

Texans for Accountable Government Bylaws

ARTICLE I - NAME, STRUCTURE, PURPOSE

Section 1: **Name-** The name of the organization shall be **Texans for Accountable Government (TAG)**.

Section 2: **Structure-** TAG is a General Purpose Political Action Committee governed by Title 15, Chapter 251 of the Election Code of the State of Texas. It is also a Non-Profit Association governed by Title 6, § 252 et. seq. of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

Section 3: **Purpose-** The purpose of TAG is to encourage, promote, and secure the freedom of the individuals living within the State of Texas.

Section 4: **Dissolution-** TAG may be dissolved by a vote of 4/5 of the Active Membership. A dissolution proposal must be submitted to the Steering Committee to be sent by email to the membership no less than 14 days before the meeting in which the dissolution vote will take place. If the 4/5 of the members vote to dissolve TAG, at the same meeting, the members must vote to transfer all assets, after satisfying all financial obligations, to organization(s) in line with TAG's purpose. The Treasurer will file a dissolution report and any other paperwork as required by the Texas Ethics Commission.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1: **Active Membership-** Members will be considered active if they have made a donation to TAG of \$20 or more in the past 1 year and have consented to being added to the Active Member List on an online or paper donation form.

Section 2: **Member Rights-** Members may vote to elect members of the Steering Committee at the Anniversary Party. Members may vote on issues during regular and special meetings. Members may call for a vote on any issue by asking the Executive Director to place the item on the meeting agenda. A member may also call for a vote on an issue at any monthly meeting as long as a quorum is present. One-tenth of the Active Membership will constitute a quorum. Only Active Members in good standing for 3 months may vote on issues.

Section 3: **Member Responsibilities-** Members are encouraged to participate, propose projects, start campaigns, donate, raise funds, grow membership, and especially lead. Members are expected to attend as many meeting as possible and subscribe to the TAG email list. Members are encouraged to vote in all elections in which they are eligible.

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS

Section 1: **Anniversary Party-** An Anniversary Party shall be held every year in the month of August. One-fifth of the Active Membership shall constitute a quorum. Members shall elect the Steering Committee and review activities of the past year. The Executive Director will act as informal chairman of the meeting. If the Executive Director is not available, the Steering Committee shall appoint a fellow committee member to act as informal chairman of the meeting. The Steering Committee shall decide on the date and venue for the Anniversary Party. A minimum

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30-day notice shall be given to all members by way of email, the TAG website, social media, or regular mail.

Section 2: Monthly Meeting- A monthly meeting shall be held on a designated date every month. A quorum of members must be present prior to voting on any issue. One-tenth of the Active Membership shall constitute a quorum. Regular business shall be conducted at monthly meetings. Any member may request to have an item placed on the meeting agenda by contacting the Executive Director. The Executive Director will act as informal chairman of the meeting. If the Executive Director is unavailable, the Steering Committee shall decide on a fellow committee member to act as informal chairman of the meeting. The Steering Committee shall decide on the date and venue for the meeting. A minimum 14-day notice shall be given to all members by way of email, the TAG website, social media, or regular mail.

ARTICLE IV -- STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1: Steering Committee Role - The Steering Committee will be responsible for prioritizing, directing communications, and allocating resources for the various TAG projects and campaigns. The Steering Committee shall be readily available to all members and shall act according to the will of the membership. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for confirming the Executive Director, appointing the Treasurer annually, and appointing the Meeting Secretary as needed to record votes.

Section 2: Steering Committee Elections, Size, and Terms- The Steering Committee shall consist of 7 members which will be elected at each Anniversary Party and will serve for 1 year. There are no term limits. If a vacancy is to occur, the Steering Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until confirmed by a member vote at the next Monthly meeting.

Section 3: Steering Committee Responsibilities- Steering Committee members are expected to promote the mission of TAG by encouraging membership involvement, foster leadership among the membership, help the Executive Director plan engaging and informative monthly meetings, plan special events to educate the public on issues, and set the example for membership.

Section 4: Quorum and Voting- When voting in person, at least 5 members of the Steering Committee must be present to execute responsibilities and make decisions with a majority vote. Discussions of topics may be conducted via the internal Steering Committee email. Record voting of the Steering Committee may take place at the meeting recorded via the Meeting Secretary or via the internal Steering Committee email. A vote of at least 4 of the members (majority) of the Steering Committee is needed for a measure to pass. When voting via email, at least 5 members of the Steering Committee must respond to the proposal.

Section 5: Removal of Steering Committee Members- Members of the Steering Committee may be removed only by a 2/3 vote of the Active Members or by a majority vote of the Steering Committee at a meeting in which at least 6 SC members are present. If the vote to remove passes, the Steering Committee member shall be removed from office, effective immediately.

