

Texas



Western Surety Company

FILED
 AT 4:55 O'CLOCK P. M.
 DEC 12 2022
 ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR., COUNTY CLERK
 HIDALGO CO. TEXAS
 BY [Signature] DEPUTY

OFFICIAL BOND AND OATH

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
 County of Hidalgo } ss

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: BOND No. 70208967

That we, Laura Hinojosa, as Principal, and WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of Texas, as Surety, are held and bound unto 1 Governor of Texas, his successors in office, in the sum of 2 One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00), for the payment of which we hereby bind ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, by these presents.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2022.

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That whereas, the above bounden Principal was on the 8th day of November, 2022, duly elected (Elected—Appointed) to the office of District Clerk in and for 3 Hidalgo County, State of Texas, for a term of Four year s commencing on the 1st day of January, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, if the said Principal shall well and faithfully perform and discharge all the duties required of him by law as the aforesaid officer, and shall ⁴ faithfully perform the duties of the office

then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that regardless of the number of years this bond may remain in force and the number of claims which may be made against this bond, the liability of the Surety shall not be cumulative and the aggregate liability of the Surety for any and all claims, suits, or actions under this bond shall not exceed the amount stated above. Any revision of the bond amount shall not be cumulative.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that this bond may be cancelled by the Surety by sending written notice to the party to whom this bond is payable stating that, not less than thirty (30) days thereafter, the Surety's liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts of the Principal.

Laura Hinojosa Principal
 WESTERN SURETY COMPANY
 By Paul T. Bruflat
 Paul T. Bruflat, Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRINCIPAL

THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Hidalgo } ss

Before me, Jannel Garza on this day, personally appeared Laura Hinojosa, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Edinburg, Texas, this 12th day of December, 2022.

SEAL



[Signature]

Hidalgo County, Texas

OATH OF OFFICE
(COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and COUNTY JUDGE)

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____, of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not be, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract with or claim against the County, except such contracts or claims as are expressly authorized by law and except such warrants as may issue to me as fees of office. So help me God.

Signed _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me at _____, Texas, this _____ day of _____.

SEAL

_____ County, Texas

OATH OF OFFICE
(General)

I, Laura Hinojosa, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK, of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected. So help me God.

Signed [Signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Edinburg, Texas, this 12th day of December, 2022.

SEAL



[Signature]

Hidalgo County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
County of _____ } ss

The foregoing bond of _____ as
_____ in and for _____ County and State of Texas, this day
approved in open Commissioner's Court.

ATTEST: Date _____,

Clerk _____ County Judge,
County Court _____ County _____ County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
County of _____ } ss

I, _____, County Clerk, in and for said County, do hereby certify
that the foregoing Bond dated the _____ day of _____, _____, with its certificates of
authentication, was filed for record in my office the _____ day of _____, _____, at
_____ o'clock ___ M., and duly recorded the _____ day of _____, _____, at
_____ o'clock ___ M., in the Records of Official Bonds of said County in Volume _____, on page
_____.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the County Court of said County, at office in _____,
Texas, the day and year last above written.

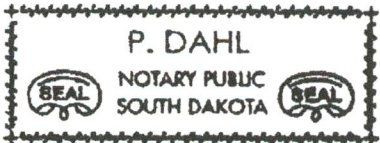
Clerk

By _____ Deputy County Court _____ County

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SURETY
(Corporate Officer)

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
County of Minnehaha } ss

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State on this 10th day of December,
2022, personally appeared Paul T. Bruflat to me known to be the identical
person who subscribed the name of WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, Surety, to the foregoing instrument as the
aforesaid officer and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, and as the
free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.



My Commission Expires June 18, 2025

P. Dahl
Notary Public

Western Surety Company

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Dakota, and authorized and licensed to do business in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the United States of America, does hereby make, constitute and appoint

Paul T. Bruflat of Sioux Falls, State of South Dakota, its regularly elected Vice President, as Attorney-in-Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred upon him to sign, execute, acknowledge and deliver for and on its behalf as Surety and as its act and deed, the following bond:

One District Clerk Hidalgo County

bond with bond number 70208967

for Laura Hinojosa as Principal in the penalty amount not to exceed: \$100,000.00.

Western Surety Company further certifies that the following is a true and exact copy of Section 7 of the by-laws of Western Surety Company duly adopted and now in force, to-wit:

Section 7. All bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney, or other obligations of the corporation shall be executed in the corporate name of the Company by the President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, or any Vice President, or by such other officers as the Board of Directors may authorize. The President, any Vice President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, or the Treasurer may appoint Attorneys-in-Fact or agents who shall have authority to issue bonds, policies, or undertakings in the name of the Company. The corporate seal is not necessary for the validity of any bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation. The signature of any such officer and the corporate seal may be printed by facsimile.

