



## TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Workshop Minutes

April 16, 2015, 8:04 a.m.

Sam Houston Building, Room 835  
201 E. 14th Street, Austin, Texas 78701



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Paul W. Hobby, Chair; Chase Untermeyer, Vice Chair; Hugh C. Akin, Wilhelmina Delco, Tom Harrison (arrived at 8:10 a.m.), Bob Long, and Tom Ramsay.

**COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:** Jim Clancy.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Natalia Luna Ashley, Amy Barden, Jessie Haug, Jessica Hurtado, Patty Williams and Patti Shannon.

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### MINUTES

This meeting was not recorded. These minutes are a summary record of the Commission's actions at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 1: Call to order; roll call.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hobby. Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners except Commissioners Jim Clancy and Tom Harrison were present.

**Agenda Item 2: Introduction and comments by the Chair.**

Chair Hobby stated that the scheduled start date for the new electronic filing software was changed twice because of the special election held on March 31, 2015 and the runoff for that election that will be held on April 21, 2015. The new start date is April 28, 2015. The Commission has not received any complaints on the later start date.

**Commissioner Harrison arrived during Agenda Item 3.**

**Agenda Item 3: Presentation on the new electronic filing system project by RFD & Associates, Inc.**

Eric Dietz with RFD & Associates, Inc., gave an overview of the project's status; Tom Lynch, Scott T. Glover, Leah Leveridge and Thomas Noonan, all with RFD & Associates, Inc., provided assistance. The new software is now scheduled to be released at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 2015. Per Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, Texas presently has approximately 4,930 electronic filers. Mr. Dietz stated that testing has shown that 900 users can use the system simultaneously quite easily. College interns, Ethics Commissioners and RFD personnel have all tested the system, and found it very easy to use. The Commissioners had various questions and comments regarding the new electronic filing system and how it would relate to the various filers. Those questions were addressed by Natalia Luna Ashley, Executive Director; RFD & Associates, Inc. staff; and Jessie Haug, Director of Computer Services. Ms. Ashley said that training is being planned around the state, in seven different locations. There will also be online videos.

**Agenda Item 4: Commissioners discussion and possible action on the new electronic filing system.**

Commissioners made comments about the new system and some of its functions, including questions about whether the system keeps credit card and/or social security number information. The system does not keep credit card information. Lobbyists' social security numbers are required by law to be kept by the Ethics Commission; they are kept separate from public records, are encrypted, and the Commission keeps a record of any person who touches the information.

**Agenda Item 5: Communication to the Commission from the public.**

None.

**Agenda Item 6: Comments by the Commissioners.**

Commissioner Akin moved that filers who have a May 5, 2015, filing deadline for a non-critical report be given a 30-day grace period, and that any critical reports would be considered on a case-by-case basis; second by Commissioner Harrison. **Motion passed by a vote of eight ayes.**

**Agenda Item 7: Adjourn.**

Motion by Commissioner Akin to adjourn; second by Commissioner Harrison. **Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

Commission meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.