



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov

To: All Candidates

Subject: Campaign Contributions

Attached is a copy of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances. A summary of some key provisions follows:

- **Personal Financial Statement:** Candidates will be required to file a comprehensive personal financial statement on or before April 16, 2018, with the City Secretary. See §145.004(c), Texas Local Government Code. The statement will cover the period from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. See Article III of Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- **Campaign Finance Reports:** Campaign finance reports are due 30 days (**Thursday, April 5, 2018**) and 8 days (**Friday April 27, 2018**) before the election. Campaign finance reports must be filed electronically, unless the filer is exempt pursuant to section 18-103(c) of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances. The electronic filing system can be found here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/campaignfinance/>.
- Political contributions may not be delivered or accepted in any city owned or operated building or facility. See §18-32, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- Political contributions may not be solicited on behalf of any candidate by any member of the following boards or commissions who is appointed to the board or commission by the City of Houston, nor may candidates accept political contributions that were solicited by such persons (see §18-33(a), (b), CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES):
 - Houston Ethics Commission
 - Houston Planning Commission
 - Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
 - Port of Houston Authority of Harris County
 - Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Board
- Subject to change as terms expire and members resign from time to time, the following are appointees of the City as of March 15, 2018:

Houston Ethics Commission	
Amy Dunn Taylor	Position 1
Ingrid Vazquez	Position 2
Donald R. Collins, Jr.	Position 3
Alfonso (Al) Maldonado, III	Position 4

Marsha Fisk	Position 5
Julie Marinucci	Position 6
David M. Goldberg	Position 7
Houston Planning Commission	
Martha "Marty" Stein	Position 1
Meera Victor	Position 2
Zafar "Zaf" Tahir	Position 3
Susan Alleman	Position 4
Mark Kilkenny	Position 5
Fernando Brave	Position 6
Ian Rosenberg	Position 7
Lydia Mares	Position 8
Lisa Clark	Position 9
Megan Sigler	Position 10
Shaukat Zakaria	Position 11
Algenita Scott Davis	Position 12
Christina Morales	Position 13
Bill Baldwin	Position 14
Edward Emmett	Position 15
James Noack	Position 16
Robert Hebert	Position 17
Paul Nelson	Position 18
Linda Porrás-Pirtle	Position 19
Antoine Bryant	Position 20
Medardo "Sonny" Garza	Position 21
Loyd Smith	Alternate, Position 15
Mark Mooney	Alternate, Position 16
Charles Dean	Alternate, Position 17
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (City's appointees)	
Lex Frieden	Position 1
Sanjay Ramabhadran	Position 2
Troi Taylor	Position 3
Carrin Patman	Position 4
Christof Spieler	Position 5
Port of Houston Authority of Harris County (City's appointees)	
Dean Corgey	Position 1
Theldon R. Branch, III	Position 2
Janiece M. Longoria	Position 7, Chair
Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Board (City's appointees)	
J. Kent Friedman	Chair
Cindy L. Clifford	Position 1
Ronald G. Franklin	Position 2
Willie Alexander	Position 3
Matthew Rogers, Jr.	Position 4

Laura Murillo	Position 5
Robert Woods	Position 11

- Solicitation of political contributions by City employees during their work hours is restricted. See §18-33(c), CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- The acceptance of political contributions from persons who have litigation pending against the City is restricted. See §18-34, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- The acceptance of political contributions from City contractors is restricted. See §18-36, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, the definitions of “contract award period” and “contractor” in §18-36, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, and the definitions of “contract” and “contractor” in §18-2, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. It is necessary to check the weekly City Council agendas in order to determine which persons may not make political contributions at any given time. Additionally, the City Secretary maintains and posts a contractor list to assist candidates with compliance.
- The use of campaign funds to reimburse or repay personal loans is limited to \$50,000 for a district council office. See §18-37, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- The City of Houston amended the limitations on political solicitations and contributions in 2016. Candidates for City office are no longer restricted on when they can raise funds and solicit contributions, except for the limitation on contractor contributions during the contract award period.
- **Contribution Limits:** There is a contribution limit of **\$5,000 per contribution cycle for contributors other than political committees**, and a contribution limit of **\$10,000 per contribution cycle for political committees**, including “coordinated campaign expenditures.” See §18-38, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. For a person or political committee contributing to a candidate in a special election to fill a vacancy, the term “**contribution cycle**” means the period beginning when a person takes affirmative action to become a candidate as defined in section 18-2 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, and ending on December 31, 2018. See §18-31, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. If a candidate in a special election to fill a vacancy is in a run-off election, there is an additional contribution cycle beginning the day after the special election and ending on December 31, 2018. See §18-31, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The foregoing is intended only as a summary. It is the responsibility of each candidate to comply with local and state election laws. Each violation of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances is punishable by a penal fine of up to \$500 and continuing violations are a separate offense for each day. See §§18-41, 1-6, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Attachment (Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES)