Campaign Finance for County Political Parties

TRCCA

Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association

County Executive Committees

Definition of Political Committee

A political committee is a group of two or more people that accepts political contributions or makes political expenditures. If a political party or a group affiliated with a political party raises and spends money to support or oppose candidates or measures, it is a general-purpose political committee. In some circumstances, political party-political committees are subject to different rules from other general-purpose political committees.

Governing Laws and Rules

- Governing Law:
  - Chapter 257. Political Parties, Texas Election Code and Sections 253.160(d), 253.1611(e), 253.170(a)(b), 253.171(a), and 254.161 of the Election Code
- Governing Rules:
  - Texas Ethics Commission Rules, Chapter 20, Subchapters G, H, and I

Thresholds on Total Yearly Contributations

The county executive committee of a political party is not required to appoint a campaign treasurer unless it accepts more than **$34,220** in political contributions or makes more than **$34,220** in political expenditures in a calendar year.

A county executive committee that exceeds one of the thresholds must appoint a campaign treasurer not later than the 15th day after the threshold is exceeded.

This is an annual threshold.

Requirements to File Reports

- You may appoint a Treasurer even if you are not required to file reports. **HOWEVER, Once a political committee files an appointment of campaign treasurer, the campaign treasurer is required to file reports under the applicable filing schedules.**

- Even if the party is not required to file under the threshold, it must keep records of contributions and expenditures should the party exceed the threshold before the end of the year.

- To appoint a campaign treasurer, use the Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer By A County Executive Committee Form (Form CECTA). To file a campaign finance report on paper, use the County Executive Committee Campaign Finance Report Form (Form CEC).

Here's where to find the report forms

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/ptycorp/cecfrm.php

APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FORM CECTA
PG 1

Note: A county executive committee is a type of general-purpose committee.

See CECTA Instruction Guide for detailed instructions.

1 Total pages filed:

2 COMMITTEE NAME		OFFICE USE ONLY Filer ID #
3 ACRONYM		Date Received
4 PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE	☐ NO ☐ YES	Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked
5 COMMITTEE ADDRESS	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE	Receipt # / Amount $ Date Processed
6 REPORTING TYPE	☐ REGULAR ☐ MONTHLY	Date Imaged
7 CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME	MS / MRS / MR FIRST MI NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX	
8 CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (residence or business)	STREET ADDRESS; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE	
9 CAMPAIGN TREASURER MAILING ADDRESS ☐ same as above	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE	
10 CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE	AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION ( )	
11 PERSON APPOINTING TREASURER	FIRST MI LAST SUFFIX	
12 SIGNATURE	I understand that I have been appointed as the campaign treasurer for this county executive committee and that I am responsible for filing all required reports and that I may be subject to fines for failure to do so. I am aware of the restrictions in title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations and labor organizations. _____ Signature of Campaign Treasurer	

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

This appointment is effective on the date it is filed with the commission.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
ASSISTANT TREASURER & RECIPIENT COMMITTEES

13 COMMITTEE NAME	
14 ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN TREASURER	FIRST MI LAST SUFFIX
15 ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN TREASURER ADDRESS	ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE
16 ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE	AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION ( )
17 RECIPIENT GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEES	Committee name Committee address; City; State; Zip Code
	Committee name Committee address; City; State; Zip Code
	Committee name Committee address; City; State; Zip Code

Filers may send this form to the TEC electronically at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us
or mail to
Texas Ethics Commission
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, TX 78711-2070

For more information about where to file go to:
https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php

ATTACH ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS FORM AS NEEDED

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

FORM CEC
COVER SHEET PG 1

The CEC Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

2 Total pages filed:

3 COMMITTEE NAME

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

4 COMMITTEE ADDRESS

ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

☐ Change of Address

Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked

5 CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME

MS / MRS / MR FIRST MI

NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX

Receipt # Amount $

Date Processed

Date Imaged

6 CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS (Residence or Business)

STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX PLEASE); APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

7 CAMPAIGN TREASURER MAILING ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

☐ Change of Address

8 CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE

AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION

( )

9 REPORT TYPE

☐ January 15
☐ July 15
☐ 30th day before election
☐ 8th day before election
☐ Runoff
☐ Final Report
☐ 10th day after campaign treasurer termination

10 PERIOD COVERED

Month Day Year THROUGH Month Day Year

11 ELECTION

ELECTION DATE

Month Day Year

ELECTION TYPE

☐ Primary ☐ Runoff ☐ Other
☐ General ☐ Special Description

GO TO PAGE 2

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: PURPOSE AND TOTALS

FORM CEC
COVER SHEET PG 2

12 COMMITTEE NAME

13 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

14 COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

(Attach lists on plain paper to complete this report if necessary.)

