



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Public Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026, 10:33 a.m.
Capitol Extension, Room E1.014
Austin, Texas 78701



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chris Flood, Chair; Patrick W. Mizell, Vice Chair, Randall H. Erben, Sean Gorman, Geanie W. Morrison, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek, and Mark Strama, Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:

None.

STAFF PRESENT:

Abhijay Anugu, Amanda Arriaga, Brandon Barrett, Margie Castellanos, Carmen Dalpiaz, Desirae Gonzalez, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernandez, Jordan Hunn, Deseray Matteson, Natalie McDermon, Conor McNeil, Timothy Neal, Vi Nguyen, David Onyike, Amy Padilla, Lindsay Powers, Meredith Rasmussen, Margaret Sanchez, Patti Shannon, Margaret Sula, James Tinley, Eric Vinson and Bill Wilson.

MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the video recording located on the Texas House of Representatives' audio/video website here: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/capitol-events/>.

The minutes reflect the order in which the items were heard.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order; Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Flood. James Tinley, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present. Chair Flood introduced Eric Vinson, TEC's new Director of Enforcement and thanked Jordan Hunn for serving as the Interim Director of Enforcement. Chair Flood also introduced new hires Conor McNeil, Abhijay Anugu, Timothy Neil, Vi Nguyen, Margaret Sula, and summer law clerks Deseray Matteson and Ryan McCarthy.

Agenda Item 2: Discussion regarding dates for next quarterly Commission meeting.

Chair Flood led the discussion on the next Commission meeting dates. Vice Chair Mizell and Commissioners Gorman, Schmidt and Slovacek responded with questions and comments. The tentative dates for the next Commission meetings are September 23, 2026 and December 16, 2026. **No action was taken.**

Agenda Item 3: Approve minutes for the following meetings:

- Executive Session on February 11, 2026; and
- Public Meeting on February 11, 2026.

Chair Flood briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the minutes in Agenda Item 3; second by Commissioner Morrison. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 4: Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 26 of the TEC rules, related to political and legislative advertising.

Chair Flood and Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt Agenda Item 4; second by Commissioner Gorman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 5: Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 46 of the TEC rules, related to disclosure of interested parties.

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt Agenda Item 5; second by Vice Chair Mizell. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 6: Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 45 of the TEC rules, related to conflicts of interest.

Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt Agenda Item 6; second by Vice Chair Mizell. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 7: Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register of new Chapter 7 of the TEC rules, related to contract procedures.

Chair Flood and Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Vice Chair Mizell to adopt Agenda Item 7; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 8: Discussion and possible action on the adoption or proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 34 of the TEC rules, related to regulation of lobbyists.

Chair Flood and Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt Agenda Item 8; second by Commissioner Erben. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 9: Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding re-adoption of Chapter 16 of the TEC rules, related to facial compliance.

Chair Flood and Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Vice Chair Mizell to publish Agenda Item 9 for public comment; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 10: Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding minor amendments to Chapter 20 of the TEC rules, related to Reporting Political Contributions and Expenditures.

Chair Flood and Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to publish Agenda Item 10 for public comment; second by Commissioner Gorman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 11: Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 18 of the TEC rules, related to adjustments to reporting thresholds.

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Erben to publish Agenda Item 11 for public comment, as amended to remove Tex. Gov't Code §§ 305.003(1) and 305.003(2) from Figure 3; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 12: Discussion and possible action on the proposal and publication in the Texas Register regarding amendments to Chapter 12 of the TEC Rules, related to Informal Notice of Alleged Violation.

James Tinley, Executive Director, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Flood, Commissioner Schmidt and Mr. Tinley responded with questions or comments. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to publish Agenda Item 12 for public comment; second by Commissioner Erben. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 13: Discussion and possible action regarding TEC’s comprehensive review of its rules.

