



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Executive Session Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023, 3:11 p.m.

10th Floor, Sam Houston State Building

Austin, Texas 78701



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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: All Present.

STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Barrett, Joe Brocato, Margie Castellanos, Carmen Dalpiaz, Nick Espinosa, David Guilianelli, Jessie Haug, Cristina Hernandez, Jordan Hunn, J.R. Johnson, Natalie McDermon, Amy Padilla, Mark Pillsbury, Patti Shannon, Jim Tinley, 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 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 Kennedy. J.R. Johnson, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

Agenda Item 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; Cause No. 03-21-00033, *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; and related case, Cause No. 03-22-00133-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.
 - iv. Cause No. 1:22-cv-1371, *Orlando Salinas v. J.R. Johnson, et al.*, in the U.S District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.
 - v. Cause No. 22-CV-1130, *Matt Wiggins v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 122nd Judicial District of Galveston County, Texas.
 - vi. Cause No. 1:22-cv-1166, *Robert Bruce, Bryan Slaton and Grayson County Conservatives PAC v. J.R. Johnson, et al.*, in the U.S District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.
- B. Discussion to receive legal advice regarding lawsuits filed against Commissioners in their official capacity
 - C. Discussion of contemplated litigation to seek legal advice relating to regarding the collection of imposed penalties.
 - D. Discussion of contemplated litigation to seek legal advice relating to the enforcement of Section 253.007 of the Election Code.
 - E. Discussion of personnel matters.
 - F. Reconvene in open session.

Reconvened in open session at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda Item 3: Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m. by unanimous consent.