

# TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

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**TO: Junior College and Community College Districts**

**DATE: June 13, 2016**

This letter is to inform you of rules recently amended by the Texas Ethics Commission ("Commission") regarding specific-purpose committees ("SPACs") created to support or oppose school district bond measures.

**Definition of "School District":** On June 1, 2016, the Commission amended rule 20.1(23) to clarify that a "school district" includes a junior college district or community college district. The amendment only affects the filing requirements for certain SPACs, as detailed below.

**Filing Requirements:** The filing requirements for an SPAC created to support or oppose a measure on the issuance of bonds by a school district, including a junior college or community college district, are as follows:

**Campaign Treasurer Appointments:** The SPAC must file its campaign treasurer appointment with the secretary of the school district. This requirement has not changed. However, Commission rules state that the campaign treasurer of the SPAC should also obtain a file-stamped copy of its campaign treasurer appointment (and any amendment) and file it with the Commission.

**Campaign Finance Reports:** The campaign treasurer of the SPAC must file all campaign finance reports with the Commission. The reports are not filed with the school district.

**Local Filing Authority Duties:** As a junior college or community college district, the rule amendment means that SPACs that support or oppose a measure on the issuance of bonds by your district may contact your office regarding their filing requirements. Please review the duties of a local filing authority outlined in the Commission's "*Guide to a Local Filing Authority's Duties Under the Campaign Finance Law*", available at [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/guides/LOCAL\\_duty\\_guide.htm](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/guides/LOCAL_duty_guide.htm).

**Effective Date:** The rule amendment is effective on June 22, 2016.

**For Details:** Please see all of the related rules on the Texas Ethics Commission's website at:

- [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted\\_Jun\\_2016.html#Def20.1](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted_Jun_2016.html#Def20.1)
- [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted\\_Apr\\_2016.html#ReportsTEC](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted_Apr_2016.html#ReportsTEC)
- [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted\\_Apr\\_2016.html#ReportsLocal](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted_Apr_2016.html#ReportsLocal)
- [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted\\_Apr\\_2016.html#Term](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/rules/adopted_Apr_2016.html#Term)