

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

Jim Clancy, Chair
Paul W. Hobby, Vice Chair
Hugh C. Akin
Wilhelmina Delco

Tom Harrison
Bob Long
Tom Ramsay
Chase Untermeyer

AGENDA

Date and Time:	10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 21, 2014
Location:	Room E1.014, Capitol Extension, Austin, Texas

1. Call to order; roll call.
2. Communication to the Commission from the public.
3. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
 - Executive session (Cause No. D-1-GN-14-001252; Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Natalia Luna Ashley) – May 28, 2014
 - Prehearing conference (SC-3120485, SC-3120486, SC-3120487, and SC-3120488 - May 28, 2014;
 - Executive session (Personnel Matters: Executive Director) – May 29, 2014
 - AM public meeting – May 29, 2014;
 - PM public meeting – May 29, 2014;
 - Executive session (Cause No. D-1-GN-14-001252; Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Natalia Luna Ashley) – June 25, 2014; and
 - Formal hearing (SC-3120487 and SC-3120488) – June 25, 2014.

REGULATION OF POLITICAL CORPORATIONS

4. Comments by the Commissioners.
5. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR–586: Whether a nonprofit organization that plans to make direct campaign expenditures from its general treasury funds to expressly advocate for the election or defeat of clearly identified candidates for state and local offices in Texas is required to appoint a campaign treasurer as a political committee.

This opinion request construes Title 15 of the Election Code.

6. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of a rule construing the definition of political committee so that grass roots participants that do not have as a principal purpose accepting political contributions or making political expenditures are not subject to disclosure requirements.

For more information, contact Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

7. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of a rule defining the phrase “acting in concert” for purposes of Election Code § 254.261 (Direct Campaign Expenditure Exceeding \$100).

ADDITIONAL ADVISORY OPINIONS

Discussion and possible action in response to the following Advisory Opinion Requests:

8. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR-587: Whether a candidate may accept an in-kind political contribution from an out-of-state political committee.

This opinion request construes Title 15 of the Election Code.

9. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR-588: Whether an elected member of a board of a state agency in the executive branch may accept tuition, food, transportation, and lodging provided in connection with a seminar that is relevant to the member’s official duties and for which the member does not provide any services.

This opinion request construes Chapter 36 of the Penal Code, Chapter 305 of the Government Code, and Title 15 of the Election Code.

ADDITIONAL RULEMAKING

10. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.7 (Timely Reports and Complete Reports) and 20.20 (Timeliness of Action by Electronic Filing) to expressly state that the filing deadline for reports filed electronically with the Commission is midnight Central Time Zone.
11. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of new Texas Ethics Commission Rule § 20.64 regarding reporting the forgiveness of a loan.
12. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Ethics Commission Rules §§ 20.327 and 20.427 relating to runoff reports filed by political committees.

POLICY

13. Discussion and possible action on the Texas Ethics Commission Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 – 2019.

For more information, contact Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

14. Discussion and possible action on the Texas Ethics Commission Legislative Appropriation Request for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.
15. Appointment of Committee of Commissioners to consider recommendations for statutory changes to the 84th Legislature as required by section 571.073 of the Government Code.
16. Appointment of Nominating Committee of Commissioners for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Texas Ethics Commission
17. Comments by the Executive Director.
18. Comments by the Commissioners.
19. 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: Natalia Luna Ashley,
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.