

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:	9:30 a.m., Thursday, June 11, 2015
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:
 - Workshop on New Electronic Filing System – April 16, 2015;
 - Executive Session (discussion of pending lawsuits) – April 16, 2015; and
 - AM Public Meeting – April 16, 2015.
4. Briefing and discussion on the new Electronic Filing Application, including training sessions, and status of webinar preparations.
5. Briefing, discussion, and possible action regarding ethics legislation impacting the laws under the Commission’s jurisdiction and the budget impacting the Commission in the 2015 legislative session.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

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

6. Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request Nos. AOR-596 and AOR-597: Application of Chapter 305 of the Government Code to an attorney’s activities in response to certain invitations from members of the legislative branch to discuss pending legislation on behalf of the attorney’s clients.

These opinion requests construe Chapter 305 of the Government Code.

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

7. Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-599: Whether a general-purpose committee may use political contributions accepted from a corporation to compensate a person for providing lobbying services to the corporation.

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

8. Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-598: Regarding the permissibility and reporting requirements of a general-purpose committee using a political contribution accepted from a corporation to make a contribution to a political party's principal committee.

This opinion request construes Title 15 of the Election Code.

RULEMAKING

9. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 20.59 (Reporting Expenditure by Credit Card), relating to reporting expenditures by credit card.
10. Public discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to Texas Ethics Commission Rules § 20.1 (Definitions), adding a definition for "In connection with a Campaign", for purposes of Election Code § 251.001(7), relating to the definition of campaign expenditure.
11. Briefing, discussion, and possible action regarding the level of disclosure of political expenditures to political consultants.
12. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on appeals to determinations made under Texas Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine.

Ric Godinez
Alan J. Guttman
Laura S. Nicol
Patrick L. Peavy
Andrew D. Vaughn

13. Briefing, discussion, and possible action to waive or reduce late-filing penalties in connection with certain corrected reports or to determine whether certain corrected reports as originally filed substantially complied with the applicable law for the following persons:

Marisa Marquez
Texas Home School Coalition Association
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.