

Texas 1836 Project Advisory Committee
Operating Policies and Procedures

I. PREAMBLE

A. Purpose

The Texas 1836 Project (the Committee) adopts and implements the Committee Operating Policies and Procedures to develop and make recommendations pursuant to HB 2497, 87th Legislature, which established The 1836 Project as an advisory committee to promote patriotic education and increase awareness of the Texas values that continue to stimulate boundless prosperity across this state.

The 1836 Project shall:

1. promote awareness among residents of this state of the following as they relate to the history of prosperity and democratic freedom in this state:
 - a. Texas history, including the indigenous peoples of this state, the Spanish and Mexican heritage of this state, Tejanos, the African-American heritage of this state, the Texas War for Independence, Juneteenth, annexation of Texas by the United States, the Christian heritage of this state, and this state 's heritage of keeping and bearing firearms in defense of life and liberty and for use in hunting;
 - b. the founding documents of this state;
 - c. the founders of this state;
 - d. state civics; and
 - e. the role of this state in passing and reauthorizing the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Section 10101 et seq.), highlighting:
 - i. President Lyndon B. Johnson 's signing of the act;
 - ii. President George W. Bush 's 25-year extension of the act; and
 - iii. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan 's successful efforts to broaden the act to include Spanish-speaking communities;
2. advise the governor on the core principles of the founding of this state and how those principles further enrich the lives of its residents;
3. facilitate the development and implementation of the Gubernatorial 1836 Award to recognize student knowledge of Texas Independence and other items listed in Subdivisions (1)(A)-(D);
4. advise state agencies with regard to their efforts to ensure patriotic education is provided to the public at state parks, battlefields, monuments, museums, installations, landmarks, cemeteries, and other places important to the Texas War for Independence and founding of this state, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law; and
5. facilitate, advise on, and promote other activities to support public knowledge of and patriotic education on the Texas War for Independence and founding of this state, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

B. Goal

1. Not later than September 1, 2022, The 1836 Project shall provide a pamphlet to the Texas Department of Public Safety that explains the significance of policy decisions made by this state that promote liberty and freedom for businesses and families.
2. Not later than September 1, 2022, The 1836 Project shall prepare and produce a written report that includes:
 - a. a description of the activities of the project;
 - b. the findings and recommendations of the project;
 - c. a plan that identifies the best method of carrying out the duties under Sections 451.003(a)(1), (4), and (5);
 - d. any proposals for legislation; and
 - e. any other matter the project considers appropriate.

C. Scope

These Operating Policies and Procedures apply only to activities conducted by the Committee.

D. Responsibility for Implementation

The Committee and its officers are responsible for ensuring the implementation and adherence to the Committee Operating Policies and Procedures.

E. Nondiscrimination Policy

The Committee shall comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of state and federal law, rules, and regulations.

II. THE COMMITTEE

A. Powers and Duties

1. Authority. The powers and duties of the Committee are set forth in Subtitle D, Title 4, chapter 451 of the Texas Government Code.
2. Purpose. The primary purpose of the Committee, as set out in Section 451.002 of the Government Code, is to promote patriotic education and increase awareness of the Texas values that continue to stimulate boundless prosperity across this state.

B. Committee Composition

The number of members and composition of the Committee is specified in Section 451.002, Texas Government Code. The 1836 Project is composed of nine members reflective of the diversity of the state. The governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint three members.

C. Terms

1. Members serve two-year terms and may not be removed except for inefficiency, neglect of

duty, or malfeasance.

2. In the event of a vacancy during a term of a member, the office of appointment shall appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications of the vacated office to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

III. OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Appointment and Service of Committee Members

The chair of the Committee shall appoint one of its members to serve as vice-chair. In the event of absence or disability of the chair, the vice-chair shall serve as presiding officer of the Committee and carry out all duties of the chair during that absence or disability. In case of vacancy of the office of chair, the vice-chair shall serve as presiding officer of the Committee and carry out all duties of the chair until the position is filled.

B. Committee Member Compensation

A Committee member receives no compensation for service on the Committee. A Committee member is not entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in performing Committee member duties, as otherwise provided by Section 451.004(b), because no appropriations were made for such purposes by the General Appropriations Act

C. Committee Member Conduct

Committee members shall adhere to the standards of conduct and conflict of interest provisions set out in section 572.051 of the Texas Government Code and other applicable law.

IV. WORKING GROUPS

A. Establishment of Working Groups

The chair of the Committee may appoint one or more working groups as necessary to fulfill the duties of the committee.

B. Membership of Working Groups

A working group may not contain more than five members of the committee. The chair shall determine the membership of each working group and appoint the leader of the working group. Members may serve on more than one working group.

C. Jurisdiction and Focus of Working Groups

The chair of the Committee shall assign each appointed working group specific projects or policy issues to study, discuss, address, and refer recommendations to the committee for consideration by the date established by the committee chair. The leader of the working group shall determine work schedules for the working group which shall include any item directed by the chair of the Committee. Any member of the working group or Committee may request of the working group leader inclusion of an item in the

work schedule of a working group. Except as directed by the committee chair, final approval of the work schedule of the working group lies with the working group leader.

