

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

Paul W. Hobby, Chair
Chase Untermeyer, Vice Chair
Hugh C. Akin
Jim Clancy

Wilhelmina Delco
Tom Harrison
Bob Long
Tom Ramsay

AGENDA

Date and Time:	10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Location:	Room E2.010, 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:
 - Workshop on New Electronic Filing System – October 29, 2014;
 - Executive session (discussion of pending lawsuits) – October 29, 2014;
 - AM public meeting – October 29, 2014; and
 - PM public meeting – October 29, 2014.
4. Discussion of recommendations for statutory changes to the 84th Legislature as required by § 571.073 of the Government Code.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

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

5. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR–589: Whether a specific-purpose committee that is established by and for the purpose of supporting and assisting a person as both a candidate and an officeholder may use political contributions to purchase tickets to entertainment events for the person and the person’s spouse and dependent children to attend and engage in campaign or officeholder activities.

This opinion request construes Section 253.035 of the Election Code.

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

6. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR–590: Whether an employee of a member of the Texas Legislature may, at the direction of the member and as a regular part of the employee’s job duties, drive the member between the member’s Austin residence and the Capitol and drive the member for personal appointments and errands.

This opinion request construes Section 39.02 of the Penal Code.

7. Discussion of Opinion Request AOR-591: Whether a former employee of a state regulatory agency who participated in the selection of a consultant to perform a feasibility study related to a bridge replacement project may receive compensation from a private employer for services related to managing the construction quality of the project.

This opinion request construes Section 572.054(b) of the Government Code.

RULEMAKING

8. Public discussion and possible action on the definition of campaign expenditure for purposes of Section 251.001(7) of the Election Code.
9. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 50.1 (Legislative Per Diem) relating to the legislative per diem required to be set under Article III, Section 24a, of the Texas Constitution.
10. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 6.1 (Definitions) to add a definition of the phrase “first responder.”
11. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 18.23 (Administrative Waiver of Fine).
12. Public discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register of new Texas Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.24 (General Guidelines for Other Administrative Waiver or Reduction of Fine), 18.25 (Administrative Waiver or Reduction of Fine: Report Type I), and 18.26 (Administrative Waiver or Reduction of Fine: Report Type II).

13. Discussion on the 2015 Texas Ethics Commission meeting schedule.
14. Comments by the Executive Director.
15. Comments by the Commissioners.
16. 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.