

From: [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 4:04:37 PM

Submitted on Mon, 12/09/2024 - 15:03

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Ethics Commission](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Byron

Last Name

Schirmbeck

Title

State Coordinator

Organization you are affiliated with

Texas Campaign For Liberty

Email

byron.schirmbeck@campaignforliberty.com

City

Baytown

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Members, my general concern is that the TEC either by design or in practice is essentially ineffective or irrelevant. In years of dealing with state and local politics I have seen literally dozens of violations of campaign finance law, political advertising law, lobbyist reporting violations and more reported and I have a hard time recalling any actual penalties for these actions except for one on a grass roots organization that decided to get contributions to gather signatures on a petition to ban red light cameras in their city of College station. The TEC imposed a \$500 civil penalty on them for not forming a PAC before asking for contributions. What I have seen the TEC dismiss, from complaints I have personally filed or from those I know and have seen their complaints and responses are; a company hire a lobbyist that was the spouse of a chief of staff for the committee chair where bills about their business would be heard. The lobbying report completely misspelled the clients name so that it would not be

found in searches. This was deliberately done. The TEC allowed the lobbyist to correct it and promise never to do it again, no further action or penalties. I have seen a local PAC supported by our ISD to push through a school bond package file late, blanket the city and polling places with campaign signs with absolutely no disclosure so far as who paid for them or the right of way disclosure and the TEC dismissed the complaint against this PAC even with photo evidence and a clearly late campaign finance report. I have seen one person become the treasurer for several PACs that represent poltiicians in primaries never file campaign finance reports at all and my understanding is he made it a career to hide where candidates were giving money to and since the fines were so low and no real penalty the fines were considered a part of doing business. When the average citizen sees an issue and reports it the TEC typically takes the side of the politicians even in clear cut cases. When talking to TEC lawyers they claim the laws aren't strong enough for them to do more but even the ones clearly in their jurisdiction go ignored. Either give the TEC real teeth, demand they enforce the rules on the books, stop protecting the political class or totally scrap it and start over.

Your Proposed Solution

Do away with the TEC or ensure they enforce the existing rules fairly and accurately and give them more tools to enforce the laws.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes