

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Rolando Gonzalez

Case No.: FEC 24-353

TO: Rolando Gonzalez
305 Via Del Aqua
Clewiston, FL 33440

Hillary M. Hyslope
104 Ridgewood Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

NOTICE OF HEARING (INFORMAL HEARING (IH))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **April 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard, at the following location: via Webinar at: **Registration URL** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/17181422935246175>, **Webinar ID 325-697-827.**

Failure to appear in accordance with this notice will constitute a waiver of your right to participate in the hearing. Continuances will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Section 106.25, Florida Statutes, which governs your participation as follows:

If you are the Respondent, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission. However, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless you request to be heard or the Commission requests that your case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, your case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are the Complainant, you may attend the hearing, but you will *not* be permitted to address the Commission. In addition, some cases (including those in which consent orders or recommendations for no probable cause are being considered) may be decided by an *en masse* vote and, unless the Respondent requests to be heard or the Commission requests that the case be considered separately on the day of the hearing, the case will *not* be individually heard.

If you are an Appellant, and you have requested a hearing, you may attend the hearing, and you or your attorney will have *5 minutes* to present your case to the Commission.

Please be advised that both confidential and public cases are scheduled to be heard by the Florida Elections Commission on this date. As an Appellant, Respondent or Complainant in one case, you will *not* be permitted to attend the hearings on other confidential cases.

The Commission will electronically record the meeting. Although the Commission's recording is considered the official record of the hearing, the Respondent may provide, at his own expense, a certified court reporter to also record the hearing.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, contact Donna Ann Malphurs at (850) 922-4539 or by mail at 107 West Gaines Street, The Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, at least 5 days before the hearing.

See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
March 27, 2026

Please refer to the information below for further instructions related to your particular hearing:

If this is a hearing to consider **an appeal from an automatic fine**, the Filing Officer has imposed a fine on you for your failure to file a campaign treasurer's report on the designated due date and, by filing an appeal, you have asked the Commission to consider either (1) that the report was in fact timely filed; or (2) that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure to file the report timely. You are required to prove your case. If the Commission finds that the report was filed timely or that there were unusual circumstances that excused the failure, it may waive the fine, in whole or in part. The Commission may reduce a fine after considering the factors in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes. If the Commission finds that the report was not timely filed and there were no unusual circumstances, the fine will be upheld.

If this is a hearing to consider a **consent order before a determination of probable cause has been made**, the Commission will decide whether to accept or reject the consent order. If the Commission accepts the consent order, the case will be closed and become public. If the Commission rejects the consent order or does not make a decision to accept or deny the consent order, the case will remain confidential, unless confidentiality has been waived.

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Respondent may argue why the established facts in the Staff Recommendation do not support the violations charged in the Order of Probable Cause. At Respondent's request, the Commission may determine whether Respondent's actions in the case were willful. The Respondent may also address the appropriateness of the recommended fine. If Respondent claims that his limited resources make him unable to pay the statutory fine, *he must provide the Commission with written proof of his financial resources* at the hearing. A financial affidavit form is available from the Commission Clerk.

Re: FEC 24-353: Incoming Mail & Overview

From Rolando Gonzalez <rgonzalez0672@gmail.com>
Date Thu 12/11/2025 9:11 AM
To Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>

 3 attachments (2 MB)

IMG_5581.jpeg; IMG_5580.png; IMG_4021.jpeg;

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Good morning, and thank you for getting back to me.

Regarding the screenshot of the Zoom hearing, I genuinely thought I had saved it for my records because of how long I waited for the administrator to admit me, but I must not have captured it. It was extremely frustrating to be left waiting with no response.

I was also prepared to share the ongoing issues here within the Clewiston Commission, including the pattern of misbehavior and the concerns that ultimately led to the Sheriff's Office raiding City Hall. The same group has been responsible for fabricated claims, false documents, and misleading material — including the FAKE images circulated on Facebook during my campaign. As you will see in the attached file, the complainant had previously left me a voicemail as well.

Additionally, the "click" within the commission created a negative campaign against me simply for being a newer resident. Somewhere within the materials your office provided, I read that an investigation had concluded. Based on what I've experienced and documented, it appears that whoever conducted that investigation may not have reviewed all the facts thoroughly.

I will now forward the information I intended to present during the hearing, which I was unable to access due to the Zoom issue. For that reason, I respectfully request another hearing, and if possible, I would prefer to appear in person so I can present everything clearly.

As I mentioned from the beginning, this has never been about money. It is strictly about ethics, accountability, and ensuring that the truth is properly reviewed. I stand firmly by that.

Thank you again for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

Roly Gonzalez



OCTOBER 20, 2025

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

City of Clewiston, FL | October 20, 2025...

@cityofclewiston 2.4K views 1mo ago ...more

[Voicemail](#)

Hillary Hyslope Clewiston
Comissioner



mobile

October 8, 2025 at 9:17 AM

0:00

-0:51



Transcription

"Hey Rolly, this is Hillary Highslope and I am I am extending an olive branch I I would like to speak with you regarding Your take on the other nights meeting Four [447-9254](tel:447-9254). I should be available most of the day. So just give me a call if you If you're open, if you're open to it, give me a call thanks..."

Was this transcription [useful](#) or [not useful](#)?



Favorites



Recents



Contacts



Keypad



Voicemail

209



The pieces are coming together



RE: *Confidential: Fw: Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session Confirmation

From Mehgean Willoughby <Mehgean.Willoughby@myfloridalegal.com>
Date Fri 12/5/2025 12:58 PM
To Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>

📎 1 attachment (6 KB)
ZOOM_registration_85867245890_2025_12_04.csv;

Mattie,

Attached is a report, generated by Zoom, of all registrants for the 12/04 meeting.

Mr. Gonzalez registered with the online platform at 11:03am.

Thank you,

Mehgean Willoughby
Chief of Staff
Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 922-4539



From: Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>
Sent: Friday, December 5, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Mehgean Willoughby <Mehgean.Willoughby@myfloridalegal.com>
Subject: Fw: *Confidential: Fw: Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session Confirmation

Mattie T. Clay

Assistant General Counsel
Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street
The Collins Building, Suite 224
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596
Main: (850) 922-4539
Facsimile: (850) 921-0783
mattie.clay@myfloridalegal.com

From: Donna Malphurs <Donna.Malphurs@myfloridalegal.com> on behalf of Florida Elections Commission <fec@myfloridalegal.com>
Sent: Friday, December 5, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>
Subject: *Confidential: Fw: Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session Confirmation

----- Forwarded by Donna Malphurs/OAG on 12/05/2025 10:29 AM -----

From: "Rolando Gonzalez" <rgonzalez0672@gmail.com>
To: FEC@myfloridalegal.com
Date: 12/05/2025 09:39 AM
Subject: Re: Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session Confirmation

Good morning. Thank you again for all your help. I pray everything went well and that the state moved forward with your recommendation. I tried getting on Zoom but was left waiting for a while with no response. If there is anything I need to

ZjQcmQRYFfpjptBannerStart

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

ZjQcmQRYFfpjptBannerEnd

Good morning,

Thank you again for all your help. I pray everything went well and that the state moved forward with your recommendation. I tried getting on Zoom but was left waiting for a while with no response.

If there is anything I need to review or any documentation I need to act on, please send it my way.

Have an amazing weekend.

Roly Gonzalez

On Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 11:03 AM Zoom <no-reply@zoom.us> wrote:

Hello Rolando Gonzalez,

Thank you for registering for Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session. You can find information about this meeting below.

Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session

Date & Time Dec 4, 2025 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Meeting ID 858 6724 5890
Passcode 633542

[Add to Calendar \(.ics\)](#) | [Add to Google Calendar](#) | [Add to Yahoo Calendar](#)

To edit or cancel your registration details, [click here](#).

Please submit any questions to: FEC@myfloridalegal.com.

WAYS TO JOIN ZOOM

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android

[Join Meeting](#)

If the button above does not work, paste this into your browser:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85867245890?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85867245890?tk=3lq7XBTCRSJ0afEML1E7BE8KxvQd4f58GIZbesCAos.DQkAAAAAT_hYxQhY0NVRUWDRQTVRXU3VidTYtbFd1M0hnAA&pwd=XAbrnTkvnEs0RxDXgbFpCkTGRBLlRg.1)

[tk=3lq7XBTCRSJ0afEML1E7BE8KxvQd4f58GIZbesCAos.DQkAAAAAT_hYxQhY0NVRUWDRQTVRXU3VidTYtbFd1M0hnAA&pwd=XAbrnTkvnEs0RxDXgbFpCkTGRBLlRg.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85867245890?tk=3lq7XBTCRSJ0afEML1E7BE8KxvQd4f58GIZbesCAos.DQkAAAAAT_hYxQhY0NVRUWDRQTVRXU3VidTYtbFd1M0hnAA&pwd=XAbrnTkvnEs0RxDXgbFpCkTGRBLlRg.1)

To keep this meeting secure, do not share this link publicly.

Join via audio

One tap mobile: US: [+13126266799](tel:+13126266799), [85867245890](tel:+185867245890)#,*[633542](tel:+1633542)# or [+19292056099](tel:+19292056099), [85867245890](tel:+185867245890)#,*[633542](tel:+1633542)#

Or dial For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

US: [+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) or [+1 929 205 6099](tel:+19292056099) or [+1 301 715 8592](tel:+13017158592) or [+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) or [+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833) or [+1 253 215 8782](tel:+12532158782)

Meeting ID: 858 6724 5890

Passcode: 633542

[International numbers](#)

Thank you!

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Registration Report
Report generated time

12/5/2025 12:50

Topic Florida Elections Commission - Confidential Session

ID 8586724 5890

Scheduled Time 12/4/2025 9:30

Duration (minutes) 300

Registrants 24

Cancelled registrants 0

Approved registrants 24

Denied registrants 0

Attendee Details	First Name	Last Name	Email	Registration Time	Approval Status	Case Number(s)
Mattie	Clay	Clay	mattie.clay@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 13:22	approved	Most
Tim	Vaccaro	Vaccaro	timothy.vaccaro@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 13:23	approved	22-051
B.Wims	Deputy Agency Clerk		braxeton.wims@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 13:23	approved	Staff
Charles	Mellow		Charles.Mellow@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 13:25	approved	Investigator
jennifer	daughtry		Jennifer.Daughtry@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 14:21	approved	FEC 00-000
Stephanie	Cunningham		stephanie.cunningham@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 14:37	approved	99-999
Courtenay	Harrold Sheppard		courtenay.harrold@myfloridalegal.com	11/5/2025 15:50	approved	FEC 24-481
EUGENEQ	WORDEHOFF		eugene_wordehoff@yahoo.com	11/19/2025 15:25	approved	FEC 25-114
Jennifer	Blohm		jblohm@meyerblohmllaw.com	12/11/2025 13:39	approved	FEC 24-381; FEC 24-481
Richard	Coates		rcoates@rcoateslaw.com	12/3/2025 10:19	approved	FEC 24-059 and FEC 23-200
H			hhystope@gmail.com	12/4/2025 7:54	approved	FEC 24-353
Deidre	Ruth		deele613@gmail.com	12/4/2025 9:15	approved	FEC 24-136
Susan	Armstrong		scaff@bellsouth.net	12/4/2025 9:17	approved	FEC 24-391
Franklin	Diaz		Dollardepot3@gmail.com	12/4/2025 9:18	approved	24-168
Donna Ann	Malphurs		donna.malphurs@myfloridalegal.com	12/4/2025 9:22	approved	agency clerk
Edward	Tellechea		ed.tellechea@myfloridalegal.com	12/4/2025 9:25	approved	anc LKSNL kanc
Patrick	Kilbane		pkilbane@ulmannwealthpartners.com	12/4/2025 9:26	approved	Commissioner
Jose	Martinez		Jam@elitemco.com	12/4/2025 9:28	approved	FEC 24-168
Julius	Melendez		juliusmelendez@yahoo.com	12/4/2025 9:30	approved	24-168
Kymbertee	Smith		Kcs@kcsmithlaw.com	12/4/2025 9:30	approved	All
Joseph	Van de Bogart		vandebogartfec@gmail.com	12/4/2025 9:36	approved	All
Marav	Preston		marva.preston@fdj.gov	12/4/2025 9:46	approved	25-051
rick	joyce		rick@centralfloridamediators.com	12/4/2025 9:52	approved	fec.24 -353
Rolando	Gonzalez		rgonzalez0672@gmail.com	12/4/2025 11:03	approved	

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**Florida Elections Commission,
Petitioner,**

Case No.: FEC 24-353

v.

**Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez,
Respondent.**

ORDER OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THIS MATTER was heard by the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) at its regularly scheduled meeting held on December 4, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom teleconferencing. Respondent did not appear for the hearing after receiving proper notice.

On October 10, 2025, Staff recommended to the Commission that, although probable cause was present, it was not in the public interest to proceed further pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes.

The Commission rejects the mitigating circumstances presented as the basis for dismissal under Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes. Instead, the facts articulated in Staff’s Recommendation are adopted by reference and incorporated herein. Based on the Complaint, Report of Investigation, Staff’s Recommendation, and oral statements (if any) made at the probable cause hearing, the Commission finds that there is **probable cause** to charge Respondent with the following violations:

Count 1:

On or about October 7, 2024, Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and distributed political advertisements, in the form of signs, that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

FED-FL-ELECTIONS-COM
91 DEC 25 PM 2:29

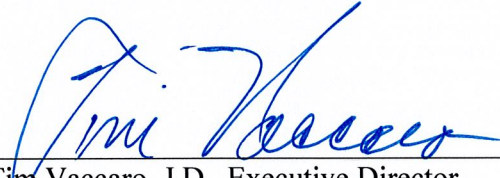
Count 2:

On or about October 7, 2024, Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and distributed political advertisements, in the form of stickers, that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

Count 3:

On or about October 7, 2024, Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez violated Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when he paid for and distributed political advertisements, in the form of mailers, that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Florida Elections Commission on December 4, 2025.


Tim Vaccaro, J.D., Executive Director
For Joseph S. Van de Bogart, Chairman
Florida Elections Commission

Copies furnished to:

Mattie T. Clay, Assistant General Counsel
Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez, Respondent
Hillary M. Hyslope, Complainant

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A HEARING

As the Respondent, you may elect to resolve this case in several ways. First, you may elect to resolve this case by consent order where you and Commission staff agree to resolve the violation(s) and agree to the amount of the fine. The consent order is then presented to the Commission for its approval. To discuss a consent order, contact the FEC attorney identified in the Order of Probable Cause.

Second, you may request an informal hearing held before the Commission, if you do not dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have thirty (30) days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to make written or oral arguments to the Commission concerning the legal issues related to the violation(s) and the potential fine. At the request of Respondent, the Commission

will consider and determine willfulness at an informal hearing. Otherwise, live witness testimony is unnecessary.

Third, you may request a formal hearing held before an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings (“DOAH”) if you dispute any material fact in the Staff Recommendation. You have thirty (30) days from the date the Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission to request such a hearing. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order. At the hearing, you will have the right to present evidence relevant to the violation(s) listed in this order, to cross-examine opposing witnesses, to impeach any witness, and to rebut the evidence presented against you.

If you do not elect to resolve the case by consent order or request a formal hearing at the DOAH or an informal hearing before the Commission within thirty (30) days of the date this Order of Probable Cause is filed with the Commission, the case will be sent to the Commission for a formal or informal hearing, depending on whether the facts are in dispute. The date this order was filed appears in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the order.

To request a hearing, please send a written request to the Commission Clerk, Donna Ann Malphurs. The address of the Commission Clerk is 107 West Gaines Street, Collins Building, Suite 224, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596. The telephone number is (850) 922-4539. The Clerk will provide you with a copy of Chapter 28-106, *Florida Administrative Code*, and other applicable rules upon request. No mediation is available.

FW: FEC 24-353 - NOH - 12/4/25

From Stephanie Cunningham <Stephanie.Cunningham@myfloridalegal.com>

Date Wed 12/3/2025 2:40 PM

To Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>

FYI

From: Rolando Gonzalez <rgonzalez0672@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:44 AM

To: Donna Malphurs <Donna.Malphurs@myfloridalegal.com>

Cc: Stephanie Cunningham <Stephanie.Cunningham@myfloridalegal.com>

Subject: Re: FEC 24-353 - NOH - 12/4/25

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Received, thank you.

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 9:25 AM Donna Malphurs <Donna.Malphurs@myfloridalegal.com> wrote:

Attached is the NOH for tomorrow's hearing. Please access the link and register using your name and FEC Case number. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

Donna Ann Malphurs
Agency Clerk/Public Information Officer

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez

Case No.: FEC 24-353

TO: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez
305 Via Del Aqua
Clewiston, FL 33440

Hillary M. Hyslope
104 Ridgewood Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

NOTICE OF HEARING (PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION (PCD))

A hearing will be held in this case before the Florida Elections Commission on, **December 4, 2025 at 9:30 am**, *or as soon thereafter as the parties can be heard*, via Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fHW_LL6KTWKI7DGyJmZ8OQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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See further instructions on the reverse side.

Tim Vaccaro

Executive Director
Florida Elections Commission
November 7, 2025

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**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

In Re: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez

Case No.: FEC 24-353

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes, undersigned staff counsel files this written recommendation for disposition of the sworn complaint in this case recommending that **it is not in the public interest** to proceed further regarding the alleged violation of **Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes**. Based upon a thorough review of the Report of Investigation submitted on February 18, 2025, the following facts and law support this staff recommendation:

1. On October 7, 2024, the Florida Elections Commission (“Commission”) received a sworn complaint from Hillary M. Hyslope (“Complainant”) alleging that Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez (“Respondent”) violated Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent qualified with the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections (“Filing Officer”) as a 2024 candidate for Clewiston City Commission. Respondent’s Statement of Candidate form (“DS-DE 84”) was filed on April 3, 2024. (ROI Exhibit 2, page 1)¹ Respondent was defeated in the general election held on November 5, 2024. (ROI, page 1, ¶1; Attachment A, pages 1-2) Respondent previously ran for office in 2020, in which he was elected, and in 2022, in which he was defeated. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 2; ROI Exhibit 4, page 2)

3. By letter dated November 7, 2024, the Executive Director notified Respondent that Commission staff would investigate the following statutory provision:

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2024 candidate for Clewiston City Commission, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer, as alleged in the complaint.

4. On April 3, 2024, Respondent filed his Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates form (“DS-DE 9”) appointing himself to serve as treasurer for the campaign. (ROI Exhibit 1, page 1)

5. Respondent acknowledged on the same date that he received a candidate packet from the Filing Officer. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 4; ROI Exhibit 4, page 4) The candidate packet included the following: Usage and Removal of Advertisement with Receipt, Memo – All Campaign Literature and Advertisements Disclaimers, Florida Statute Booklet Chapter 106, Handbook for Candidates & Treasurers (“*Handbook*”), County Ordinance—Sign Placement, and other relevant documents. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 1-4; ROI Exhibit 4, pages 1-4)

¹ The Report of Investigation is referred to herein as “ROI.”