In Witness Whereof, the said WESTERN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be executed by its Vice President with the corporate seal affixed this 10th day of December, 2022.

ATTEST

L. Bauder
L. Bauder, Assistant Secretary

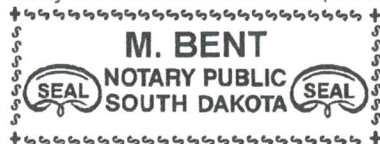
WESTERN SURETY COMPANY
By Paul T. Bruflat
Paul T. Bruflat, Vice President



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA } ss

On this 10th day of December, 2022, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Paul T. Bruflat and L. Bauder

who, being by me duly sworn, acknowledged that they signed the above Power of Attorney as Vice President and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the said WESTERN SURETY COMPANY, and acknowledged said instrument to be the voluntary act and deed of said Corporation.



My Commission Expires March 2, 2026

M. Bent
Notary Public

To validate bond authenticity, go to www.cnasurety.com > Owner/Obligee Services > Validate Bond Coverage.



Figure: 28 TAC §1.601(a)(3)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 1 To obtain information or make a complaint:
- 2 You may contact Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America or Universal Surety of America at 605-336-0850.
- 3 You may call Western Surety Company's, Surety Bonding Company of America's or Universal Surety of America's toll-free telephone number for information or to make a complaint at:

1-800-331-6053

- 4 You may also write to Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America or Universal Surety of America at:

P.O. Box 5077
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5077

- 5 You may contact the Texas Department of Insurance to obtain information on companies, coverages, rights or complaints at:

1-800-252-3439

- 6 You may write the Texas Department of Insurance:

P.O. Box 149104
Austin, TX 78714-9104
Fax: (512) 490-1007
Web: www.tdi.texas.gov
E-Mail: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

7 PREMIUM OR CLAIM DISPUTES:

Should you have a dispute concerning your premium or about a claim you should contact Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America or Universal Surety of America first. If the dispute is not resolved, you may contact the Texas Department of Insurance.

8 ATTACH THIS NOTICE TO YOUR POLICY:

This notice is for information only and does not become a part or condition of the attached document.

AVISO IMPORTANTE

Para obtener informacion o para someter una queja:

Puede comunicarse con Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America o Universal Surety of America al 605-336-0850.

Usted puede llamar al numero de telefono gratis de Western Surety Company's, Surety Bonding Company of America's o Universal Surety of America's para informacion o para someter una queja al:

1-800-331-6053

Usted tambien puede escribir a Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America o Universal Surety of America:

P.O. Box 5077
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5077

Puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Seguros de Texas para obtener informacion acerca de companias, coberturas, derechos o quejas al:

1-800-252-3439

Puede escribir al Departamento de Seguros de Texas:

P.O. Box 149104
Austin, TX 78714-9104
Fax: (512) 490-1007
Web: www.tdi.texas.gov
E-Mail: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

DISPUTAS SOBRE PRIMAS O RECLAMOS:

Si tiene una disputa concerniente a su prima o a un reclamo, debe comunicarse con el Western Surety Company, Surety Bonding Company of America o Universal Surety of America primero. Si no se resuelve la disputa, puede entonces comunicarse con el departamento (TDI).

UNA ESTE AVISO A SU POLIZA: Este aviso es solo para proposito de informacion y no se convierte en parte o condicion del documento adjunto.

Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated
Government Code (Refs & Annos)
Title 2. Judicial Branch (Refs & Annos)
Subtitle D. Judicial Personnel and Officials
Chapter 51. Clerks
Subchapter D. District Clerks (Refs & Annos)

V.T.C.A., Government Code § 51.302

§ 51.302. Bond; Oath; Insurance

Effective: January 1, 2022

Currentness

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (g), before beginning the duties of office, each district clerk must give a bond with two or more sufficient sureties or with a surety company authorized to do business in this state as a surety. The bond must:

(1) be payable to the governor;

(2) be conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of the office;

(3) be approved by the commissioners court; and

(4) be in an amount equal to not less than 20 percent of the maximum amount of fees collected in any year during the term of office immediately preceding the term of office for which the bond is given, except that the bond may not be in an amount less than \$5,000 nor more than \$100,000.

(b) The district clerk must take and sign the oath prescribed for officers of this state, which must be endorsed on the bond, if a bond is required, and the bond and oath, or oath, must be filed and recorded in the office of the county clerk.

