CAMPAIGN FINANCE RESEARCH

2021

Southwest Democrats southwestdemocrats.org

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CONTENTS

FEDERAL CANDIDATES (President, US Senate, US House of Representavies)	2
Federal Election Commission (FEC)	2
Researching Campaign Finance Reports	2
STATE/DISTRICT CANDIDATES (Governor, State House, State Senate, State Bo Courts of Appeal, District Judges)	
Texas Ethics Commission (TEC)	5
Researching Campaign Finance Reports	5
COUNTY/PRECINCT CANDIDATES (County Judge, Commissioners Court, Cou Courts at Law, Justices of the Peace, Constables)	•
Harris County Elections Administration (EA)	10
Researching Campaign Finance Reports	10
CITY OF HOUSTON CANDIDATES (Mayor, Controller, Council Members)	13
City of Houston Campaign Finance Website	13
Researching Campaign Finance Reports (Filed Electronically)	13
Researching Campaign Finance Reports (Not Filed Electronically)	15
HISD CANDIDATES	17
HISD Website	17
Researching Campaign Finance Reports (Elected Trustees)	17
Researching Campaign Finance Reports (Current Election)	18
HCC CANDIDATES	20
HCC Website	20
Researching Campaign Finance Reports	20
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	22
OpenSecrets	22
Transparency USA	22
LittleSis	22
APPENDIX	23
Quiele Linke	22

FEDERAL CANDIDATES (PRESIDENT, US SENATE, US HOUSE OF REPRESENTAVIES)

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) oversees campaign finance reporting for federal candidates, including President and Members of Congress.

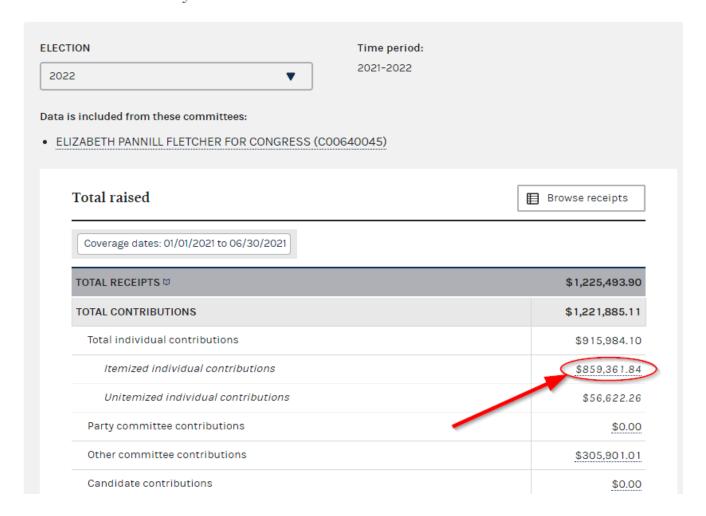
RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

- 1. Open up the FEC's website in a web browser, www.fec.gov.
- 2. Click on the Campaign Finance Data tab and then click All Data>>.

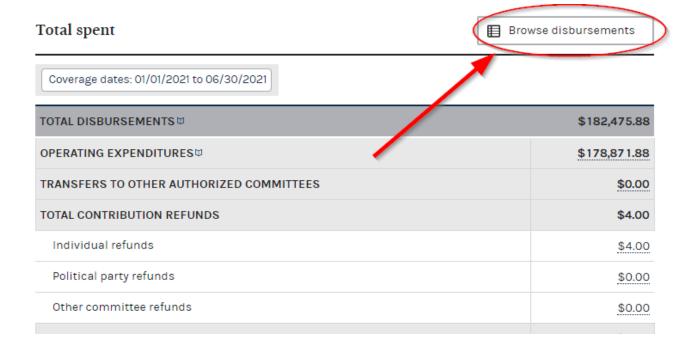


- On the Campaign Finance Data page you can search either by candidate/committee or by specific individual (search by candidate/committee if you want to see how a campaign is raising and spending money; search by individual contributor if you want to see to whom a particular person is giving money).
- 4. As you are typing a name in the candidate search box, start with the last name. The webpage will begin to offer suggestions. Be sure to click on the candidate you're looking for, not one of the committees, as there may be many per each candidate. Click on the suggested name, or click the magnifying glass icon after you have typed in the name.
- 5. On the Financial Summary screen, choose the election year cycle you're researching (it will default to the current year.
- 6. To see what individuals have contributed to the candidate, click on the dollar amount listed beside *Itemized Individual Contributions*.

Financial summary



- 7. It may take a while for the Receipts page to fully load, but you will eventually be presented with a list of contributors. You can use the filters on the left-hand side of the page to narrow down the results.
- 8. If you would also like to see expenditures, click the back button on your browser to go back to the Financial Summary page.
- 9. Click on the button labeled Browse Disbursements.



10. As with the contributions, it may take a moment for the page to load. You can use the filters on the left-hand side of the screen to narrow down the results.

STATE/DISTRICT CANDIDATES (GOVERNOR, STATE HOUSE, STATE SENATE, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COURTS OF APPEAL, DISTRICT JUDGES)

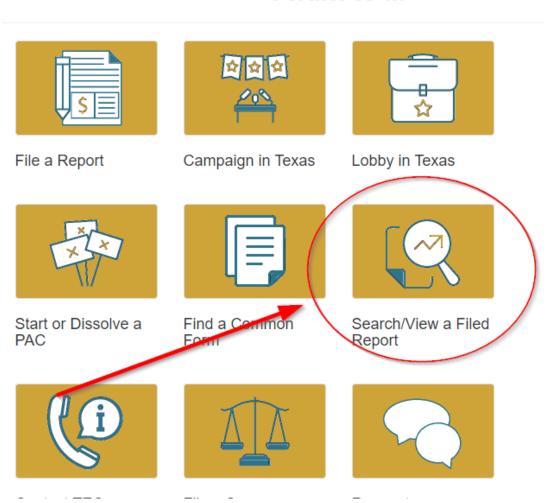
TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION (TEC)

The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) oversees campaign finance reporting for state and district candidates and officeholders, including statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Supreme Court, etc.), state legislature (House of Representatives and State Senate), State Board of Education, Courts of Appeal, and District Judges.

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

- 1. Open up the TEC's website in a web browser, https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/
- 2. In the I Want To... section, click the button for Search/View a Filed Report.

I want to ...

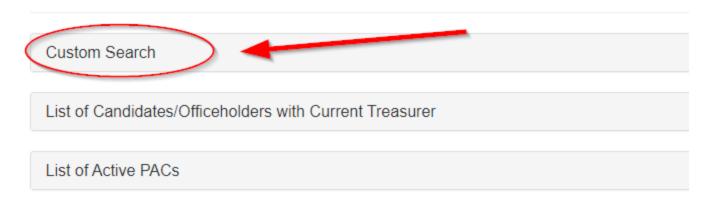


3. On the View a Campaign Finance Report page, click the link for Custom Search.

Search

View a Campaign Finance Report

Only reports filed with TEC are available on our website. To access reports filed by local filers, please conta filing authority for that filer.

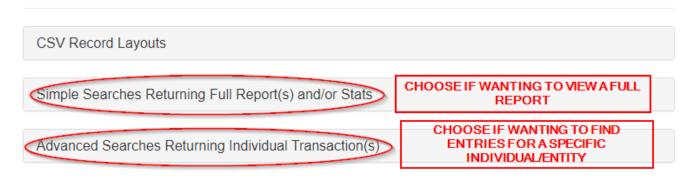


4. You should now be at the Custom Search of Campaign Finance Reports page. At this point you can search one of two ways. If you're just wanting to see a candidate's finance report, choose Simple Searches Returning Full Report(s) and/or Stats. If you're wanting to search for contributions or expenditures concerning a specific individual or entity, choose Advanced Searches Returning Individual Transaction(s). Go to **STEP 5** for Simple Searches, or **STEP 6** for Advanced Searches.

Custom Search of Campaign Finance Reports

Only reports filed with TEC are available on our website. To access reports filed by local filers, please contact the local filing authority for that filer.

Note: Required custom search fields are Pidentified in red. Searches work best with Chrome or Firefox browser and popups must be enabled.



5. **SIMPLE SEARCH**: To view the full report after clicking Simple Searches... choose the By Filer Name from the Simple Search Selection Screen.

Search Campaign Finance Reports

Simple Search Selection

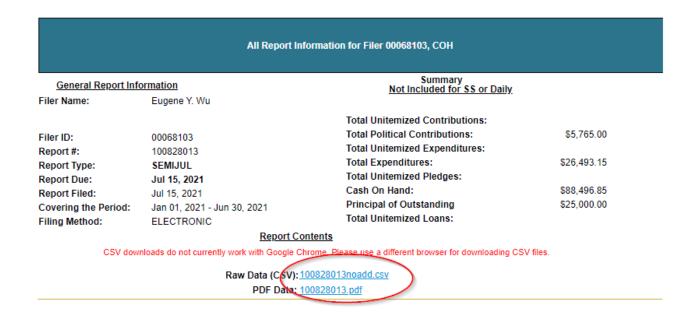
CSV downloads do not currently work with Google Chrome. Please use a different browser for downloading CSV files.



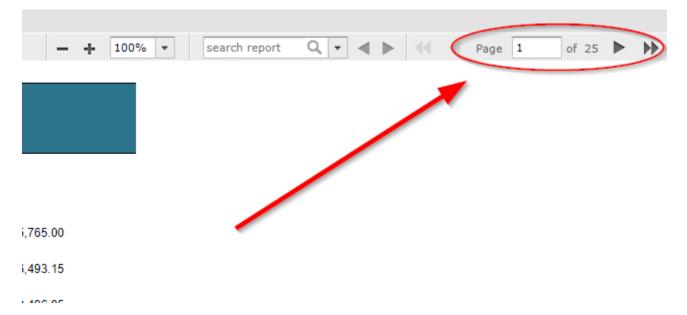
- a. Enter the last name/first name (or entity name if you're searching for an organization, such as a PAC) and click Search.
- b. The TEC often gives more results for the search than you might expect, so you may need to scroll through pages to find the entry you want. Once you've found the entry you want to view, click the link in the FilerID column



c. You will now be able to view all campaign finance reports filed by this entity. The most current report information will appear when the page first loads. If this is the information you are looking for, you can click the link for the Raw Data (CSV) or the PDF version of the report.



d. To view older filings, click the arrow in the upper-right section of the page.



- 6. **ADVANCED SEARCH:** After you click Advanced Search and arrive at the Advanced Search page, you will have to choose some options in order for the name search field to appear.
 - a. For the Transaction Type drop-down menu, you will need to choose if you want to search for contributions made to a campaign or expenditures made by a campaign.
 - b. For Search Type, choose By Name on Transaction.
 - c. For Date Type, you will need to choose whether you want to search transactions in a specific year, or over a date range.
 - d. Once you choose a date type, you will need to choose the Year or the Date Range.

e. At this point you should now be presented with the option to enter an Entity/Last Name and First Name search fields.

Advanced Search

(Contributions, Expenditures)

You must enable POP UPs in your browser settings to obtain your search results!

Due to the increased volume of contribution and expenditure data, all searches based on filer identification data are performed using Filer ID rather than using can get the Filer ID by using Simple Search.

Concerning Search Type:

- . By Filer Id refers to the Contributions and Expenditures reported by the specific Filer
- . By Name on Transaction refers to who was report on other Filers' Contributions and Expenditures

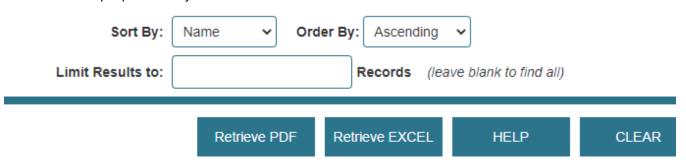


Duplicate contribution or expenditure entries can result from a contribution or expenditure required to be disclosed on special reports in addition to regular can reports. The default (unchecked) will not include information from these special reports.



Items in RED Are Required Information

- f. You can narrow down the results with the additional criteria if needed
- g. Once you have entered all of your search criteria, you can choose to have the results returned as a PDF or as an Excel file. Choose one of these options and your report will be prepared for you



law, contributor addresses, other than city, state, and zip code, have been redacted from electronically ports maintained in the commission's office.

COUNTY/PRECINCT CANDIDATES (COUNTY JUDGE, COMMISSIONERS COURT, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY COURTS AT LAW, JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, CONSTABLES)

HARRIS COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION (EA)

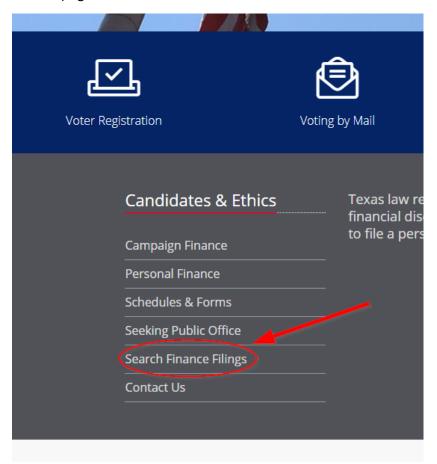
The Harris County Elections Administration (EA) oversees campaign finance reporting for county and precinct candidates and officeholders, including County Judge, County Commissioners, County Clerk, District Clerk, Tax Assessor, County Treasurer, District Attorney, County Attorney, Sheriff, County Courts at Law, Department of Education, Justices of the Peace, and Constables.

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

- 1. Open up the EA's website in a web browser, https://www.harrisvotes.com/
- 2. On the top of the screen click on CANDIDATES & ETHICS.



3. From the CANDIDATES & ETHICS page click on the Search Finance Filings link on the left side of the page.



4. From the SEARCH FINANCE FILINGS page click on CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS FOR VARIOUS COUNTY OFFICES.

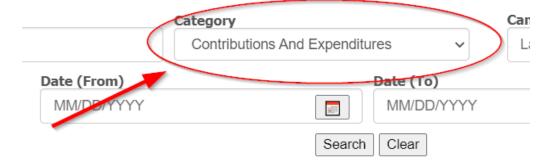


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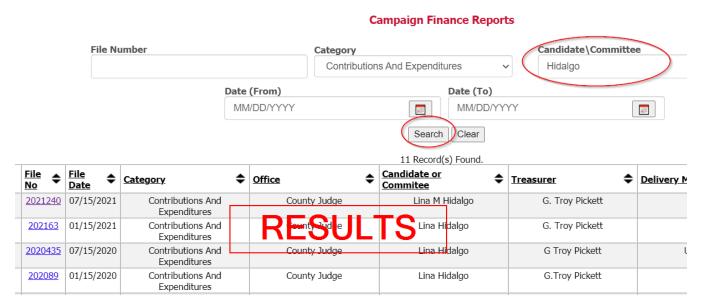


- 5. Unfortunately, this website does not let you search by individual contribution/expenditure, so you will have to look at the full report for a candidate/officeholder.
- 6. To view a campaign finance report, choose Contributions and Expenditures in the Category dropdown menu

Campaign Finance Reports



7. Type in the Last Name First Name (no punctuation) of the candidate/officeholder you want to research in the Candidate\Committee search box. It may be easier to only type the last name. Click Search.



8. Once you have the list of results, click on the link to each report in the File No column to view the report as a PDF.

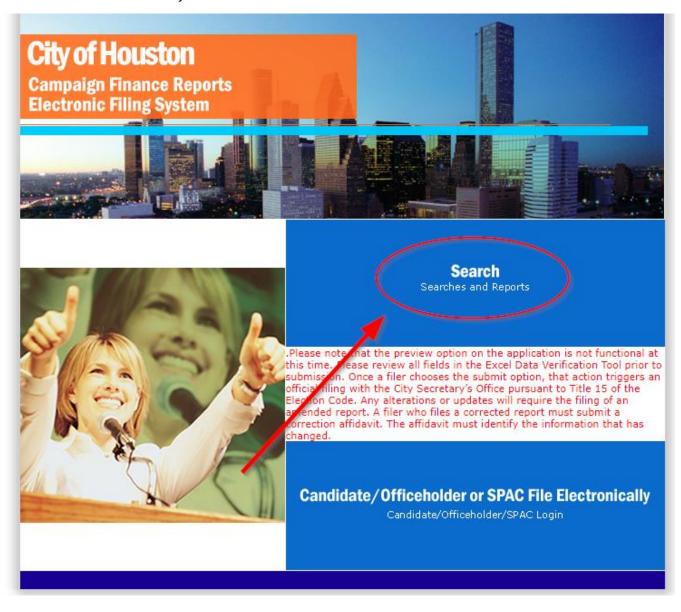
CITY OF HOUSTON CANDIDATES (MAYOR, CONTROLLER, COUNCIL MEMBERS)

CITY OF HOUSTON CAMPAIGN FINANCE WEBSITE

Campaign finance reports for city candidates and officeholders are maintained by the City of Houston (City Secretary). The system, unfortunately, is a bit clunky and not nearly as easy to use as the previous reporting systems.

