

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ELECTION**

### **What is the Candidate Guide?**

Under section 2-2-6 of the City Code, the Office of the City Clerk is required to make available a candidate guide to the public cost-free in hard copy as well as online in an electronic format that is readily reproducible. This guide will include information regarding limits on campaign contributions and expenditures, campaign finance, campaign treasurer, copies of forms required by state law and the City Code, election calendar, miscellaneous information, and additional election resources. The first day this guide will be available for the November 4, 2014 election is May 5.

### **What are the relevant dates associated with the November election?**

[The Election Calendar provides a detailed list of election-related dates for election activities and requirements.](#)

### **What are the eligibility requirements for Mayor and Council Members?**

A candidate for mayor must meet all eligibility requirements of state law and must have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the city for six months immediately preceding the 2014 regular filing deadline (August 18) for a mayoral candidate's application for a place on the ballot. "Immediately preceding" means the day before the deadline.

A candidate for city council from a council district must meet all eligibility requirements of state law and must have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the council district from which the member is seeking election for six months immediately preceding the 2014 regular filing deadline (August 18) for a council candidate's application for a place on the ballot. "Immediately preceding" means the day before the deadline.

Residency deadlines are:

12 months: August 17, 2013

6 months: February 17, 2014

### **When can a candidate or committee accept political contributions?**

Under the City Charter, Article III, Section 8, a candidate for mayor or city council, or candidate's committee may not solicit or accept a political contribution except during the last 180 days before an election for mayor or council member. Before the 180-day period, a candidate may only spend personal funds for campaign purposes. Prior to accepting political contributions or making campaign related expenditures, a Campaign Treasurer must be designated.

### **What are the campaign contribution limit amounts?**

Article III Section 8(A)(1) and 8(A)(3) of the Austin City Charter require campaign finance limits to be modified annually with the adoption of the budget to increase or decrease in accordance with the most recently publicized Federal Government, Bureau of Labor Statistics Indicator, Consumer Price Index U.S. City Average (CPI-W U.S. City Average). Using the current CPI, the campaign contribution limit amount is \$350, and the aggregate contribution limit is modified to \$35,000 per election and \$23,000 per runoff election.

### **What is the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot?**

Under the Texas Election Code Section 143.007, the first day a candidate may file an application for a place on the ballot for the November 4, 2014 Mayor and City Council Election is Monday, July 21. The statutory date falls on Saturday, July 19, but the Secretary of State has confirmed that “regular business hours” of the City Clerk’s office prevail, and the filing start date is therefore moved to the next regular business day which is Monday, July 21. The deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot is August 18 at 5 PM.

The deadline for filing the Candidate Contract is the date the candidate files an application for a place on the ballot. The candidate must have filed a campaign treasurer appointment prior to filing an application for a place on the ballot.

### **What is the filing fee?**

The filing fee for an application for place on ballot is \$500 or, alternatively, a person may file a petition in lieu of the \$500. Petitions filed in lieu of the filing fee:

- Must be signed by registered voters residing in the particular district.
- No signer can endorse more than one candidate running within a district.
- Must have a specific number of verified signatures and may not be supplemented.
- Number of signatures required on petition in lieu of the filing fee for each district and for at-large:
  - Mayor (at large): 244 signatures
  - District 1: 25 signatures
  - District 2: 25 signatures
  - District 3: 25 signatures
  - District 4: 25 signatures
  - District 5: 32 signatures
  - District 6: 25 signatures
  - District 7: 31 signatures
  - District 8: 30 signatures
  - District 9: 29 signatures
  - District 10: 52 signatures

### **How will names appear on the ballot?**

The Council districts to be filled shall be placed on the ballot in numerical order. The order in which the candidates' names appear on the ballot is determined by a drawing conducted by the City Clerk at which each candidate or his/her named representative may be present. Please refer to the Election Calendar for the date, time and location of drawing.

### **What are the reporting requirements for candidates?**

Please refer to the Candidate Packet and Election Calendar for specific details.