6. The Filing Officer attested that, during the candidate packet review, staff discussed political disclaimer language with Respondent. Staff attested that two additional documents were discussed, which illustrated the wording for disclaimers. Staff also offered to review political materials before they were printed. (ROI Exhibit 3, page 3; ROI Exhibit 4, page 3)

Alleged Violation: Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes

7. Complainant alleged that Respondent violated Florida’s election laws by failing to include a proper disclaimer on three political advertisements, i.e., political stickers, signs, and mailers.

8. Complainant alleged that a fourth political advertisement, a second sign, lacked a political disclaimer altogether. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 2) Respondent took responsibility for the political advertisements but asserted that the second sign was not affiliated with his campaign; therefore, the allegation was deemed to be legally insufficient. Jurisdiction was not extended to the fourth sign.

9. Returning to the advertisements at issue, candidates are required to prominently mark their political advertisements with the exact political disclaimer language as set forth under Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, i.e., “Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)” or “Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought).”

10. The Florida Division of Elections’ Advisory Opinion, DE 06-12, illustrates the rationale behind verbatim usage of the statutory disclaimer language: “Under the rules of statutory construction, by providing the required language explicitly within quotation marks the Legislature has indicated its intention that those are to be the exact words which are to be used. Prior to the passage of Chapter Law 2004-252, effective July 1, 2004, section 106.143(1), Florida Statutes, specifically permitted candidates to abbreviate the words ‘paid political advertisement’ by using the abbreviation ‘pd. pol. ad.’ By the passage of the 2004 amendment to section 106.143(1), Florida Statutes, the Legislature intentionally removed the use of that abbreviation by candidates in their disclaimers. As a result, the exact wording contained in the statute must be used.” (Attachment B, pages 1-2)

11. Finally, the *Handbook* references the statutory requirement and provides examples of disclaimers for non-incumbent candidates. (ROI Exhibit 6, pages 2 & 5) The *Handbook* reiterates that “the disclaimer language alternatives . . . must be verbatim as quoted in Section 106.143, Florida Statutes. Variations are prohibited by law.” (ROI Exhibit 6, page 2) Respondent received a copy of the *Handbook* in his candidate packet. (ROI Exhibit 3, pages 1 & 4)

12. Respondent’s signs and stickers contained the phrase, “VOTE FOR ROLY GONZALEZ For City Commissioner” as well as a disclaimer stating, “Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gonzalez[.]” (ROI Exhibit 5, pages 1-5)

13. The mailer contained the phrase, “ROLY GONZALEZ CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMISION ’24 – Vote by November 5th” with a disclaimer stating, “Paid for by Roly Gonzalez[.]” (ROI Exhibit 5, page 6)

14. Respondent replied to the complaint and stated that he was in his third election cycle. Respondent stated that he consistently used the same printing service, as well as a professional political advertising company, to handle his campaign materials. Respondent asserted that his political advertisements were compliant and that non-compliant signs were not affiliated with his campaign. (ROI Exhibit 7, page 1)

15. Respondent agreed to be interviewed by a Commission investigator via telephone. Respondent confirmed that his campaign paid for the advertisements at issue. Respondent stated that he hired a company to print his signs, and the company put the disclaimer on the signs. Respondent acknowledged that the company sent him a draft of the advertisements, which he reviewed and approved of before publication. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 2)

16. When asked whether Respondent consulted the Filing Officer regarding the proper statutory language, Respondent stated that he last spoke to the Filing Officer in 2020 when he first ran for office. He asserted that he had not spoken with anyone else regarding the disclaimer language. Respondent explained that he has been using the same wording since that time, and no one ever commented on it. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 2) Respondent stated that his signs were clearly marked and that everyone knew he paid for them. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 3)

17. When asked about the steps he took to determine his responsibilities under the law, Respondent stated that he did not feel like he needed to do anything else because it was “small town politics, it’s not a major election.” Respondent acknowledged that the Filing Officer gave him “a packet of stuff” when he qualified, but he never opened the candidate packet. Respondent indicated that he did not consult the *Handbook* regarding the necessary wording for his advertisements. (ROI Exhibit 8, page 3)

18. The above discrepancies raise concern regarding Respondent’s credibility. On one hand, the Filing Officer attested that staff reviewed the candidate packet with Respondent in April 2024 and provided two examples of permissible disclaimer language. On the other hand, Respondent claimed that he did not review the candidate packet and had not spoken to the Filing Officer’s staff about political disclaimers since 2020. The Commission’s jurisdiction was not extended to the fourth sign due to Respondent’s representations, but Respondent’s inconsistencies now raise questions about his initial truthfulness with Commission staff.

19. Probable cause is clearly established. Respondent paid for and displayed political advertisements that did not include a proper disclaimer. Respondent was put on notice of the required disclaimer language and either willfully failed to include the language, willfully avoided avenues that would solidify his understanding of election law, or approached his campaign duties with reckless disregard.

20. The Commission has the authority to find probable cause, advance to a formal or informal hearing, make findings on willfulness, and set penalties regardless of what the undersigned recommends. However, at this time, the undersigned recommends dismissing this matter pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes. As difficult as it is to separate the violation itself from Respondent’s veracity, it is not in the public interest to proceed further.

21. First, transparency was not impacted. No information was withheld from the public, the public knew which office Respondent was campaigning for, and the public knew that Respondent paid for the advertisements. Respondent clearly violated the statute, but Respondent essentially added wording or shuffled the requisite wording of the statute.

22. Second, it would not be a judicious use of the state's resources to prosecute this matter further. This is Respondent's first appearance before the Commission, and the only matter at issue is a minor violation that did not impact public transparency. *See* Florida Administrative Code Rule 2B-1.003(2)(f). It would be a different story if the Commission had jurisdiction over an advertisement that omitted part, or all, of the components under Section 106.143, Fla. Stat. The present violation boils down to a technical violation.

23. Third, and finally, Respondent's campaigning habits did not advance his candidacy, and Respondent derived no benefit from shortcutting campaign protocols. If Respondent continues to avoid learning campaign parameters and duties, it is likely Respondent will appear before the Commission again, in which case Commission staff will pursue prosecution.

24. Respondent is hereby put on notice that he is required to seek out and understand his duties under Chapters 104 and 106. Respondent is also put on notice that all political advertisements must include the exact language displayed in Section 106.143, Fla. Stat., instead of his own rendition of the legislature's phrasing. Future sworn complaints concerning the same defective or deficient language will warrant prosecution.

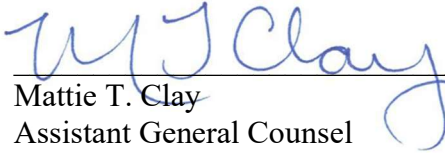
25. "Probable Cause" is defined as reasonable grounds of suspicion supported by circumstances sufficiently strong to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the person has committed the offense charged. *Schmitt v. State*, 590 So. 2d 404, 409 (Fla. 1991). Probable cause exists where the facts and circumstances, of which an [investigator] has reasonably trustworthy information, are sufficient in themselves for a reasonable man to reach the conclusion that an offense has been committed. *Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles v. Favino*, 667 So. 2d 305, 309 (Fla. 1st DCA 1995).

26. The facts set forth above show that Respondent was a 2024 candidate for Clewiston City Commission. Respondent paid for and displayed political advertisements that did not include a proper disclaimer; however, it does not appear that the public interest would be served by proceeding further. Transparency was not impacted, further prosecution would be an inefficient use of the state's resources, and Respondent's campaigning habits, if left unchanged, place Respondent in danger of Commission jurisdiction again.

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Based upon these facts and circumstances, I recommend that the Commission **dismiss the alleged violation of Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes**, pursuant to Section 106.25(4)(j), Florida Statutes, as the public interest would not be served by proceeding further.

Respectfully submitted on October 10, 2025.



Mattie T. Clay
Assistant General Counsel

I reviewed this Staff Recommendation this 10th day of October 2025.



Stephanie J. Cunningham
General Counsel

Roly Gonzalez (Clewiston City Commission, Florida, candidate 2024)

Florida 2024 elections



[U.S. Senate](#) · [U.S. House](#) · [State Senate](#) · [State House](#) · [Special state legislative](#) · [Supreme court](#) · [Appellate courts](#) · [State ballot measures](#) · [Local ballot measures](#) · [School boards](#) · [Municipal](#) · [Recalls](#) · [All other local](#) · [How to run for office](#)



Roly Gonzalez ran for election to the Clewiston City Commission in Florida. Gonzalez was on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024. [\[source\]](#) ^[1]

Biography

Ballotpedia did not receive biographical information for this candidate.

Elections

General election

General election for Clewiston City Commission (3 seats)

[Mali Soto Gardner](#), [Roly Gonzalez](#), [James L. Pittman](#), [Greg Thompson](#), and [Jason Williams II](#) ran in the general election for Clewiston City Commission on November 5, 2024.

Roly Gonzalez



Do you have a photo that could go here? [Click here](#) to submit it for this profile!

Nonpartisan

Candidate, Clewiston City Commission

Elections and appointments

Last election

November 5, 2024

Submit contact information

[Send Ballotpedia contact information for this person](#)

Candidate



[Mali Soto Gardner](#) (Nonpartisan)



[Roly Gonzalez](#) (Nonpartisan)



[James L. Pittman](#) (Nonpartisan)



[Greg Thompson](#) (Nonpartisan)



[Jason Williams II](#) (Nonpartisan)

BP Incumbency information for this election was not available.