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (FILED ELECTRONICALLY)

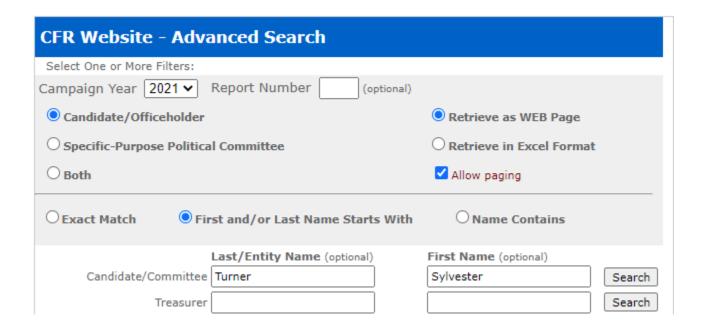
- 1. Open up the City of Houston's Campaign Finance Reports Electronic Filing System website in a web browser, https://cohweb.houstontx.gov/CampaignFinanceWeb/
- 2. Click on the box that says Search.



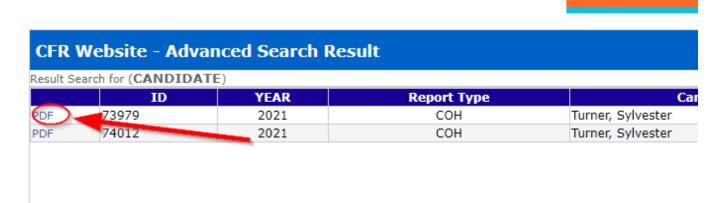
3. Click on the Advanced Search for Campaign Finance Reports button.



- 4. First you will need to choose the year of the report you want to view.
- 5. Choose whether you want to view the report of a candidate/officeholder, a PAC, or both.
- 6. You can choose whether to retrieve the results as a webpage (PDF) or as an Excel file.
- 7. Enter the Last Name/Entity Name and First Name of the person or organization you're researching. You may want to only enter a last name to keep the results from being too narrow.
- 8. Click Search.



9. The next page will list all reports filed by the person/entity for the year selected. To view the report, click on the PDF link in the first column (assuming you chose Retrieve as WEB Page on the search screen).



RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (NOT FILED ELECTRONICALLY)

- 1. Reports that were handwritten and/or not submitted through the electronic filing system are maintained separately.
- 2. To view these reports, open the Campaign Finance Reports (Historic) webpage in your web browser: http://www.houstontx.gov/council/reports.html
- 3. Click on the link for the election cycle for which you want to view a report.

CITY COUNCIL Campaign Finance Reports (Historic) Reports for City of Houston election years (odd numbered years) r Secretary on January 15 (Period I), July 15 (Period II), 30 days before before the election (Period IV). Certain positions will have a runoff, eight days before the runoff election (Period V). Period V also cove did not win their races in the general election. In even numbered years, reports are due January 15 former candidates who still have campaign debt, Reports Online. The City Secretary is required by Section 54.040, Election Code, to two (2) years after the date each reputis filed. • 2019 Election and Runoffs • 2016 Elected Officials and PAC Reports • 2015 Election and Runoffs • 2014 Elected Officials and PAC Reports • 2012 Elected Officials Reports • 2013 Election and Runoffs • 2011 Election and Runoffs • 2010 Elected Officials Reports • 2009 Election and Runoffs • 2008 Elected Officials Reports • Nov. 6, 2007 Election and Runoffs

4. In the chart of candidates and reporting periods, click on the links (that correspond to the number of pages of each report) for the report you want to view.

