



# City of Sugar Land

## Independent Ethics Review Board Agenda

Sugar Land City Hall  
2700 Town Center  
Boulevard North  
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
Independent Ethics Review Board Meeting  
Cane Room 161  
5:00 PM

### I. Attention

Members of the City Council, Board and/or Commission may participate in deliberations of posted agenda items through video conferencing means. A quorum of the City Council, Board and/or Commission will be physically present at the above-stated location, and said location is open to the public. Audio/Video of open deliberations will be available for the public to hear/view; and are recorded as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The meeting will live stream at <https://youtube.com/live/gNC8mz1NeJ4?feature=share>.

### II. Call to Order

### III. Public Comment

Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.007, citizens are permitted to address the City Council, Board and/or Commission in person with regard to matters posted for consideration on the agenda. Each speaker must complete a "Request to Speak" form and give it to the City Secretary or designee, prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, speakers requiring a translator will have 6 minutes, regardless of the number of agenda items to be addressed. Comments or discussion by City Council, Board, and/or Commission members, will only be made at the time the subject is scheduled for consideration.

For questions or assistance, please contact the Office of the City Secretary (281) 275-2730.

### IV. Minutes

#### A. MINUTES

Consideration of and action on the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting.  
Linda Mendenhall, City Clerk

### V. Recent Articles of Interest

#### A. ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Review of and discussion on recent articles of interest.  
Krista Stegemiller, Chair

### VI. Workshop

#### A. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CODE OF ETHICS

Review of and discussion on proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics.  
Krista Stegemiller, Chair

### VII. Adjournment

The Independent Ethics Review Board reserves the right, upon motion, to suspend the rules to consider business out of the posted order. In addition to any executive session listed above, the independent ethics review board reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during this meeting for the purpose of consultation with the attorney as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 to discuss any of the matters listed above.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact the City Secretary, (281) 275-2730. Requests for special services must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting time. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted on the outside bulletin boards, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, City of Sugar Land City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North, Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas, 77479, and on the [City Website](#) under meeting agendas.

**Posted on this 16th day of April 2026, at 12:30 P.M.**



## **Independent Ethics Review Board Agenda Request April 22, 2026**

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**Agenda Request No:** IV.A.

**Agenda of:** Independent Ethics Review Board Meeting

**Initiated by:** Charlotte Graves, Agenda & Public Meeting Coordinator

**Presented by:** Linda Mendenhall, City Clerk

**Responsible Department:** Admin

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**Agenda Caption:**

**MINUTES**

Consideration of and action on the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting.

**Recommended Action:**

Consideration of and action on the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting.

**Executive Summary:**

### **Budget**

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**Expenditure Required:** Not Applicable

**Current Budget:** Not Applicable

**Additional Funding:** Not Applicable

**Funding Source:** Not Applicable

**Account Number (ORG-OBJ-Project):** Not Applicable

### **Attachments**

1. 1.7.26 Independent Ethics Review Board Meeting Minutes



## City of Sugar Land

# Independent Ethics Review Board Minutes

Sugar Land City Hall  
2700 Town Center  
Boulevard North  
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Independent Ethics Review Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Cane Room 161  
5:30 PM

### I. Attention

Members of the City Council, Board and/or Commission may participate in deliberations of posted agenda items through video conferencing means. A quorum of the City Council, Board and/or Commission will be physically present at the above-stated location, and said location is open to the public. Audio/Video of open deliberations will be available for the public to hear/view; and are recorded as per the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The meeting will live stream at <https://youtube.com/live/zWSPog-sjkM?feature=share>

### II. Call to Order

#### QUORUM PRESENT

Krista Stegemiller, Andrew Wolf, Chris Crosby, Marc Martinez, Sarah Calobrisi, Doug Earle, and Amy Suhl were present. Steve Tralie was absent.

### III. Public Comment

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For questions or assistance, please contact the Office of the City Secretary (281) 275-2730.

### IV. Minutes

#### A. MINUTES

Consideration of and action on the approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting.

**Linda Mendenhall, City Clerk**

A motion to **Approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes**, was made by Amy Suhl and seconded by Chris Crosby; the motion **Passed**.

Ayes: Krista Stegemiller, Andrew Wolf, Chris Crosby, Marc Martinez, Sarah Calobrisi, Doug Earle, Amy Suhl

Absent: Steve Tralie

**V. Recent Articles of Interest**

A. **ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

Review of and discussion on recent articles of interest.

**Krista Stegemiller, Chair**

Krista Stegemiller, Chair, led the discussion. The Board discussed the recent articles that appeared in U.S. newspapers regarding ethics and local governments.

**VI. Workshop**

A. **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CODE OF ETHICS**

Review of and discussion on proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics.

**Meredith Riede, City Attorney**

Krista Stegemiller, Chair, led the discussion. The Board reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to the City of Sugar Land Ethics code.

**VII. Adjournment**

A motion to **Adjourn at 6:28 p.m.**, was made by Andrew Wolf and seconded by Amy Suhl; the motion **Passed**.

Ayes: Krista Stegemiller, Andrew Wolf, Chris Crosby, Marc Martinez, Sarah Calobrisi, Doug Earle, Amy Suhl

Absent: Steve Tralie

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**Linda Mendenhall, City Clerk**



# Socialist mayor pays ethics fine after failing to disclose \$10K contribution from parents

By Alec Schemmel

Published January 16, 2026

Fox News

Newly elected Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson was forced to pay a \$250 fine by a citywide ethics commission after she failed to adequately disclose more than \$10,000 in contributions that Wilson's parents made to her campaign.

Following her election victory in November, Wilson defended taking her parents' money to help assist her mayoral run, claiming in an interview to CNN that it made her more "relatable" to voters. The money, Wilson said, went to help her pay for childcare.