C = candidate completed the [Ballotpedia Candidate Connection](#) survey.

If you are a candidate and would like to tell readers and voters more about why they should vote for you, [complete the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection Survey](#).

Election results

Candidates	Party	Votes	Pct.
James Pittman ✓	NPA	1,396	27.4%
Jason Williamsli ✓	NPA	1,160	22.7%
Mali Gardner ✓	NPA	1,138	22.3%
Greg Thompson	NPA	757	14.8%
Roly Gonzalez	NPA	650	12.7%
Total		5,101	

Endorsements

Ballotpedia did not identify endorsements for Gonzalez in this election.

[Campaign themes](#)

Ballotpedia survey responses

See also: [Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection](#)

September 8, 2006

Ms. Chance Irvine, Chair
Florida Elections Commission
107 W. Gaines Street
The Collins Building, Suite 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

RE: DE 06-12
Candidate Political Advertisement Disclaimer;
§106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes

Dear Ms. Irvine:

This is in response to your request for a formal opinion. You are Chair of the Florida Elections Commission ("Commission") and pursuant to section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, the Division of Elections has the authority to issue an opinion to you.

You ask essentially the following questions:

Must a candidate's political disclaimer use the exact words contained within the quotation marks included in section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes?

Does the term "office" as it is used in section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, require the inclusion of a group or district number?

The short answer to Question 1 is qualified yes. The short answer to Question 2 is no.

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, provides as follows:

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate and that is published, displayed, or circulated prior to, or on the day of, any election must prominently state: "Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)."

Under the rules of statutory construction, by providing the required language explicitly within quotation marks the Legislature has indicated its intention that those are to be the exact words which are to be

used. Prior to the passage of Chapter Law 2004-252, effective July 1, 2004, section 106.143(1), Florida Statutes, specifically permitted candidates to abbreviate the words “paid political advertisement” by using the abbreviation “pd. pol. ad.” By the passage of the 2004 amendment to section 106.143(1), Florida Statutes, the Legislature intentionally removed the use of that abbreviation by candidates in their disclaimers. As a result, the exact wording contained in the statute must be used.

The exception in this case would be when a candidate is running for a nonpartisan office. In that situation, no reference to party affiliation would be included in the disclaimer. By definition, a nonpartisan office means, “an office for which a candidate is prohibited from campaigning or qualifying for election or retention in office based upon party affiliation.”¹ Consequently, interpreting the Florida Election Code in its totality, one can only conclude that the Legislature did not intend that candidates for a nonpartisan office include their party affiliation in a political advertisement disclaimer.

As to Question 2, the Florida Election Code does not contain a definition of the word “office.” As a result, the rules of statutory construction would dictate that we apply the dictionary definition to the word in question. The word “office” is defined in Black’s Law Dictionary, 8th Edition (2004), as, “a position of duty trust, or authority, especially one conferred by a governmental authority for a public purpose.”

We must also consider the word in question in the context in which it is used. Clearly here the Legislature is referring to the elected office which is being sought. The Legislature has defined the term “public office” for purposes of Chapter 106 as, “any federal, state, county, municipal, school or other district office or position which is filled by a vote of the electors.”² In this context, the Legislature only included the word “office” when, had it chosen to do so, it could have required additional specificity such as a district or group number. In contrast, the Legislature has required the inclusion of a district or group number in the context of the candidate oath.³ Therefore, we must conclude that the Legislature only intended to require, at a minimum, that the name or title of the actual office being sought be listed in the disclaimer. Examples would be offices such as “State Representative,” “Circuit Judge” or “County Commissioner.” There is no specific requirement that a district or group number be included.

However, if a candidate were to include a district or group number designation in conjunction with the stated office name, that would be considered acceptable as well. Further, it also does not appear that the Legislature intended to restrict the usage of an office descriptor term such as “Leon County Commissioner.” Such information merely provides additional clarification as to the particular office sought.

¹ Section 97.021(20), Florida Statutes.

² Section 106.011(10), Florida Statutes.

³ Section 99.061(7)(a)2., Florida Statutes, provides that the candidate oath, a document which must be filed in order to qualify to run for office, must contain the “name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot; the office sought, including the district or group number if applicable....”

SUMMARY

Candidate political disclaimers must utilize the exact words contained in section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, except that candidates for nonpartisan offices would not include their party affiliation. As to the “office sought” requirement of the statute, at a minimum, only the name or title of the actual office being sought must be listed in the disclaimer. Examples would be offices such as “State Representative,” “Circuit Judge” or “County Commissioner.” There is no specific requirement that a district or seat number be included. However, if a candidate were to include a district or group number designation in conjunction with the stated office name or a descriptive term such as “Leon County Commissioner,” that would be considered acceptable as well.

Sincerely,

Dawn K. Roberts
Director, Division of Elections

Prepared by:
Sharon D. Larson
Assistant General Counsel

DKR/SDL/lmg

FEC 24-353: Incoming Mail & Overview

From Mattie Clay <Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com>

Date Thu 3/20/2025 12:50 PM

To rgonzalez0672@gmail.com <rgonzalez0672@gmail.com>

 3 attachments (19 MB)

24-353_ROI & Exhibits_2-18-25_Redacted.pdf; 05. 24-353_LS Ltr MVCO_11-07-24.pdf; 11. 24-353_L to R w ROI_03-10-25.pdf;

Good afternoon, Mr. Gonzalez,

I hope you have been doing well since the last time we corresponded. My investigator, Margie Wade, recently concluded her investigation, and this matter is back in my custody for hearing preparation. My purpose in reaching out is to provide an overview of where we are and what to expect moving forward.

Ms. Wade produced a Report of Investigation (ROI) outlining her findings, which was mailed to the following address: 305 Via Del Aqua, Clewiston, FL 33440. Courtesy copies of the LS Letter and ROI are attached. Please let me know if you need a copy of the original complaint.

Currently, you have the right to issue a written response to her ROI by Monday, March 24, 2025. Though the response is not mandatory, I encourage you to consider it if it differs, clarifies, or expands upon the information previously provided to Ms. Wade. Please send any responses to **FEC@myfloridalegal.com**.

There will be two administrative hearings. Please let our agency know if you plan to hire an attorney or will continue pro se. My Staff Recommendation (SR) will be filed in preparation for the first hearing, the Probable Cause Hearing. You will again be offered 2 weeks to issue a response to my SR. A Notice of Hearing will arrive at your address approximately 2 weeks before the hearing.

The statute requires that our staff attorneys attempt settlement after probable cause but before the final hearing. We can consider settlement at any time, but settlement before probable cause needs to be requested by the respondent via a written statement or email.

Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions during the interim.

Thank you,

Mattie T. Clay

Assistant General Counsel
Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street
The Collins Building, Suite 224
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596
Main: (850) 922-4539
Facsimile: (850) 921-0783
mattie.clay@myfloridalegal.com

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Case No.: FEC 24-353

Respondent: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez
Counsel for Respondent: None

Complainant: Hillary M. Hyslope
Counsel for Complainant: None

On October 7, 2024, the Florida Elections Commission (Commission) received a sworn complaint alleging that Respondent violated Chapters 104 or 106, Florida Statutes. Commission staff investigated whether Respondent violated the following statute(s):

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

I. Preliminary Information:

1. Respondent was a 2024 candidate for Clewiston City Commission; he was defeated in the general election held on November 5, 2024. Respondent was not a first-time candidate.

2. An Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository (DS-DE 9) was filed with the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) on April 3, 2024. Respondent was appointed as campaign treasurer. To review the DS-DE 9, refer to Exhibit 1.

3. Respondent filed a Statement of Candidate with the SOE on April 3, 2024, in which Respondent certified he had been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, F.S. To review the Statement of Candidate, refer to Exhibit 2.

4. In affidavits, the SOE and Chief Deputy SOE affirmed Respondent was provided with a CD containing election-related materials such as Chapter 106, F.S., and the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook* on April 3, 2024. They explained that all disclaimers were discussed during the candidate packet review and that Respondent was provided with documents that laid out the wording for disclaimers. To review the affidavits, refer to Exhibits 3 and 4.

II. Alleged Violation of Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes:

5. I investigated whether Respondent violated this section of the election laws by paying for and distributing political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer.

6. Specifically, Complainant alleged Respondent failed to include proper disclaimers on various political advertisements, including signs, stickers, and a mailer. Complainant provided photos of the advertisements. To review photos of the advertisements at issue, refer to Exhibit 5.

7. The signs and stickers at issue all contain the phrase, “VOTE FOR ROLY GONZALEZ For City Commissioner.” The mailer contains the phrase “ROLY GONZALEZ CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMISION ’24 – Vote by November 5th.” The disclaimer on the signs and stickers all state, “Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gonzalez.” The disclaimer on the mailer states, “Paid for by Roly Gonzalez.” To review photos of the advertisements at issue, refer to Exhibit 5.

8. According to the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election, must prominently state either, “*Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)*” or “*Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)*.” The *Handbook* further states in bold font, “Also, the disclaimer language alternatives provided above must be verbatim as quoted in Section 106.143, Florida Statutes. Variations are prohibited by law.” The *Handbook* provides visual examples of advertisements with correct verbiage and disclaimers. To review the pertinent pages of the *Handbook*, refer to Exhibit 6.

9. In response to the complaint, Respondent stated, “This is my third election cycle, and I have consistently used the same printing service, as well as a professional political advertising company, to handle my campaign materials...All my paid-for signs are fully compliant, clearly marked with ‘Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gonzalez’ in large, visible text.” Respondent provided two photos of other signs advocating for his election that were void of a disclaimer. He asserted that his campaign was not responsible for signs like those ones.¹ To review Respondent’s response, refer to Exhibit 7.