1. Candidates (Identify by name or, if applicable, classify by party.)	A. Supported	
	B. Opposed	
2. Measures (Describe by date and location of election and nature of issue.)	A. Supported	
	B. Opposed	
3. Officeholders Assisted (Identify by name or, if applicable, classify by party.)		

15 CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

1.	TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS MADE ELECTRONICALLY) ☐ Check here if this report qualifies for the higher itemization threshold	$
2.	**TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS** (OTHER THAN PLEDGES, LOANS, OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS)	$
EXPENDITURE TOTALS 3.	TOTAL UNITEMIZED POLITICAL EXPENDITURES	$
4.	**TOTAL POLITICAL EXPENDITURES**	$
CONTRIBUTION BALANCE 5.	TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	$
OUTSTANDING LOAN TOTALS 6.	TOTAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ALL OUTSTANDING LOANS AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	$

16 AFFIDAVIT

I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.

Signature of Campaign Treasurer

AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said _____, this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature of officer administering oath | Printed name of officer administering oath | Title of officer administering oath

MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS — SCHEDULE A1

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule A1:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 Date

5 Full name of contributor ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID#:_____)

6 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code

7 Amount of contribution ($)

8 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)

9 Employer (See Instructions)

NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS — SCHEDULE A2

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule A2:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED IN-KIND POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS $

5 Date

6 Full name of contributor ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID#:_____)

7 Contributor address; City; State; Zip Code

8 Amount of Contribution $

9 In-kind contribution description

☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.

10 Principal occupation / Job title (FOR NON-JUDICIAL) (See Instructions)

11 Employer (FOR NON-JUDICIAL) (See Instructions)

12 Contributor's principal occupation (FOR JUDICIAL)

13 Contributor's job title (FOR JUDICIAL) (See Instructions)

14 Contributor's employer/law firm (FOR JUDICIAL)

15 Law firm of contributor's spouse (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)

16 If contributor is a child, law firm of parent(s) (if any) (FOR JUDICIAL)

POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS — SCHEDULE F1

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 8(a)

Advertising Expense
Accounting/Banking
Consulting Expense
Contributions/Donations Made By Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee
Credit Card Payment
Event Expense
Fees
Food/Beverage Expense
Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense
Legal Services
Loan Repayment/Reimbursement
Office Overhead/Rental Expense
Polling Expense
Printing Expense
Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor
Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Travel In District
Travel Out Of District
Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F1:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 Date

5 Payee name

6 Amount ($)

7 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code

8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE

(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)

(b) Description

☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.

☐ Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense

9 Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH — Candidate / Officeholder name — Office sought — Office held

UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS — SCHEDULE F2

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

Advertising Expense
Accounting/Banking
Consulting Expense
Contributions/Donations Made By Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee
Event Expense
Fees
Food/Beverage Expense
Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense
Legal Services
Loan Repayment/Reimbursement
Office Overhead/Rental Expense
Polling Expense
Printing Expense
Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor
Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Travel In District
Travel Out Of District
Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F2:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS $

5 Date

6 Payee name

7 Amount ($)

8 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code

9 TYPE OF EXPENDITURE ☐ Political ☐ Non-Political

10 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE

(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)

(b) Description

☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.

☐ Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense

11 Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH — Candidate / Officeholder name — Office sought — Office held

PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS — SCHEDULE B

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule B:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED PLEDGES $

5 Date

6 Full name of pledgor ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID#:_____)

7 Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code

8 Amount of Pledge $

9 In-kind contribution description

☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.

10 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)

11 Employer (See Instructions)

Date

Full name of pledgor ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID#:_____)

Pledgor address; City; State; Zip Code

Amount of Pledge $

In-kind contribution description

☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T.

Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)

Employer (See Instructions)

LOANS — SCHEDULE E

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule E:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED LOANS $

5 Date of loan

7 Name of lender ☐ out-of-state PAC (ID#:_____)

9 Loan Amount ($)

6 Is lender a financial Institution? Y N

8 Lender address; City; State; Zip Code

10 Interest rate

11 Maturity date

12 Principal occupation / Job title (See Instructions)

13 Employer (See Instructions)

14 Description of Collateral ☐ none

15 Check if personal funds were deposited into political account (See Instructions) ☐

16 GUARANTOR INFORMATION ☐ not applicable

17 Name of guarantor

18 Guarantor address; City; State; Zip Code

19 Amount Guaranteed ($)

20 Principal Occupation (See Instructions)

21 Employer (See Instructions)

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS OR POLITICAL EXPENDITURES FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF TEXAS — SCHEDULE T

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule T:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 Name of Contributor / Corporation or Labor Organization / Pledgor / Payee

5 Contribution / Expenditure reported on:

☐ Schedule A2 ☐ Schedule B ☐ Schedule B(J) ☐ Schedule C2 ☐ Schedule D ☐ Schedule F1
☐ Schedule F2 ☐ Schedule F4 ☐ Schedule G ☐ Schedule H ☐ Schedule COH-UC ☐ Schedule B-SS

6 Dates of travel

7 Name of person(s) traveling

8 Departure city or name of departure location

9 Destination city or name of destination location

10 Means of transportation

11 Purpose of travel (including name of conference, seminar, or other event)

INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER — SCHEDULE K

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule K:

2 FILER NAME

3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

4 Date

5 Name of person from whom amount is received

6 Address of person from whom amount is received; City; State; Zip Code

8 Amount ($)

7 Purpose for which amount is received

☐ Check if political contribution returned to filer

NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE I

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule I:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Payee name	
6 Amount ($)	7 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
8 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See instructions for examples of acceptable categories.)	(b) Description (See instructions regarding type of information required.)

SUBTOTALS - CEC

FORM CEC
COVER SHEET PG 3

17 COMMITTEE NAME	18 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

19 SCHEDULE SUBTOTALS NAME OF SCHEDULE			SUBTOTAL AMOUNT
1.	☐	SCHEDULE A1: MONETARY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS	$
2.	☐	SCHEDULE A2 : NON-MONETARY (IN-KIND) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS	$
3.	☐	SCHEDULE B: PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS	$
4.	☐	SCHEDULE E: LOANS	$
5.	☐	SCHEDULE F1: POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS	$
6.	☐	SCHEDULE F2: UNPAID INCURRED OBLIGATIONS	$
7.	☐	SCHEDULE F3: PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS	$
8.	☐	SCHEDULE F4: EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD	$
9.	☐	SCHEDULE I: NON-POLITICAL EXPENDITURES MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS	$
10.	☐	SCHEDULE K: INTEREST, CREDITS, GAINS, REFUNDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED TO FILER	$

EXPENDITURES MADE BY CREDIT CARD

SCHEDULE F4

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES FOR BOX 10(a)

Advertising Expense	Event Expense	Loan Repayment/Reimbursement	Solicitation/Fundraising Expense
Accounting/Banking	Fees	Office Overhead/Rental Expense	Transportation Equipment & Related Expense
Consulting Expense	Food/Beverage Expense	Polling Expense	Travel In District
Contributions/Donations Made By Candidate/Officeholder/Political Committee	Gift/Awards/Memorials Expense	Printing Expense	Travel Out Of District
	Legal Services	Salaries/Wages/Contract Labor	Other (enter a category not listed above)

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Total pages Schedule F4:	2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 TOTAL OF UNITEMIZED EXPENDITURES CHARGED TO A CREDIT CARD		$
5 Date	6 Payee name	
7 Amount ($)	8 Payee address; City; State; Zip Code	
9 TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	☐ Political ☐ Non-Political	
10 PURPOSE OF EXPENDITURE	(a) Category (See Categories listed at the top of this schedule)	(b) Description ☐ Check if travel outside of Texas. Complete Schedule T. ☐ Check if Austin, TX, officeholder living expense
11 Complete ONLY if direct expenditure to benefit C/OH	Candidate / Officeholder name	Office sought / Office held

