



2016 Primary Election – Information for Candidates

Filing for Office

There are two things that every eligible candidate must do in order to appear on the ballot for a partisan election for state and county races: timely file the necessary documentation with the Texas Ethics Commission or Harris County Clerk, and timely file for candidacy with the Republican Party of Texas or the Harris County Republican Party.

Texas Ethics Commission:

The Texas Ethics Commission is a nonpartisan state agency that administers Texas election campaign finance laws. This agency is tasked with ensuring that candidates and office holders comply with the state campaign finance laws. There are two major steps each candidate must take in preparation for filing for office.

1. Before a candidate can begin soliciting and collecting campaign contributions, a person must first file an Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer form (CTA form) with the Texas Ethic Commission (or the Federal Elections Commission for a federal race). This applies to ALL candidates on the ballot. If you accept donations before this paperwork is filed, the donations must be returned and you may be subject to administrative or criminal penalties.
2. Candidates for state office must also file a personal financial statement with the Texas Ethics Commission.

Once a candidate has begun fundraising and spending money on the campaign, there are Texas Ethics Commission deadlines for submitting campaign finance reports to the agency. Please see detailed information on the Texas Ethics Commission website for campaign finance filings for state candidates and local candidates. In addition, judicial candidates have separate campaign finance laws and filing schedules.

Below are some important elections dates for the 2016 cycle from the Texas SOS Website.

March 1, 2016 - Primary Election <i>A more detailed calendar is available at the Candidate's Guide.</i>	
First day to file for a place on the primary ballot for precinct chair candidates.	Tuesday, September 15, 2015
First day to file for all other candidates for offices that are regularly scheduled to be on the Primary ballot.	Saturday, November 14, 2015
Filing deadline for candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates to file intent declaration.	Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (NEW LAW : first day of calendar year for ABBM and FPCA)	Friday, January 1, 2016* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2016 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
First Day of Early Voting	Tuesday, February 16, 2016* <i>*First business day after Presidents' Day</i>
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received , not Postmarked)	Friday, February 19, 2016 (NEW LAW : 11th day before election day; ABBM and FPCA)
Last Day of Early Voting	Friday, February 26, 2016
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, March 1, 2016 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. (unless overseas deadline applies)

Residency Requirements:

There are certain requirements that a person needs to fulfill to be considered on the ballot including residency requirements, in-district residency requirements, and in some cases, a person must be attorney. These requirements can be found on the SOS website here: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/candidates/guide/qualifications.shtml>

Filing Campaign Financial Reports:

1. If you are running for a federal office, such as United States Representative, all campaign finance reports shall be submitted to the Federal Elections Commission. Please check their website for the report filing schedule. www.fec.gov
2. If you are running for a state or district race, such as Texas Senator, the reports shall be submitted to the Texas Ethics Commission. Please check their website for the report filing schedule. www.ethics.state.tx.us
3. If you are running for a county or precinct position, such as County Court, the reports shall be submitted to the Harris County Clerk. Please check their website for the report filing schedule. <http://harrisvotes.com/>
4. If you are running for a district office that is in only one county, such as District Judge, the reports shall be submitted to the Texas Ethics Commission and the County Clerk.

Important Contacts:

Texas Secretary of State	James E. Rudder Bldg. 1019 Brazos St. Austin, Texas 78701	512-463-5650
Texas Ethics Commission	201 East 14th St., 10th Floor Austin, TX 78701	512-463-5800
Federal Election Commission	999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463	800-424-9530
Republican Party of Texas	1108 Lavaca St., Suite 500 Austin, TX 78701	512-477-9821
Harris County Republican Party	7232 Wynnwood Ln. Houston, TX 77008	713-838-7900
Harris County Clerk	1001 Preston, 4th Floor, Rm. 439 , Houston, TX 77002	713-755-5792

HCRP Staff Directory:

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Northeast Harris County Field Representative

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Cell Phone: 317-842-7160

Southeast Harris County Field Representative

Email: Sebastian.Gracia@harriscountygop.com

Phone: 713-870-7191

Satellite Offices:**Northeast Satellite Office**

2523 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Kingwood, TX 77339

Northwest Satellite Office

21503 Tomball Parkway, Ste. C Houston, TX 77070

Southeast Satellite Office

433 Bay Area Blvd, Webster, TX 77598

Important Upcoming HCRP Events:**September 2015 Executive Committee Meeting-**

September 21, 2015 (HCRP Headquarters)

December 2015 Executive Committee Meeting-

December 7, 2015 (HCRP Headquarters)

January 2016 Executive Committee Meeting-

Date TBD (HCRP Headquarters)

Precinct Conventions-

March 1, 2016; Location: TBD (in precincts)

SD Conventions-

March 19, 2016; Location(s): TBD (in Senatorial Districts)