

By: Tepper

H.B. No. 2626

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the availability on the Internet of reports of
3 political contributions or expenditures filed in connection with
4 certain offices.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 254.0401, Election Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a-1) and (c) and adding Subsections (g), (h),
8 and (i) to read as follows:

9 (a-1) The county clerk of a county [~~with a population of~~
10 ~~800,000 or more~~] shall make a report filed with the clerk by a
11 candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this
12 subchapter [~~in connection with a county office or the office of~~
13 ~~county commissioner~~] available to the public on the county's
14 Internet website not later than the fifth business day after the
15 date the report is received.

16 (c) The clerk of a municipality [~~with a population of~~
17 ~~500,000 or more~~] shall make a report filed with the clerk by a
18 candidate, officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this
19 subchapter [~~in connection with the office of mayor or member of the~~
20 ~~municipality's governing body~~] available to the public on the
21 municipality's Internet website not later than the fifth business
22 day after the date the report is received.

23 (g) The clerk or secretary of the governing body of a
24 political subdivision or, if the political subdivision has no clerk

1 or secretary, the governing body's presiding officer shall make a
2 report filed with the political subdivision by a candidate,
3 officeholder, or specific-purpose committee under this subchapter
4 available to the public on the political subdivision's Internet
5 website not later than the fifth business day after the date the
6 report is received.

7 (h) Before making a report available on the Internet as
8 required by Subsection (a-1), (c), or (g), the authority with whom
9 the report is filed may remove each portion, other than city, state,
10 and zip code, of the address of a person listed as having made a
11 political contribution to the person filing the report. The
12 address information removed must remain available on the report
13 maintained in the authority's office.

14 (i) A report made available on an Internet website under
15 this section must be accessible on that website until the fifth
16 anniversary of the date the report is first made available.

17 SECTION 2. Section 254.04011, Election Code, is repealed.

18 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
19 a report of political contributions and expenditures that is
20 required to be filed under Chapter 254, Election Code, on or after
21 the effective date of this Act.

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.