

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF  
RICHARD P. SHERIDAN,  
RESPONDENT

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BEFORE THE  
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION  
SC-3150129

## FINAL ORDER

The Texas Ethics Commission (Commission), having heard this case and voting to find a violation of a law under its jurisdiction, makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

### Findings of Fact

1. The respondent is Richard P. Sheridan, whose last known mailing address is 2227 Irving Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75207-6201. A sworn complaint was filed with the Commission against the respondent on January 26, 2015. The Notice of Hearing was mailed to the respondent on March 23, 2016, by certified mail, return receipt requested, restricted delivery and delivery confirmation.
2. The preliminary review hearing was held on April 8, 2016, by the Commission in Austin, Texas.
3. The respondent sent a response to the notice of hearing, but did not appear at the hearing.
4. During the time at issue in the complaint, the respondent was a candidate for the office of mayor for the City of Dallas, Texas in the May 9, 2015, election.
5. The complaint alleged that the respondent did not file the January 2015 semiannual campaign finance report.
6. During the time at issue in the complaint, the respondent had an active campaign treasurer appointment on file with the City of Dallas. Therefore, the respondent was required to file the January 2015 semiannual report by January 15, 2015. The respondent filed the January 2015 semiannual report electronically with the City of Dallas on March 19, 2015.
7. In response to the sworn complaint, the respondent stated that it was “an oversight” that he did not file the January 2015 semiannual report.

**Conclusions of Law**

1. Disposition of this case is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. GOV'T CODE § 571.061.
2. The respondent received legally sufficient notice of the hearing in this case. GOV'T CODE § 571.032 and 1 TAC § 12.21. The hearing was held in accordance with section 12.23, 1 Texas Administrative Code.
3. A candidate shall file two reports for each year. 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. ELEC. CODE § 254.063.
4. The respondent had an active campaign treasurer appointment at the time at issue in the complaint and thus, the respondent was required to file the January 2015 semiannual campaign finance report by January 15, 2015. The respondent filed his January 2015 semiannual report on March 19, 2015. Therefore, there is credible evidence that the respondent filed his January 2015 semiannual report 63 days late in violation of section 254.063 of the Election Code.
5. The Commission may impose a sanction against the respondent of not more than \$5,000 or triple the amount at issue, whichever amount is greater. GOV'T CODE § 571.173.

**Therefore, the Texas Ethics Commission orders that:**

1. The respondent pay to the Commission, within 10 months of the date of this order, a civil penalty in the amount of \$100. If the respondent does not pay the \$100 civil penalty by February 15, 2017 (10 months after the date of this order), then the Commission imposes a \$1,500 civil penalty.

Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMISSION

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Natalia Luna Ashley  
Executive Director  
Texas Ethics Commission