10. I called Respondent for the purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the allegations made in the complaint. Respondent confirmed that his campaign paid for the signs shown in the complaint that contained the disclaimer “Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gonzalez.” He reiterated that the signs that did not have a disclaimer were not his signs. Respondent stated that he hired a company to print the signs, and the company put the disclaimer on the signs. However, Respondent confirmed that the company sent him a draft, and that he reviewed and approved the disclaimer wording on the signs before they were published. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 8.

11. When asked if he consulted anyone like the SOE regarding proper wording of disclaimers, Respondent stated he spoke about disclaimers with the SOE in 2020 but had not spoken to anyone else. Respondent stated he has been using the same disclaimer wording since 2020, and no one ever complained about it. Respondent asserted that his signs were clearly marked and that everyone knew he paid for them. He indicated that he did not consult the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook* about the proper wording of disclaimers and that he did not know what was in the candidate packet because he did not open it. To review the phone log, refer to Exhibit 8.

¹ Complainant provided a few other photos of signs similar to those shown in Respondent’s photos, but they are not at issue in this report, which only concerns the signs, stickers, and mailer containing incorrectly worded disclaimers indicating that Respondent paid for them. Refer to Exhibit 5.

Respectfully submitted on February 18, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margie Wade". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Margie Wade
Investigation Specialist

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez -- FEC 24-353

LIST OF EXHIBITS	
Exhibits #s	Description of Exhibits
Exhibit 1	DS DE 9
Exhibit 2	Statement of Candidate
Exhibit 3	Affidavit of SOE
Exhibit 4	Affidavit of SOE Staff
Exhibit 5	Photos of Advertisements
Exhibit 6	Relevant Pages of Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook
Exhibit 7	Respondent's Response
Exhibit 8	Phone Log

**APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER
AND DESIGNATION OF CAMPAIGN
DEPOSITORY FOR CANDIDATES**

(Section 106.021(1), F.S.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

01 1702

2024 APR -3 AM 10: 52

NOTE: This form must be on file with the filing officer before opening the campaign account.

SHERRY TAYLOR
SUPERVISOR
OFFICE USE ONLY
HENRY CITY, FL

1. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

Initial Filing of Form Re-filing to Change: Treasurer/Deputy Depository Office Party

2. Name of Candidate (in this order: First, Middle, Last):
(Please Print or Type Name)

Rolando Gonzalez

3. Address (include PO Box or Street, City, State, Zip Code):

305 VIA DEL AGUA.
CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440

4. Telephone:

(863)234.8043

5. Candidate's Voter Registration #:

109574068
(not required for qualifying purposes)

6. Email Address:

RGonzalez0672@gmail.com

7. Office Sought (include district, circuit, group, or seat #):

City of Clewiston Commission

8. If a candidate for a nonpartisan office, check the box if applicable:

I intend to run as a Write-In Candidate.

9. If a candidate for partisan office, check the box and fill in the name of the party as applicable: I intend to run as a

Write-In Candidate. No Party Affiliation Candidate. _____ Party candidate.

10. I have appointed the following person to act as my:

Campaign Treasurer Deputy Treasurer

11. Name of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer:

Rolando Gonzalez.

12. Telephone:

(863)234-8043

13. Email Address:

RGONZALEZ0672@GMAIL.

14. Mailing Address:

305 VIA DEL AGUA

15. City:

Clewiston

16. State:

FLORIDA

17. Zip Code:

33440

18. I have designated the following bank as my (check appropriate box): Primary Depository Secondary Depository

19. Name of Bank:

FIRST BANK

20. Address:

SR80

21. City:

Lakeland

22. County:

HENRY

23. State:

FL

24. Zip Code:

33935

UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN TREASURER AND DESIGNATION OF THE CAMPAIGN DEPOSITORY AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.

25. Date:

4/3/24

26. Signature of Candidate:



27. Treasurer's Acceptance of Appointment (fill in the blanks and check the appropriate box)

I, Rolando Gonzalez.

(Please Print or Type Name)

do hereby accept the appointment designated above as:

Campaign Treasurer.

Deputy Treasurer.

28. Date:

4/3/24

29. Signature of Campaign Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer



**STATEMENT OF
CANDIDATE** 011696

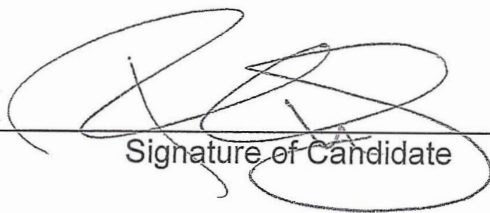
(Section 106.023, F.S.)
(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY

2024 APR -3 AM 10:42

SHERRY TAYLOR
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HENRY CTY., FL

I, Roberto Gonzalez,
candidate for the office of City of Clewiston Commissioner;
have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

X 
Signature of Candidate

4/3/24
Date

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).

AFFIDAVIT OF FILING OFFICER
Case Number: FEC 24-353

STATE OF FLORIDA
County of Hendry

Sherry Taylor, being duly sworn, says:

1. This affidavit is made upon my personal knowledge.
2. I am of legal age and competent to testify to the matters stated herein. I am currently employed by Hendry County as Supervisor of Elections.
3. Please provide copies of the listed items from the following candidate's campaign file:
Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez.

Check	ITEM
x	The Statement of Candidate form for the 2024 campaign.
x	Appointments of Treasurers and Designation of Campaign Depository form (Form DS-DE 9) for the 2024 campaign.
x	The candidate's and campaign treasurers' acknowledgment whereby candidates and treasurers declare, under penalties of perjury, electronically filing a CTR is same as signing the report under oath, and to have certified the correctness of the report in accordance with sections 106.07(5) or 106.29(2), Florida Statutes, as applicable; such as an Application and Acknowledgement of Electronic Filing Information form (if applicable).
x	Form(s) for all campaigns whereby candidate acknowledges receipt of instructions and/or campaign materials.

4. Please check each item provided to the candidate and list the date that the candidate was provided the item.

Check	ITEM	DATE
CD	<i>A Compilation of The Election Laws of the State of Florida</i>	4/3/24
CD	Chapter 104, <i>Florida Statutes</i>	4/3/24
CD	Chapter 106, <i>Florida Statutes</i>	4/3/24
CD	<i>Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook</i> . Please provide revision date of publication. <u>Rev. 7/23</u>	4/3/24

Aff of FO Candidate (03/20)

	Other: ¹	
--	---------------------	--

5. Relative to Chapter 106, *Florida Statutes*, and the *Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, please indicate how these publications are provided to the candidate.

- ✓ A candidate packet, or similar material, is given to the candidate. The candidate packet includes links to the Division of Elections' website, or our website, where these documents are available for review.
- ✓ Publications are provided on a CD or thumb/flash drive that is given to the candidate.
- Other, please explain. _____

6. Did your office² offer any candidate workshops, campaign skills or training seminars prior to the 2024 election? Yes or No. If yes, please list all workshops/training seminars that were attended by the candidate, along with the date of attendance. If a staff member attended for the candidate, list his/her name and position. If available, please attach a copy of any attendance sheets from the workshops/training seminars and if available, please provide a copy of the syllabus and outline or PowerPoint presentation for the workshops/seminars.

We do not conduct workshops or seminars. When an individual comes in inquiring about becoming a candidate, all information is reviewed and discussed at that time.

7. Does your office have any record of Mr. Gonzalez having sought elective office within your jurisdiction prior to the 2024 election? Yes or No. If yes, please list the previous office(s) he/she ran for, the date(s) of the election(s), and the result(s) of the election(s). If the candidate withdrew her/his candidacy for election, please indicate if the withdrawal was before or after qualifying.

In 2020, Mr. Gonzalez was elected to the Central County Water Control District Board, Seat 4, which was held on November 3, 2020.

In 2022, Mr. Gonzalez was defeated in the City of Clewiston Commissioner Race which was held on November 8, 2022.

¹ Any local publications relative to the Election laws that may have been provided by your office in lieu of the *Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook* published by the Division of Elections. If your office published the item(s), please send a copy of the item(s) with the affidavit.

² If your County elections or ethics office offered candidate workshops/campaign skills or training seminars, please identify the office providing the workshops/seminars and provide copies of any notices that were sent to candidates within your jurisdiction.

8. Does your office have any record of Mr. Gonzalez having been named as chairperson or campaign treasurer of a political committee (PC or PAC) or electioneering communications organization (ECO) within your jurisdiction? Yes or No. If yes, please list the name(s) of the committees.

9. Did you or any member of your staff have any conversations with Mr. Gonzalez concerning a provision of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, relative to the proper wording for political disclaimers, at any time during the 2024 campaign? Yes or No. If yes, please indicate whether the conversation was in person, in writing, or by telephone and the subject matter of the conversation. If applicable, please provide copies of records documenting the discussion.

During the packet review, all disclaimers are discussed. We also have 2 additional documents that discuss and lay out the wording for the disclaimers. We also offer to review any material before they print.

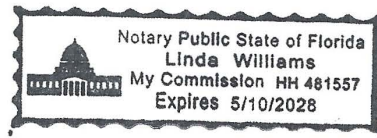
I SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Sherry Taylor
Signature of Affiant

Sherry Taylor
Print or type name of Affiant on line above.

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 30 day of January, 2025.