The City of Seattle's Ethics and Elections Commission found last month that the money Wilson got from her parents constituted "campaign contributions" and indicated corrective action was warranted in order to avoid creating an avenue for future candidates to circumvent campaign finance laws. In the letter, Jessica Pisane, indicated that the fine was only \$250 because what occurred was "a novel issue" not seen before the commission.

## **SEATTLE ORDER TO STOP DRUG ARRESTS 'CREATING HAVOC' FOR PEOPLE FENDING OFF ADDICTS SURVIVING ON THEFT: EXPERT**

The fine Wilson was forced to pay by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission was first reported by Seattle-area conservative radio host Jason Rantz.

"It's the first time it has arisen in a City election campaign," Pisane pointed out, adding that Wilson also refunded money to her parents that exceeded the contribution limits Wilson was expected to abide by.

Fox News Digital reached out to Wilson's team for comment but did not receive a response.

"Campaigning for office is stressful," Wilson said following her election victory amid questions about her parents' contributions. "Seattle is one of the most expensive cities in the country, our childcare is off-the-charts expensive and, honestly, I think that a lot of people of my generation, and younger and older, found it very relatable that during this stressful campaign my parents chipped in to help pay for the cost of their granddaughter's daycare."

Wilson said during her campaign that the cost of childcare was about \$2,200 per month for her and her reportedly unemployed

husband.

## SEATTLE'S SOCIALIST MAYOR-ELECT KATIE WILSON OPEN TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP



Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson beat incumbent Bruce Harrell to become the city's next mayor. (Katie Wilson for Seattle)

Prior to moving to Seattle in 2004, Wilson lived in upstate New York. After graduating from high school in Binghamton, Wilson studied physics and philosophy at Oxford University, thanks to financial assistance from her parents living in New York once again. Wilson left Oxford debt-free, which she credits to her parents. However, she also left without a degree, dropping out just six weeks before her graduation.

Before earning her new mayoral salary, Wilson was getting paid by the nonprofit she founded in 2011, the Transit Riders Union. She began collecting paychecks from the group in 2019. Before that, Wilson worked a series of odd jobs, including barista, boatyard worker, apartment manager, lab technician, baker, construction worker and legal assistant.

Tax records show that Wilson brought in \$72,669 in 2022 as the president of the Transit Riders Union. There are no records of Wilson's salary for 2023 or 2024, reportedly due to the fact the nonprofit changed tax preparers recently, according to PubliCola. [The IRS](#) does not require nonprofits to disclose salaries of employees making under \$100,000 per year.

### [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FOX NEWS APP](#)

Meanwhile, in a financial statement to the city upon declaring her candidacy for mayor, Wilson reported earning between \$60,000 and \$99,000. She also reported income "less than \$30,000" from PubliCola, The Urbanist and The Stranger, respectively, for work as a "columnist" for the left-wing online news outlets.

As Seattle mayor, Wilson will make well into the six-figures, according to pay records of past mayors. Wilson has been compared to socialist firebrand Zohran Mamdani, campaigning on policy proposals like those by the self-avowed socialist mayor of New York City. This includes, through her support of a "Solidarity Budget" which would have cut the Seattle police force by 50% and other defund the police positions, Wilson has been compelled to walk back support for government-run grocery stores, calls to tax the wealthy, and a proposal to "Trump-proof" the city of Seattle.



Seattle elected Katie Wilson, who has been compared to Zohran Mamdani, as its next mayor. (Getty Images)

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### URL

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/socialist-mayor-pays-ethics-fine-failing-disclose-10k-contribution-from-parents>

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**Sec. 2-103. Sanctions for violations of this article.**

If the independent ethics review board determines that a violation has occurred, the independent ethics review board may impose one or more of the following sanctions and post notice on the City's webpage:

- (a) A letter of notification when the violation is clearly unintentional; ~~or~~ when the respondent's conduct ~~complained of~~ was ~~made~~ **undertaken** in reliance on a public written opinion of the city attorney; **or when the actions taken were inconsistent with the value statements contained in Division 1 of this Article**. A letter of notification may advise the respondent of any steps to be taken to avoid future violations;
- (b) A letter of admonition when the violation is minor or may have been unintentional, but calls for a more substantial response than a letter of notification;
- (c) A reprimand when the violation has been committed intentionally or through disregard of this article. A reprimand directed to an official will also be sent to the city council;
- (d) A letter of censure when a serious or repeated violation of this article has been committed intentionally or through culpable disregard of this article by an elected official, former elected official, or candidate. A letter of censure directed to an elected official, former official, or candidate will be transmitted by the independent ethics review board to the city clerk, published by the city clerk in a local newspaper of general circulation, and sent by the independent ethics review board to the city council;
- (e) A civil fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (f) Reimbursement of reasonable legal costs incurred by the City in connection with the enforcement of this article; provided, however, that such reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of any civil fine imposed; and/or
- (g) Repayment of the total economic gain received or sought as a result of the violation.
- (h) Appointed Officials. If the independent ethics review board determines that a serious or repeated violation of this article has been committed intentionally or through culpable disregard of this article by an appointed official, the independent ethics review board may recommend to city council the removal from office or suspension from office, including a recommendation for the length of a suspension. The final authority to carry out a recommendation regarding removal of an appointed official is the city council.
- (i) Elected Officials. If the independent ethics review board determines that a serious or repeated violation of this article has been committed intentionally or through culpable disregard of this article by a current elected official, the independent ethics review board may recommend the recall of the elected official from office. A recommendation regarding the recall of an elected official will be sent to the local newspaper of general

circulation. The final authority to carry out a recommendation regarding recall of an elected official rests with the citizens.