly, any participating candidate, party, or committee would need the apparel company to keep a record of all reportable activity necessary for filing the required reports.

#### **FACTS**

The requestor seeks to create "an apparel ecommerce company [that] serves as a profit-share marketplace for political candidates, parties, and other entities." The requestor explains that the apparel company would accept payment for merchandise directly from the customer, retain a portion of that money, and send another portion to the candidate, party, or other entity for fundraising.

According to the requestor, the hypothetical apparel company would design, manufacture, advertise, and fulfill the sales of apparel that feature the logos and messages of the candidates, parties, and other entities it contracts with. The apparel company would "not charge for shirt design and website setup" or, for that matter, any manufacturing or advertising costs, and those expenditures would be made with the prior authorization of the participating candidates, parties,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(3).

and committees. Instead, the apparel company would hope to recoup its costs by keeping a portion of the sales price of each item.

As an example, the requestor asks the commission to imagine that the apparel company creates shirts using the logos and designs of a political party, sells each shirt for \$20, of which it keeps \$15. At the end of the month, the apparel company would send \$5 for each shirt sold during the month to the political party. When asked for more information by commission staff, the requestor stated that these were typical of the commercial terms that the apparel company would offer to political and non-political entities alike. The requestor also confirmed that the apparel company would—through its website—notify its customers that profits from the sale of apparel would be transferred to the corresponding participating candidate, party, or committee.

The requestor asks the commission whether such a business model is permitted under the Texas Election Code and, if so, whether reporting would be required.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The Election Code defines "contribution" as any "direct or indirect transfer of money, goods, services, or any other thing of value" and expressly includes "an agreement made or other obligation incurred, whether legally enforceable or not, to make a transfer." Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(2).

Here, there are two separate transactions to consider. First, the apparel company provides services (design, manufacturing, marketing, and fulfillment) and perhaps goods (apparel or material) to a candidate, party, or political committee before any purchase is made. Second, the apparel company transfers money (a portion of the sales proceeds) from its customer to a candidate, party, or political committee after a purchase is made.

## Provision of Goods and Services by the Company to Candidates, Parties, or Committees

The requestor's hypothetical apparel company would provide goods and services to a candidate or political committee before receiving payment from those purchasing the items. This would include materials and time used in creating the designs, manufacturing and marketing the apparel, and fulfilling the sales. As such, the apparel company will be advancing or, in effect, loaning funds to assist the candidates or committees in fundraising. In answering similar requests, the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") has repeatedly stated that such funds are contributions, and remain contributions to the extent that the apparel company remains unpaid. *See*, *e.g.*, Fed. Elec. Comm'n Advisory Op. Nos. 1989-21 and 1976-50.

However, our rules expressly exclude from the definition of contribution any "transfer for consideration of anything of value pursuant to a contract that reflects the usual and normal business practice of the vendor." 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(3). In such a case, the terms of the transaction "must also be typical of the terms the commercial party offers to political and non-political entities alike." Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 533 (2015); see also Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 143 (1993). The Federal Election Commission recognizes this same exclusion. 11 C.F.R. § 100.52(d)(1); Fed. Elec. Comm'n Advisory Op. No. 2019-12 ("The sale of goods or services at

a discount does not result in a contribution when the discount is offered in the ordinary course of business and made available on the same terms and conditions as to the vendor's customers that are not federal candidates or political committees.").

Here, the request states that the proposed apparel company would serve as "a profit-share marketplace for political candidates, parties, and **other entities**." (emphasis added). The requestor also confirmed that his apparel company would offer the same commercial terms to political and non-political entities alike. Assuming that is true, the apparel company's advances of goods and services to candidates, committees, and parties would reflect the "usual and normal business practice of the vendor" and thus would be excluded from our definition of "contribution." 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(3); Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 533 (2015).

#### Transfer of Sales Proceeds from Company's Customers to Candidates, Parties, or Committees

Under the requestor's model, the apparel company collects the entire purchase price when a customer purchases an item and then later transfers a percentage of those proceeds to participating candidates, parties, or committees. Unlike the apparel company, the company's customers are not "vendors," and their purchases are therefore not reflective of a "usual and normal business practice." See 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 20.1(3). Instead, the customers are making "indirect transfer[s] of money"—through the apparel company—to participating candidates, parties, and committees. See Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(2) (defining "contribution"). Moreover, because the apparel company would notify its customers that profits from the sale of apparel would go to benefit the campaigns of participating candidates, parties, and committees, its customers would have the intent to make reportable political contributions. See Tex. Elec. Code § 251.001(3)-(5). Consequently, the apparel company must obtain the name and address of each person actually making the contribution and provide that information to the recipient to make the proper disclosure. Tex. Elec. Code § 253.001(a) ("a person may not knowingly make or authorize a political contribution in the name of or on behalf of another unless the person discloses in writing to the recipient the name and address of the person actually making the contribution...").

Furthermore, to meet their reporting requirements, participating political candidates, parties, and committees would need the apparel company to collect certain information from any contributor whose contribution exceeds the applicable reporting thresholds. Section 254.031(a)(1) of the Election Code requires each campaign finance report to include the amount of political contributions from each person that in the aggregate exceed \$90<sup>3</sup> and that are accepted during the reporting period<sup>4</sup> by the person or committee required to file a report, the full name and address of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> While the requestor here has confirmed that he will provide such notice to his customers, the Commission will presume—even absent express notice—that purchasers of apparel or other merchandise with the names, campaign slogans, or other identifiable information of a candidate, party, or committee has the intent to make a political contribution to that candidate, party, or committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Section 571.064 of the Texas Government Code, this threshold is adjusted annually by Commission rule 18.31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A political contribution that is received but not accepted must be returned to the contributor not later than the 30th day after the deadline for filing a report for the reporting period during which the contribution is received. Tex. Elec. Code § 254.034(c). Accordingly, if a participating candidate, party, or committee refuses to accept a contribution from a customer of the apparel company, the contribution must be returned to the apparel company's customer. This is one

the person making the contributions, and the dates of the contributions, and Section 254.031(a)(1-a) of the Election Code requires the itemization of all political contributions that are made and accepted electronically, regardless of amount. In addition, participating candidates, parties, and committees would need the apparel company to keep a record of the principal occupation, job title, and other employer information for each contributor who makes a contribution that, when aggregated with all other political contributions from that contributor during a reporting period, exceeds the applicable threshold. *See* Tex. Elec. Code §§ 254.0611, 254.0612, 254.1211, 254.1212, 254.151; 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31.

When keeping those records, the apparel company should understand that the full amount paid by a purchaser—not just the portion that the apparel company forwards to a candidate, party, or committee—would be a contribution by the purchaser subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Election Code. The Commission has held that a candidate who accepts a political contribution by credit card must report as a political contribution the full amount that a donor intends to contribute, not merely the amount that is ultimately received by the candidate after deducting credit card processing fees. Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. No. 514 (2013). The same is true of the costs of creating a piece of fundraising merchandise; the full purchase price is a contribution, and the costs of creating that merchandise are reported separately as a political expenditure. *Id.* In this case, the participating candidate, party, or committee would report the portion of the sales proceeds retained by the apparel company as a political expenditure. This conclusion is again consistent with federal authorities. *See* 11 C.F.R. § 100.53; Fed. Elec. Comm'n Advisory Op. No. 2019-09.

more reason why it will be essential for participating candidates, parties, and committees to require the apparel company to collect and provide the name and address of the contributors.

## ETHICS ADVISORY OPINION NO. 556

June 19, 2020

#### ISSUE

Whether a registered lobbyist can be "present" at an event via videoconference technology. (AOR-635)

#### **SUMMARY**

No. To be "present" for purposes of Texas Government Code Sections 305.006(f) or 305.024(a), a registered lobbyist must share a physical location with the recipient of the expenditure.

#### **FACTS**

The requestor is a registered lobbyist who seeks clarification from the Commission regarding the meaning of the word "present" as it is used in Chapter 305 of the Texas Government Code. Specifically, Chapter 305 prohibits lobbyists from making certain expenditures to communicate directly with members of the legislative or executive branch, including expenditures on food or beverages, unless the lobbyist is "present at the event." Tex. Gov't Code §§ 305.006(f), 305.024(a).

The requestor asks whether a registered lobbyist may be "present" for purposes of Chapter 305 by meeting with legislators remotely via videoconferencing software such as Zoom or Apple FaceTime. The requestor asks us to assume that the lobbyist organizes, pays for, and attends the virtual meeting that includes food and/or beverages.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Section 305.006 of the Texas Government Code requires every registered lobbyist to file periodic reports of expenditures made to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action. Tex. Gov't Code §§ 305.006(a)-(b). These expenditures must be reported by category, including: "(1) transportation and lodging; (2) food and beverages; (3) entertainment; (4) gifts, other than awards and mementos; (5) awards and mementos; and (6) expenditures made for the attendance of members of the legislative or executive branch at political fund-raisers or charity events." *Id.* § 305.006(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tex. Gov't Code §§ 305.006(f), 305.024(a) (as amended by Chapters 92 (S.B. 1011) and 206 (H.B. 1508), Acts of the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2005).

However, expenditures for certain categories—including food and beverage—are generally prohibited "unless the registrant is present at the event." *Id.* § 305.006(f) ("An expenditure described by Subsection (b)(1), (2), (3), or (6) may not be made or accepted unless the registrant is present at the event."); *see also Id.* § 305.024(a) (providing that a lobbyist may not offer, confer, or agree to confer to a member of the legislative or executive branch an expenditure described by Sections 305.006(1), (2), (3), or (6) unless present at the event).

All of our prior opinions discussing the presence requirement have assumed the physical presence of the registered lobbyist. *See, e.g.*, Tex. Ethics Comm'n Op. Nos. 113 (1993), 92 (1992), 89 (1992), and 4 (1992). Because we have not yet addressed the question, we look to other jurisdictions for guidance. The significant majority are in agreement; when a statute or rule requires a person to be "present," it requires a physical presence,<sup>2</sup> unless there is an express exception that applies.<sup>3</sup>

For example, the Texas Open Meetings Act expressly allows members of governmental bodies to participate remotely in meetings "by videoconference call," but only if the presiding officer is "physically present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public during the open portions of the meeting." Tex. Gov't Code § 551.127. Conversely, Chapter 305 of the Texas Government Code does not include any such express exceptions to the requirement that a lobbyist be present when making certain expenditures to communicate with members of the legislative and executive branches of government.

