



111 LOGSDON
ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714-6589
(432) 523-4820

TO: Candidates for Elections

FROM: Sara Copeland, City Secretary

SUBJECT: 2021 Election Information and Forms

DATE: January 4, 2021

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate for the City Council of the City of Andrews. This year we will be electing a three (3) citizens, to serve as City Council Members. All places on the City Council are at-large and can be held by any qualified candidate. Each member elected will serve a two-year term, from May 2021 to May 2023.

Running for office encompasses a broad range of activities. The Secretary of State and the Texas Ethics Commission each regulate portions of the election process at the local level. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the laws applicable to running for elective office. Their websites are: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us> and <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us>

Attached is a "Candidate Packet" designed to assist you in completing your candidacy filing for the upcoming election.

1. A list of Important Election Dates.
2. Application for a Place on the City of Andrews's General Election Ballot. This form can be filed in my office between January 13, 2021 and February 12, 2021. Form must be signed in the presence of a notary. We have several at City Hall to assist you.
3. Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer by a Candidate (CTA). This form is to be filed in my office at the same time as the Application. Must be filed before accepting contributions or making expenditures. A candidate that does not intend to accept more than \$900 in political contributions or make more than \$900 in political expenditures should sign Page 2 of the form declaring "Modified Reporting" thereby eliminating the pre-elections reporting requirements. **NOTE:** If you select "Modified Reporting" and later exceed \$900 in political contributions or expenditures, you must file Form C/OH Campaign Finance Reports according to the regular filing schedule.
4. Code of Fair Campaign Practices (CFCP). Voluntary Filing. Although not required, all candidates are encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

5. **Political Advertising Guide.** This explains the proper use of political advertising. If you will be using Political Signs, the City does enforce sign regulations and, if placed improperly, signs could be removed by City personnel.
6. **Guide to Political Fundraising.** Summarizes the rules regarding campaign fundraising.

As City Secretary, I will be happy to answer general questions regarding filing your application and due dates for reporting and filings. The Office of the City Secretary is specifically limited by law to the acceptance and filing of various applications, affidavits, statements and reports, and noting the date and time of all such filings. These documents become public records upon filing and are available for public inspection.

Candidate/Officeholder Campaign Finance Report (C/OH). Pre-election reports must be filed with the City Secretary if the candidate did not select "Modified Reporting" or "Final Report" on Form CTA. **Once the election is over, all candidates should file Form C/OH as a final report.**

You may direct specific legal questions to the office of the Secretary of State and/or to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Good luck with your campaign!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Copeland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Copeland, TRMC
City Secretary

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR CANDIDATES
GENERAL ELECTION – MAY 1, 2021**

General election – expiring terms of Council Members Chris Helbig, Keith Livingston and Carolyn Jones

January 13, 2021	First day to file an application for a place on the ballot
January 28, 2021	Council calls the election
February 12, 2021	Last day to file an application for a place on the ballot (Must be received by 5:00 p.m.)
February 15, 2021	First Day to Post 72-Hour Notice of Drawing for Order of Names on Ballot (If drawing on Feb. 18 th)
February 16, 2021	Last day for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy
February 18-21, 2021	Recommended period to conduct drawing for place on ballot
February 17, 2021	First day election may be cancelled if all candidates are unopposed
February 18, 2021	Drawing for position on the ballot at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall (Date subject to change – all candidates will be notified if change is made)
February 19, 2021	Last day for a ballot candidate OR a write-in candidate to withdraw. Last day declaration of ineligibility causes omission of candidate's name from ballot. (Must be received by 5:00 p.m.)
March 2, 2021	Last Day to Deliver Notice of Election to County Clerk and Voter Registrar
April 1, 2021	Due Date for filing first report of campaign contributions and expenditures (unless you filed "modified")
April 1, 2021	Last day to register to vote
April 1 – 21, 2021	Period for Publishing Notice of Election. Must be published at least once in paper
April 9, 2021	Recommended Last Day to Post Notice of Election on Bulletin Board and Website and TV (continuously through election day)
April 19 - 27, 2021	Early Voting – School/City Tax Office
April 19th & 22nd	Extended Early Voting Hours – 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
April 23, 2021	Due Date for filing second report of campaign contributions and expenditures (unless you filed "modified")
May 1, 2021	*** ELECTION DAY*** 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.
May 6, 2021	Official canvass of returns
May 7, 2021	Deadline to post requirements for filing for candidacy for each elected office of the city
May 27, 2021	Oaths of office for newly elected officials

ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED UNLESS INDICATED OPTIONAL

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT					
TO: City Secretary/Secretary of Board					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official ballot as a candidate for the office indicated below.					
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)				INDICATE TERM <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED	
FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last)			PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT ¹		
PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe the address at which you receive personal mail and location of residence.)			PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Campaign mailing address, if available.)		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (If available)		OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)		DATE OF BIRTH / /	VOTER REGISTRATION VUID NUMBER (Optional) ²
TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) Home: Work: Cell:		LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE APPLICATION SWORN			
		IN STATE		IN TERRITORY FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED ³	
		_____ year (s) _____ month(s)		_____ year (s) _____ month(s)	
If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election.					
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says:					
"I, (name) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been finally convicted of a felony for which I have not been pardoned or had my full rights of citizenship restored by other official action. I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code.					
I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."					
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">X</div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>					
SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me at _____, this the _____ day of _____, _____.					
SEAL					
Signature of Officer Administering Oath ⁴			Title of Officer Administering Oath		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY SECRETARY OR SECRETARY OF BOARD: (See Section 1.007)					
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received _____		Signature of Secretary _____	

INSTRUCTIONS

An application to have the name of a candidate placed on the ballot for any general election may not be filed earlier than 30 days before the deadline prescribed by this code for filing the application. An application filed before that day is void. All fields **must** be completed unless specifically marked optional.

The general election filing deadline is 5:00 p.m. 78 days prior to election day for any uniform election date.

If you have questions about the application, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 800-252-8683.

NEPOTISM LAW

The candidate must sign this statement indicating his awareness of the nepotism law. The nepotism prohibitions of chapter 573, Government Code, are summarized below:

No officer may appoint, or vote for or confirm the appointment or employment of any person related within the second degree by affinity (marriage) or the third degree by consanguinity (blood) to himself, or to any other member of the governing body or court on which he serves when the compensation of that person is to be paid out of public funds or fees of office. However, nothing in the law prevents the appointment, voting for, or confirmation of anyone who has been continuously employed in the office or employment for the following period prior to the election or appointment of the officer or member related to the employee in the prohibited degree: six months, if the officer or member is elected at the general election for state and county officers.

No candidate may take action to influence an employee of the office to which the candidate is seeking election or an employee or officer of the governmental body to which the candidate is seeking election regarding the appointment or employment of a person related to the candidate in a prohibited degree as noted above. This prohibition does not apply to a candidate's actions with respect to a bona fide class or category of employees or prospective employees.

Examples of relatives within the third degree of consanguinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: parent, child;
- (2) Second degree: brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild;
- (3) Third degree: great-grandparent, great-grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece.

These include relatives by blood, half-blood, and legal adoption. Examples of relatives within the second degree of affinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: spouse, spouse's parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law;
- (2) Second degree: brother's spouse, sister's spouse, spouse's brother, spouse's sister, spouse's grandparent.

Persons related by affinity (marriage) include spouses of relatives by consanguinity, and, if married, the spouse and the spouse's relatives by consanguinity. These examples are not all inclusive.

FOOTNOTES

¹For rules concerning the form of a candidate's name or nickname on the ballot, see Subchapter B, Chapter 52 of the Texas Election Code.

²Inclusion of a candidate's VUID is optional. However, many candidates are required to be registered voters in the territory from which the office is elected at the time of the filing deadline. Please visit the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's website for additional information. <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml>

³This refers to the length of residence inside the district or territory from which the office is elected. For example, length of residence in a school district, for a school trustee office elected at large. This field **MUST BE COMPLETED**.

⁴All oaths, affidavits, or affirmations made within this State may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by a judge, clerk, or commissioner of any court of record, a notary public, a justice of the peace, city secretary (for a city office), and the Secretary of State of Texas.