James Tinley, Executive Director, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to close the rule reviews on Chapters 26, 34, 45 and 46; second by Commissioner Strama. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 14: Advisory Opinion Request No. EAO-639: Whether a video recorded with students at a charter school is political advertising for the purposes of Sections 255.003 and 255.001 of the Election Code.

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Erben to re-adopt EAO-639, as amended; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed unanimously. EAO-639 is re-adopted as revised.**

Agenda Item 15: Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-747: Whether, under Section 572.070 of the Government Code, a state employee is required to report certain contacts with an employee of a university owned or controlled by the People’s Republic of China? What are the reporting requirements for frequent contacts?

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Vice Chair Mizell and Ms. McDermon responded with questions or comments. Motion by Vice Chair Mizell to adopt AOR-747; second by Commissioner Gorman. **Motion passed unanimously. AOR-747 is adopted.**

Agenda Item 16: Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-748: Regarding the application of the revolving door provision of Section 572.054(b) of the Texas Government Code to a former employee of Texas Department of Transportation (“TXDOT”).

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Joe Moore addressed the Commission. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt AOR-748; second by Commissioner Morrison. **Motion passed unanimously. AOR-748 is adopted.**

Agenda Item 17: Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-749: Does paying a social media company’s users for engaging with political advertising content (viewing advertisements, watching videos, completing surveys, etc.) constitute bribery of a voter under Section 36.02(a)(1) of the Penal Code?

Does paying a social media company’s users to complete a survey that includes questions about the user’s voting intentions—where compensation is identical regardless of the user’s answers—constitute prohibited vote-buying under Texas law?

What disclaimer and disclosure requirements under Chapter 255 of the

Election Code apply to political advertisements posted on social media?

May candidates, political parties, and political committees use the requestor's social media platform to deliver political advertisements and compensate users for engagement with the advertisements without violating Texas election laws?).

Carmen Dalpiaz, Assistant General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Flood, Commissioner Strama and Ms. Dalpiaz responded with questions or comments. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt AOR-749; second by Commissioner Strama. **Motion passed unanimously. AOR-749 is adopted.**

Agenda Item 18: Advisory Opinion Request No. AOR-750: Whether public resources were unlawfully used for a candidate's campaign video.

Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Euan Blackman addressed the Commission. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt AOR-750; second by Commissioner Erben. **Motion passed unanimously. AOR-750 is adopted.**

Agenda Item 19: Discussion and possible action on appeals of determinations made under 1 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 18.11, 18.25 and 18.26 relating to administrative waiver or reduction of a fine, for the following filers:

Staff Recommendation: Waiver

- A. Bickers, Leland, Campaign Treasurer, Save Austin Now PAC (00085302)
- B. Raymond, Carlos Antonio (00080137)
- C. Thompson, William (00031950)

Staff Recommendation: Reduction

- D. Adams, Noel T. (00084087)
- E. Nkanga, Uduakobong (00085816)

Staff Recommendation: No Further Reduction or Waiver

- F. Caesar, Rosalind (00088147)
- G. Graves, Brooke (00054835)

Chair Flood and Natalie McDermon, Deputy General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item.

#A through C: Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to accept staff recommendations of waiver for Agenda Item 19, Nos. A through C; second by Commissioner Gorman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#D: Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt staff recommendation on Agenda Item 19, No. D; second by Commissioner Erben. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#E: Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt staff recommendation on Agenda Item 19, No. E; second by Commissioner Strama. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#F: Ms. McDermon stated that staff recommendation has changed on this agenda item because Ms. Caesar filed the report accounting for the missing funds last night; staff now recommends a full waiver. Commissioner Morrison and Ms. McDermon responded with questions or comments. Motion by Vice Chair Mizell to adopt staff's new recommendation of waiver on Agenda Item 19, No. F; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#G: Ms. Graves addressed the Commission. Chair Flood and Ms. McDermon responded with questions or comments. Motion by Commissioner Morrison to adopt staff recommendations on Agenda Item 19, No. G; second by Commissioner Erben. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 20: Discussion and possible action regarding the termination of a campaign treasurer appointment for the following inactive political committees:

Individuals

1. Cavazos, Cynthia T. (00069817)
2. Fleming, DeAndrea (00088785)
3. Gonzalez, Velia (00088931)
4. Johnson, Jarvis (00080580)
5. Lester Osborne, Leslie (00082125)
6. Lowe, Thomas W., III (00026841)
7. Ramirez, Norma (00081860)
8. Walsh, Stephani A. (00067856)
9. Washington, Makala L. (00088421)
10. Windmann, Richard G. (00088466)

Political Committees

11. Browder, Bramlette, Treasurer, Founders PAC (00087003)
12. Burke, Kyle, Treasurer, Reform Project PAC (00088700)
13. Burkett, Dana, Treasurer, Residents Advancing in Ladonia (00088763)
14. Cagle, DeLane, Treasurer, Pecos County Republican Party (CEC) (00023748)
15. Flores, Robert, Treasurer, Texans for Progress PAC (00087120)
16. Fowler, Susan, Treasurer, Texas Motion Picture Alliance PAC (00063437)
17. Garcia, Patricia, Treasurer, Cameron County Texas Democratic Women (00068904)
18. Gonzalez, Elena, Treasurer, Friends of the River (F.O.R.) San Bernard, Texas PAC (00089110)
19. Gradney, Ashlei, Treasurer, Black Woman Attorneys PAC (00084649)
20. Henderson, Latasha, Treasurer, Black Girl Magic (00085108)
21. Johnson, Lucy, Treasurer, Texas Real Estate Advocacy and Defense PAC (00082651)
22. Kemp, Chelsey, Treasurer, Diversified Ladies PAC (00088483)
23. Meyer III, Fred, Treasurer, Northeast Texas Democratic Coalition (00086024)
24. Rios, Daniel, Treasurer, Stronger Texas PAC (00083947)
25. Rivera, Bryan, Treasurer, Gulf Coast Public Safety TX PAC (00088064)

26. Roberts, Martha, Treasurer, New Blue USA PAC (00086828)
27. Rokovich, Andrew, Treasurer, Protect Texas PAC (00089125)
28. Saibara-Naritomi, Nancy, Treasurer, Harris County Green Party (00038730)
29. Siwierka, Michael, Treasurer, Fort Bend Business PAC (00068461)
30. Stewart, Mende, Treasurer, Sage Brush Republican Women (00087992)

Chair Flood and Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to terminate the treasurer appointments for Agenda Item 20, except for numbers 7, 16 and 26 which were removed; second by Commissioner Gorman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 21: Briefing and discussion of actions taken or in-progress to implement move of the TEC from Sam Houston Building to Barbara Jordan Building.

Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Flood, Vice Chair Mizell, Commissioners Erben, Schmidt and Slovacek, James Tinley, Executive Director, and Ms. Arriaga responded with questions or comments. **No action was taken.**

Agenda Item 22: Discussion and possible action regarding the TEC's response to the Sunset Advisory Commission's management recommendations, the strategic plan, legislative appropriations request, and recommendations for statutory change.

James Tinley, Executive Director, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Flood responded with questions or comments. Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt the TEC's comprehensive IT plan; second by Commissioner Morrison. **Motion passed unanimously.** Motion by Commissioner Schmidt to adopt the TEC's proactive enforcement policy; second by Vice Chair Mizell. **Motion passed unanimously.** Chair Flood created a subcommittee made up of himself and Commissioners Erben, Morrison and Strama to discuss the TEC's strategic plan and legislative appropriations request.

Agenda Item 23: Discussion related to enhanced contract monitoring of certain Commission contracts.

Amanda Arriaga, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Flood responded with questions or comments. **No action was taken.**

Agenda Item 24: Adjourn.

Commissioner Slovacek provided comments. **Commission meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.