

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION
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Chad M. Craycraft
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Patrick W. Mizell
Richard S. Schmidt
Joseph O. Slovacek
Steven D. Wolens

MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time:	9:00 a.m., Thursday, December 9, 2021
Location:	Room E1.014, Capitol Extension, Austin, Texas

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO VIEW AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE
BROADCAST OF THIS MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE ON THE
DAY OF THE MEETING HERE:**

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/meetings/meetings_2020-2024.php#2021

1. Call to order; roll call.
2. **Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.**
 - A. Discussion of pending litigation to seek legal advice relating to the following:
 - i. Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250th Judicial District Court in Travis County, Texas; Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; and Cause No. 18-0580: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Supreme Court of Texas.
 - ii. Cause No. D-1-GN-15-004455: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 345th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-16-00872-CV: *Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.
 - iii. Cause No. D-1-GN-21-003269, *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 459th Judicial District Court in Travis County, Texas.
 - iv. Cause No. 21-00140: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Robert L. “Bob” Hall, III*, in the 294th Judicial District Court in Van Zandt County, Texas.

For more information, contact Anne Temple Peters, Executive Director, at (512) 463-5800.

- B. Discussion of pending and contemplated litigation regarding the collection of imposed penalties.
 - C. Discussion of personnel matters.
 - D. Reconvene in open session.
- 3. Discussion regarding dates for next quarterly Commission meeting.
 - 4. Approve minutes for the following meetings:
 - o Executive Session – August 31, 2021, and
 - o Public Meeting – September 1, 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF FINES

- 5. Discussion and possible action on appeals of determinations made under Ethics Commission Rules §§ 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine, for the following filers:
 - 1. The Black Women’s PAC, Tracy Scott, former treasurer (00082403)
 - 2. South Coast Republican Women, Jeannie Whittington, former treasurer (00083676)

ADVISORY OPINIONS

- 6. Reconsideration of Ethics Advisory Opinion No. EAO-568, adopted on September 1, 2021, and possible adoption of a revised advisory opinion regarding whether a judge may use political contributions to pay expenses related to home security systems and equipment.

This opinion construes section 253.035 of the Election Code.

- 7. Draft Advisory Opinion No. AOR-651: Whether an officer or employee of a district attorney’s office may use public funds to create items with logos that display the name and title of the officer and give the items to members of the public.

This opinion construes section 255.003 of the Election Code and section 39.02 of the Penal Code.

- 8. Draft Advisory Opinion No. AOR-653: Whether a candidate or officeholder may use political contributions to establish and control a general-purpose political committee, which then pays the candidate or officeholder a salary.

This opinion construes section 253.035 of the Election Code.

9. Draft Advisory Opinion No. AOR-655: Whether the revolving door law in section 572.054 of the Government Code would prohibit a former employee of a state agency from providing certain services.

This opinion construes section 572.054 of the Government Code.

RULEMAKING

Rule Adoption

10. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31, regarding the adjustments of reporting thresholds, and Ethics Commission Rules that are affected by the adoption of an amendment to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 18.31, including §§ 20.62, 20.65, 20.217, 20.220, 20.221, 20.275, 20.301, 20.303, 20.313, 20.329, 20.333, 20.401, 20.405, 20.434, 20.435, 20.553, 20.555, 22.1, 22.7, 34.41, and 34.43.
11. Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of new 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.37, regarding cryptocurrency contributions.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Credit Card Reporting: Schedule F4 changes.
13. 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: Anne Temple Peters, 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.