DEBE PROPORCIONARSE LA INFORMACIÓN REQUERIDA A MENOS QUE SE INDIQUE QUE ES OPCIONAL

SOLICITUD PARA FIGURAR EN LA BOLETA DE _____ ELECCIÓN GENERAL

A: Secretario(a) de la Ciudad/ Secretario del Consejo

Solicito que mi nombre figure en la boleta oficial indicada más arriba como candidato/a al cargo a continuación.

PUESTO OFICIAL SOLICITADO (Incluya cualquier número de cargo u otro número distintivo, si el cargo lo tiene.)	INDIQUE TÉRMINO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO COMPLETO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO INCOMPLETO
--	--

NOMBRE COMPLETO (Primer nombre, segundo nombre, apellido)	ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE COMO DESEA QUE FIGURE EN LA BOLETA¹
--	---

DIRECCIÓN RESIDENCIAL PERMANENTE (No incluya una casilla postal o una ruta rural. Si usted no tiene una dirección residencial, describa el lugar en que recibe correspondencia personal y la ubicación de su residencia.)	DIRECCIÓN POSTAL PÚBLICA (Dirección en la que recibirá correspondencia relacionada a su campaña, si es disponible.)
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CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL	CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL
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CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PÚBLICO (Si está disponible.)	EMPLEO (No deje este espacio en blanco.)	FECHA DE NACIMIENTO / /	VUID – NÚMERO UNICO DE IDENTIFICACION DE VOTANTE (Opcional) ²
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INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO (Opcional) Tel. residencial: Tel. laboral: Tel. celular:	DURACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA CONTINUA AL MOMENTO DE JURAMENTAR ESTA SOLICITUD	
	EN EL ESTADO ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)	EN EL TERRITORIO POR EL CUAL SERIA ELECTO/A³ ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)

En caso de usar un apodo como parte de su nombre en la boleta, usted también firma y jura lo siguiente: Asimismo, juro que mi apodo no constituye un lema político ni tampoco es una indicación de mis creencias o afiliaciones políticas, económicas, sociales o religiosas. Se me ha conocido por este apodo durante al menos tres años antes de esta elección.

Ante mí, la autoridad suscrita, compareció (nombre) _____, quien frente a mí y bajo juramento debido, declara:

“Yo, (nombre) _____, del condado de _____, Texas, siendo candidato para el cargo oficial de _____, juro solemnemente que apoyaré y defenderé la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos y del Estado de Texas. Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos elegible para ocupar tal cargo oficial bajo la Constitución y las leyes de este Estado. No se me ha condenado por un delito mayor por el cual no haya sido absuelto o por el cual no se me hayan restituido enteramente mis derechos de ciudadanía por medio de otra acción oficial. No existe un fallo final de un tribunal testamentario que me declare total o parcialmente incapacitado mentalmente sin derecho a votar. Yo tengo conocimiento de la ley sobre el nepotismo según el Capítulo 573 del Código de Gobierno.

Además, juro que las declaraciones anteriores que incluyo en mi solicitud son verdaderas y correctas”.

X

 FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO

Jurado y suscrito ante mí en _____, este día ____ de _____.

SELLO

 Firma del oficial que administra el juramento⁴ Título del oficial que administra el juramento

TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY SECRETARY OR SECRETARY OF BOARD:

(See Section 1.007) _____ _____
 Date Received Signature of Secretary

Voter Registration Status Verified

INSTRUCCIONES

La solicitud para que el nombre de un candidato figure en la boleta para cualquier elección general no deberá registrarse antes de los treinta (30) días previos a la fecha límite para registrar la solicitud, según lo prescribe este código. Cualquier solicitud registrada antes de esa fecha se declarará inválida. Todos los campos **deben ser completados** a menos que se indique específicamente marcados como opcional.

El último día para registrarse es a las 5 de la tarde setenta y ocho (78) días antes del día de la elección en el caso de elecciones uniformes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre la solicitud, por favor póngase en contacto con la división de elecciones del Secretario de Estado al 800-252-8683.

LEY SOBRE EL NEPOTISMO

El candidato deberá firmar esta declaración para indicar que tiene conocimiento sobre la ley sobre el nepotismo. A continuación figuran las prohibiciones del nepotismo según el capítulo 573 de Código Gobierno:

Ningún funcionario podrá nombrar, votar por o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de ninguno de sus parientes en segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o en tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre), o de los parientes de cualquier otro integrante del cuerpo directivo o tribunal en que el funcionario celebre sesión cuando la compensación para esa persona se pague con fondos públicos u honorarios de su puesto oficial. Sin embargo, la ley no prohíbe el nombramiento, el votar por o la confirmación de ninguna persona que haya trabajado en la oficina de manera continua o el empleo para el siguiente período antes de la elección o el nombramiento del funcionario o miembro emparentado con el empleado en el grado prohibido: seis meses, si el funcionario o miembro se elige en una elección general de funcionarios de estado y condado.

Ningún candidato podrá influir sobre un empleado relacionado al puesto oficial al cual el candidato aspira o un empleado o funcionario del cuerpo fiscal al cual el candidato aspira respecto del nombramiento o el empleo de un pariente del candidato en un grado prohibido según se indica arriba. Esta restricción no se dirige a las acciones de un candidato respecto de una clase o categoría de empleados o posibles empleados de buena fe.

Los ejemplos de parentesco en tercer grado por consanguinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: padre, madre, hijo(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: hermano(a), abuelo(a), nieto(a);
- (3) Tercer grado: bisabuelo(a), bisnieto(a), tío(a), sobrino(a).

Los siguientes incluyen parentescos de consanguinidad, medios hermanos y adopción legal. Los ejemplos de parentescos en segundo grado por afinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: cónyuge, suegro(a), yerno, nuera;
- (2) Segundo grado: cuñado(a), abuelo(a) del cónyuge.

Las personas que están emparentadas por afinidad (matrimonio) incluyen los cónyuges de parientes emparentados por consanguinidad, y, si casados, el cónyuge y los parientes del cónyuge por consanguinidad. No todos estos ejemplos son inclusivos.

NOTAS

¹Para reglas sobre la forma del nombre de un candidato o apodo en la boleta electoral, vea el subcapítulo B, Capítulo 52 del Código Electoral de Texas.

²La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en Ingles) es opcional. Sin embargo, para muchos candidatos, es un requisito estar registrados como votantes en el territorio por el cual serían electos a partir de la fecha límite de la solicitud. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre el requisito de registro de votante en nuestra página: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml>

³Esto se refiere a la duración de la residencia dentro del distrito o territorio de que se elige la oficina. Por ejemplo, la duración de residencia en un distrito escolar, para una oficina del consejero escolar elegida en general. Este campo **DEBE SER COMPLETADO**.

⁴Los juramentos, las declaraciones juradas o las afirmaciones que se efectúen dentro de este Estado podrán ser administradas por un juez, escribano o comisionado de alguna corte de registro, por un notario público, un juez de paz, un secretario de la ciudad o el Secretario de Estado de Texas, quienes cuentan con la capacidad de proporcionar un certificado del hecho.

APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

FORM CTA
PG 1

See CTA Instruction Guide for detailed instructions.						1 Total pages filed:	
2 CANDIDATE NAME	MS / MRS / MR	FIRST	MI	OFFICE USE ONLY			
	NICKNAME	LAST	SUFFIX	Filer ID #			
3 CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #;		CITY;	STATE;	ZIP CODE		
	Date Received						
4 CANDIDATE PHONE	AREA CODE	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION				
	()		Receipt #				
5 OFFICE HELD (if any)							Amount \$
							Date Processed
6 OFFICE SOUGHT (if known)							
7 CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME	MS/MRS/MR	FIRST	MI	NICKNAME	LAST	SUFFIX	
8 CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (residence or business)	STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX PLEASE); APT / SUITE #;		CITY;	STATE;	ZIP CODE		
9 CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE	AREA CODE	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION				
()							
10 CANDIDATE SIGNATURE	<p>I am aware of the Nepotism Law, Chapter 573 of the Texas Government Code.</p> <p>I am aware of my responsibility to file timely reports as required by title 15 of the Election Code.</p> <p>I am aware of the restrictions in title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations and labor organizations.</p>						
_____				_____			
Signature of Candidate				Date Signed			

