

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF	§	BEFORE THE
PAIGE WOOTEN,	§	TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
RESPONDENT	§	SC-250444, SC-250445, SC-250446

FINAL ORDER

The Texas Ethics Commission, having heard these cases and voting to find a violation of laws under its jurisdiction, makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

Allegation

The allegation is that the respondent failed to timely file a campaign finance report for a political committee.

Findings of Fact

1. The respondent is Ms. Paige Wooten, whose last known mailing address is P. O. Box 9, Van Alstyne, Texas, 75495-0009. The sworn complaints were filed with the Texas Ethics Commission against the respondent on April 19, 2005. The Notice of Hearing was mailed to the respondent on April 13, 2006, by certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery. The Notice of Hearing was also mailed to the respondent on April 13, 2006, by delivery confirmation. United States Postal Service records show that the notice was delivered on April 15, 2006.
2. The Texas Ethics Commission held a preliminary review hearing on May 11, 2006, Austin, Texas.
3. The respondent did not file a reply to the Notice of Hearing and did not appear at the hearing.
4. At the time relevant to the complaints, the respondent was a campaign treasurer of the Eagle Political Action Committee, a general-purpose political committee that filed its campaign treasurer appointment in January 2005.
5. The committee's 30-day pre-election campaign finance report was due on April 7, 2005. The report was filed on April 23, 2005, before the respondent received notice of the complaints.

6. When the report was filed past its due date, the report was administratively assessed a \$500 late penalty.
7. The respondent received an administrative waiver of the penalty.

Conclusions of Law

1. Disposition of these cases are within the jurisdiction of the Texas Ethics Commission. GOV'T CODE § 571.061.
2. The respondent received legally sufficient notice of the hearing in these cases. GOV'T CODE § 571.032 and 1 T.A.C. § 12.21. The hearing was held in accordance with section 12.23, 1 Texas Administrative Code.
3. The campaign treasurer of a general-purpose political committee is required to file reports 30 days and 8 days before each election in which the committee is involved. ELEC. CODE § 254.064.
4. There is credible evidence that the respondent violated section 254.064 of the Election Code in connection with the committee's 30-day pre-election report.
5. The Texas Ethics Commission may impose a sanction against the respondent of not more than \$5,000 or triple the amount at issue, whichever amount is greater. GOV'T CODE § 571.173

No Sanction

After considering the seriousness of the violation described, including the administrative waiver previously granted by the Texas Ethics Commission in connection with the violation, and after considering the sanction necessary to deter future violations, the commission does not impose a civil penalty.

Date: _____

FOR THE COMMISSION

David A. Reisman
Executive Director
Texas Ethics Commission