



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Public Agenda

November 20, 2019, 4:03 p.m.
Capitol Extension, Room E1.014
Austin, Texas 78701



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chad M. Craycraft, Chair; Mary K. “Katie” Kennedy, Vice Chair; Randall H. Erben, Chris Flood, Patrick W. Mizell, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek and Steven D. Wolens

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Margie Castellanos, Nick Espinosa, Betty Gallegos, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernández, Jordan Hunn, Jeanette Lachman, Haksoon Andrea Low, Natalie McDermon, Amy Padilla, Anne Temple Peters, Scarlett Scalzo, Ian Steusloff, Jim Tinley, and Preston Tom.

MINUTES

This meeting was recorded. 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 either the video recording available to view online at: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/capitol-events/>, or the audio recordings on file at the Commission’s office.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craycraft. Anne Temple Peters, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

Agenda Item 2: Discussion and possible action regarding procedures for advisory opinion requests received by the Texas Ethics Commission.

Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Erben to adopted staff recommendations to automatically extend the 60-day deadline for any Ethics Advisory Opinion received since September 1, 2019; second by Commissioner Mizell. Motion by Commissioner Erben to direct staff to draft a rule to automatically extend by 60-days any opinion request Texas Ethics Commission receives; second by Vice Chair Kennedy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 3: Reconsideration of Ethics Advisory Opinion No. EAO-550, adopted on June 28, 2019, and possible adoption of a revised advisory opinion regarding whether a public officer may use government resources for political advertising.

Commissioner Wolens briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Craycraft, Vice Chair Kennedy and Commissioners Erben, Mizell, Slovacek and Wolens responded with questions and comments. Motion by Commissioner Wolens to delete footnote 2; second by Commissioner Flood. **Motion passed by a vote of five ayes; Commissioners Mizell, Schmidt and Slovacek voted no.** Motion by Commissioner Wolens to postpone effective date until January 1, 2020; second by Commissioner Flood. **Motion passed by a vote of eight ayes.**

Agenda Item 4: Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-630: Whether an elected officeholder, who is a member of a political committee, may accept transportation, lodging, and meals, or reimbursement of expenses for the same, during a regular legislative session from the committee for attending and performing official actions at the committee's meetings.

Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Craycraft, Vice Chair Kennedy, and Commissioners Wolens, Erben, Flood and Slovacek, responded with questions and comments. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 5: Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-630: whether an elected officeholder, who is a member of a political committee, may accept transportation, lodging, and meals, or reimbursement of expenses for the same, during regular legislative session from the committee for attending and performing official actions at the committee's meetings.

Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Chair Craycraft, Commissioners Wolens, Erben, Flood, and Slovacek, and Mr. Steusloff responded with questions and comments. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 6: Advisory Opinion Draft No. AOR-631: Whether section 572.069 of the Government Code would prohibit a former employee of a state agency from accepting employment from a person whose bid proposal the employee reviewed when the person was not eligible to enter into a contract with agency.

Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Mr. Andrew Cates and Mr. Gordon Taylor addressed the Commission. Chair Craycraft, Vice Chair Kennedy, Commissioners Flood, Erben and Slovacek, and Assistant General Counsel Haksoon Andrea Low responded with questions and comments. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 7: Advisory Opinion Draft No. SP-17: regarding the reporting of certain expenditures made for the placement of Internet political advertising.

Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on this agenda item. Motion by Commissioner Wolens to accept staff recommendations; second by Vice Chair Kennedy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn.

Chair Craycraft welcomed new executive director Anne Temple Peters and thanked Commissioner Wolens for his service. Motion by Chair Craycraft to adjourn. **Commission meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.