PURCHASE OF INVESTMENTS MADE FROM POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHEDULE F3

The Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.	1 Total pages Schedule F3:
2 FILER NAME	3 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)
4 Date	5 Name of person from whom investment is purchased

When Where and How to File Reports

- **When to file:**
  - TEC sends notice of exact deadlines each calendar year.
  - Semi-Annual Reports: middle of January and middle of July
- **Where to file:**
  - GPACs and Political Party Committees file with the TEC
- **All required reports and schedules must be filed with the TEC electronically.**
  - All electronic files my obtain a TEC Filer ID Number
  - https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/ptycorp/
  - Once you have File ID and have set a username and password go to: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/File/ and select the TEC as your filing authority.
  - All forms and schedules are available in the electronic filing system

Accepting Contributions from Corporation or Unions

- Generally, Corporations and Unions are prohibited from making contributions; however; political parties may accept their contributions with certain restrictions and additional reporting requirements.

- Restrictions:
  - Contributions may only be used for;
    - Normal overheard and administrative costs for Party operations
    - To administer a primary election or hold a Party convention
  - All contributions and accrued interest must be kept in a separate account
    - Expenditures should also only be made from this account
  - “A political party may not accept contributions from corporations or labor organizations during the period that begins 60 days before a general election for state and county officers and ends on the day of the election. Nor may the political party make an expenditure during that time period from the account in which it keeps contributions from corporations and labor organizations.”

Reporting and Record Keeping-Corporation or Unions

- Reports:
  - Must file reports on all contributions and expenditures
  - The forms and instructions may be found here: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/ptycorp/index.php
  - Filing dates:
    - Semiannual reports (January 15 and July 15);
    - 8th day before primary election; and
    - 50th day before general election.
- Records:
  - The chair of a political party must keep records of all contributions from corporations and labor organizations and records of all expenditures from such contributions.
  - The party chair must keep records of contributions and expenditures for at least two years after the filing deadline for the report on which the contributions and expenditures are reported.

POLITICAL PARTY REPORT REGARDING FUNDS FROM CORPORATIONS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

FORM PTY-CORP COVER SHEET PG 1

Form PTY-CORP Instruction Guide explains how to complete this form.

1 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

2 Total pages filed:

3 POLITICAL PARTY NAME

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

4 STATE OR COUNTY PARTY

☐ State

☐ County _____

5 POLITICAL PARTY TYPE

☐ Democratic

☐ Republican

☐ Other: _____ (Party name)

Date Hand-delivered or Date Postmarked

Receipt # | Amount $

Date Processed

Date Imaged

6 POLITICAL PARTY MAILING ADDRESS

ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

☐ Change of Address

7 POLITICAL PARTY CHAIR

TITLE FIRST MI NICKNAME LAST SUFFIX

8 CHAIR MAILING ADDRESS

ADDRESS / PO BOX; APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

☐ Change of Address

9 CHAIR STREET ADDRESS (Residence or Business)

STREET ADDRESS (NO PO BOX PLEASE); APT / SUITE #; CITY; STATE; ZIP CODE

10 CHAIR PHONE

AREA CODE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION

( )

11 REPORT TYPE

☐ January 15 ☐ 8th day before primary election

☐ July 15 ☐ 50th day before general election

12 PERIOD COVERED

Month Day Year THROUGH Month Day Year

/ / / /

GO TO PAGE 2

POLITICAL PARTY REPORT: TOTALS AND SIGNATURE

FORM PTY-CORP COVER SHEET PG 2

13 POLITICAL PARTY NAME

14 Filer ID (Ethics Commission Filers)

15 TOTALS

1. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CORPORATE OR LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (OTHER THAN LOANS OR GUARANTEES OF LOANS)	$
2. TOTAL EXPENDITURES FROM CORPORATE OR LABOR ORGANIZATION CONTRIBUTIONS	$
3. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAINTAINED AS OF THE LAST DAY OF REPORTING PERIOD	$

A political party must file a report on Form PTY-CORP for any reporting period during which the party accepts corporate or labor organization contributions, maintains corporate or labor organization contributions, or makes expenditures from corporate or labor organization contributions.