We understand the circumstances during this particular time in history are unique. Over the past several months, the Governor has declared a state of disaster due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has issued several emergency proclamations ordering Texas citizens to minimize social gatherings and to avoid restaurants, bars, and stores.

However, in the absence of an express statutory exception to the common-sense meaning of presence, or a lawful executive order suspending the requirement that a lobbyist be present,<sup>4</sup> it is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See, e.g., United States v. Navarro, 169 F.3d 228, 236 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999), cert. denied 528 U.S. 845 (1999) (construing "present" as used in Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 43 and holding that "the common-sense understanding of the definition is that a person must be in the same place as others in order to be present."); accord United States v. Williams, 641 F.3d 758, 764-65 (6th Cir. 2011); United States v. Torres-Palma, 290 F.3d 1244, 1245-48 (10th Cir. 2002); United States v. Lawrence, 248 F.3d 300, 301, 303-04 (4th Cir. 2001); United States v. Salim, 690 F.3d 115, 122 (2nd Cir. 2012) ("every federal appellate court to have considered the question has held that a defendant's right to be present requires physical presence and is not satisfied by participation through videoconference.").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 43(a), which expressly allows judges to "permit [presentation of] testimony in open court by contemporaneous transmission from a different location," but only upon a showing of good cause.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Under Texas Government Code Section 418.016, the Governor has the authority to suspend any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business if strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster. Governor Abbott has exercised that authority to suspend certain provisions of law during the pandemic, but he has not suspended any portion of Sections 305.006(f) or 305.024(a).

our opinion that a lobbyist cannot satisfy Chapter 305's presence requirement using videoconference software.

However, food or beverage with a value of \$90 or less, which is delivered by mail or common or contract carrier to a location other than the Capitol Complex, is a gift not subject to the presence requirement. Tex. Gov't Code §§ 305.0061(e-1), 305.006(b)(4); 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31(a) (adjusting threshold from \$50 to \$90). An expenditure for such a gift is subject to the \$500 aggregate calendar year limit, rather than the allowance for an unlimited amount that may be spent on food or beverages that meets the presence requirement. *Id.* § 305.024(a).

## **EXHIBIT A**

## **Text of Proposed New Rules and Amendments**

The proposed new language is indicated by <u>underlined</u> text. The deleted language is indicated by [strikethrough] text.

## **Chapter 18. GENERAL RULES CONCERNING REPORTS**

## 2 §18.31. Adjustments to Reporting Thresholds.

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(a) Pursuant to section 571.064 of the Government Code, the reporting thresholds are adjusted as follows:

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
253.031(b)	The amount of political contributions or political expenditures permitted by a political committee before a campaign treasurer appointment is required	\$500	<u>\$910</u> [ <del>\$870</del> ]
253.031(d)(2)	The amount of political contributions or political expenditures permitted by a county executive party of a political party before a campaign treasurer appointment is required	\$25,000	\$33,750 [\$ <del>32,320</del> ]
253.032(a)	Threshold of contributions accepted from an out-of-state political committee above which a certain written statement or a statement of organization is required	\$500	<u>\$930</u> [ <del>\$900</del> ]
253.032(a)(1)	Threshold of contributions to an out-of-state political committee above which certain information regarding contributions must be included in the written statement required under section	\$100	<u>\$190</u> [ <del>\$180</del> ]

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
	253.032(a), Election Code		
253.032(e)	Threshold of contributions accepted from an out-of-state political committee at or below which certain information or a statement of organization must be included in a report	\$500	<u>\$930</u> [ <del>\$900</del> ]
254.031(a)(1)	Threshold at which contributor information is required to be reported	\$50	\$90
254.031(a)(2)	Threshold at which lender information is required to be reported	\$50	\$90
254.031(a)(3)	Threshold at which information on the payee of a political expenditure is required to be reported	\$100	\$190 [\$180]
254.031(a)(5)	Threshold below which contributor information is not required to be reported	\$50	\$90
254.031(a)(5)	Threshold below which payee information is not required to be reported	\$100	\$190 [\$180]
254.031(a)(9)	Threshold at which the source of any credit, interest, return of deposit fee from political contributions or asset is required to be reported	\$100	<u>\$120</u> [ <del>\$130</del> ]
254.031(a)(10)	Threshold at which the proceeds from sale of a political asset is required to be reported	\$50	<u>\$120</u> [ <del>\$130</del> ]
254.031(a)(11)	Threshold at which any gain from an investment purchased with political contributions is required to be reported	\$50	<u>\$120</u> [ <del>\$130</del> ]
254.031(a)(12)	Threshold at which any other gain from political contribution is required to be reported	\$50	\$120 [\$ <del>130</del> ]

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
254.0311(b)(1)	Threshold at which contributor information for contributions from non-caucus members is required to be reported by a caucus	\$50	\$90
254.0311(b)(2)	Threshold at which lender information is required to be reported by a caucus	\$50	\$90
254.0311(b)(3)	Threshold at which payee information for expenditures is required to be reported by a caucus	\$50	\$90
254.0311(b)(3)	Threshold below which payee information for expenditures is not required to be reported by a caucus	\$50	\$90
254.0311(b)(4)	Threshold below which contributor and payee information is not required to be reported by a caucus	\$50	\$90
254.0312	Threshold at which the best efforts rule requires one to make a written or oral request for contributor information in order to be considered in compliance when contributor information is missing	\$500	<u>\$710</u> [ <del>\$680</del> ]
254.036	Threshold of political contributions and political expenditures below which a filer qualifies for the electronic filing exemption, if certain conditions are met	\$20,000	<u>\$28,420</u> [ <del>\$27,140</del> ]
254.038(a)	Contribution threshold triggering a Special Report Near Election by Certain Candidates and Political Committees	\$1,000	\$1,860 [\$1,790]

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
	during the 9 days before election		
254.039	Contribution threshold triggering Special Report Near Election by GPACs during the 9 days before election	\$5,000	\$6,370 [\$ <del>6,090</del> ]
254.039	Direct Campaign expenditure thresholds triggering Special Report Near Election by GPACs (\$1,000 for single candidate or \$15,000 for group of candidates) during the 9 days before election	\$1,000/\$15,000	\$1,860/\$27,950 [\$1,790/\$26,780]
254.0611(a)(2)	Threshold at which principal occupation/employer information for contributors to judicial filers is required to be reported	\$50	\$90
254.0611(a)(3)	Threshold at which the disclosure of an asset purchased with political contributions is required to be reported by judicial filers	\$500	\$ <u>930</u> [\$ <del>900</del> ]
254.0612	Threshold at which principal occupation/employer information for contributors to statewide executive and legislative candidates is required to be reported	\$500	\$ <u>930</u> [\$ <del>900</del> ]
254.095	Threshold of political contributions or political contributions below which a report is not required for officeholders who do not file with the Commission, unless also a candidate	\$500	<u>\$930</u> [ <del>\$900</del> ]

Campaign Finance Reports: Section of Election Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
254.151(6)	Threshold at which the principal occupation for GPAC contributors is required to be reported	\$50	\$90
254.1541(a)	Threshold of political contributions and political expenditures below which a GPAC has a \$100 contribution itemization threshold, rather than \$50	\$20,000	<u>\$27,000</u> [ <del>\$25,860</del> ]
254.1541(b)	Contribution reporting threshold for GPACs qualifying under section 254.1541 set to \$100	\$100	\$190 [\$180]
254.156(1)	Threshold at which contributor, lender, and payee information is required for a political contribution, loan, or expenditure, respectively, to an MPAC	\$10	\$20
254.156(2)	Threshold at which contribution information for MPACs qualifying under section 254.1541 is set to \$20	\$20	\$40
254.181, 254.182, 254.183	Threshold of political contributions and political expenditures below which a candidate or SPAC may elect to avoid certain preelection filing requirements (modified reporting)	\$500	<u>\$930</u> [ <del>\$900</del> ]
254.261	Threshold at which a person making direct campaign expenditures in an election must disclose the expenditures, including payee information	\$100	<u>\$140</u> [ <del>\$130</del> ]

Lobby Registrations and Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
305.003(1)	Threshold of expenditures over which a person must register as a lobbyist	\$500, by 1 Tex. Admin. Code §34.41	\$810 [\$ <del>780</del> ]
305.003(2)	Threshold of compensation or reimbursement over which a person must register as a lobbyist	\$1,000, by 1 Tex. Admin. Code §34.43	\$1,620 [\$ <del>1,560</del> ]
305.004(7)	Threshold of expenditures and compensation below which a person lobbying on behalf of political party is excepted from the requirement to register as a lobbyist	\$5,000	<u>\$9,320</u> [ <del>\$8,930</del> ]
305.005(g)(2)	Threshold of category to report compensation less than \$10,000	\$10,000	\$18,630 [\$17,860]
305.005(g)(3)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000	\$25,000	\$46,580 [\$44,630]
305.005(g)(4)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$25,000 but less than \$50,000	\$50,000	\$93,150 [\$ <del>89,260</del> ]
305.005(g)(5)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000	\$100,000	\$186,300 [\$ <del>178,520</del> ]
305.005(g)(6)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$100,000 but less than \$150,000	\$150,000	\$279,450 [\$ <del>267,770</del> ]
305.005(g)(7)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$150,000 but less than \$200,000	\$200,000	\$372,600 [\$ <del>357,030]</del>
305.005(g)(8)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$200,000 but less than \$250,000	\$250,000	\$465,750 [\$446,280]
305.005(g)(9)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$250,000 but less than \$300,000	\$300,000	\$558,900 [\$ <del>535,540</del> ]
305.005(g)(10)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$300,000 but less than \$350,000	\$350,000	\$652,050 [\$624,790]

Lobby Registrations and Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
305.005(g)(11)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$350,000 but less than \$400,000	\$400,000	<u>\$745,200</u> [ <del>\$714,050</del> ]
305.005(g)(12)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$400,000 but less than \$450,000	\$450,000	\$838,350 [\$803,310]
305.005(g)(13)	Upper threshold of category to report compensation of at least \$450,000 but less than \$500,000	\$500,000	\$931,500 [\$ <del>892,560</del> ]
305.005(g-1)	Threshold of compensation or reimbursement at which a registrant must report the exact amount	\$500,000	\$931,500 [\$892,560]
305.0061(c)(3)	Threshold over which the name of a legislator who is the recipient of a gift, a description of the gift, and amount of the gift is required to be disclosed	\$50	\$90
305.0061(e-1)	Threshold below which an expenditure for food or beverages is considered a gift and reported as such	\$50	\$90
305.0063	Threshold of expenditures below which a registrant may file lobby activities reports annually instead of monthly	\$1,000	\$1,860 [\$1,790]

Personal Financial Statements: Section of Gov't Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
572.022(a)(1)	Threshold of category to report an amount less than \$5,000	less than \$5,000	less than <u>\$9,320</u> [ <del>\$8,930</del> ]
572.022(a)(2)	Threshold of category to report an amount of at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000	\$5,000 to less than \$10,000	\$9,320 [\$8,930] to less than \$18,630 [\$17,860]
572.022(a)(3)	Threshold of category to report an amount of at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000	\$18,630 [\$17,860] to less than \$46,580 [\$44,630]
572.022(a)(4)	Threshold of category to report an amount of at least \$25,000 or more	\$25,000 or more	\$46,580 [\$44,630] or more

Personal Financial Statements: Section of Gov't Code	Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
572.005, 572.023(b)(1)	Threshold to disclose the source and category of amount of retainer received by a business entity in which the filer has a substantial interest; section 572.005 defines substantial interest, in part, as owning over \$25,000 of the fair market value of the business entity	\$25,000	\$46,580 [\$44,630]
572.023(b)(4)	Threshold over which income from interest, dividends, royalties, and rents is required to be reported	\$500	\$930 [\$ <del>900</del> ]
572.023(b)(5)	Threshold over which the identity of each loan guarantor and person to whom filer owes liability on a personal note or lease agreement is required to be reported	\$1,000	\$1,860 [\$1,790]
572.023(b)(7)	Threshold of value over which the identity of the source of a gift and a gift description is required to be reported	\$250	<u>\$470</u> [ <del>\$450</del> ]
572.023(b)(8)	Threshold over which the source and amount of income received as beneficiary of a trust asset is required to be reported	\$500	\$930 [\$ <del>900</del> ]
572.023(b)(15)	if aggregate cost of goods or services sold under contracts exceeds \$10,000, PFS must identify each contract, and name of each party, with a governmental entity for sale of goods or services in amount of \$2,500 or more	Exceeds \$10,000	\$10,220
572.023(b)(15)(A)	itemization under (15) of contracts for sale of goods or services in the amount of \$2,500 or more to governmental entities	\$2,500 or more	\$2,560 or more
572.023(b)(16)(D)(i)	category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator	less than \$5,000	less than \$5,110

Threshold Description	Original Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
category of amount of bound	at least \$5,000 but	at least \$5,110 but less
counsel fees paid to legislator	less than \$10,000	than \$10,220
category of amount of bound	at least \$10,000 but	at least \$10,220 but less
counsel fees paid to legislator	less than \$25,000	than \$25,550
category of amount of bound	\$25,000 or more	\$25,550 or more
counsel fees paid to legislator		
category of amount of bound	less than \$5,000	less than \$5,110
counsel fees paid to		
individual's firm		
category of amount of bound	at least \$5,000 but	at least \$5,110 but less
counsel fees paid to	less than \$10,000	than \$10,220
<u>individual's firm</u>		
category of amount of bound	at least \$10,000 but	at least \$10,220 but less
counsel fees paid to	less than \$25,000	than \$25,550
<u>individual's firm</u>		
category of amount of bound	\$25,000 or more	\$25,550 or more
counsel fees paid to individual's firm		
	category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to individual's firm category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to individual's firm category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to individual's firm category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to individual's firm	category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to legislator  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to less than \$5,000  at least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000  at least \$10,000 but less than \$10,000  at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to less than \$25,000  category of amount of bound counsel fees paid to less than \$25,000  sat least \$5,000 but less than \$25,000  at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000  sat least \$5,000 but less than \$25,000

Speaker Election and Certain Ceremonial Reports: Section of Government Code	Threshold Type	Current Threshold Amount	Adjusted Amount
302.014(4)	Expenditure of campaign funds over \$10 must be disclosed, including payee's name and address and the purpose	\$10	\$20
303.005(a)(1) - (10)	Thresholds applicable to contribution and expenditure disclosure requirements for a governor for a day or speaker's reunion day ceremony report	\$50	\$90

<sup>(</sup>b) The changes made by this rule apply only to conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this rule. 

<sup>(</sup>c)(b) The effective date of this rule is January 1,  $202\underline{1}[\theta]$ . 

## 1 Chapter 20. REPORTING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

## Subchapter B. GENERAL REPORTING RULES

1	820.62	Donorting	Staff D	eimbursement
4	QZU.0Z.	Reporting	Stall K	eimbursement

- 5 (a) Political expenditures made out of personal funds by a staff member of an officeholder,
- a candidate, or a political committee with the intent to seek reimbursement from the
- officeholder, candidate, or political committee that in the aggregate do not exceed \$6,370
- 8 [\$6,130] during the reporting period may be reported as follows IF the reimbursement
- 9 occurs during the same reporting period that the initial expenditure was made:
- (1) the amount of political expenditures that in the aggregate exceed \$190 [\$180] and that are made during the reporting period, the full name and address of the persons to whom the expenditures are made and the dates and purposes of the expenditures; and
  - (2) included with the total amount or a specific listing of the political expenditures of \$190 [\$180] or less made during the reporting period.
  - (b) Except as provided by subsection (a) of this section, a political expenditure made out of personal funds by a staff member of an officeholder, a candidate, or a political committee with the intent to seek reimbursement from the officeholder, candidate, or political committee must be reported as follows:
  - (1) the aggregate amount of the expenditures made by the staff member as of the last day of the reporting period is reported as a loan to the officeholder, candidate, or political committee;
    - (2) the expenditure made by the staff member is reported as a political expenditure by the officeholder, candidate, or political committee; and
- 25 (3) the reimbursement to the staff member to repay the loan is reported as a political expenditure by the officeholder, candidate, or political committee.

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## §20.65. Reporting No Activity.

- 29 (a) As a general rule, a candidate or officeholder must file a report required by Subchapter
- 30 C of this chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements for a Candidate) or Subchapter D of
- this chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements for an Officeholder Who Does Not Have
- a Campaign Treasurer Appointment on File) even if there has been no reportable activity
- during the period covered by the report.

- 1 (b) This general rule does not apply to:
- 2 (1) special pre-election reports;
- 3 (2) special session reports; or
- 4 (3) a local officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file 5 and who does not accept more than \$930 [\$900] in political contributions or make
- 6 more than \$930 [\$900] in political expenditures during the reporting period.
- 7 (c) If a required report will disclose that there has been no reportable activity during the
- 8 reporting period, the filer shall submit only those pages of the report necessary to identify
- 9 the filer and to swear to the lack of reportable activity.

## Subchapter C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR A CANDIDATE

## §20.217. Modified Reporting.

- (a) An opposed candidate who does not intend to accept more than \$930 [\$900] in political
- contributions or make more than \$930 [\$900] in political expenditures (excluding filing
- 14 fees) in connection with any election in an election cycle may choose to file under the
- 15 modified schedule.

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- 16 (b) Under the modified schedule, an opposed candidate is not required to file pre-election
- 17 reports or a runoff report.
- 18 (c) To select modified filing, a candidate must file a declaration of intent not to accept more
- than \$930 [\$900] in political contributions or make more than \$930 [\$900] in political
- 20 expenditures (excluding filing fees) in connection with the election. The declaration must
- 21 include a statement that the candidate understands that if either one of those limits is
- exceeded, the candidate will be required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a
- 23 runoff report.
- 24 (d) A declaration under subsection (c) of this section is filed with the candidate's campaign
- 25 treasurer appointment.
- 26 (e) To file under the modified schedule, a candidate must file the declaration required under
- subsection (c) of this section no later than the 30th day before the first election to which
- the declaration applies. A declaration filed under subsection (c) of this section is valid for
- one election cycle only.
- 30 (f) If an opposed candidate exceeds either of the \$930 [\$900] limits, the candidate must file
- reports under §20.213 of this title (relating to Pre-election Reports) and §20.215 of this title
- 32 (relating to Runoff Report).

- 1 (g) If an opposed candidate exceeds either of the \$930 [\$900] limits after the 30th day
- 2 before the election, the candidate must file a report not later than 48 hours after exceeding
- 3 the limit. If this is the candidate's first report filed, the report covers a period that begins on
- 4 the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment was filed. Otherwise the period
- 5 begins on the first day after the period covered by the last report required by this subchapter
- 6 (other than a special pre-election report or a special session report) or Subchapter D of this
- 7 chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements for an Officeholder Who Does Not Have a
- 8 Campaign Treasurer Appointment on File). The period covered by the report continues
- 9 through the day the candidate exceeded one of the limits for modified reporting.

## §20.219. Content of Candidate's Sworn Report of Contributions and Expenditures.

- 11 Semiannual reports, pre-election reports, and runoff reports must cover reportable activity
- during the reporting period and must include the following information:
- 13 (1) the candidate's full name;
- 14 (2) the candidate's address;

- 15 (3) the office sought by the candidate, if known;
- 16 (4) the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed, if known;
- 17 (5) the campaign treasurer's name;
- 18 (6) the campaign treasurer's telephone number;
- 19 (7) the campaign treasurer's residence or business street address;
- 20 (8) for each political committee from which the candidate received notice under \$20.319 of this title (relating to Notice to Candidate or Officeholder) or \$20.421 of
- 22 this title (relating to Notice to Candidate or Officeholder):
- 23 (A) the committee's full name;
- 24 (B) the committee's address;
- 25 (C) identification of the political committee as a general-purpose or a specific-purpose committee;
- 27 (D) the full name of the committee's campaign treasurer; and
- 28 (E) the address of the committee's campaign treasurer;
- (9) on a separate page, the following information for each expenditure from political
   contributions made to a business in which the candidate has a participating interest