- Campaign Treasurer Form (This form may be filed at any time but must be filed prior to any contributions or expenditures.)
- Semiannual Report of Campaign Contributions: Deadline is July 15 at 5 PM
- [Public Statement of Financial Information](#): Deadline is August 25 at 4:45 PM (City of Austin Form)
- Personal Financial Statement Form: Deadline is September 8 at 5 PM
- Statement of Contributions and Expenditures (30<sup>th</sup> Day Before Election Report): Deadline is October 6 at 5 PM
- Statement of Contributions and Expenditures (8<sup>th</sup> Day Before Election Report): Deadline is October 27 at 5 PM
- Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures (Runoff Election): Deadline is December 8 at 5 PM (Only for candidates involved in a runoff election)
- Semiannual Report of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures: Deadline is January 15, 2015 at 5 PM
- 30<sup>th</sup> Day Before Election report: Deadline is October 6, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Period covered - beginning date is the day after the last day covered by your last required report, first day of campaign activity or date of filing of campaign treasurer appointment and ending date is September 25, 2014.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Day Before Election report: Deadline is October 27, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Period covered – beginning date is September 26, 2014 and ending date is October 25, 2014.

Forms and instructions may be found at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/localcohfrm.htm>.

Campaign Finance Guide for Candidates and Officeholders may be found at [http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/guides/COH\\_local\\_guide.htm](http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/guides/COH_local_guide.htm).

Title 15, Election Code (Regulating Political Funds and Campaigns) may be found at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/statutes/title15.html>.

### **What are the Mayor and Council Member salaries? (as of November 2013)**

- Mayor - \$78,852.80
- Council Member - \$66,955.20

[For information please refer to Ordinance No. 20061116-081](#)

**Note:** [Texas Constitution Art. V XI, §40\(b\)](#) prohibits a state employee from receiving a salary for serving on a local government body.

### **What is the difference between council terms and tenure?**

The council term is set by City Charter; tenure is based on the number of days in office and is based on the date a member is sworn in.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 2 (C), the regular term of a council member begins on the date set by ordinance. Ordinance No. **20141023-007** sets the term of each council member serving on the effective date of this ordinance as ending on **January 6, 2015** when the new council members elected in the 2014 general election assume office. As soon as practicable after assuming office, the council members elected from council districts shall divide themselves into two classes by drawing of lots. Class One shall consist of five council members who shall serve a two-year term. Class Two shall consist of five council members who shall serve a four-year term. Thereafter, unless elected to fill a vacancy, each council member shall be elected to a four-year term. If a council member's term is shortened by more than a year for the purposes of the transition, that shortened term does not count as a term for the purposes of Article II Section 5 of the City Charter which states that a person may not be elected to or serve on the City Council for more than two consecutive terms.

### **Where can I find Council district maps and demographic information?**

[City of Austin maps and demographics](#)

### **Where can I find voter information?**

- First day to apply (by mail or fax) for an early ballot by mail is September 5.
- Last day for submitting voter registration application to vote in the November election is October 6.
- First day of early voting by personal appearance is October 20.
- Deadline for receiving applications by mail for ballot to be voted by mail is October 24.
- The last day for regular early voting by personal appearance is October 31.
- Election Day is November 4, 2014.
- First day for early voting by personal appearance for a runoff election is December 1.
- Last day for regular early voting by personal appearance is December 12.
- Runoff Election will be held on December 16, 2014.

**For more information on voting, to register to vote, or to verify your voter registration status please contact the appropriate county:**

Travis County: [www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do](http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do)

Williamson County: [www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/VoterRegistration/tabid/592/Default.aspx](http://www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/VoterRegistration/tabid/592/Default.aspx)

**Photo ID Now Required for Voting in Person.** [Read more about these requirements here.](#)

### **What is bundling?**

“Bundling” is an individual soliciting and obtaining contributions on a candidate’s behalf and delivering the contributions to the candidate. Soliciting, obtaining, and delivering contributions by any means, including in person or via electronic transmission, constitutes bundling for city purposes. Note: it is not considered bundling for an individual to hold a fundraiser at his or her home if the event raises less than \$5,000. 2-2-22

### **How is bundling reported?**

If an individual gathers \$200 or more per person from five or more persons on a city candidate’s behalf, the candidate receiving the bundled funds completes an additional form with information provided by the bundler (Form ATX5: Bundling Report) and attaches it to the Candidate/Officeholder Campaign Finance Report (Form C/OH) that he or she files with the City Clerk. 2-2-22. [Form ATX5 can be found here.](#)

### **What are the limitations on bundling?**

In each campaign period, bundling by city lobbyists is limited to five times the individual contribution limit per candidate, and bundling by members of certain lobbying-related entities is limited to ten times the individual contribution limit per candidate. In 2014, the individual contribution limit is \$350, therefore the city lobbyist bundling limit per candidate is \$1,750 and the lobbying-related entities bundling limit per candidate is \$3,500. 2-2-22. Note: city lobbyists and their spouses may not donate more than \$25 to a city candidate. 2-2-53