16 SIGNATURE

I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the accompanying report is true and correct and includes all information required to be reported by me under Title 15, Election Code.

_____

Signature of Political Party Chair (Declarant)

Please complete either option below:

(1) Affidavit

AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said _____, this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

_____ _____ _____

Signature of officer administering oath Printed name of officer administering oath Title of officer administering oath

OR

(2) Unsworn Declaration

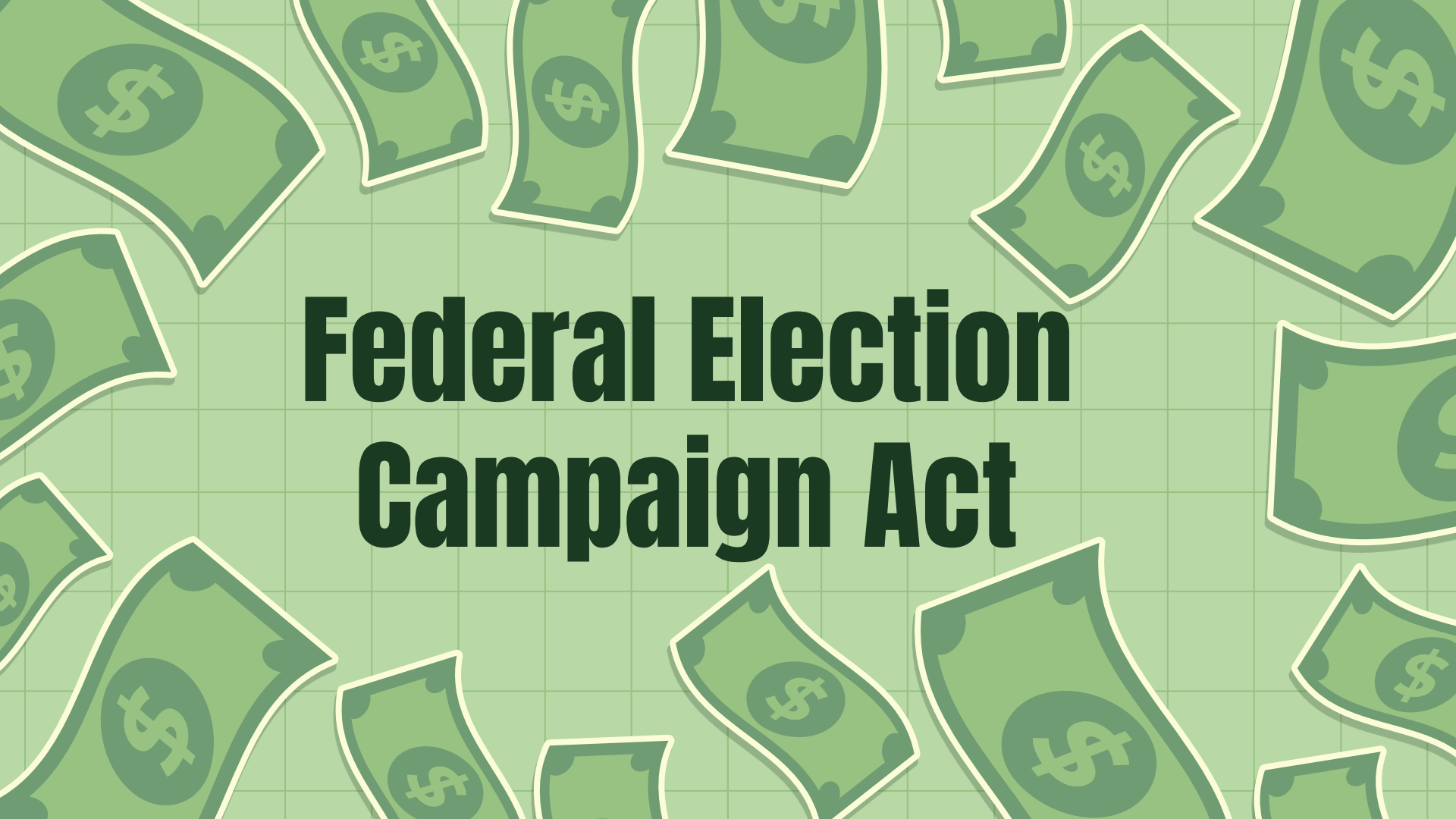
My name is _____, and my date of birth is _____.