Non-electronically filed reports for 2019					
CANDIDATE (alphabetical, office/last name)	1	REPO II	ORTING PE	RIOD IV	V
MAYOR					
Houjami, Naoufal		21	33	24	2
CONTROLLER					
CITY COUNCIL					
Bailey, Cynthia (District B)		13			
Carmona, Christopher (District A)					3
Dolcefino, Anthony (District C)		6			
Dolcefino, Anthony (District C)		6			
Galvan, Rafael (District J)			6		
Garcia, Ralph (At-Large Position 5)		2			
Gonzalez, Jose Carlos (At-Large Position 3)			21	24	
Griffin, Michael "Griff" (At-Large Position 2)			17		
Navarro-Flores, Yolanda (At-Large Position 1)			3	8	8
Perkins, Ralph (District B)				17	
Thomas, Tiffany (District F)		34			
POLITICAL ACTION or SPECIFIC PURPOSE COMMI	TTEES				

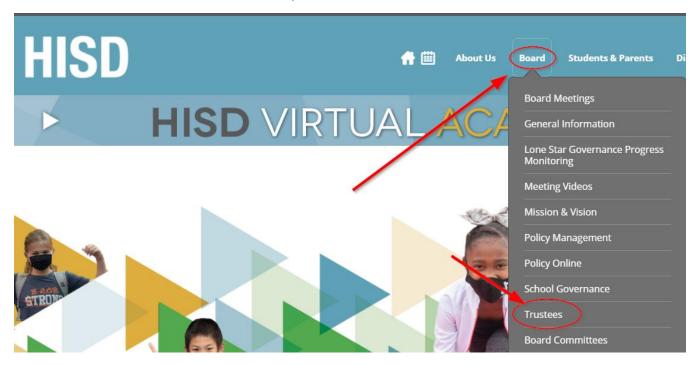
HISD CANDIDATES

HISD WEBSITE

Unfortunately HISD does not have a centralized location for all of the campaign finance reports. Some are listed on the page for each of the trustees, and others are listed on the page for the election cycle.

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (ELECTED TRUSTEES)

- 1. Open up the HISD website in a web browser, https://www.houstonisd.org/
- 2. Click on Board from the menu at the top and then click Trustees.



3. On the Trustees page, click the name of the Trustee for whom you want to research their campaign finance reports.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the Houston Independent School District. The nine trustees, elected from separate districts, serve staggered four-year Would you like to know who represents you on the HISD Board of Education? Check out the Trustee Finder.



Patricia K. Allen District IV President Email | School Listing



Kathy Blueford-Daniels District II Secretary Email | School Listing



Sue Deigaard District V Email | School Listing



Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca District VI First Vice President Email | School Listing



Daniela "Dani" Hernandez District III Assistant Secretary Email | School Listing



Anne Sung District VII Email | School Listing



Judith Cruz District VIII Second Vice President Email | School Listing



Elizabeth Santos District I



Myrna Guidry



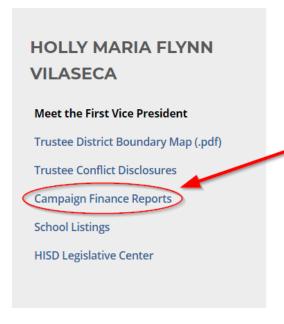
District IX

Email | School Listing

4. On the Trustee's page, click the link on the left titled Campaign Finance Reports.



Home > Board > Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca > Meet the First Vice President



HOLLY MARIA

Holly Maria Flynn Vilas since January 2017, wh ensure that students h skills to succeed in their achievement gap.

Flynn Vilaseca grew up there. She is the daugh degrees in Latin Ameri University of Michigan.

After earning her unde HISD's Windsor Village childhood classes for s education field at Batte

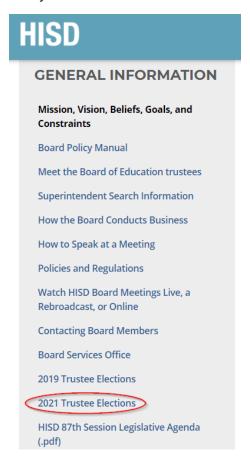
5. The next page will take you to a listing of all the finance reports filed by the Trustee

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (CURRENT ELECTION)

- 1. Open up the HISD website in a web browser, https://www.houstonisd.org/
- 2. Click on Board from the menu at the top and then click General Information.



3. On the left side of the General Information page, click the link for the current or past election cycle.



4. From the Election Information page you can view the Treasurer Appointments (CTA), Ballot Applications, and Campaign Finance Reports (COH) for anyone running.

