



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 January 20, 2022, with the City Secretary. See §145.004(c), Texas Local Government Code. The statement will cover the period from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. See Article III of Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. A copy of a Personal Financial Statement (Form PFS) will be provided to candidates no later than the 10th day before the Form PFS filing deadline. See § 145.005(b), Texas Local Government Code. The Texas Ethics Commission has advised that the form will be available for download at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/> on December 1, 2021.
- **Campaign Finance Reports:** Campaign finance reports are due 30 days before the election (**Monday, December 27, 2021**) and 8 days before the election (**Monday, January 17, 2022**). 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/>. You can find answers to frequently asked questions regarding campaign finance here: <https://www.houstontx.gov/campaignfinance/faq.html>.
- 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 November 3, 2021:

Houston Ethics Commission	
Gregory Ulmer	Position 1
Steven Sanders	Position 2
Donald R. Collins, Jr.	Position 3
Alfonso (Al) Maldonado, III	Position 4
Marsha G. Fisk	Position 5
Julie Marinucci	Position 6
David M. Goldberg	Position 7
Houston Planning Commission	
Martha "Marty" Stein	Position 1, Chair
Meera Victor	Position 2
Zafar "Zaf" Tahir	Position 3
Susan Alleman	Position 4
Randy Jones	Position 5
Ileana Rodriguez	Position 6
Ian Rosenberg	Position 7
Lydia Mares	Position 8
Lisa Clark	Position 9
Megan Sigler	Position 10
Kevin Robins	Position 11
David Abraham	Position 12
Rodney R. Heisch	Position 13
Bill Baldwin	Position 14
Lina Hidalgo	Position 15
James Noack	Position 16
Robert Hebert	Position 17
Paul R. Nelson	Position 18
Linda E. Porras-Pirtle	Position 19
Daimian S. Hines	Position 20
Medardo "Sonny" Garza	Position 21
Margaret Brown	Position 22
Carol Haddock	Position 23
Yuhayna H. Mahmud	Position 24, Ex-Officio
Carol Lewis, Ph.D	Position 25
Michael Heckman	Position 26
Loyd Smith	Alternate, Position 15
Maggie Dalton	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, Chair
Teresa R. Morales	Position 5
Port of Houston Authority of Harris County (City's appointees)	
Dean Corgey	Position 1
Cheryl Denise Creuzot	Position 2
Richard Campo	Position 7, Chair
Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Board (City's appointees)	
J. Kent Friedman	Chair
Cindy L. Clifford	Position 1
Nomaan K. Husain	Position 2
Willie Alexander	Position 3

Martye M. Kendrick	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 restricted, and the amount allowed depends upon the office that is sought. 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 §§18-31 (defining “contribution cycle”), 18-38, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. Leading up to and through the January 25, 2022 special election, the contribution cycles run as follows:
 - The date that a person takes affirmative action to become a candidate as defined in Section 18-2 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances through December 31, 2022
 - For run-off candidates from the January 25, 2022 special election: January 26, 2022 through December 31, 2022

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)