1 2	of more than 10%, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business:
3	(A) the full name of the business to which the expenditure was made;
4	(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
5	(C) the date of the expenditure;
6	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
7	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
8 9 10 11	(10) for each person from whom the candidate accepted a political contribution (other than a pledge, loan, or a guarantee of a loan) of more than \$90 in value or political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) that total more than \$90 in value:
12	(A) the full name of the person making the contribution;
13	(B) the address of the person making the contribution;
14	(C) the total amount of contributions;
15	(D) the date each contribution was accepted; and
16	(E) a description of any in-kind contribution;
17 18	(11) for each person from whom the candidate accepted a pledge or pledges to provide more than \$90 in money or goods or services worth more than \$90:
19	(A) the full name of the person making the pledge;
20	(B) the address of the person making the pledge;
21	(C) the amount of each pledge;
22	(D) the date each pledge was accepted; and
23	(E) a description of any goods or services pledged; and
24 25 26	(F) the total of all pledges accepted during the period for \$90 and less from a person, except those reported under subparagraphs (A)-(E) of this paragraph;
27 28	(12) for each person making a loan or loans to the candidate for campaign purposes if the total amount loaned by the person during the period is more than \$90:
29	(A) the full name of the person or financial institution making the loan;
30	(B) the address of the person or financial institution making the loan;

(C) the amount of the loan;
(D) the date of the loan;
(E) the interest rate;
(F) the maturity date;
(G) the collateral for the loan, if any; and
(H) if the loan has guarantors:
(i) the full name of each guarantor;
(ii) the address of each guarantor;
(iii) the principal occupation of each guarantor;
(iv) the name of the employer of each guarantor; and
(v) the amount guaranteed by each guarantor;
(13) the total amount of loans accepted during the period for \$90 and less from persons other than financial institutions engaged in the business of making loans for more than one year, except for a loan reported under paragraph (12) of this section;
(14) for political expenditures made during the reporting period that total more than \$190 [\$180] to a single payee, other than expenditures reported under paragraph (9) of this section:
(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
(C) the date of the expenditure;
(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
(E) the amount of the expenditure;
(15) for each political expenditure of any amount made out of personal funds for which reimbursement from political contributions is intended:
(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
(C) the date of the expenditure;
(D) the purpose of the expenditure;
(E) a declaration that the expenditure was made out of personal funds;

1 2	(F) a declaration that reimbursement from political contributions is intended; and
3	(G) the amount of the expenditure;
4 5	(16) for each non-political expenditure made from political contributions, other than expenditures reported under paragraph (9) of this section:
6	(A) the date of each expenditure;
7	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
8	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
9	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
10	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
11 12	(17) for each other candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made by the candidate during the reporting period:
13	(A) the name of the candidate or officeholder; and
14	(B) the office sought or held by the candidate or officeholder;
15 16 17	(18) for each political contribution from an out-of-state political committee, the information required by §22.7 of this title (relating to Contribution from Out-of-State Committee);
18 19 20 21	(19) any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
22 23 24	(20) any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
25 26	(21) any other gain from a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
27 28	(22) any investment purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
29 30 31	(23) the full name and address of each person from whom an amount described by paragraph (19), (20), (21), or (22) of this section is received, the date the amount is received, and the purpose for which the amount is received;
32	(24) the following total amounts:

1 2	(A) the total principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;
3 4	(B) the total amount or an itemized listing of political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) of \$90 and less;
5 6	(C) the total amount of all political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans);
7 8	(D) the total amount or an itemized listing of the political expenditures of $$190 \ [\$180]$ and less; and
9	(E) the total amount of all political expenditures; and
10 11 12	(25) an affidavit, executed by the candidate, stating: "I swear, or affirm, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code."
13	§20.220. Additional Disclosure for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
14 15	(a) For purposes of this section and §2155.003(e) of the Government Code, the term "vendor" means:
16 17 18	(1) a person, who during the comptroller's term of office, bids on or receives a contract under the comptroller's purchasing authority that was transferred to the comptroller by §2151.004 of the Government Code; and
19 20 21 22	(2) an employee or agent of a person described by subsection (a)(1) of this section who communicates directly with the chief clerk, or an employee of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts who exercises discretion in connection with the vendor's bid or contract, about a bid or contract.
23 24	(b) Each report filed by the comptroller or a specific-purpose committee created to support the comptroller, shall include:
25 26	(1) for each vendor whose aggregate campaign contributions equal or exceed \$610 [\$590] during the reporting period, a notation that:
27 28	(A) the contributor was a vendor during the reporting period or during the 12 month period preceding the last day covered by the report; and
29 30	(B) if the vendor is an individual, includes the name of the entity that employs or that is represented by the individual; and
31 32	(2) for each political committee directly established, administered, or controlled by a vendor whose aggregate campaign contributions equal or exceed \$610 [\$590]

- during the reporting period, a notation that the contributor was a political committee directly established, administered, or controlled by a vendor during the reporting period or during the 12 month period preceding the last day covered by the report.
- 4 (c) The comptroller, or a specific-purpose committee created to support the comptroller, is 5 considered to be in compliance with this section if:
  - (1) each written solicitation for a campaign contribution includes a request for the information required by subsection (b) of this section; and
    - (2) for each contribution that is accepted for which the information required by this section is not provided at least one oral or written request is made for the missing information. A request under this subsection:
      - (A) must be made not later than the 30th day after the date the contribution is received;
      - (B) must include a clear and conspicuous statement requesting the information required by subsection (b) of this section;
      - (C) if made orally, must be documented in writing; and
- 16 (D) may not be made in conjunction with a solicitation for an additional campaign contribution.
- (d) The comptroller, or a specific-purpose committee created to support the comptroller, must report the information required by subsection (b) of this section that is not provided by the person making the political contribution and that is in the comptroller's or committee's records of political contributions or previous campaign finance reports required to be filed under Title 15 of the Election Code filed by the comptroller or
- 23 committee.

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- 24 (e) If the comptroller, or a specific-purpose committee created to support the comptroller,
- 25 receives the information required by this section after the filing deadline for the report on
- 26 which the contribution is reported the comptroller or committee must include the missing
- information on the next required campaign finance report.
- 28 (f) The disclosure required under subsection (b) of this section applies only to a contributor
- 29 who was a vendor or a political committee directly established, administered, or controlled
- by a vendor on or after September 1, 2007.

## §20.221. Special Pre-Election Report by Certain Candidates.

- 32 (a) As provided by subsection (b) of this section, certain candidates must file reports about
- certain contributions accepted during the period that begins on the ninth day before an

- election and ends at noon on the day before an election. Reports under this section are
- 2 known as "special pre-election" reports.
- 3 (b) An opposed candidate for an office specified by §252.005(1), Election Code, who,
- 4 during the period described in subsection (a) of this section, accepts one or more political
- contributions from a person that in the aggregate exceed \$1,860 [\$1,800] must file special
- 6 pre-election reports.
- 7 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a candidate must file a special pre-
- 8 election report so that the report is received by the commission no later than the first
- 9 business day after the candidate accepts a contribution from a person that triggers the
- requirement to file the special pre-election report.
- 11 (d) If, during the reporting period for special pre-election contributions, a candidate
- 12 receives additional contributions from a person whose previous contribution or
- contributions have triggered the requirement to file a special pre-election report during that
- 14 period, the candidate must file an additional special pre-election report for each such
- contribution. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, each such special pre-
- election report must be filed so that it is received by the commission no later than the first
- business day after the candidate accepts the contribution.
- 18 (e) A candidate must file a special pre-election report that is exempt from electronic filing
- under §254.036(c), Election Code, so that the report is received by the commission no later
- than 5 p.m. of the first business day after the candidate accepts a contribution from a person
- 21 that triggers the requirement to file the special pre-election report.
- 22 (f) A candidate must file a special pre-election report for each person whose contribution
- or contributions made during the period for special pre-election reports exceed the
- 24 threshold for special pre-election reports.
- 25 (g) A candidate must also report contributions reported on a special pre-election report on
- the next semiannual, pre-election, or runoff report filed, as applicable.

## 27 Subchapter D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OFFICEHOLDER

- 28 WHO DOES NOT HAVE A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT ON
- 29 FILE
- 30 §20.275. Exception from Filing Requirement for Certain Local Officeholders.
- 31 An officeholder is not required to file a semiannual report of contributions and expenditures
- 32 if the officeholder:

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(1) is required to file with an authority other than the commission;

1	(2) does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file; and
2	(3) does not accept more than $$930 [$900]$ in political contributions or make more than $$930 [$900]$ in political expenditures during the reporting period.
4 5	§20.279. Contents of Officeholder's Sworn Report of Contributions and Expenditures.
6 7 8	An officeholder's semiannual report of contributions and expenditures required by this subchapter must cover reportable activity during the reporting period and must include the following information:
9	(1) the officeholder's full name;
LO	(2) the officeholder's address;
<b>l</b> 1	(3) the office held by the officeholder;
12 13 14	(4) for each political committee from which the officeholder received notice under §20.319 of this title (relating to Notice to Candidate or Officeholder) or §20.421 of this title (relating to Notice to Candidate or Officeholder):
<b>L</b> 5	(A) the committee's full name;
16	(B) the committee's address;
L7 L8	(C) identification of the political committee as a general-purpose or a specific-purpose committee;
19	(D) the full name of the committee's campaign treasurer; and
20	(E) the address of the committee's campaign treasurer;
21 22 23 24	(5) on a separate page, the following information for each expenditure from political contributions made to a business in which the officeholder has a participating interest of more than 10%, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business:
25	(A) the full name of the business to which the expenditure was made;
26	(B) the address of the business to which the expenditure was made;
27	(C) the date of the expenditure;
28	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
29	(E) the amount of the expenditure;

1 2 3 4	(6) for each person from whom the officeholder accepted a political contribution (other than a pledge, loan, or a guarantee of a loan) of more than \$90 in value or political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) that total more than \$90 [\$50] in value:
5	(A) the full name of the person making the contribution;
6	(B) the address of the person making the contribution;
7	(C) the total amount of contributions;
8	(D) the date each contribution was accepted; and
9	(E) a description of any in-kind contribution;
10 11	(7) for each person from whom the officeholder accepted a pledge or pledges to provide more than \$90 in money or goods or services worth more than \$90:
12	(A) the full name of the person making the pledge;
13	(B) the address of the person making the pledge;
L4	(C) the amount of each pledge;
15	(D) the date each pledge was accepted; and
16	(E) a description of any goods or services pledged;
17 18	(8) the total of all pledges accepted during the period for \$90 and less from a person, except those reported under paragraph (7) of this section;
19 20 21	(9) for each person making a loan or loans to the officeholder for officeholder purposes, if the total amount loaned by the person during the period is more than \$90:
22	(A) the full name of the person or financial institution making the loan;
23	(B) the address of the person or financial institution making the loan;
24	(C) the amount of the loan;
25	(D) the date of the loan;
26	(E) the interest rate;
27	(F) the maturity date;
28	(G) the collateral for the loan, if any; and
29	(H) if the loan has guarantors:

1	(i) the full name of each guarantor;
2	(ii) the address of each guarantor;
3	(iii) the principal occupation of each guarantor;
4	(iv) the name of the employer of each guarantor; and
5	(v) the amount guaranteed by each guarantor;
6 7 8	(10) the total amount of loans accepted during the period for \$90 and less from persons other than financial institutions engaged in the business of making loans for more than one year, except those reported under paragraph (9) of this section;
9 10 11	(11) for political expenditures made during the reporting period that total more than \$190 [\$180] to a single payee, other than expenditures reported under paragraph (5) of this section:
12	(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
13	(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
L4	(C) the date of the expenditure;
15	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
16	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
17 18	(12) for each political expenditure of any amount made out of personal funds for which reimbursement from political contributions is intended:
19	(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
20	(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
21	(C) the date of each expenditure;
22	(D) the purpose of the expenditure;
23	(E) a declaration that the expenditure was made from personal funds;
24 25	(F) a declaration that reimbursement from political contributions is intended; and
26	(G) the amount of the expenditure;
27 28	(13) for each non-political expenditure made from political contributions, other than expenditures reported under paragraph (5) of this section:
29	(A) the date of each expenditure;

1	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
2	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
3	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
4	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
5 6	(14) for each candidate or other officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made by the officeholder during the reporting period:
7	(A) the name of the candidate or officeholder; and
8	(B) the office sought or held by the candidate or officeholder;
9 10 11	(15) for each political contribution from an out-of-state political committee, the information required by §22.7 of this title (relating to Contribution from Out-of-State Committee);
12 13 14 15	(16) any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
16 17 18	(17) any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
19 20	(18) any other gain from a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds $$120$ ; $$130$ ;
21 22	(19) any investment purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
23 24 25	(20) the full name and address of each person from whom an amount described by paragraph (16), (17), (18), or (19) of this section is received, the date the amount is received, and the purpose for which the amount is received;
26	(21) the following total amounts:
27 28	(A) the total principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;
29 30	(B) the total amount or an itemized listing of political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) of \$90 and less;
31 32	(C) the total amount of all political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans);

1	(D) the total amount or an itemized listing of the political expenditures of
2	<u>\$190</u> [ <del>\$130</del> ] and less; and
3	(E) the total amount of all political expenditures; and
4	(22) an affidavit, executed by the officeholder, stating: "I swear, or affirm, that the
5	accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be
6	reported by me under Title 15, Election Code."
7	Subchapter E. REPORTS BY A SPECIFIC-PURPOSE COMMITTEE
8	§20.301. Thresholds for Campaign Treasurer Appointment.
9	(a) A specific-purpose committee may not accept political contributions exceeding \$910
10	[\$870] and may not make or authorize political expenditures exceeding \$910 [\$870]
11	without filing a campaign treasurer appointment with the appropriate filing authority.
12	(b) A specific-purpose committee may not knowingly make or authorize campaign
13	contributions or campaign expenditures exceeding \$\frac{\$910}{}\$ [\frac{\$870}{}] to support or oppose a
14	candidate in a primary or general election for an office listed below unless the committee's
15	campaign treasurer appointment was filed not later than the 30th day before the appropriate
16	election day:
17	(1) a statewide office;
18	(2) a seat in the state legislature;
19	(3) a seat on the State Board of Education;
20	(4) a multi-county district office; or
21	(5) a judicial district office filled by voters of only one county.
22	
23	§20.303. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer.
24	(a) A specific-purpose committee may appoint a campaign treasurer at any time before
25	exceeding the thresholds described in §20.301(a) of this title (relating to Thresholds for

- 2
- 2.
- Campaign Treasurer Appointment). 26
- (b) After a specific-purpose committee appoints a campaign treasurer, the campaign 27
- treasurer must comply with all the requirements of this subchapter, even if the committee 28
- has not yet exceeded \$910 [\$870] in political contributions or expenditures. 29

- 1 (c) With the exception of the campaign treasurer appointment, the individual named as a
- 2 committee's campaign treasurer is legally responsible for filing all reports of the specific-
- 3 purpose committee, including a report following the termination of his or her appointment
- 4 as campaign treasurer.

## 5 §20.313. Converting to a General-Purpose Committee.

- 6 (a) A specific-purpose committee that changes its operation and becomes a general-purpose
- 7 committee is subject to the requirements applicable to a general-purpose committee as of
- 8 the date it files its campaign treasurer appointment as a general-purpose committee with
- 9 the commission.
- 10 (b) The campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee that becomes a general-
- purpose committee must deliver written notice of its change in status to the authority with
- whom the committee was required to file as a specific-purpose committee.
- 13 (c) The notice required under subsection (b) of this section is due no later than the next
- deadline for filing a report under this subchapter that:
- 15 (1) occurs after the committee's change in status; and
- 16 (2) would be applicable to the political committee if it were still a specific-purpose
- 17 committee.
- 18 (d) The notice must state that future reports will be filed with the commission.
- 19 (e) The notice required under subsection (b) of this section is in addition to the requirement
- 20 that the new general-purpose committee file a campaign treasurer appointment with the
- commission before it exceeds \$910 [\$870] in political expenditures or \$910 [\$870] in
- 22 political contributions as a general-purpose committee.

#### 23 §20.329. Modified Reporting.

- 24 (a) A specific-purpose committee that would otherwise be required to file pre-election
- reports and a runoff report, if necessary, may choose to file under the modified schedule if
- 26 the committee does not intend to accept more than \$930 [\$900] in political contributions
- or make more than \$930 [\$900] in political expenditures (excluding filing fees) in
- 28 connection with any election in an election cycle.
- 29 (b) Under the modified schedule, the campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee
- 30 is not required to file pre-election reports or a runoff report.
- 31 (c) To select modified filing, a specific-purpose committee must file a declaration of the
- committee's intent not to accept more than \$930 [\$900] in political contributions or make
- more than \$930 [\$900] in political expenditures (excluding filing fees) in connection with

- the election. The declaration must include a statement that the committee understands that
- 2 if either one of those limits is exceeded, the committee's campaign treasurer will be
- 3 required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a runoff report.
- 4 (d) A declaration under subsection (c) of this section is filed with the committee's campaign
- 5 treasurer appointment.
- 6 (e) To file under the modified schedule, a specific-purpose committee must file the
- 7 declaration required under subsection (c) of this section no later than the 30th day before
- 8 the first election to which the declaration applies. A declaration filed under subsection (c)
- 9 of this section is valid for one election cycle only.
- 10 (f) Except as provided by subsection (g) of this section, a specific-purpose committee's
- campaign treasurer must file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a runoff report under
- the schedule set out in §20.325 of this title (relating to Pre-election Reports) and §20.327
- of this title (relating to Runoff Report) if the committee exceeds either of the \$930 [\$900]
- 14 limits for modified reporting.
- 15 (g) If a specific-purpose committee exceeds either of the \$930 [\$900] limits for modified
- reporting after the 30th day before the election, the committee's campaign treasurer must
- 17 file a report not later than 48 hours after exceeding the limit.
- 18 (1) The period covered by a 48-hour report shall begin either on the day the
- committee's campaign treasurer appointment was filed (if it is the committee's first
- report of contributions and expenditures) or on the first day after the period covered
- by the last report (other than a special pre-election report or special session report)
- filed under this subchapter, as applicable.
- 23 (2) The period covered by a 48-hour report shall continue through the day the
- committee exceeded one of the limits for modified reporting.
- 25 (h) A specific-purpose committee that exceeds either of the \$930 [\$900] limits for modified
- reporting after the 30th day before the election and on or before the 10th day before the
- election must file a report under §20.325(f) of this title (relating to Pre-Election Reports),
- in addition to any required special pre-election reports.

# 29 §20.331. Contents of Specific-Purpose Committee Sworn Report of Contributions and

- 30 Expenditures.
- 31 Semiannual reports, pre-election reports, and runoff reports must cover reportable activity
- during the reporting period and must include the following information:
- 33 (1) the full name of the specific-purpose committee;
- 34 (2) the address of the specific-purpose committee;

1	(3) the full name of the specific-purpose committee's campaign treasurer;
2 3	(4) the residence or business street address of the specific-purpose committee's campaign treasurer;
4	(5) the committee campaign treasurer's telephone number;
5	(6) the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed, if applicable;
6	(7) for each candidate supported or opposed by the specific-purpose committee:
7	(A) the full name of the candidate;
8	(B) the office sought by the candidate; and
9 10	(C) an indication of whether the committee supports or opposes the candidate;
11	(8) for each officeholder assisted by the specific-purpose committee:
12	(A) the full name of the officeholder;
13	(B) the office held by the officeholder; and
14 15	(C) an indication of whether the committee supports or opposes the officeholder;
16	(9) for each measure supported or opposed by the specific-purpose committee:
17	(A) a description of the measure; and
18	(B) an indication of whether the committee supports or opposes the measure;
19 20 21	(10) for each political expenditure by the committee that was made as a political contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or another political committee and that was returned to the specific-purpose committee during the reporting period:
22	(A) the amount returned;
23	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made;
24 25	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made; and
26	(D) the date the expenditure was returned to the specific-purpose committee;
27 28 29 30	(11) on a separate page, the following information for each expenditure from political contributions made to a business in which the candidate has a participating interest of more than 10%, holds a position on the governing body of the business, or serves as an officer of the business:

1	(A) the full name of the business to which the expenditure was made;
2	(B) the address of the business to which the expenditure was made;
3	(C) the date of the expenditure;
4	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
5	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
6 7 8	(12) if the specific-purpose committee supports or opposes measures exclusively, for each contribution accepted from a labor organization or corporation, as defined by §20.1 of this title (relating to Definitions):
9	(A) the date each contribution was accepted;
10 11	(B) the full name of the corporation or labor organization making the contribution;
12 13	(C) the address of the corporation or labor organization making the contribution;
14	(D) the amount of the contribution; and
15	(E) a description of any in-kind contribution;
16 17 18 19	(13) for each person from whom the specific-purpose committee accepted a political contribution (other than a pledge, loan, or a guarantee of a loan) of more than \$90 in value or political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) that total more than \$90 in value:
20	(A) the full name of the person;
21	(B) the address of the person;
22	(C) the total amount of contributions;
23	(D) the date each contribution was accepted; and
24	(E) a description of any in-kind contribution;
25 26 27	(14) for each person from whom the specific-purpose committee accepted a pledge or pledges to provide more than \$90 in money or to provide goods or services worth more than \$90:
28	(A) the full name of the person making a pledge;
29	(B) the address of the person making a pledge;
30	(C) the amount of the pledge;