HCC CANDIDATES

HCC WEBSITE

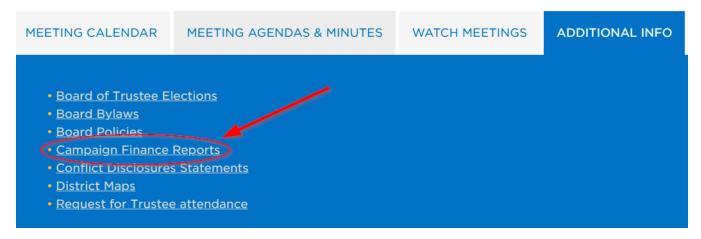
Unfortunately HCC does not have a robust system at all for the campaign finance reports. And it is not easy to find...

RESEARCHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

- 1. Open up the HCC website in a web browser, https://www.hccs.edu/
- 2. Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page and click Board of Trustees under Institution.



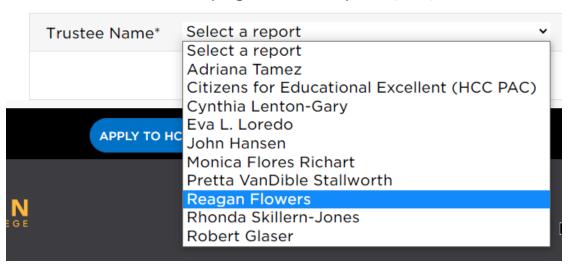
3. Scroll down the Board of Trustees page until you come to a blue box with tabs. Click the ADDITIONAL INFO tab and then click Campaign Finance Reports.



4. You will only be presented with a drop-down menu for existing trustees.

Campaign Finance Reports

Board of Trustees' Campaign Finance Reports (CFR) filed.



- 5. Click on the trustee you are researching and then click the tiny Search button.
- 6. The next screen will show the finance reports filed by the trustee. Click an entry for the PDF file.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OPENSECRETS

"Nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit, OpenSecrets is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Our mission is to track the flow of money in American politics and provide the data and analysis to strengthen democracy. Our vision is for Americans to use this knowledge to create a more vibrant, representative and accountable democracy."

Visit them at https://www.opensecrets.org/

TRANSPARENCY USA

"At Transparency USA, our mission is to provide clear, accurate, easy-to-understand information about the money in state politics.

Our database includes campaign finance data for nine states: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. You can search all state-level candidates, political action committees (PACs) that are active in that state, and the donors that support them. Texas is our first state to also include lobbying data.

State-level politicians include your governor, state attorney general, and legislators who serve in your state House of Representatives and state Senate. If they serve in your state capitol, you'll find detailed data on their contributions and expenditures here. You won't yet find federal candidates, which include the president, members of the U.S. Congress, and most politicians working in Washington, D.C. We look forward to adding federal data soon.

You can see big-picture data, like the top 10 donors in your state this election cycle or total contributions and expenditures by party. You can also find detailed transaction history for a single person or organization."

Visit them at https://www.transparencyusa.org/

LITTLESIS

"LittleSis is a free database detailing the connections between powerful people and organizations. We bring transparency to influential social networks by tracking the key relationships of politicians, business leaders, lobbyists, financiers, and their affiliated institutions. We help answer questions such as:

- Who do the wealthiest Americans donate their money to?
- Where did White House officials work before they were appointed?
- Which lobbyists are married to politicians, and who do they lobby for?

All of this information is public, but scattered. We bring it together in one place. Our data derives from government <filings, news articles, and other reputable sources. Some data sets are updated automatically; the rest is filled in by our user community."

Visit them at https://littlesis.org/

APPENDIX

QUICK LINKS

- Federal Elections Commission (FEC): https://www.fec.gov/data/
- Texas Ethics Commission (TEC): https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/search/cf/
- Harris County Elections Administration:
 https://ethics.harrisvotes.com/CampaignFinanceReports/COR.aspx
- City of Houston Campaign Finance Filing System: https://cohweb.houstontx.gov/CampaignFinanceWeb/
- City of Houston (Non-Electronically Filed) Campaign Finance Reports: http://www.houstontx.gov/council/reports.html
- HISD Trustees: https://www.houstonisd.org/domain/10786
- HISD Election: https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/188048
- HCC Trustees Campaign Finance Reports: https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/board-of-trustees/board-information/campaign-finance-reports/
- OpenSecrets: https://www.opensecrets.org/
- Transparency USA: https://www.transparencyusa.org/
- LittleSis: https://littlesis.org/