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ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1: **Appointment, Approval, and Term** – The Executive Director shall appoint his or her replacement Executive Director, to be confirmed by the Steering Committee as their first order of business after the Anniversary Party. The Executive Director shall serve a term of 1 year. There are no term limits.

Section 2: **Responsibilities of the Executive Director-** The Executive Director will serve as informal chairman at the Monthly Meetings, Special Meetings, and Steering Committee Meetings, and will be responsible for crafting the agenda for those meetings with input from the Steering Committee and membership. If the Executive Director is not able to serve as informal chairman at any meeting, the Steering Committee will appoint a Steering Committee member as informal chairman.

The Executive Director will be the default spokesperson for TAG, appearing on press releases and sending communications to the membership. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring the completion of any vote made by the Steering Committee or membership and for reporting back to the Steering Committee on the progress of any action.

All minutes and documents shall be made readily available to all members. All member inquiries shall be made by way of email or other agreed electronic means. The Executive Director may use discretion to protect the personal information of TAG members and protect campaign strategy of a TAG activity. Upon receiving a member inquiry the Executive Director shall respond to the request within 14 days. The Executive Director may appoint volunteers to help with executing his or her responsibilities. Any appointed volunteer may be rejected by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

Section 3: **Removal of Executive Director-** The Executive Director may be removed only by a 2/3 vote of the members or by a unanimous vote of the Steering Committee at any time.

ARTICLE VI - TREASURER

Section 1: **Appointment, Approval, and Term** - The Executive Director shall appoint Treasurer, to be confirmed by the Steering Committee at their first meeting following the Anniversary Party. The Treasurer shall serve a term of 1 year. There are no term limits.

Section 2: **Responsibilities of the Treasurer-** The treasurer will be responsible for filing all necessary financial reports according to the Texas Ethics Commission rules. The Treasurer will keep the Active Members list updated and make it available to the SC. The Treasurer will also approve all income and spending, and will be in charge of bookkeeping. The Treasurer shall keep books and records for at least 3 years after each fiscal year, in accordance with Business and Organization Code of the State of Texas, 252.010.

Section 3: **Transparency-** The books will be kept in accordance with all state and federal laws and are available to the public on the TEC website. Members may request information on the general financial standing of TAG between TEC reports. All inquiries shall be made by way of email or other agreed electronic means. The Treasurer may use discretion to protect the personal information of TAG members and protect campaign strategy of a TAG activity. Upon receiving a member inquiry, the Treasurer shall respond to the request within 14 business days.

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Section 4: **Veto Power-** The treasurer may veto any contributions or expenditures by providing written reasons and citing any legal concerns.

Section 5: **Removal of Treasurer-** The Treasurer may be removed only by a 2/3 vote of the Active Membership at any time or by a unanimous vote of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must appoint a new Treasurer to submit form: “Amendment: Appointment of a Campaign Treasurer by a General Purpose Political Action Committee” to the Texas Ethics Commission within 30 days of removing the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII – MEETING SECRETARY

Section 1: **Appointment, Approval, and Term** – A Meeting Secretary shall be appointed by the Steering Committee at the beginning of every Steering Committee meeting and every monthly meeting in which a vote will take place. The Meeting Secretary may be a Steering Committee member. If an unplanned vote occurs during a monthly meeting, the Steering Committee members present must appoint a Meeting Secretary. The Secretary shall serve for the duration of the meeting.

Section 2: **Responsibilities of the Meeting Secretary-** the Meeting Secretary shall be responsible for verifying quorum and recording the vote results at the meeting in which he or she is appointed. The Meeting Secretary will write up the minutes of the meeting and send to the Steering Committee members to approve by email within 10 days of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

Section 1: **Projects and Campaigns-** Members are encouraged to present projects and/or campaigns to the Steering Committee at any time. The Steering Committee will encourage the progress of task forces and campaigns, follow up with the project leaders regularly and motivate membership support.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Section 1: **Amendments-** These Bylaws may be amended when necessary at any meeting by a two-thirds majority of the Active Membership. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Steering Committee to be sent out to the membership no less than 14 days before a meeting by way of email.

Section 2: **Publication-** A copy of the Texans for Accountable Government Bylaws, as adopted by the members, shall be posted on the Texans for Accountable Government Website.

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Revision History-

Date	Change	Author
1. 7/23/08	Draft 1	John Bush
2. 7/25/08	Draft 2	John Bush
3. 8/23/08	Draft 3	John Bush
4. 12/26/2016	Draft 4	2016-17 TAG Steering Committee