GO TO PAGE 2

**CANDIDATE MODIFIED
REPORTING DECLARATION**

**FORM CTA
PG 2**

11 CANDIDATE
NAME

12 MODIFIED
REPORTING
DECLARATION

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU ARE
CHOOSING MODIFIED REPORTING**

**** This declaration must be filed no later than the 30th day before
the first election to which the declaration applies. ****

**** The modified reporting option is valid for one election cycle only. ****
(An election cycle includes a primary election, a general election, and any related runoffs.)

**** Candidates for the office of state chair of a political party
may NOT choose modified reporting. ****

I do not intend to accept more than \$930 in political contributions
or make more than \$930 in political expenditures (excluding filing
fees) in connection with any future election within the election
cycle. I understand that if either one of those limits is exceeded, I
will be required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a
runoff report.

Year of election(s) or election cycle to
which declaration applies

Signature of Candidate

This appointment is effective on the date it is filed with the appropriate filing authority.

TEC Filers may send this form to the TEC electronically at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us
or mail to

Texas Ethics Commission
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, TX 78711-2070

Non-TEC Filers must file this form with the local filing authority
DO NOT SEND TO TEC

For more information about where to file go to:
<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php>

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

FORM CFCP COVER SHEET

Pursuant to chapter 258 of the Election Code, every candidate and political committee is encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The Code may be filed with the proper filing authority upon submission of a campaign treasurer appointment form. Candidates or political committees that already have a current campaign treasurer appointment on file as of September 1, 1997, may subscribe to the code at any time.

Subscription to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is voluntary.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked

Date Processed

Date Imaged

1 ACCOUNT NUMBER
(Ethics Commission Filers)

2 TYPE OF FILER

CANDIDATE

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

*If filing as a candidate, complete boxes 3 - 6,
then read and sign page 2.*

*If filing for a political committee, complete
boxes 7 and 8, then read and sign page 2.*

3 NAME OF CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

**4 TELEPHONE NUMBER
OF CANDIDATE**
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

AREA CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EXTENSION

()

5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

STREET / PO BOX;

APT / SUITE #;

CITY;

STATE;

ZIP CODE

**6 OFFICE SOUGHT
BY CANDIDATE**
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

7 NAME OF COMMITTEE
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

**8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN
TREASURER**
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.)

FIRST

MI

NICKNAME

LAST

SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)

GO TO PAGE 2

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate and political committee in this state has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional rights to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

- (1) I will conduct the campaign openly and publicly and limit attacks on my opponent to legitimate challenges to my opponent's record and stated positions on issues.
- (2) I will not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or the candidate's personal or family life.
- (3) I will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.
- (4) I will not use campaign material of any sort that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor will I use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or patriotism of my opponent.
- (5) I will not undertake or condone any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters, including any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (6) I will defend and uphold the right of every qualified voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process, and will not engage in any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (7) I will immediately and publicly repudiate methods and tactics that may come from others that I have pledged not to use or condone. I shall take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Texas or campaign treasurer of a political committee, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct the campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

Signature

Date

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

What You Need to Know



The Texas Election Code requires certain disclosures and notices on political advertising. The law also prohibits certain types of misrepresentation in political advertising and campaign communications. This brochure explains what you need to know to insure that your political advertising and campaign communications comply with the law.

If you are not sure what the law requires, do the cautious thing. Use the political advertising disclosure statement whenever you think it might be necessary, and do not use any possibly misleading information in political advertising or a campaign communication. If you are using political advertising or campaign communications from a prior campaign, you should check to see if the law has changed since that campaign.

Candidates for federal office should check with the Federal Election Commission at (800) 424-9530 for information on federal political advertising laws.

NOTICE: This guide is intended only as a general overview of the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising as required under Chapter 255 of the Election Code, which is distinct from political reporting requirements under Chapter 254 of the Election Code.