1	(D) the date each pledge was accepted; and
2	(E) a description of any goods or services pledged;
3 4	(15) the total of all pledges accepted during the period for \$90 and less from a person, except those reported under paragraph (14) of this section;
5 6 7	(16) for each person making a loan or loans to the specific-purpose committee for campaign or officeholder purposes if the total amount loaned by the person during the period is more than \$90:
8	(A) the full name of the person or financial institution making the loan;
9	(B) the address of the person or financial institution making the loan;
10	(C) the amount of the loan;
11	(D) the date of the loan;
12	(E) the interest rate;
13	(F) the maturity date;
14	(G) the collateral for the loan, if any; and
15	(H) if the loan has guarantors:
16	(i) the full name of each guarantor;
17	(ii) the address of each guarantor;
18	(iii) the principal occupation of each guarantor;
19	(iv) the name of the employer of each guarantor; and
20	(v) the amount guaranteed by each guarantor;
21 22 23	(17) the total amount of loans accepted during the period for \$90 and less from persons other than financial institutions engaged in the business of making loans for more than one year, except those reported under paragraph (16) of this section;
24 25	(18) for political expenditures made during the reporting period that total more than $$190 \ [\$180]$ to a single payee:
26	(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
27	(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
28	(C) the date of the expenditure;
29	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and

1	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
2 3 4	(19) for each direct campaign expenditure benefiting a candidate or officeholder, except for a direct campaign expenditure made by a committee supporting only one candidate or officeholder:
5	(A) the name of the candidate or officeholder; and
6	(B) the office sought or held by the candidate or officeholder;
7 8	(20) for each non-political expenditure made from political contributions, other than expenditures reported under paragraph (11) of this section:
9	(A) the date of each expenditure;
10	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
11	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
12	(D) the purpose of the expenditure; and
13	(E) the amount of the expenditure;
14 15 16	(21) for each political contribution accepted from an out-of-state political committee, the information required by §22.7 of this title (relating to Contribution from Out-of-State Committee);
17 18 19 20	(22) any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
21 22 23	(23) any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
24 25	(24) any other gain from a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
26 27	(25) any investment purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
28 29 30	(26) the full name and address of each person from whom an amount described by paragraph (22), (23), (24), or (25) of this section is received, the date the amount is received, and the purpose for which the amount is received;
31	(27) the following total amounts:

- 1 (A) the total principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;
- 3 (B) the total amount or an itemized listing of political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) of \$90 and less;
- 5 (C) the total amount of all political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans);
- 7 (D) the total amount or an itemized listing of the political expenditures of \$190 [\$180] and less; and
  - (E) the total amount of all political expenditures; and
- 10 (28) an affidavit, executed by the campaign treasurer, stating: "I swear, or affirm, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code."

#### §20.333. Special Pre-Election Report by Certain Specific-Purpose Committees.

- 14 (a) As provided by subsection (b) of this section, certain specific-purpose committees must
- 15 file reports about certain contributions accepted during the period that begins on the ninth
- day before an election and ends at noon on the day before an election. Reports under this
- section are known as "special pre-election" reports.
- 18 (b) A campaign treasurer for a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a
- candidate for an office specified by §252.005(1), Election Code, that, during the period
- described in subsection (a) of this section, accepts one or more political contributions from
- a person that in the aggregate exceed \$1,860 [\$1,790] must file special pre-election reports.
- 22 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the campaign treasurer of a specific-
- purpose committee must file a report so that the report is received by the commission no
- later than the first business day after the committee accepts a contribution from a person
- 25 that triggers the requirement to file the special pre-election report.
- 26 (d) If, during the reporting period for special pre-election contributions, a committee
- 27 receives additional contributions from a person whose previous contribution or
- 28 contributions have triggered the requirement to file a special pre-election report during the
- 29 period, the campaign treasurer for the committee must file an additional special pre-
- 30 election report for each such contribution. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this
- section, each such special pre-election report must be filed so that it is received by the
- 32 commission no later than the first business day after the committee accepts the
- 33 contribution.

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- 1 (e) The campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee must file a special pre-election
- 2 report for each person whose contribution or contributions made during the period for
- 3 special pre-election reports exceed the threshold for special pre-election reports.
- 4 (f) A campaign treasurer of a specific-purpose committee must also report contributions
- 5 reported on a special pre-election report on the next semiannual, pre-election, or runoff
- 6 report filed, as applicable.

# Subchapter F. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR A GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

#### 9 §20.401. Thresholds for Appointment of Campaign Treasurer by a General-Purpose

10 Committee.

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- 11 (a) A general-purpose committee may not accept political contributions exceeding \$910
- 12 [\$870] and may not make or authorize political expenditures exceeding \$910 [\$870]
- without filing a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission.
- 14 (b) Unless the committee's campaign treasurer appointment was filed not later than the 30th
- day before the appropriate election day, a general-purpose committee may not knowingly
- make or authorize campaign contributions or campaign expenditures exceeding \$910
- 17 [\$870] to support or oppose a candidate in a primary or general election for the following:
- 18 (1) a statewide office;
- 19 (2) a seat in the state legislature;
- 20 (3) a seat on the State Board of Education;
- 21 (4) a multi-county district office; or
- 22 (5) a judicial district office filled by voters of only one county.

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#### §20.405. Campaign Treasurer Appointment for a General-Purpose Committee.

- 25 (a) A general-purpose committee may appoint a campaign treasurer at any time before
- exceeding the thresholds described in §20.401(a) of this title (relating to Thresholds for
- 27 Appointment of Campaign Treasurer by a General-Purpose Committee).
- 28 (b) After a general-purpose committee appoints a campaign treasurer, the campaign
- 29 treasurer must comply with all the requirements of this subchapter, even if the committee
- has not yet exceeded \$910 [\$870] in political contributions or expenditures.

- 1 (c) With the exception of the campaign treasurer appointment, the individual named as a
- 2 committee's campaign treasurer is legally responsible for filing all reports of the general-
- 3 purpose committee, including a report following the termination of his or her appointment
- 4 as campaign treasurer.

## 5 §20.433. Contents of General-Purpose Committee Sworn Report of Contributions

6 and Expenditures.

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- 7 Semiannual reports, pre-election reports, and runoff reports must cover reportable activity
- 8 during the reporting period and must include the following information:
- 9 (1) the full name of the general-purpose committee;
- 10 (2) the address of the general-purpose committee;
- 11 (3) the full name of the general-purpose committee's campaign treasurer;
- 12 (4) the residence or business street address of the general-purpose committee's campaign treasurer;
- 14 (5) the committee campaign treasurer's telephone number;
- 15 (6) the identity and date of the election for which the report is filed, if applicable;
- 16 (7) the full name of each identified candidate or measure or classification by party 17 of candidates supported or opposed by the general-purpose committee and an 18 indication of whether the general-purpose committee supports or opposes each
- listed candidate, measure, or classification by party of candidates;
- 20 (8) the full name of each identified officeholder or classification by party of officeholders assisted by the general-purpose committee;
- 22 (9) if the general-purpose committee supports or opposes measures exclusively, for 23 each contribution accepted from a corporation as defined by §20.1 of this title 24 (relating to Definitions):
  - (A) the date each contribution was accepted;
  - (B) the full name of the corporation or labor organization making the contribution;
  - (C) the address of the corporation or labor organization making the contribution;
- 30 (D) the amount of the contribution; and
- 31 (E) a description of any in-kind contribution;

1 2 3 4	(10) for each political expenditure by the general-purpose committee that was made as a political contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or another political committee and that was returned to the general-purpose committee during the reporting period:
5	(A) the amount returned;
6	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made;
7 8	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was originally made; and
9	(D) the date the expenditure was returned to the general-purpose committee;
10 11 12 13	(11) for each person from whom the general-purpose committee accepted a political contribution other than a pledge or a loan of more than \$90 in value, or political contributions other than pledges or loans that total more than \$90 in value (or more than \$20 for a general-purpose committee reporting monthly):
14	(A) the date each contribution was accepted;
15	(B) the full name of the person making the contribution;
16	(C) the address of the person making the contribution;
17	(D) the principal occupation of the person making the contribution;
18	(E) the amount of the contribution; and
19	(F) a description of any in-kind contribution;
20 21 22	(12) for each person from whom the general-purpose committee accepted a pledge or pledges to provide more than \$90 in money or to provide goods or services worth more than \$90 (more than \$20 for a general-purpose committee reporting monthly):
23	(A) the full name of the person making the pledge;
24	(B) the address of the person making the pledge;
25	(C) the principal occupation of the person making the pledge;
26	(D) the amount of each pledge;
27	(E) the date each pledge was accepted; and
28	(F) a description of any goods or services pledged;
29 30	(13) the total of all pledges accepted during the period for \$90 and less from a person, except for those reported under paragraph (12) of this section;

1 2 3	(14) for each person making a loan or loans to the general-purpose committee for campaign purposes if the total amount loaned by the person during the period is more than \$90 (more than \$20 for a general-purpose committee reporting monthly):
4	(A) the full name of the person or financial institution making the loan;
5	(B) the address of the person or financial institution making the loan;
6	(C) the amount of the loan;
7	(D) the date of the loan;
8	(E) the interest rate;
9	(F) the maturity date;
10	(G) the collateral for the loan, if any; and
11	(H) if the loan has guarantors:
12	(i) the full name of each guarantor;
13	(ii) the address of each guarantor;
14	(iii) the principal occupation of each guarantor;
15	(iv) the name of the employer of each guarantor; and
16	(v) the amount guaranteed by each guarantor;
17 18 19	(15) the total amount of loans accepted during the period for \$90 and less from persons other than financial institutions engaged in the business of making loans for more than one year, except for those reported under paragraph (14) of this section;
20 21 22	(16) for political expenditures made during the reporting period that total more than \$190 [\$180] (more than \$20 for a general-purpose committee reporting monthly) to a single payee:
23	(A) the full name of the person to whom each expenditure was made;
24	(B) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
25	(C) the date of the expenditure;
26	(D) the purpose of the expenditure;
27	(E) the amount of the expenditure; and
28 29	(F) indication for an expenditure paid in full or in part from corporations or labor organizations that it was paid from such sources.

1	(17) for each non-political expenditure made from political contributions:
2	(A) the date of each expenditure;
3	(B) the full name of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
4	(C) the address of the person to whom the expenditure was made;
5	(D) the purpose of the expenditure;
6	(E) the amount of the expenditure; and
7 8	(F) indication for an expenditure paid in full or in part from corporations or labor organizations that it was paid from such sources.
9 10	(18) for each candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made by the committee:
11	(A) the name of the candidate or officeholder; and
12	(B) the office sought or held by the candidate or officeholder;
13 14 15	(19) for each political contribution from an out-of-state political committee, the information required by §22.7 of this title (relating to Contribution from Out-of-State Committee);
16 17 18 19	(20) any credit, interest, rebate, refund, reimbursement, or return of a deposit fee resulting from the use of a political contribution or an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
20 21 22	(21) any proceeds of the sale of an asset purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
23 24	(22) any other gain from a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
25 26	(23) any investment purchased with a political contribution that is received during the reporting period and the amount of which exceeds \$120; [\$130;]
27 28 29	(24) the full name and address of each person from whom an amount described by paragraphs (20), (21), (22), or (23) of this section is received, the date the amount is received, and the purpose for which the amount is received;
30	(25) the following total amounts:
31 32	(A) the total principal amount of all outstanding loans as of the last day of the reporting period;

- 1 (B) the total amount or an itemized listing of political contributions (other 2 than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans) of \$90 and less (\$20 and less for 3 a general-purpose committee reporting monthly);
- 4 (C) the total amount of all political contributions (other than pledges, loans, or guarantees of loans);
- (D) the total amount or an itemized listing of the political expenditures of \$190 [\$180] and less (\$20 and less for a general-purpose committee reporting monthly); and
  - (E) the total amount of all political expenditures; and
- 10 (26) an affidavit, executed by the campaign treasurer, stating: "I swear, or affirm, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code."

#### 13 §20.434. Alternate Reporting Requirements for General-Purpose Committees.

- 14 (a) This section and Election Code §254.1541 apply only to a general-purpose committee
- with less than \$27,000 [\$25,860] in one or more accounts maintained by the committee in
- which political contributions are deposited, as of the last day of the preceding reporting
- period for which the committee was required to file a report.
- 18 (b) The alternative reporting requirement in Election Code §254.1541 applies only to
- 19 contributions.

- 20 (c) A report by a campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee to which this section
- and Election Code §254.154 apply shall include the information required by §20.433 of
- 22 this title (Contents of General-Purpose Committee Sworn Report of Contributions and
- 23 Expenditures), except that the campaign treasurer may choose a threshold reporting amount
- for political contributions of \$190 [\$180] instead of the threshold reporting amount of \$90
- 25 [\$50] set out in \$20.433(a)(11) and (a)(20)(B) of this title.
- 26 (d) A monthly report by a campaign treasurer of a general-purpose committee to which this
- section and Election Code §254.154 apply shall include the information required by
- §20.433 of this title (Contents of General-Purpose Committee Sworn Report of
- 29 Contributions and Expenditures), except that the campaign treasurer may choose a
- 30 threshold reporting amount for political contributions of \$40 instead of the threshold
- reporting amount of \$20 set out in  $\S20.433(a)(11)$  and (a)(20)(B) of this title.

#### 1 §20.435. Special Pre-Election Reports by Certain General-Purpose Committees.

- 2 (a) In addition to other reports required by this chapter, a general-purpose committee must
- 3 file a special pre-election report if the committee is involved in an election and if it:
- 4 (1) makes direct campaign expenditures supporting or opposing a single candidate
- that in the aggregate exceed \$1,860 [\$1,790] or a group of candidates that in the
- aggregate exceed \$27,950 [\$26,780] during the reporting period for special pre-
- 7 election reports; or
- 8 (2) accepts political contributions from a person that in the aggregate exceed \$6,370
- 9 [\$6,090] during the reporting period for special pre-election reports.
- 10 (b) The period for special pre-election reports begins on the ninth day before election day
- and ends at noon on the day before election day.
- 12 (c) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, a report under this section must be
- received by the commission no later than the first business day after the contribution is
- accepted or the expenditure is made.
- 15 (d) A special pre-election report that is exempt from electronic filing under §254.036(c),
- Election Code, must be received by the commission no later than 5 p.m. of the first business
- day after the contribution is accepted or the expenditure is made.
- 18 (e) Expenditures and contributions reported under this section must be reported again in
- the next applicable sworn report of contributions and expenditures.

# Subchapter I. RULES APPLICABLE TO A POLITICAL PARTY'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- §20.553. Campaign Treasurer Appointment Not Required for County Executive
- 23 Committee Accepting Contributions or Making Expenditures under Certain
- 24 Amount.

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- 25 (a) A county executive committee accepting political contributions or making political
- expenditures totaling \$33,750 [\$32,320] or less in a calendar year is not required to:
- 27 (1) appoint a campaign treasurer before accepting political contributions or making
- political expenditures; or
- 29 (2) file the reports required by Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Reporting
- Requirements for a General-Purpose Committee).
- 31 (b) A county executive committee described in subsection (a) of this section is required to
- comply with §20.551 of this title (relating to Obligation To Maintain Records).

- 1 §20.555. County Executive Committee Accepting Contributions or Making
- 2 Expenditures That Exceed Certain Amount.
- 3 (a) A county executive committee described by subsection (b) of this section is subject to
- 4 the requirements of Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements for a
- 5 General-Purpose Committee), except where those rules conflict with this subchapter. In the
- 6 case of conflict, this subchapter prevails over Subchapter F of this chapter.
- 7 (b) A county executive committee that accepts political contributions or that makes
- 8 political expenditures that, in the aggregate, exceed \$33,750 [\$32,320] in a calendar year
- 9 shall file:
- 10 (1) a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission no later than the 15th day after the date that amount is exceeded; and
- 12 (2) the reports required by Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Reporting Requirements for a General-Purpose Committee). The first report filed must include all political contributions accepted and all political expenditures made before the county executive committee filed its campaign treasurer appointment.
- 16 (c) Contributions accepted from corporations and labor organizations under §253.104 of
- the Election Code and reported under Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Accepting
- and Reporting Contributions from Corporations and Labor Organizations) do not count
- against the \$33,750 [\$32,320] thresholds described in subsection (b) of this section.
- 20 (d) A county executive committee that filed a campaign treasurer appointment may file a
- 21 final report, which will notify the commission that the county executive committee does
- not intend to file future reports unless it exceeds one of the \$33,750 [\$32,320] thresholds.
- 23 The final report may be filed:
- 24 (1) beginning on January 1 and by the January 15 filing deadline if the committee
- has exceeded one of the \$33,750 [\$32,320] thresholds in the previous calendar year;
- 26 or
- (2) at any time if the committee has not exceeded one of the \$33,750 [\$32,320]
- thresholds in the calendar year.

#### 1 Chapter 22. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

## 2 §22.1. Certain Campaign Treasurer Appointments Required before Political Activity

- 3 **Begins.**
- 4 (a) An individual must file a campaign treasurer appointment with the proper authority
- 5 before accepting a campaign contribution or making or authorizing a campaign
- 6 expenditure.
- 7 (1) An officeholder may accept an officeholder contribution and make or authorize 8 an officeholder expenditure without a campaign treasurer appointment on file.
- 9 (2) An officeholder who does not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file 10 may not accept a campaign contribution or make or authorize a campaign 11 expenditure.
- 12 (b) A political committee may not accept political contributions exceeding \$910 [\$870]
- and may not make or authorize political expenditures exceeding \$910 [\\$870] without filing
- a campaign treasurer appointment with the appropriate filing authority.
- 15 (c) Unless the committee's campaign treasurer appointment was filed not later than the 30th
- day before the appropriate election day, a political committee may not knowingly make or
- authorize campaign contributions or campaign expenditures exceeding \$910 [\$870] to
- support or oppose a candidate in a primary or general election for the following:
- 19 (1) a statewide office;
- 20 (2) a seat in the state legislature;
- 21 (3) a seat on the State Board of Education;
- 22 (4) a multi-county district office; or
- 23 (5) a judicial district office filled by voters of only one county.
- 24 (d) This section does not apply to the county executive committee of a political party except
- as provided in Chapter 20, Subchapter I of this title (relating to Rules Applicable to a
- 26 Political Party's County Executive Committee).

## 27 §22.6. Reporting Direct Campaign Expenditures.

- 28 (a) Section 254.261 of the Election Code applies to a person who, not acting in concert
- with another person, makes one or more direct campaign expenditures that exceed \$140
- 30 [\$130] in an election from the person's own property.

#### 1 §22.7. Contribution from Out-of-State Committee.

- 2 (a) For each reporting period during which a candidate, officeholder, or political committee
- 3 accepts a contribution or contributions from an out-of-state political committee totaling
- 4 more than \$930, [\$900,] the candidate, officeholder, or political committee must comply
- 5 with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.
- 6 (b) The candidate, officeholder, or political committee covered by subsection (a) of this
- 7 section must first obtain from the out-of-state committee one of the following documents
- 8 before accepting the contribution that causes the total received from the out-of-state
- 9 committee to exceed \$930 [\$900] during the reporting period:
- (1) a written statement, certified by an officer of the out-of-state political committee, listing the full name and address of each person who contributed more than \$190 [\$180] to the out-of-state political committee during the 12 months immediately
- preceding the date of the contribution; or
- 14 (2) a copy of the out-of-state political committee's statement of organization filed 15 as required by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer 16 of the out-of-state committee.
- (c) The document obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be included as part of the report that covers the reporting period in which the candidate, officeholder, or political committee accepted the contribution that caused the total accepted from the out-of-state committee to exceed \$930. [\$900.]
- 21 (d) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee that:

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- (1) receives contributions covered by subsection (a) of this section from the same out-of-state committee in successive reporting periods; and
  - (2) complies with subsection (b)(2) of this section before accepting the first contribution triggering subsection (a) of this section, may comply with subsection (c) of this section in successive reporting periods by submitting a copy of the certified document obtained before accepting the first contribution triggering subsection (a) of this section, rather than by obtaining and submitting an original certified document for each reporting period, provided the document has not been amended since the last submission.
- (e) A candidate, officeholder, or political committee that accepts a contribution or contributions totaling \$930 [\$900] or less from an out-of-state political committee shall include as part of the report covering the reporting period in which the contribution or contributions are accepted either:

1 2 3	by law with the Federal Election Commission and certified by an officer of the out- of-state committee; or
4	(2) the following information:
5 6	(A) the full name of the committee, and, if the name is an acronym, the words the acronym represents;
7	(B) the address of the committee;
8	(C) the telephone number of the committee;
9	(D) the name of the person appointing the campaign treasurer; and
10 11	(E) the following information for the individual appointed campaign treasurer and assistant campaign treasurer:
12	(i) the individual's full name;
13	(ii) the individual's residence or business street address; and
14	(iii) the individual's telephone number.
15 16 17	(f) This section does not apply to a contribution from an out-of-state political committee if the committee filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the commission before making the contribution.

