

Filing Information for the Texas Special Runoff Election in the 18th Congressional District

Texas has scheduled a special runoff election on January 31, 2026, to fill the U.S. House of Representatives seat in the 18th Congressional District held by the late Representative Sylvester Turner. Under Texas law, all qualified candidates, regardless of party affiliation, appeared on the Special General Election ballot. Since no candidate achieved a majority vote, the Governor set the date for a Special Runoff Election that included only the top two vote-getters.

The Commission currently lacks the bipartisan representation needed to set reporting deadlines for these elections. However, under FEC regulations, participating committees must file pre-election reports due 12 days before each election, covering activity from the close of books for their last report through the 20th day before the election. An additional post-election report is due 30 days after the special general election. It covers activity from the close of books of the previous report through 20 days after the special general election.

Principal Campaign Committees

Regulations provide that all principal campaign committees of candidates who participate in a Special Runoff Election shall file a 12-Day Pre-Runoff Report and a 30-Day Post-Runoff Report. (See charts below.)

Unauthorized Committees (PACs and Party Committees)

Regulations provide that political committees not filing monthly are subject to special election reporting if they make previously undisclosed contributions or expenditures in connection with a Special Runoff Election by the close of books for the applicable report(s). (See charts below.)

Regulations provide that committees filing monthly that make contributions or expenditures in connection with a Special Runoff Election will continue to file according to the monthly reporting schedule.

Disclosure of Lobbyist Bundling Activity

Regulations provide that principal campaign committees, party committees and leadership PACs that are otherwise required to file reports in connection with the special election must simultaneously file FEC Form 3L if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registrant PACs that aggregate in excess of the lobbyist bundling threshold during the special election reporting periods. (See charts below.) 11 CFR 104.22(a)(5)(v), (b), 110.17(e)(2), (f).

The lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2025 is \$23,300. If the threshold amount changes in 2026 based upon the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA), the Commission will publish it in the Federal Register and post it on its website. 11 CFR 104.22(g) and 110.17(e)(2).

Coordinated Communication Periods

When a person pays for a communication that is coordinated with a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party committee or its agents, the communication is considered an in-kind contribution to that candidate or party committee and is subject to the limits, prohibitions and reporting requirements of the federal campaign finance law. FEC regulations establish a three-prong test to determine whether a communication is coordinated. All three prongs of the test—payment, content and conduct—must be met for a communication to be deemed coordinated and thus an in-kind contribution.

One provision identifies certain pre-election time frames during which a public communication that references a candidate will satisfy the content prong of the coordination test. Coordinated communications periods begin 90 days before an election and run through election day.

Electioneering Communication Periods

Electioneering communications (EC) are television and radio communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate and are distributed to the relevant electorate within 60 days prior to a general election (including a special general or special general runoff) or 30 days prior to a primary, nominating convention or caucus (including a special primary). Individuals and other persons who make ECs that aggregate in excess of \$10,000 in the calendar year must file disclosure statements with the Commission within 24 hours of distribution to the public. During these periods, 24-hour disclosure of ECs is required, using Form 9.

Electioneering communication periods begin 60 days before a general election (including a special general runoff election) and run through election day.

Federal Election Activity Periods

According to FEC regulations concerning "Federal Election Activity" (FEA), political party committees that conduct FEA must pay for this activity with federally permissible funds or, in some cases, may allocate the costs between federal and Levin funds or pay for them entirely with federal funds.

For special elections, the regulations establish an FEA period for planned voter identification, get-out-the-vote (GOTV) and generic campaign activities. That period begins on the ballot access deadline for candidates running in the election and ends on the date of the special election.

24- and 48-Hour Independent Expenditure Reporting Periods

Political committees and other persons who make independent expenditures (IEs) may have to disclose this activity within 24- or 48-hours based upon the date and amount of the expenditure.

Political committees and other persons who make independent expenditures that aggregate \$10,000 or more for a given election at any time during a calendar year—up to and including the 20th day before the election—must disclose this activity within 48 hours of the date that the communication is publicly distributed or otherwise publicly disseminated.

Any independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more (in the aggregate with respect to a given election) that is made after the 20th day, but more than 24 hours before the day of the election must be reported within 24 hours.

Political committees must use Form 3X, Schedule E to file 24- and 48-Hour Reports of Independent Expenditures. Persons who are not political committees must use Form 5.

48-Hour Notice Period for Last-Minute Contributions to Candidates

Additional reporting requirements apply to candidate committees less than 20 days but more than 48 hours before the day of an election in which the candidate is running. For these reporting purposes, election day begins at 12:01 a.m.

During this time period, campaigns file a 48-Hour Notice (Form 6) anytime they receive a contribution of \$1,000 or more. This notice is due within 48 hours of receiving each qualifying contribution. Committees will also itemize these last-minute contributions in their next regular report.

CALENDAR OF REPORTING DATES FOR TEXAS SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

CANDIDATE COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN THE SPECIAL RUNOFF (01/31/2026), BUT NOT THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION (03/03/2026) MUST FILE:

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Pre-Runoff	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Post-Runoff	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

CANDIDATE COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN BOTH THE SPECIAL RUNOFF (01/31/2026) AND THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION (03/03/2026) MUST FILE:

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Pre-Runoff	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election

Pre-Primary	02/11/2026	02/16/2026 ²	02/19/2026
Post-Runoff	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

PACs AND PARTY COMMITTEES NOT FILING MONTHLY INVOLVED IN THE SPECIAL RUNOFF (01/31/2026), BUT NOT THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION (03/03/2026) MUST FILE:

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Pre-Runoff	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Post-Runoff	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

PACs AND PARTY COMMITTEES NOT FILING MONTHLY INVOLVED IN BOTH THE SPECIAL RUNOFF (01/31/2026) AND THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION (03/03/2026) MUST FILE:

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
Pre-Runoff	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Pre-Primary	02/11/2026	02/16/2026 ²	02/19/2026
Post-Runoff	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

NOTE: The charts above only include reporting deadlines for the January 31 special runoff and March 3 primary election in the 18th Congressional District of Texas. They do not include any additional reports committees may be required to file. Committees are encouraged to contact the FEC Information Division or their assigned Campaign Finance Analyst in the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) for additional filing information. Call 800-424-9530 and select option 5 (RAD) or option 6 (Information).

¹ The reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered as a political committee up through the close of books for the first report due.

² Notice that the registered/certified & overnight mailing deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday. The report should be postmarked before that date.