



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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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 September 9, 2019, with the City Secretary. See §145.004(c), Texas Local Government Code. The statement will cover the period from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. See Article III of Chapter 18, CITY OF HOUSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- **Campaign Finance Reports:** Campaign finance reports are due 30 days before the election (**Monday, October 7, 2019**) and 8 days before the election (**Monday, October 28, 2019**). 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 July 1, 2019:

Houston Ethics Commission	
Amy Dunn Taylor	Position 1
Ingrid Vazquez	Position 2

Council Members: Brenda Stardig Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Dwight A. Boykins Dave Martin Steve Le Greg Travis Karla Cisneros
Robert Gallegos Mike Laster Martha Castex-Tatum Mike Knox David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh Amanda Edwards Jack Christie
Controller: Chris Brown

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, 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
Isabel Longoria	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
Antoine Bryant	Position 20
Medardo "Sonny" Garza	Position 21
Loyd Smith	Alternate, Position 15
Mark Mooney	Alternate, Position 16
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
Theldon R. Branch, III	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
Ronald G. Franklin	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 November 5, 2019 general election, the contribution cycles run as follows:
 - March 5, 2016 (or April 5, 2016 as applicable)¹ through December 31, 2017
 - January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019
 - For run-off candidates from the November 5, 2019 general election: November 6, 2019 through December 31, 2019
 - January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021

¹ City of Houston Ordinance No. 2016-528 retroactively applied the changes to the contribution limits in Section 18-38(a) to March 5, 2016, or April 5, 2016, for a candidate who participated in the December 12, 2015 run-off election. Any contributions made before March 5, 2016, or April 5, 2016, as applicable, are governed by the provisions of Section 18-38(a) of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, that were in effect on the date the contribution was made.

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)

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