Linda Williams
Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public



Personally Known or Produced Identification _____
Type of Identification Produced: _____

Case investigator: MBW

Aff of FO Candidate (03/20)

2024
Candidate Packet Checklist

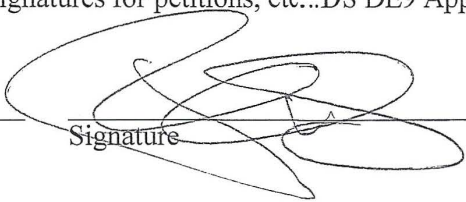
- 1. Qualifying Method Requirements
- 2. Sunshine Law and Code of Ethics (CD)
- 3. Calendar of Reporting Dates Campaign Reports
- 4. Important Dates for Candidates
- 5. **Statement of Candidate (5/11)**
- 6. **Appointment of Campaign Depository and Treasurer (DS-DE9) - 2 copies (10/10)**
- 7. Sample Petition (9/11)
- 8. Campaign Treasurers Report Summary (CD)
- 9. How to File Financial Reports Online (CD)
- 10. Waiver Report (CD)
- 11. **Notice of Testing of the Tabulator**
- 12. **Usage and Removal of Advertisement with Receipt**
- 13. Memo – All Campaign Literature and Advertisements Disclaimers
- 14. Brochure from D.O.T.
- 15. Candidate Oath (5/21)
 - State & Local Partisan Office
 - School Board Non Partisan
 - Non-Partisan Office
- 16. Voter List Request Form
- 17. Item Price List
- 18. Polling Place List
- 19. Form 1 for Non Constitutional Offices **OR**
Form 6 for Constitutional Offices - Letter and Instructions for **Online** filing.
- 20. Florida Statute Booklet Chapter 106 - *available on-line, cd or paper upon request (CD)*
- 21. Handbook for Candidates & Treasurers (CD)
- 22. Sheriff Star
- 23. Campaign Fundraisers, Anonymous Contributions & In Kind Contributions
- 24. Memorandum RESIGN TO RUN
- 25. Notice from the City of Clewiston
- 26. Candidate Vote By Mail Ballot Request Form
- 27. **Office Campaign Treasurer Report Policy, Candidate/Committee Electronic Campaign Set Up Sheet, & Treasurer Electronic Campaign Set Up Sheet**
- 28. County Ordinance—Sign Placement
- 29. Calculation of Fine for Late Financial Campaign Reports
- 30. Residency Guidelines
- 31. Hatch Act
- 32. Financial Reminders
- 33. DS DE 125 Designation of Poll Watchers
- 34. Affidavit of Nickname

2024 APR -3 AM 10:47
SHERRY TAYLOR
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HENRY COUNTY, FL

011699

Acknowledgement: You MUST file a DS-DE9 with our office, BEFORE you open a bank account, collect any contributions, make any expenditures, gather signatures for petitions, etc...DS DE9 Appointment of Treasurer Requirements understood.

JOHANN GONZALEZ
Print Name


Signature

4/3/24
Date signed

*** File with Supervisor of Elections office before any Campaigning
2024 Candidate Packet Checklist 12/18/2023

AFFIDAVIT OF FILING OFFICER
Case Number: FEC 24-353

STATE OF FLORIDA
County of Hendry

Rachel Williams, being duly sworn, says:

1. This affidavit is made upon my personal knowledge.
2. I am of legal age and competent to testify to the matters stated herein. I am currently employed by Hendry County as Supervisor of Elections.
3. Please provide copies of the listed items from the following candidate's campaign file: **Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez.**

Check	ITEM
x	The Statement of Candidate form for the 2024 campaign.
x	Appointments of Treasurers and Designation of Campaign Depository form (Form DS-DE 9) for the 2024 campaign.
x	The candidate's and campaign treasurers' acknowledgment whereby candidates and treasurers declare, under penalties of perjury, electronically filing a CTR is same as signing the report under oath, and to have certified the correctness of the report in accordance with sections 106.07(5) or 106.29(2), Florida Statutes, as applicable; such as an Application and Acknowledgement of Electronic Filing Information form (if applicable).
x	Form(s) for all campaigns whereby candidate acknowledges receipt of instructions and/or campaign materials.

4. Please check each item provided to the candidate and list the date that the candidate was provided the item.

Check	ITEM	DATE
CD	<i>A Compilation of The Election Laws of the State of Florida</i>	4/3/24
CD	Chapter 104, <i>Florida Statutes</i>	4/3/24
CD	Chapter 106, <i>Florida Statutes</i>	4/3/24
CD	<i>Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook.</i> Please provide revision date of publication. <u>Rev. 7/23</u>	4/3/24

Aff of FO Candidate (03/20)

	Other: ¹	
--	---------------------	--

5. Relative to Chapter 106, *Florida Statutes*, and the *Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook*, please indicate how these publications are provided to the candidate.

- A candidate packet, or similar material, is given to the candidate. The candidate packet includes links to the Division of Elections' website, or our website, where these documents are available for review.
- Publications are provided on a CD or thumb/flash drive that is given to the candidate.
- Other, please explain. _____

6. Did your office² offer any candidate workshops, campaign skills or training seminars prior to the 2024 election? Yes or No. If yes, please list all workshops/training seminars that were attended by the candidate, along with the date of attendance. If a staff member attended for the candidate, list his/her name and position. If available, please attach a copy of any attendance sheets from the workshops/training seminars and if available, please provide a copy of the syllabus and outline or PowerPoint presentation for the workshops/seminars.

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In 2020, Mr. Gonzalez was elected to the Central County Water Control District Board, Seat 4, which was held on November 3, 2020.

In 2022, Mr. Gonzalez was defeated in the City of Clewiston Commissioner Race which was held on November 8, 2022.

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During the packet review, all disclaimers are discussed. We also have 2 additional documents that discuss and lay out the wording for the disclaimers. We also offer to review any material before they print.

I SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

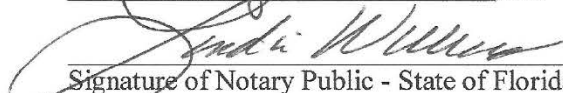


Signature of Affiant

Rachel Williams

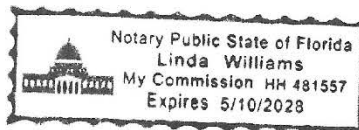
Print or type name of Affiant on line above.

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 30 day of January, 2025.



Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public



Personally Known or Produced Identification _____

Type of Identification Produced: _____

Case investigator: MBW

Aff of FO Candidate (03/20)



SHERRY TAYLOR
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Hendry County
Post Office Box 174
LaBelle, FL 33975

LaBelle Office
(863) 675-5230
Clewiston Office
(863) 983-1592

2024 APR -3 AM 10:52

HENDRY COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE CAMPAIGN
TREASURER REPORT POLICY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HENDRY CTY., FL

Gonzalez Rody
Print Name Last First M.I.

OFFICE SOUGHT: City of Clewiston Commissioner

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC FILING

The SOE Office is requiring the electronic filing of campaign treasurer reports at no cost to candidates in order to make campaign contributions and expenditures readily available to the public. Campaign Finance Reports, for all local races, will be displayed on The SOE web page and will be loaded on a computer in the SOE Office so the reports can be viewed and printed.

The SOE office will assign each candidate a user I.D. Number and (2) pin numbers.

Candidates will also be required to designate a password for the initial electronic candidate reporting set-up.

POLICY ON LATE REPORTS

If a report is not received by the deadline, the SOE Office will mail a certified letter to the candidate stating that the report has not been received and the candidate is subject to a fine, as stipulated in Section 106.07(8)(b), F.S., for each day late. If the SOE Office does not receive a response to the letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Florida Elections Commission and could be determined to be a willful violation. If applicable, the fine must be paid within twenty (20) days after the receipt of the notice of payment due. The Florida Elections Commission will be notified if fines have not been remitted in a timely manner and may pursue the fine.

POLICY ON JUSTIFYING LATE REPORTS

Reports must be filed timely. There are no justifiable reasons for filing late reports unless otherwise determined by the Florida Elections Commission. Power outages, malfunction of SOE computer and/or computer program failure are the only valid reasons for not being able to file a report on time.

POLICY ON AMENDING REPORTS

When a report is determined to require amending, the SOE Office will initially contact the candidate by telephone and request that the report be amended within three (3) days. If no response is received, a formal letter will be sent requesting an amended report be completed and filed with our office within three (3) days of receipt of notification. If the amended report is not received within this time frame, the matter will be referred to the Florida Elections Commission and could be determined to be a willful violation.

POLICY ON REVIEW OF ELECTRONIC REPORTS / POLICY ON AMENDING REPORTS

The SOE Office checks the following: Summary page for accuracy, complete names and addresses for each contribution and expenditure, occupation of contributor when required, purpose of expenditure listed, and contributions that exceed the lawful amount. This review does not relieve the candidate of the responsibility for the correctness and accuracy of the reports. I have read and understand the policy above.

I have received the required information to begin the qualifying process and acknowledge the requirement to use the free SOE software to file campaign finance reports.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 4/3/24

Completed by SOE Office Q.C. I.D. _____ & _____









VOTE FOR

**ROLY
GONZALEZ**

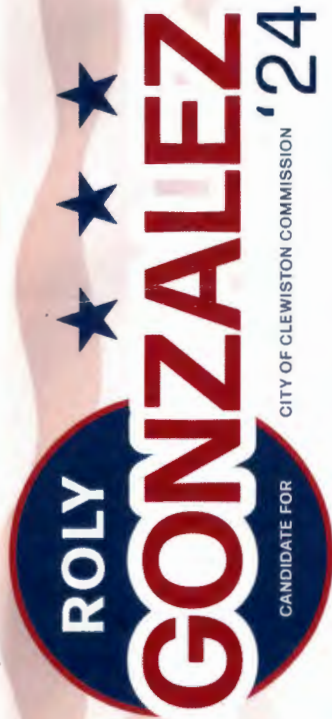
For City Commissioner

Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez

**With a clear vision
for our children's future.**

A CLEAR CHOICE WITH A CLEAR VISION

Together, we can ensure that Clewiston not only thrives but also moves forward with progress that benefits everyone. In the upcoming election, I humbly ask for your vote to be your voice at the table.



