

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

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RESOLUTION

The Texas Ethics Commission unanimously condemns the use of misleading campaign communications regarding the activities of the Commission.

The use of the statements “a sworn complaint has been filed against Candidate A” or “the Texas Ethics Commission is investigating a complaint against Candidate A” are improper attempts to mislead the public. It is therefore the unanimous opinion of the bipartisan Texas Ethics Commission that the use of such language in campaign communications is an unfair practice and should be judged accordingly by voters.

By law, the Texas Ethics Commission investigates every sworn complaint, whether it has merit or not. Likewise, any citizen of the State of Texas has the right to file a sworn complaint, whether it has merit or not. The fact that a complaint has been filed or the Commission is investigating provides no meaningful information to the voting public. Anyone can file a complaint and the Commission must investigate the complaints it receives.

If violations of the statutes under the Commission’s jurisdiction have occurred, the proper way to inform the public of these violations is to describe the facts of the violation or the actual findings of the Commission after the conclusion of an investigation.

The Commission directs that this resolution be prominently referenced on the Commission’s website and that the resolution be sent to members of the legislature and state and county party chairs.

Issued December 3, 2013