D. Meetings and Discussions of Working Groups

A member of the committee not appointed to a working group may not attend or participate in a meeting or discussion of that working group, unless properly posted in accordance with the open meetings act. Representing less than a quorum of the committee and only referring recommendations to an advisory body, workgroups may but are not required to post meetings or discussions in accordance with the open meetings act.

E. Referral of Recommendations by Working Groups

A working group shall hold a public meeting to determine which recommendations to refer to the committee.

V. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Meetings of the Committee

1. Meetings. The committee shall hold meetings at the discretion of the chair.
2. Notice. The chair shall designate a location for each Committee meeting. Notice of the meetings, including the location, shall be posted pursuant to the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act. All meetings shall be open to the public.
3. Agendas. The chair shall determine the agenda, including when to schedule invited testimony, for a Committee meeting. Any member of the Committee may request that an item or invited testimony be placed on the agenda. Final approval of the agenda lies with the Committee chair.
4. Quorum/Action. At each meeting, the chair shall certify the presence of a quorum to conduct official business of the Committee. As an advisory body, a meeting may be held by virtually.
5. Rules Governing Committee Action. The Committee Operating Policies and Procedures shall govern the action of the Committee. If the policies and procedures do not specify how an action shall be conducted, the Committee may refer to the Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Edition or the rules of procedure in the civil courts of Texas.
6. Recording of Meetings. All or any part of the public meeting may be recorded by any person in attendance by means of tape recorder, video camera, or any other means of aural or visual reproduction. The chair shall determine the location of any such equipment and the manner in which the recordings are conducted.
7. Webcast. Meetings of the full Committee may be webcast, whenever feasible, for people interested in watching meetings from a computer or other device.

Should technical difficulties prevent webcasting, the Committee meeting will continue regardless.

8. Report. The committee shall adopt a final report by majority vote of the members present.

9. Public Comment

a. Policy and Procedure

- (1) At least one regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee shall provide opportunity for public comment as indicated by that meeting's agenda.
- (2) The presiding officer of the Committee shall take appropriate action to avoid unduly repetitive comment and to assure that different members of the public with differing points of view have reasonable access to the Committee. The presiding officer shall strive to ensure that representatives from both sides of an issue are able to address the Committee.

b. Procedure for Public Comment

- (1) The Committee shall provide time as part of at least one meeting of the Committee for public comment.
- (2) Three (3) minute time limits on individual oral testimony will be imposed for public testimony unless modified by the chair or presiding officer. Comment invited by Committee members shall not be counted against the speaker's time.
- (3) The Committee shall provide appropriate physical arrangements for taking comment.

c. Registering to Provide Public Comment

- (1) Registration. The speaker is required to use the registration form provided by the Committee.
 - i. The speaker must provide his or her name, organizational affiliation, if any, and indicate which agenda item or topic shall be addressed. A separate form shall be submitted for each agenda item or topic on which the speaker shall testify. The date and time the registration was received shall be noted.
 - ii. If all information required by this operating procedure is not provided on the form, the presiding officer may disallow the comment.
 - iii. A person may register only one person, either himself or herself, or another person. Organizations are encouraged to register only one person per item. Registrants are encouraged to bring twenty (20) written copies of

- comments.
- iv. A registrant offering written materials in lieu of oral comments shall provide the materials to staff for distribution. Written comments shall be attached to a completed registration form. Written comments may be submitted in person at the meeting or by mail, fax, or electronic mail, as specified on the registration form. Written materials offered in lieu of oral comments should be submitted two business days before the meeting to ensure that members have had an opportunity to consider them. Copies of the written comment shall be provided to all Committee members but shall not be attached to the Committee minutes.

VI. SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY

A member of the public may also submit written testimony at any time. A person submitting written testimony is required to use the registration form adopted by the Committee, which is available on the TEA's Committee website. Written testimony must be germane to the Committee's purpose and must include a completed registration form. Written testimony may be submitted by fax or electronic mail, as specified on the registration form.

- A. The person submitting written testimony must provide on the registration form his or her name, organizational affiliation, if any, and indicate which agenda item or topic shall be addressed. A separate form shall be submitted for each agenda item or topic on which the person shall provide written testimony. Additionally, the registrant shall disclose his or her viewpoint on the item or topic, as well as whether he or she, and the organization represented, if any, is a lobbyist registered with the Texas Ethics Committee.
- B. If all information required by this operating procedure is not provided on the form, the written testimony will be disallowed. Anonymous or non-germane written testimony will not be accepted.
- C. Copies of the written testimony, including the registrant's name and organizational affiliation, shall be posted to the Committee website for Committee review at any time.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The Committee shall expire September 1, 2036.
- B. Committee meetings shall be recorded in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The recorded meetings will be available for public review as authorized by the Open Meetings Act. All records of the Committee shall be stored according to the records retention schedules as set forth by the State Library and Archives Committee.
- C. The Texas Education Agency Public Information and Confidentiality Officer is designated the public information coordinator for the Committee.

VIII. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: GUIDELINES

- A. Effective Date of Policies and Procedures. These policies and procedures and any amendments to them shall become effective only upon approval of the Committee.
- B. Amendments to Policies and Procedures. Any of these policies and procedures may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new policies and procedures may be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee.
- C. These Committee Operating Policies and Procedures create no substantive or procedural rights. They are guidelines for the Committee's internal governance only.