Clewiston City Commission
Comisionado de la Ciudad de Clewiston

M. "Mali" Soto-Gardner

 Roly Gonzalez

James L. Pittman

Greg Thompson

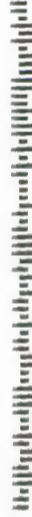
Jason Williams II

Vote by November 5th

Paid for by Roly Gonzalez

STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ft. Myers, FL
Permit #41

Kyler Hyslope
104 Ridgewood Ave
Clewiston, FL 33440-5114



Meet Roly Gonzalez

I've spent the last four years in Clewiston, and during that time, I've come to deeply appreciate the close-knit community and unique character that makes this city special. I know many of us cherish the way of life we've built here, and while I respect our traditions, I also believe that progress is inevitable and when we embrace it together, it benefits us all. My experience in a larger city has given me valuable insights and skills that I can bring to help address some of the challenges Clewiston faces, including economic development and improving public services. At the same time, I'm committed to preserving the small-town charm we all love. I will work tirelessly to keep taxes and utility costs low while ensuring that services are efficient and meet the needs of our community. Clewiston deserves more opportunities for arts, entertainment, and support for our small businesses.

Roly Gonzalez



ROLY ★ ★ ★
GONZALEZ
CANDIDATE FOR
CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMISSION
'24

Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook (2024 ELECTION CYCLE)



Florida Department of State
Division of Elections
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
850.245.6280

(Rev. 9/2024)

Chapter 12: Political Advertising

A political advertisement is a paid expression in a communications medium prescribed in Section [106.011\(4\)](#), Florida Statutes, whether radio, television, newspaper, magazine, periodical, campaign literature, direct mail, or display or by means other than the spoken word in direct conversation, which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue.

(Section [106.011\(15\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Candidate Disclaimers

Except as noted in the next section, any political advertisement that is paid for by a **candidate (except a write-in candidate)** and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election **must prominently state**: *“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)” or “Paid by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought).”*

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a **write-in candidate** and that is published, displayed, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election **must prominently state**: *“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought)” or “Paid by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought).”*

(Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Also, the disclaimer language alternatives provided above must be verbatim as quoted in Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes. Variations are prohibited by law.

Any political advertisement of a candidate running for **partisan office** shall express the name of the political party of which the candidate is seeking nomination or is the nominee.

If the **candidate for partisan office is running as a candidate with no party affiliation**, any advertisement of the candidate must state that the candidate has no party affiliation.

(Sections [106.143\(3\)](#) and [\(5\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

(see also *Hetherington v. Madden*, 640 F.Supp.3d 1265 (Fla. N.D. 2022))

Note: A candidate running for an office that has a district, group, or seat number does not have to indicate the district, group, or seat number in the political advertisement or disclaimer.

Exceptions to Disclaimer Requirements

The disclaimer requirements in Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any

campaign message or political advertisement used by a candidate and the candidate's supporters or by a political committee if the message or advertisement is:

- Designed to be worn by a person.
- Placed as a paid link on a website provided the message or advertisement is no more than 200 characters in length and the link directs the user to another website that complies with the disclaimer requirements in Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Placed as a graphic or picture link where compliance with the requirements of Section [106.143](#), Florida Statutes, is not reasonably practical due to the size of the graphic or picture link and the link directs the user to another website that complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Placed at no cost on a website for which there is no cost to post content for public users.
- Placed or distributed on an unpaid profile or account which is available to the public without charge or on a social networking website, as long as the source of the message or advertisement is patently clear from the content or format of the message or advertisement. A candidate or political committee may prominently display a statement indicating that the website or account is an official website or account of the candidate or political committee and is approved by the candidate or political committee. A website or account may not be marked as official without prior approval by the candidate or political committee.
- Connected with or included in any software application or accompanying function, provided that the user signs up, opts in, downloads, or otherwise accesses the application from or through a website that complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Sent by a third-party user from or through a campaign or committee's website, provided the website complies with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes.
- Contained in or distributed through any other technology-related item, service, or device for which compliance with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes, is not reasonably practical due to the size or nature of such item, service, or device as available, or the means of displaying the message or advertisement makes compliance with Section [106.143\(1\)](#), Florida Statutes, impracticable.

(Section [106.143\(10\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Disclaimer requirements do not apply to individuals seeking a publicly elected position on a political party executive committee.

Examples of Advertisements with Disclaimers

Note: The word “*elect*” or “*re-elect*” is not required to be used in political advertisements. The word “*re-elect*” may not be used if the candidate is not the incumbent for the office

sought.

1. Non-incumbent, partisan candidate running for partisan office:

**ELECT
JANE DOE
For State Representative
District 9**

Paid by Jane Doe, Rep., for State
Representative

OR

**ELECT
JANE DOE
For State Representative
District 9**

Political advertisement paid for and approved
by Jane Doe, Republican, for State
Representative

2. Incumbent, partisan candidate running for partisan office:

**RE-ELECT
JOHN DOE
Sheriff**

Political advertisement paid for
and approved by John Doe,
Democrat, for Sheriff

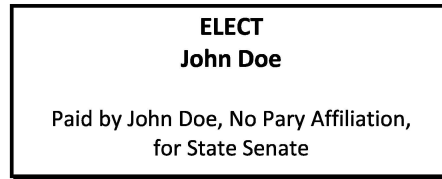
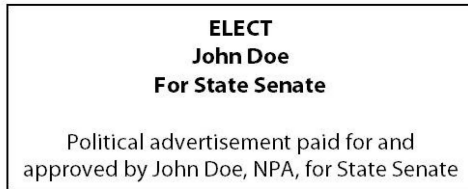
OR

**RE-ELECT
John Doe
Sheriff**

Paid by John Doe, Democrat,
for Sheriff

Candidate & Campaign Treasurer Handbook

3. Non-incumbent, no party affiliation candidate running for partisan office:



OR

4. Non-incumbent candidate running for nonpartisan office:



OR

5. Incumbent candidate running for nonpartisan office:

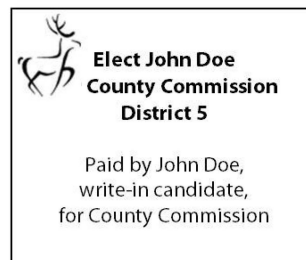


OR

Disclaimer for Write-in Candidates

Any political advertisement that is paid for by a write-in candidate and that is published, or circulated before, or on the day of, any election **must prominently state:** *“Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought)”* **OR** *“Paid by (name of candidate), write-in candidate, for (office sought).”*

Example:



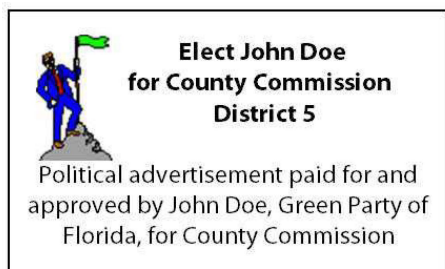
OR

Non-incumbent Advertisements

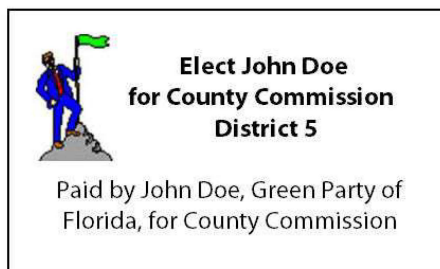
Required:

The word “**for**” must be used in the body of such advertisement between the name of the candidate and the office sought. This does not apply to bumper stickers, or if the advertisement satisfies one of the exceptions in Section [106.143\(10\)](#), Florida Statutes.

Example:



OR



Advertisement Provided In-kind

Required:

Political advertisements made as in-kind contributions from a political party **must prominently state:** “Paid political advertisement paid for by in-kind by (name of political party). Approved by (name of person, party affiliation, and office sought in the political advertisement).”

(Section [106.143\(2\)](#), Fla. Stat.)

Example:





Case No: FEC 24-353Roly Gonzalez to: fec@myfloridalegal.com 10/29/2024 07:17 AM

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Re: Case No. FEC 24-353

Good day, I am writing in response to a certified letter delivered to my home, which was initially received by my elderly mother-in-law. The letter was only recently found by my wife while cleaning her mother's room. This complaint appears to come from an elected official who, while not currently running, sits on a board with individuals opposing me in this election. This is my third election cycle, and I have consistently used the same printing service, as well as a professional political advertising company, to handle my campaign materials. I believe it is unethical for this individual to misuse their position to create misleading narratives. All my paid-for signs are fully compliant, clearly marked with "Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gonzalez" in large, visible text. The signs referenced in the complaint, like those in the attached images, were not paid for by my campaign. I am also not responsible for individuals sharing my signs and images on their personal social media accounts. If you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (863) 234-8043, or visit Clewiston to view the signs in person.