Texas Ethics Commission
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

(512) 463-5800

TDD (800) 735-2989

Visit us at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

Revised July 16, 2019

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING

I. What Is Political Advertising?

The disclosure statement and notice requirements discussed in this section apply to “political advertising.” In the law, “political advertising” is a specifically defined term. Do not confuse this special term with your own common-sense understanding of advertising.

To figure out if a communication is political advertising, you must look at what it says and where it appears. If a communication fits in one of the categories listed in Part A (below) and if it fits in one of the categories listed in Part B (below), it is political advertising.

Part A. What Does It Say?

1. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to either a public office or an office of a political party (including county and precinct chairs).
2. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing an officeholder, a political party, or a measure (a ballot proposition).

Part B. Where Does It Appear?

1. Political advertising includes communications that appear in pamphlets, circulars, fliers, billboards or other signs, bumper stickers, or similar forms of written communication.
2. Political advertising includes communications that are published in newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals in return for consideration.
3. Political advertising includes communications that are broadcast by radio or television in return for consideration.
4. Political advertising includes communications that appear on an Internet website.

II. When Is a Disclosure Statement Required?

The law provides that political advertising that contains express advocacy is required to include a disclosure statement. The person who causes the political advertising to be published, distributed, or broadcast is responsible for including the disclosure statement.

The law does not define the term “express advocacy.” However, the law does provide that political advertising is deemed to contain express advocacy if it is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing campaign finance reports. Therefore, a disclosure statement is required any time a candidate, a candidate’s agent, or a political committee authorizes political advertising.

The precise language of political advertising authorized by someone other than a candidate, the candidate's agent, or a political committee will determine if the advertising contains express advocacy and is therefore required to include a disclosure statement. Generally, the question is whether the communication expressly advocates the election or defeat of an identified candidate, or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of a measure, such as a bond election. The inclusion of words such as "vote for," "elect," "support," "defeat," "reject," or "Smith for Senate" would clearly constitute express advocacy, but express advocacy is not limited to communications that use those words. Similar phrases, such as "Cast your ballot for X," would also constitute express advocacy. Additionally, in 2007, the United States Supreme Court held that an advertisement included express advocacy or its functional equivalent "if the ad is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate." *FEC v. Wis. Right to Life, Inc.*, 551 U.S. 449 (2007). It is a question of fact whether a particular communication constitutes express advocacy. If you are not sure whether political advertising contains express advocacy, do the cautious thing and include the disclosure statement. That way, there is no need to worry about whether you have violated the law.

Remember: The concept of "express advocacy" is relevant in determining whether political advertising is required to include a disclosure statement. However, the political advertising laws governing the right-of-way notice, misrepresentation, and use of public funds by political subdivisions will apply to political advertising regardless of whether the advertising contains express advocacy.

III. What Should the Disclosure Statement Say?

A disclosure statement must include the following:

1. the words "political advertising" or a recognizable abbreviation such as "pol. adv.;" and
2. the full name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the political advertising; (b) the political committee authorizing the political advertising; or (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate.

The disclosure statement must appear on the face of the political advertising or be clearly spoken if the political advertising is audio only and does not include written text.

The advertising should not be attributed to entities such as "Committee to Elect John Doe" unless a specific-purpose committee named "Committee to Elect John Doe" has filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Ethics Commission or a local filing authority.

IV. Are There Any Exceptions to the Disclosure Statement Requirement?

The following types of political advertising do not need the disclosure statement:

1. t-shirts, balloons, buttons, emery boards, hats, lapel stickers, small magnets, pencils, pens, pins, wooden nickels, candy wrappers, and similar materials;
2. invitations or tickets to political fundraising events or to events held to establish support for a candidate or officeholder;

3. an envelope that is used to transmit political advertising, provided that the political advertising in the envelope includes the disclosure statement;
4. circulars or fliers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and distribute;
5. political advertising printed on letterhead stationery, if the letterhead includes the name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the advertising, (b) the political committee authorizing the advertising, or, (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate. (Note: There is also an exception for holiday greeting cards sent by an officeholder, provided that the officeholder's name and address appear on the card or the envelope.)
6. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the person posting or re-posting is not an officeholder, candidate, or political committee and did not make an expenditure exceeding \$100 in a reporting period for political advertising beyond the basic cost of hardware messaging software and bandwidth;
7. an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder, if the webpage clearly and conspicuously displays the full name of the candidate or officeholder; and
8. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the advertising is posted with a link to a publicly viewable Internet webpage that either contains the disclosure statement or is an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder that clearly and conspicuously displays the candidate's or officeholder's full name.