(c) Each district clerk shall obtain an insurance policy or similar coverage from a governmental pool operating under Chapter 119, Local Government Code, or from a self-insurance fund or risk

retention group created by one or more governmental units under Chapter 1084, Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987 ([Article 715c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes](#)),¹ to cover the district clerk and any deputy clerk against liabilities incurred through errors or omissions in the performance of official duties. The amount of the policy or other coverage document must be equal to the maximum amount of fees collected in any year during the term of office immediately preceding the term for which the insurance is obtained, except that the amount of the policy or other coverage document must be at least \$20,000 but not more than \$700,000. If the policy or other coverage document provides coverage for other county officials, the amount of the policy must be at least \$1 million.

(d) Each district clerk shall obtain an insurance policy or similar coverage from a governmental pool operating under Chapter 119, Local Government Code, or from a self-insurance fund or risk retention group created by one or more governmental units under Chapter 1084, Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987 ([Article 715c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes](#)),¹ to cover losses from burglary, theft, robbery, counterfeit currency, or destruction. The amount of the policy or other coverage document must be at least \$20,000 but not more than \$700,000.

(e) The commissioners court may establish a contingency fund to provide the coverage required by Subsection (c) or (d) if it is determined by the district clerk that insurance coverage is unavailable at a reasonable cost.

(f) The commissioners court shall pay the premiums on the bonds and insurance policies or other similar coverage required under this section from the county general fund.

(g) In lieu of the bond required by Subsection (a), the county may self-insure against losses that would have been covered by the bond.

Credits

Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 480, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1985. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 71, §§ 3, 4, eff. May 7, 1987; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 561, § 2, eff. Aug. 30, 1993; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1062, § 1, eff. June 18, 1999; Acts 2021, 87th Leg., ch. 472 (S.B. 41), § 2.11, eff. Jan. 1, 2022.

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Footnotes

1 Now, repealed.

V. T. C. A., Government Code § 51.302, TX GOVT § 51.302

Current through the end of the 2021 Regular and Called Sessions of the 87th Legislature.

Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated
Constitution of the State of Texas 1876 (Refs & Annos)
Article XVI. General Provisions

Vernon's Ann.Texas Const. Art. 16, § 1

§ 1. Official Oath

Effective: November 26, 2001

Currentness

Sec. 1. (a) All elected and appointed officers, before they enter upon the duties of their offices, shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God.”

(b) All elected or appointed officers, before taking the Oath or Affirmation of office prescribed by this section and entering upon the duties of office, shall subscribe to the following statement:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly or indirectly paid, offered, promised to pay, contributed, or promised to contribute any money or thing of value, or promised any public office or employment for the giving or withholding of a vote at the election at which I was elected or as a reward to secure my appointment or confirmation, whichever the case may be, so help me God.”

(c) Members of the Legislature, the Secretary of State, and all other elected and appointed state officers shall file the signed statement required by Subsection (b) of this section with the Secretary of State before taking the Oath or Affirmation of office prescribed by Subsection (a) of this section. All other officers shall retain the signed statement required by Subsection (b) of this section with the official records of the office.

Credits

Amended Nov. 8, 1938; Nov. 6, 1956; Nov. 7, 1989; Nov. 6, 2001, eff. Nov. 26, 2001.

Editors' Notes

INTERPRETIVE COMMENTARY

2018 Main Volume

This section provides that members of the legislature and all state officials before taking office must subscribe to an oath of office exacting their support of the state and federal constitutions. It also provides that these officials must further swear that in their election they abstained from bribery of voters either directly or indirectly by offering or promising money or any valuable consideration for votes.

The oath of office first appeared in the [Constitution of 1845 \(Art. 7, § 1\)](#), and contained a statement that the official had never participated in a duel. Dueling had been considered in need of some legislative curbing which it was thought that the oath supplied. While dueling was generally accepted, it was felt that holders of public office should be above dueling for the practice of challenging to a duel tended to interfere with candor of speech in legislative gatherings. In all succeeding constitutions, including the present constitution, this declaration on dueling appeared. The impossibility for a duelist to hold office in the state did much to render the “code of honor” an extinct custom, and this portion of the oath of office became outworn and useless and was thus abandoned in 1938 when the present oath of office was adopted.

The clause requiring a denial of bribery first appeared in the present constitution and was the direct outcome of the official corruption which had reached alarming proportions during the reconstruction period. It has been seriously questioned whether such a provision in an oath of office is of much effect, for it has been pointed out that men who bribe will have little hesitancy about falsification.

There was a time when oaths embarrassed falsehood. They may still be of some use in courts, when the judge can caution witnesses, and the perils of perjury can be emphasized. But taken upon entering office, oaths now accomplish little else than to lend dignity to the entrance upon public service and to honorable men bring home the seriousness of their responsibilities.

[Notes of Decisions \(66\)](#)

Vernon's Ann. Texas Const. Art. 16, § 1, TX CONST Art. 16, § 1

Current through the end of the 2021 Regular and Called Sessions of the 87th Legislature.