

Diana Miller

Sugar Land, Texas 77479

September 28, 2019

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463.

MUR # 7648

RE: Sworn Complaint

Dear Office of General Counsel,

I would like to file a complaint against:

Troy Nehls,
Fort Bend County Sheriff
301 Jackson St
Richmond, TX 77469

For violation of 100.72(a) and 100.131(a)

Operating an exploratory committee for the purpose of campaigning and avoiding campaign finance laws. In addition, I feel he is attempting to circumvent State statute that would require his resignation once he becomes a candidate. See quote from the Katy Times.

On September 26, 2019, Sheriff Nehls issued press releases throughout Fort Bend County and Harris County indicating he had formed an Exploratory Committee and had already raised over \$100,000.

← fbindependent.com ...
SESHADRI KUMAR
Thursday, 26 September, 2019, 12:00 AM



Nehls

Two term Fort Bend County Sheriff, Troy Nehls, today announced the launch of his new 2020 Exploratory Committee website and over \$100,000 in contributions from District 22 voters encouraging him to run:

**Published in the Fort Bend
Independent, but has since
been removed**

Fbindependent.com

2019 OCT - 1 PM 12:41
OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL

From NBC Houston Television:

5:40



Fort Bend County Sher...
From click2houston.com - deliv



Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls announced Thursday that he is launching an exploratory committee aimed at running for Congress next year.

Nehls, who [announced in July](#) that he wouldn't be running for sheriff again, said he has already [launched a website](#) and received \$100,000 in contributions from U.S. House District 22 voters.

"Since publicly announcing I would not be running for sheriff, I've been inundated with calls, emails and letters from District 22 residents encouraging me to run for our open congressional seat," Nehls said in a written statement.

Nehls said the exploration phase will allow voters to get to know him and why he wants to represent them.

Campaigning activity. Not testing the waters

This is the second time Nehls has considered a run for Congress. After announcing he was [mulling a](#)



Sheriff Nehls issued his press release one day prior to the largest community event in Congressional District 22. The Sheriff's facebook page was filled with photos of Sheriff Nehls using his elected position to present himself before the community in a manner that was not available to other candidates.

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBendCountySheriffsOffice/>



FBCSO Public Information Officers Jessica Reyes and Caitilin Espinosa

6



9

1 Comment



6



2



8

1 Comment



6



5

1 Comment



4



Quote from the Katy Times:

As Nehls will not be resigning as sheriff, he will not be making an official decision to run until early December of this year. The sheriff's term takes place until 2020. Put simply, Nehls said, "If I were to announce that I was running for Congress next week or even next month, I would have to resign my current position as sheriff, and I'm not willing to do that, nor will I do that. So if I choose to run, I will make that known the first week of December. If I do that, I will be able to fulfill my term as sheriff while I run for Congress at the same time."

5:43



22."

Nehls is emphatic that he is not announcing his official candidacy. Under the Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 65, commonly called the "resign-to-run" provision, an elected official cannot become a candidate for another position without resigning from their current seat. Once they are one year and 30 days away from the election for their new position, they may announce their candidacy without vacating their current seat.

As Nehls will not be resigning as sheriff, he will not be making an official decision to run until early December of this year. The sheriff's term takes place until 2020. Put simply, Nehls said, "If I were to announce that I was running for Congress next week or even next month, I would have to resign my current position as sheriff, and I'm not willing to do that, nor will I do that. So if I choose to run, I will make that known the first week of December. If I do that, I will be able to fulfill my term as sheriff while I run for Congress at the same time."

Nehls raises more than \$100,000 for congressional race

BY SCOTT REESE WILLEY swilley@fbherald.com
Sep 26, 2019 0

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Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls already has more than \$100,000 in his campaign war chest if he chooses to run for Congress next year.

Nehls, who is serving his second term of office, said he is considering running for the U.S. District 22 House seat. Nehls formed an exploratory committee shortly after District 22 Rep. Pete Olson (R-Sugar Land) announced he would not seek re-election.

Nehls, a Republican, said his exploratory website has raised over \$100,000 in a few short weeks.

"Since publicly announcing I would not be running again for sheriff, I've been inundated with calls,

Diana Miller

Signed and sworn to before me this day of

30th of Sept. 2019

Notary Public