#### **Chapter 34. REGULATION OF LOBBYISTS**

#### Subchapter B. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

#### 3 §34.41. Expenditure Threshold.

- 4 (a) A person must register under Government Code, §305.003(a)(1), if the person makes
- 5 total expenditures of more than \$810 [\$780] in a calendar quarter, not including
- 6 expenditures for the person's own travel, food, lodging, or membership dues, on activities
- 7 described in Government Code, §305.006(b), to communicate directly with one or more
- 8 members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative
- 9 action.

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- 10 (b) An expenditure made by a member of the judicial, legislative, or executive branch of
- state government or an officer or employee of a political subdivision of the state acting in
- his or her official capacity is not included for purposes of determining whether a person is
- required to register under Government Code, §305.003(a)(1).
- 14 (c) An expenditure made in connection with an event to promote the interests of a
- designated geographic area or political subdivision is not included for purposes of
- determining whether a person has crossed the registration threshold in Government Code,
- \$305.003(a)(1), if the expenditure is made by a group that exists for the limited purpose of
- sponsoring the event or by a person acting on behalf of such a group.

# 19 §34.43. Compensation and Reimbursement Threshold.

- 20 (a) A person must register under Government Code, §305.003(a)(2), if the person receives,
- or is entitled to receive under an agreement under which the person is retained or employed,
- more than \$1,620 [\$1,560] in a calendar quarter in compensation and reimbursement, not
- 23 including reimbursement for the person's own travel, food, lodging, or membership dues,
- 24 from one or more other persons to communicate directly with a member of the legislative
- or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action.
- 26 (b) For purposes of Government Code, §305.003(a)(2), and this chapter, a person is not
- 27 required to register if the person spends not more than 40 hours for which the person is
- compensated or reimbursed during a calendar quarter engaging in lobby activity, including
- 29 preparatory activity as described by §34.3 of this title.
- 30 (c) For purposes of Government Code, §305.003(a)(2), and this chapter, a person shall
- make a reasonable allocation of compensation between compensation for lobby activity
- and compensation for other activities.

# **EXHIBIT A**

# **Text of Proposed Rule Amendments**

The proposed new language is indicated by <u>underlined</u> text. The deleted language is by [strikethrough] text.

1	CHAPTER 18. GENERAL RULES CONCERNING REPORTS
2	§ 18.23. Administrative Waiver of Fine
3 4	(a) A filer may request the executive director to waive a late fine by submitting an affidavit to the executive director that states facts that establish that:
5	···
6	(6) the filer of the campaign finance report:
7	(A) had filed all previous reports by the applicable deadline;
8 9	(B) had no <u>new</u> contributions, expenditures, or loans to report <u>during the filing</u> <u>period</u> ; and
10 11	(C) filed the report no later than 30 days after the filer <u>first learned</u> [was notified] that the report was[appeared to be] late;
12	(7) the filer reasonably relied on incorrect information given to the filer by the agency; or
13	(8) other administrative error by the agency.
14	§18.24. General Guidelines for Other Administrative Waiver or Reduction of Fine
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16 17	(b) For purposes of determining a waiver or reduction of a late fine under §18.25 and §18.26 of this title, a late report will be classified by report type, as follows:
18 19	(1) Any report that is not a critical report as defined under paragraph (2) of this subsection will be classified as Report Type I and considered under §18.25 of this title.
20 21	(2) A critical report will be classified as Report Type II and considered under §18.26 of this title. A "critical report" is:
22	(A) a campaign finance pre-election report due 30 days before an election;
23	(B) a campaign finance pre-election report due 8 days before an election;

1	(C) a runoff report;
2	(D) a daily special pre-election report required under §254.038 or §254.039, Election Code;
4 5	(E) a semiannual report subject to the higher statutory fine under §254.042, Election Code; or
6 7	[(F) a personal financial statement required under §572.027, Government Code, if the filer is a candidate with an opponent on the ballot in a primary election.]
8 9 10	(c) For purposes of determining a waiver or reduction of a late fine under §18.25 and §18.26 of this title, a filer requesting a waiver or reduction of a late fine will be categorized by filer type, as follows:
11 12 13	(1) Category A includes candidates for and officeholders of the following offices and specific-purpose committees supporting candidates for and officeholders of the following offices:
<b>L</b> 4	(A) statewide office;
15	(B) legislative office;
16	(C) district judge;
<b>L</b> 7	(D) state appellate court justice;
18	(E) State Board of Education member; and
19	(F) Secretary of State.
20 21 22	(2) Category B includes all filers not categorized in Category A, as defined by paragraph(1) of this subsection, or Category C, as defined by paragraph(3) of this subsection. Examples of Category B filers include the following filer types:
23	(A) lobbyists;
24	(B) salaried non-elected officials;
25	(C) candidates for and officeholders of district attorney;
26	(D) candidates for and officeholders of political party chair; [and]
27 28	(E) political committees with \$3,000 or more in annual activity in the calendar year in which the late report was due-; and
29	(F) a legislative caucus.

1	(3) Category C includes:
2	(A) unsalaried appointed board members and officials; and
3 4	(B) political committees with less than \$3,000 in annual activity in the calendar year in which the late report was due.
5 6 7	(d) For purposes of a reduction of a late fine under § 18.25 and §18.26 of this title, [the following explanations will be accepted as showing] good cause includes, but is not limited to, the following:
8 9	(1) The report was filed no <u>later than three days after the date it was due</u> [more than on date late].
10 11 12	(2) The filer filed the report within five days after first learning the report was late from a late notice sent by the commission. [The report was filed within seven days of receipt of a late notice.]
13 14	(3) The report was not a critical report and was prepared and placed in the mail on time but not postmarked by the deadline.
15 16 17	(4) The filer had technical difficulties after regular business hours, but the report was filed no later than[on] the next business day after[that] the commission's technical support staff fixed the technical difficulty[was at work].
18 19	[(5) The filer's address changed and the filer did not receive notice of the filing deadline.]
20 21	(5)[(6)] There are no funds in the filer's campaign or officeholder account and the filer is unemployed.
22 23 24 25	(6)[(7)] A first-time filer that is required to file campaign finance reports with a county filing authority and personal financial statements with the commission, who mistakenly files the personal financial statement with the county on the filing deadline and then correctly files with the commission within seven days of realizing the mistake.
26 27	[(e) For purposes of a reduction of a late fine under § 18.25 and §18.26 of this title, the following explanations will not be accepted as showing good cause:
28	(1) The filer did not know the report was due.
29	(2) The filer forgot or the person assigned by the filer to prepare the report forgot.
30	(3) The campaign was very time-consuming.
31	(4) The filer's job was very time-consuming.
32	(5) The filer was too overwhelmed by responsibilities to file the report on time.

1 2	(6) The filer was a candidate who lost an election and did not know to terminate his or her campaign treasurer appointment and file a final report.
3 4	(7) The filer left his or her position and did not know he or she was still required to file a report.]
5 6 7	(e) For purposes of determining whether a filer is eligible for a waiver or reduction of a late fine under § 18.25 or § 18.26 of this title, a prior offense is any prior late report in which a late-filing penalty was assessed except:
8 9	(1) the late-filing penalty for that prior late report was waived under Sections 18.23(a)(1)-(3) of this title; or
10 11	(2) no late notices were sent for that prior late report and the filer did not file a request that the late-filing penalty be waived or reduced for the prior late report.
12 13 14	(f) A late fine that is reduced under §18.25 or §18.26 of this title will revert to the full amount originally assessed if the reduced fine is not paid within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the letter informing the filer of the reduction.
15 16	(g) A filer may appeal a determination made under §18.25 or §18.26 of this title by submitting a request in writing to the commission.
17 18 19 20	(1) The request for appeal should state the filer's reasons for requesting an appeal, provide any additional information needed to support the request, and state whether the filer would like the opportunity to appear before the commission and offer testimony regarding the appeal.
21 22	(2) The Executive Director may review the appeal and reconsider the determination made under §18.25 or §18.26 of this title or set the appeal for a hearing before the commission.
23 24 25	(3)[(2)] After hearing a request for appeal, the commission may affirm the determination made under §18.25 or §18.26 of this title or make a new determination based on facts presented in the appeal.

# **Exhibit A**

# Legislative Per Diem Rule Amendment

The deleted text is indicated by [strikethrough] text.

The amended proposed new language is indicated by <u>underlined text</u>.

# § 50.1. Legislative Per Diem

- (a) The legislative per diem is \$224 [\$221]. The per diem is intended to be paid to each member of the legislature and the lieutenant governor for each day during the regular session and for each day during any special session.
- (b) If necessary, this rule shall be applied retroactively to ensure payment of the \$224[\$221] per diem for 2021[2019].

#### **TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

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

Chad M. Craycraft, Chair Mary K. "Katie" Kennedy, Vice Chair Randall H. Erben Chris Flood Patrick W. Mizell Richard S. Schmidt Joseph O. Slovacek Steven D. Wolens

# PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AGENDA

Date and Time: 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2020 Location: Via teleconference

# INFORMATION ON HOW TO VIEW AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE BROADCAST OF THIS MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING HERE:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/meetings/meetings 2020-2024.php#2020

- 1. Call to order; roll call.
- 2. Contested Case Proceeding: Sworn Complaint No. SC-3180254, In the Matter of Robert L. "Bob" Hall, III, Respondent. Prehearing conference.
- 3. 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.