My address is _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

Executed in _____ County, State of _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.
(month) (year)

_____

Signature of Political Party Chair (Declarant)


Federal Election
Campaign Act

Local Party Organizations

Most of the County Parties in Texas are Local Party Organizations, and likely not required to registered with the FEC.

“A local party organization is an organization that is responsible for a political party's activities below the state level (such as city, county or district level) but is not registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a district or local party committee.”

The Federal Election Campaign Act

- Regulates “Federal Election Activity”
  - Voter Registration
  - Identification of Voters and GOTV
  - Generic Campaign Activities
- Requires registration and the filing of reports if certain monetary thresholds are reached ($5000)
- Limits contributions ($10,000) and expenditures that a local party can receive or make
  - Defines federal permissible funds for contributions
- Allows only permissible expenditures on behalf of Federal Candidates

Activity Allowed Without Registration

- Local organization thresholds (Calendar Year)
  - Raises no more than $5,000 in contributions (designated federal funds.)
  - Spends no more than $1,000 on any federal candidates (pro rata.)
  - Spends no more than $5,000 on exempt party activities (federal candidates.)
- Spend no more than $1,000 on voter registration in an election where federal candidates are on the ballot.
- Spend no more than $1,000 on voter engagement or GOTV in an election where federal candidates are on the ballot (i.e. “Vote Republican” signs)
- Spend no more than $5000 on exempt party activities (voter guides or mailers where fed candidates are listed)

THRESHOLDS ARE FOR FEDERAL CANDIDATES ONLY

Federally Permissible Funds

Texas Local Party Organizations have great latitude with campaign finance except as it relates to federal campaigns.

Federally Permissible Funds:

Individuals and Partnerships – Same as Texas

Federally Prohibited Sources:

Corporations and Unions
Federal Government Contractors
Foreign Nationals
Contributions made in the name of another person

Federal Contribution Limits

- State, District and Local Party Yearly Contribution Limits:
  - No more that $10,000 combined contributions from individuals
  - No limit on contributions from the National Party (except for non-exempt activities)
  - No limit on contributions from another State, District or Local Party
  - No more than $5000 from multicandidate PAC
  - No more than $10000 from non-multicandidate PAC
- Certain activities may be exempt from the definition of contribution or expenditure (Exempt Party Activities)
  - No limits on money that can be spent on certain activities benefiting federal candidates
  - Thresholds still apply as they relate to FEA
  - Must be paid for with federally permissible funds

Exempt Party Activities

- Voter Guides or other printed material identifying federal candidates
  - Must identify 3 or more candidates from other state or local races
  - Not be distributed by broadcast media or billboard (mailers OK)
  - Content limited to name, office sought or held and party affiliation
  - May provide voting locations, dates and times
- Volunteer distribution of Campaign Materials (block walking)
  - Only for general election nominees
  - Must be distributed by volunteers, not paid workers
  - Not be public political advertising
  - Expenditure must be made by local or state party
  - May not use funds designated for a candidate or provided by National Committee
- GOTV for Party's Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates.

Levin Account

- State, district and local party committees may raise Levin funds , which are a category of funds that can be used for certain types of Federal Election Activity (FEA) .
- Donation of less than $200 can e aggregated in the report filing
- If your party raises over $10,000 from a single donor you should consider bifurcating the contribution into a Levin Account.
- Levin funds may be raised from Corporations and Unions if allowed by State law
- To itemize a Levin fund receipt, the committee discloses:
    - Name of the source of receipt
    - Mailing address
    - Employer (if an individual)
    - Occupation (if an individual)
    - Date of receipt
    - Amount of receipt
    - Aggregate year-to-date total of all receipts from the source

What Happens if We Go Over

You have 10 days to complete and submit FEC Form 1 Statement of Organization

Open and maintain a checking account that contains only federal funds

Thanks!

Questions ? Need Help?

David W. Luther
Training Director, TRCCA
David@davidwluther.com
712-628-7187

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, and includes icons by Flaticon, and infographics & images by Freepik