V. What Should I Do If I Discover That My Political Advertising Does Not Contain a Disclosure Statement?

The law prohibits a person from using, causing or permitting to be used, or continuing to use political advertising containing express advocacy if the person knows it does not include the disclosure statement. A person is presumed to know that the use is prohibited if the Texas Ethics Commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. If you receive notice from the Texas Ethics Commission that your political advertising does not comply with the law, you should stop using it immediately.

If you learn that a political advertising sign designed to be seen from the road does not contain a disclosure statement or contains an inaccurate disclosure statement, you should make a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs that have been distributed. You are not required to attempt to recover other types of political advertising that have been distributed with a missing or inaccurate disclosure statement.

VI. The Fair Campaign Practices Act.

The Fair Campaign Practices Act sets out basic rules of decency, honesty, and fair play to be followed by candidates and political committees during a campaign. A candidate or political committee may choose to subscribe to the voluntary code by signing a copy of the code and filing it with the authority with whom the candidate or committee is required to file its campaign

treasurer appointment. A person subscribing to the code may indicate that fact on political advertising by including the following or a substantially similar statement:

(Name of the candidate or political committee, as appropriate) subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

VII. Special Notice to Political Subdivisions and School Districts.

You may not use public funds or resources for political advertising. Please see our “Publications and Guides” section of our website for more information.

ROAD SIGNS

I. When Is the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Required?

All written political advertising that is meant to be seen from a road must carry a “right-of-way” notice. It is a criminal offense to omit the “right-of-way” notice in the following circumstances:

1. if you enter into a contract or agreement to print or make written political advertising meant to be seen from a road; or
2. if you instruct another person to place the written political advertising meant to be seen from a road.

II. What Should the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Say?

Section 259.001 of the Texas Election Code prescribes the exact language of the notice:

NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTERS 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE) TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY.

III. Do Yard Signs Have to Have the “Right-Of-Way” Notice?

Yes. The “right-of-way” notice requirement applies to signs meant to be seen from any road. The notice requirement assures that a person responsible for placing signs is aware of the restriction on placing the sign in the right-of-way of a highway.

IV. What About Bumper Stickers?

Bumper stickers do not need the “right-of-way” notice. They do, however, need a political advertising disclosure statement.

V. Where May I Place My Signs and How Long May Signs Be Posted?

For information about exactly where you may or may not place signs, or for information regarding the length of time your signs may be posted, check with your city or county government or your homeowner’s association. The Texas Ethics Commission does not have

jurisdiction over matters involving the location of signs, and the length of time that they may be posted.

MISREPRESENTATION

I. Are There Restrictions on the Contents of Political Advertising?

Political advertising and campaign communications may not misrepresent a person’s identity or official title, nor may they misrepresent the true source of the advertising or communication. The election law does not address other types of misrepresentation in political advertising or campaign communications.

Note that the misrepresentation rules apply to both political advertising and campaign communications. “Campaign communication” is a broader term than “political advertising.”

A “campaign communication” means “a written or oral communication relating to a campaign for nomination or election to public office or office of a political party or to a campaign on a measure.”

