

TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, LOCATED IN COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS THE UNDERSIGNED QUALIFIED VOTERS OF PRINCETON, TEXAS DO HEREBY REQUIRE THAT THE FOLLOWING CHARTER AMENDMENT

This amendment seeks to require the creation of an Independent Ethic Commission with authority over city officials elected and appointed (including committees and boards), city staff, city vendors and vendor subcontractors. It shall also be charged with investigation and enforcement of the City's Code of Ethics. Any person can file a complaint asserting a violation of the Code of Ethics. See attached for complete details. TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS OF THIS CITY FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.

**\*Note: The signer MUST include either: 1) his/her date of birth OR 2) voter registration number AND county of residence.**

Date	Signature	Printed Name	Date of Birth	Address	City	County of Residence	Voter Registration # (only needed if no D.O.B.)
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#### AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR

**STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF COLLIN:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say that I am one of the signers of the above petition; and that the statements made therein are true, and that each signature appearing thereto was made in my presence on the day and date it purports to have been made, and I solemnly swear that the same is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be. Sworn and subscribed to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

X \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)  
Signature of Circulator Notary Public in and for State of Texas

Terms and Qualifications of Commission Members:

(a) Candidates for appointments to the ethics commission shall apply to be placed on a public register of nominees to serve on this commission through nomination from themselves or others. The City shall inform and communicate to the public the nomination opportunity by a 1 Month Media Campaign: (1) Announcement in the local News Paper of record for 4 consecutive weeks. (2) Announcement in all City Council and Commission Meetings during said month. (3) Placement of announcement on the City website and weekly updates of the nomination period on the City social media page

(b) The Ethics Commission shall consist of eleven (9) regular members and up to 3 alternates; nine (7) city residents and two (2) residents from the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction holding terms of 3 years. Initial term lengths will be staggered to ensure an ongoing process of new commission members. Each board member shall be appointed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the City Council. Any person wishing to serve as a board member must meet the eligibility requirements for elected office under this charter and shall submit to the City Council an application that demonstrates such person's qualifications to serve.

Appointments shall be made without concern for or discrimination of, a person's race, color, creed, gender, familial status, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Members of the Ethics Commission shall maintain City residency throughout the term of service and shall forfeit their office upon cessation of City residency.

Adoption of a Code of Ethics within 6mos of the effective date of this Amendment: City Council shall adopt and enact, by ordinance, a City Code of Ethics which shall apply to all elected and appointed City officials, officers of the City, and City employees. The Code of Ethics will be based on the Texas Constitution & Statutes; Texas Local Government Code.

As a general rule the Code of Ethics shall provide that no City elected or appointed official or City employee, whether paid or unpaid, shall engage in any business or transaction or shall have any financial or other private interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of their official duties in the public or which would impair their independence of judgment or action in the performance of their official duties.

The Council may adopt more stringent standards than those that appear in state law, but the ethics ordinance shall at a minimum include the following components: (A) definition of a prohibited improper economic interest and personal gain; (B) definition of recusal and improper participation when a potential conflict of interest is present; (C) avoidance of appearance of conflict of interest; and (D) administration and enforcement of ethics ordinance, including the power to subpoena witnesses and documents, coupled with strong and meaningful remedies for infraction. The adopted Code of Ethics shall provide for the investigation of conflicts of interest resulting in the use of public office or position for private gain. No elected official, appointed officer, or employee shall: (a) act in an official capacity on matters in which the employee or official has a private financial interest clearly separate from that of the general public; (b) accept gifts and other things of value greater than de minimus in return for or as a reward for a favorable decision or vote; (c) act in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official or employee; (d) use confidential information for personal gain; and (e) appear before City departments, offices, and agencies on behalf of private interests. Powers and Duties Insofar as possible under applicable law, the Code of Ethics shall authorize the Ethics Commission to: Provide for the education of conduct and compliance with the Ethics Code that minimizes violations or the potential for violations of the Ethic Code; Provide for citizen education of the requirements for public servants under the Ethics Code and increase resident understanding of public service as a public trust under the vigilance of City residents; Issue advisory opinions on Code of Ethics compliance as requested by the Mayor, City Council, City Controller, appointed officials, officers and employees of the City, or any party with standing under the adopted Code of Ethics; Provide for procedures to conduct investigations on its own initiative and on referral or complaint from officials or citizens; Subpoena witnesses and documents; Refer cases for prosecution; Hire independent counsel.

(C) Any person may file a complaint asserting a violation of the code of ethics. The Board shall have jurisdiction to conduct investigations and make recommendations on any complaint filed.

The City Council shall annually appropriate sufficient funds to the Commission to enable it to perform the duties assigned to it and to provide annual training and education of citizens, City officials and employees, and candidates for public office regarding the Code of Ethics.

If any part of this/these CHARTER ITEMS shall be found in violation of state code at any time by a valid court of law outside of the City of Princeton, only that portion of the item found of violation may be modified if possible or stricken, if necessary, as ordered by that court of law. Any remaining portion of that item shall NOT be modified or removed and shall remain valid and intact.