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Vera Hides Legal Fees in Residency Lawsuit

Ethics violations mount for Starr County Judge who sought to remove opponent from Nov. 2022 ballot

AUSTIN, TX – Starr County Judge Eloy Vera, recently found by the Texas Ethics Commission to have violated multiple campaign ethics laws, is under fire yet again.

In August of 2022, Vera filed a lawsuit against his political opponent in a last-ditch effort to remove her from the ballot. Before dropping the suit, Vera lost a contested hearing in which he was represented by a local law firm. Despite that, no legal fees were reported in Vera's legally-required campaign finance transparency reports.

Vera had to report these fees whether he paid them or received donated legal services. Either way, state law requires that information be disclosed to the public along with the corresponding monetary value so voters know who is providing campaign contributions or pro bono professional services to elected officials and how contributions are being spent. Vera's legal fees should be similar to his opponent's, which were close to \$40,000.

"There comes a point where the ethical lapses in the actions of an elected official call into account their ability to effectively govern," said Wayne Hamilton of local governance watchdog #ProjectRedTX. "Eloy Vera is rapidly approaching that point. He, and those around him, have continued to ignore campaign finance laws. What other laws could he be blatantly ignoring that have yet to be uncovered?"

In public documents recently released by the TEC, Vera was found to have violated numerous Texas Election Code laws, including using public taxpayer funds for his campaign's political advertising and failing to file campaign finance reports.

The latest allegation concerning Vera's legal fees has been submitted to the TEC in a sworn complaint for further investigation.

To read the recent TEC rulings, or for more information, visit projectredtx.com.

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