II. Misrepresentation of Office Title.

A candidate may not represent that he or she holds an office that he or she does not hold at the time of the representation. **If you are not the incumbent in the office you are seeking, you must make it clear that you are seeking election rather than reelection by using the word “for” to clarify that you don’t hold that office.** The word “for” must be at least one-half the type size as the name of the office and should appear immediately before the name of the office. For example, a non-incumbent may use the following formats:

**Vote John Doe
for Attorney General**

**John Doe
For
Attorney General**

A non-incumbent may not be allowed to use the following verbiage:

**Elect John Doe
Attorney General**

**John Doe
Attorney General**

III. Misrepresentation of Identity or Source.

A person violates the law if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the source of political advertising or a campaign communication or if the person misrepresents his or her own identity or the identity of his or her agent in political advertising or in a campaign communication. (If someone else is doing something for you, that person is your agent.) For example, you may not take out an ad in favor of your opponent that purports to be sponsored by a notoriously unpopular group.

IV. Use of State Seal.

Only current officeholders may use the state seal in political advertising.

V. Criminal Offenses.

Be aware that many violations of the Election Code are criminal offenses. For example, unlawfully using public funds for political advertising can be a Class A misdemeanor. So can misrepresenting one's identity or office title in political advertising. For more details on these offenses and political advertising in general, see Chapter 255 of the Election Code.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: What You Need to Know



A GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES, OFFICEHOLDERS, AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES

September 20, 2018

Visit us at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us> on the Internet

Fundraising Events

Rule No. 1

File a Campaign Treasurer Appointment

All candidates must file a campaign treasurer appointment with the proper filing authority before accepting a campaign contribution or making or authorizing a campaign expenditure, including an expenditure from personal funds.

All political committees must file a campaign treasurer appointment before accepting or spending over \$500, and additional requirements may also apply.

Rule No. 2

No Raffles

Texas law allows only certain charitable and nonprofit organizations to conduct raffles to support their charitable causes. An unlawful raffle may constitute illegal gambling, which may carry criminal penalties.

For more information see: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/divisions/financial-litigation/charitable-trusts/charitable-raffles-and-casinopoker-nights> on the Office of the Attorney General website.

Rule No. 3

No Cash Contributions Over \$100

Texas law prohibits a candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee from accepting political contributions in cash (excluding checks) that in the aggregate exceed \$100 from a single contributor in a reporting period.

Rule No. 4
**Auction Activity
is Reportable**

Donations to a candidate or political committee at a fundraiser are campaign contributions.

An item donated to be auctioned at a fundraiser is an “in-kind” campaign contribution. The purchase of the item at the auction is also a contribution. Both the item and the purchase price must be reported as political contributions.

Rule No. 5
No Anonymous Contributions

Texas law requires filers to know the name of each contributor and the amount of each contribution, even for small contributions. Do not “pass the hat” or use a contribution jar. Depending on the filer and the amount of the contribution, additional information may be required.

Rule No. 6
**No Contributions from
Corporations or Labor
Organizations**

Texas law prohibits corporations and labor organizations from making political contributions to candidates, officeholders, and related specific-purpose committees. Contributions to GPACs are also restricted. Limited exceptions also exist.

The prohibition also applies to other organizations, such as partnerships and limited liability companies (LLC), if they are owned by a corporation or include an incorporated member or partner.

Rule No. 7
**No Contributions from
Foreign Nationals**

The Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) prohibits certain foreign nationals from contributing, donating, or spending funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the U.S., either directly or indirectly. It is also unlawful to help foreign nationals violate that ban or to solicit, receive, or accept contributions or donations from them.

Rule No. 8

**No Misuse of Government
Property to Campaign**

Chapter 39 of the Penal Code prohibits a public servant from using government property, services, personnel, or any other thing of value belonging to the government to obtain a benefit or to harm or defraud another. The commission has held that the use of state computers to prepare campaign finance reports, or to use state resources to gather information for a campaign fundraiser, constitutes a misuse of government property.

Texas Ethics Commission

P.O. Box 12070

Austin, Texas 78711-2070

(512) 463-5800

Note: This brochure is not intended to encompass all the rules, but is intended to give a broad overview of the most common questions involving fundraisers. Be sure to check with the Texas Ethics Commission and your local municipality for any additional limits that might apply.

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the publications of the Texas Ethics Commission are available by request in alternative formats. To request an accessible format, please contact our ADA Compliance Officer by telephone at 512-463-5800 or through RELAY Texas at 800-735-2989; or by mail in care of the Texas Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711.

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