

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF  
JUDITH L. SNYDER,  
RESPONDENT

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BEFORE THE  
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION  
SC-3120258

## ORDER and AGREED RESOLUTION

### I. Recitals

The Texas Ethics Commission (the commission) met on January 31, 2013, to consider sworn complaint SC-3120258. A quorum of the commission was present. The commission determined that there is credible evidence of violations of section 254.063 of the Election Code, a law administered and enforced by the commission. To resolve and settle this complaint without further proceedings, the commission proposed this resolution to the respondent.

### II. Allegations

The complaint alleged that the respondent did not timely file semiannual campaign finance reports.

### III. Facts Supported by Credible Evidence

Credible evidence available to the commission supports the following findings of fact:

1. The respondent was a candidate for trustee of the Katy Independent School District (KISD) in a May 14, 2011, election. The complaint alleged that the respondent did not file semiannual campaign finance reports that were due on July 15, 2011, and January 17, 2012.
2. KISD records indicated that the respondent had not filed the reports at issue by their respective due dates.
3. After the complaint was filed, the respondent filed a final campaign finance report with KISD on February 24, 2012. The report covered the period from May 6, 2011, to June 10, 2011. The report disclosed \$4,250 in political contributions and approximately \$2,000 in political expenditures during the period of time that would have been covered by the July 2011 semiannual report.

#### IV. Findings and Conclusions of Law

The facts described in Section III support the following findings and conclusions of law:

1. A candidate shall file two reports for each year. ELEC. CODE § 254.063(a). The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1, the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through June 30. *Id.* § 254.063(b). The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed under this subchapter, as applicable, and continuing through December 31. *Id.* § 254.063(c).
2. If a candidate expects no reportable activity in connection with the candidacy to occur after the period covered by a report filed under this subchapter, the candidate may designate the report as a "final" report. *Id.* § 254.065(a). The designation of a report as a final report, in pertinent part, relieves the candidate of the duty to file additional reports and terminates the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment. *Id.* § 254.065(b).
3. The respondent was a candidate in the May 14, 2011, election. The respondent did not file a final report during the periods at issue and was required to file a July 2011 semiannual report and a January 2012 semiannual report. The respondent filed a report covering the July 2011 semiannual reporting period on February 24, 2012. Therefore, there is credible evidence that the respondent violated section 254.063(b) of the Election Code.
4. The respondent was a candidate during the period of time covered by the January 2012 semiannual report and was therefore required to file the report. The respondent did not file the semiannual report. Therefore, there is credible evidence of a violation of section 254.063(c) of the Election Code.

#### V. Representations and Agreement by Respondent

By signing this order and agreed resolution and returning it to the commission:

1. The respondent neither admits nor denies the facts described under Section III or the commission's findings and conclusions of law described under Section IV, and consents to the entry of this order and agreed resolution solely for the purpose of resolving this sworn complaint.
2. The respondent consents to this order and agreed resolution and waives any right to further proceedings in this matter.
3. The respondent acknowledges that a candidate shall file two reports for each year. The first report shall be filed not later than July 15. The report covers the period beginning January 1,

the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed, as applicable, and continuing through June 30. The second report shall be filed not later than January 15. The report covers the period beginning July 1, the day the candidate's campaign treasurer appointment is filed, or the first day after the period covered by the last report required to be filed, as applicable, and continuing through December 31. The respondent agrees to comply with these requirements of the law.

### **VI. Confidentiality**

This order and agreed resolution describes violations that the commission has determined are neither technical nor *de minimis*. Accordingly, this order and agreed resolution is not confidential under section 571.140 of the Government Code and may be disclosed by members and staff of the commission.

### **VII. Sanction**

After considering the nature, circumstances, and consequences of the violations described under Sections III and IV, and the sanction necessary to deter future violations, the commission imposes a \$500 civil penalty.

### **VIII. Order**

The commission hereby orders that if the respondent consents to the proposed resolution, this order and agreed resolution is a final and complete resolution of SC-3120258.

AGREED to by the respondent on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith L. Snyder, Respondent

EXECUTED ORIGINAL received by the commission on: \_\_\_\_\_.

Texas Ethics Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Reisman, Executive Director