Best regards,





Roly Gonzalez

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG
Case No.: FEC 24-353**

Respondent: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez

Complainant: Hillary M. Hyslope

1. **Date and time:** 01/29/25 @ 10:52 a.m.
Name: Lakisha Burch, Clewiston City Clerk
Phone #: 863-983-1484 ex. 105
Summary: I call to inquire about the procedure for sending the Affidavit of Filing Officer. She was not in; I left a voicemail message
Entered by: MBW
2. **Date and time:** 01/29/25 @ 11:06 a.m.
Name: Lakisha Burch, Clewiston City Clerk
Phone #: 863-983-1484 ex. 105
Summary: Ms. Burch returned my call. She explained that the Hendry County Supervisor of Elections handled the city elections. She stated that candidates qualify and file their reports with the SOE. She stated that Sherry Taylor is the SOE. Her number is 863-675-5230 or 863-983-1592.
Entered by: MBW
3. **Date and time:** 01/29/25 @ 11:33 a.m.
Name: Sherry Taylor, Hendry County Supervisor of Elections
Phone #: 863-675-5230
Summary: Ms. Taylor confirmed that her office serves as the filing officer for Clewiston City Commission candidates. I asked how I should send the Affidavit of Filing Officer to her and gave her an overview of the purpose of the Affidavit of Filing Officer. She requested that I email the document to her at supervisor@hendryelections.gov.
Entered by: MBW
4. **Date and time:** 02/05/25 @ 9:06 a.m.
Name: Respondent
Phone #: 863-234-8043
Summary: I called Respondent to give him an opportunity to respond to the allegations in the complaint. He did not answer. I left a message on his voicemail.
Entered by: MBW
5. **Date and time:** 02/05/25 @ 10:18 a.m.
Name: Respondent
Phone #: 863-234-8043
Summary: Respondent returned my call. See memo below.
Entered by: MBW
6. **Date and time:**
Name:

Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

7. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

8. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

9. **Date and time:**
Name:
Phone #:
Summary:
Entered by:

RESPONDENT INTERVIEW MEMO – Call details at #5

- You stated in your response to the complaint that your signs were clearly marked with the disclaimer that read, “Political Advertising Approved & Paid by Roly Gannzalez.” Do the ads depicted in the complaint containing that disclaimer belong to your campaign? *He stated that if a sign contained that disclaimer, his campaign paid for the sign. He stated that the signs that did not have a disclaimer were not his signs. He did not pay for the signs, and he was not involved in any way with their publication.*
- Who was responsible for the wording in the disclaimer? *He stated that he hired this company to print his signs, and the company put the disclaimer on the signs. I asked him the name of the company. He said that it’s something like At Once Signs.*
- Did you consult with any person like the SOE regarding proper wording in the disclaimer? *He stated that he spoke with the SOE about the disclaimer back in 2020 when he first ran for office. He stated he had not spoken with anyone else.*
- Did you consult any document such as the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook* regarding the proper wording in the disclaimer? *No*
- Did you review and approve the wording in the disclaimer before the signs were published? *Yes. The company sent him a draft and he reviewed everything before the signs were published.*
- Were your disclaimers on previous campaigns the same as discussed above? If not, why did you change the wording? *He stated that he has been using the same wording in his disclaimer since he spoke with the SOE in 2020. He added that it was a different person serving as SOE in 2020. He stated that he has been doing it the same way, and no one has ever complained about it.*

- What offices did you run for previously? *He stated that in 2020 he ran for Hendry County Water District and won, in 2022 and 2024 he ran for City Commissioner and was defeated.*
- Have you ever been appointed to act as a campaign treasurer for a candidate? If so, please name each such candidate, the office each ran for, and state what year each election occurred. *No*
- Have you ever held the office of chairperson, treasurer, or other similar position for a political committee or electioneering communications organization? If so, please name each committee, state the office you held for each, and state when you held each office. *No*
- What action have you taken to determine your responsibilities under Florida's election laws? *He stated that he spoke with the SOE in 2020. He stated that he did not feel like he needed to do anything else because it just "small town politics, it's not a major election."*
- Do you possess a copy of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it? *He stated that the SOE gave him a packet of stuff when he qualified, but he never opened it.*
- Do you possess a copy of the *Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook*? If so, when did you first obtain it? Have you read it? *He stated that the SOE gave him a packet of stuff when he qualified, but he never opened it.*
- Did you receive any other materials from your filing officer? If so, please describe them. *Did not know what was in the packet because he did not open it.*
- Do you have anything else to add for the Commission's consideration regarding the charges specified in the letter of legal sufficiency in this case? *He stated that he did not do anything wrong. His signs were clearly marked; therefore, everyone knew he paid for the signs. He added that he did not publish any signs without the disclaimer.*

**FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
PHONE LOG**

Case No.: FEC 24-353

Respondent: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez

Complainant: Hillary M. Hyslope

1. **Date and time:** October 20, 2023 @ 9:10 am

Name: Respondent

Phone #: 863-234-8043

Summary: R called the office and stated that he just received the LS letter. He wants an investigation before he considers settlement. R stated that the complainant was his political opponent during the last election, is a sitting commissioner, and likely acted to retaliate. R stated that this was his third election and knows what his legal responsibilities and duties are. Thus, he hired a company to do his political advertisements and disclaimers. R stated that the advertisements at issue are not his but were put together and paid for by a community group. [I didn't hear exactly what he said for this next sentence, but I believe he said:] The community group used some of the graphics on his sites. R stated that he is okay with paying a fine if it is found that he violated the law, but he wants the right thing to be done and for his side of the story to be known. I gave R an overview of the process and encouraged him to keep in touch with our agency. R stated that he is a State of Florida employee and understands our timelines. R stated that he is coming to Tallahassee for session and plans to drop off supplemental information (pictures of ads, etc.) for our consideration. R provided the following email address: rgonzalez0672@gmail.com

Entered by: MTC

2. **Date and time:**

Name:

Phone #:

Summary:

Entered by:

3. **Date and time:**

Name:

Phone #:

Summary:

Entered by:



Florida Elections Commission

107 West Gaines Street, Suite 224 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6596

Telephone: (850) 922-4539 · Facsimile: (850) 921-0783

FEC@myfloridalegal.com · www.fec.state.fl.us



November 7, 2024

Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez
305 Via Del Aqua
Clewiston, FL 33440

RE: Case No.: FEC 24-353; Respondent: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

On October 7, 2024, the Florida Elections Commission received a complaint alleging you violated Florida's election laws. I have reviewed the complaint and find that it contains one or more **legally sufficient allegations**. The Commission staff will investigate the following alleged violation(s):

Section 106.143(1)(a), Florida Statutes: Respondent, a 2024 candidate for Clewiston City Commission, may have paid for and distributed political advertisements that contained express advocacy but did not include a proper disclaimer, as alleged in the complaint.

However, prior to an investigation, you have the option to **resolve your case now by** signing a minor violation consent order and **paying a fine of \$750**, per Rule 2B-1.003, Florida Administrative Code, **rather than the potential \$2,500 per violation** provided for in Section 106.265, Florida Statutes.

If you sign the consent order, **you would not be required to admit or deny the allegation(s)** in the complaint, but you would be required to immediately correct the violation, if feasible.

The signed consent order would then be considered by the Commission at its next available meeting and would constitute final action by the Commission once it is accepted and approved by the Commission. You and the Complainant will receive notice at least 14 days before any hearing at which your case is to be considered.

Please contact Mattie Clay by phone at (850) 922-4539, by email at Mattie.Clay@myfloridalegal.com, or at the address listed above, to accept this minor violation consent order.

If you choose not to resolve this case by consent order, an investigation will be conducted, the Commission will hold one or more hearings to determine whether the alleged violation(s) occurred and, if so, the amount of fine to be imposed upon you.

Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez
November 7, 2024
Page 2
FEC 24-353

Please note that all documents related to this matter will be mailed to the above address unless you notify us of a new address.

For additional information, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the Commission's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Vaccaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Vaccaro
Executive Director

TV/jd

COMPLAINT

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
7 OCT '24 PM 6:47

The Commission's records and proceedings in a case are confidential until the Commission rules on probable cause. A copy of the complaint will be provided to the person against whom it is brought.

1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:

Name: Hillary M. Hyslop Work Phone: 863-983-7979
Address: 104 Ridgewood Ave. Home Phone: (863) 447-9254
City: Clewiston County: Hendry State: FL Zip Code: 33440

2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:

If you intend to name more than one individual or entity, please file multiple complaints. A person can be an individual, political committee, political party, electioneering communication organization, club, corporation, partnership, company, association, or other type of organization.

Name of individual or entity: Rolando (Roly) Gonzalez
Address: 305 Via Del Agua Phone: (863) 234-8043
City: Clewiston County: Hendry State: FL Zip Code: 33440

If individual is a candidate, list the office or position sought: City of Clewiston Commission

Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office? (check one) Yes No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.271(2), F.S.? (check one) Yes No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.2715, F.S.? (check one) Yes No

3. ALLEGED VIOLATION(S):

Please attach a **concise** narrative statement in which you list the provisions of the Florida Election Code that you believe the person named above may have violated. The Commission has jurisdiction only to investigate provisions of Chapter 104 and Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Please include the following items as part of your attached statement:

- The facts and actions that you believe support the violations you allege;
- The names/telephone numbers of persons whom you believe may be witnesses to the facts;
- A copy or picture of any political advertisement(s) you mention in your statement;
- A copy of each document you mention in your statement;
- An explanation of why you believe information you reference from websites is relevant; and
- Any other evidence supporting your allegations.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any person who files a complaint while knowing that the allegations are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 and 775.083, Florida Statutes.

4. OATH:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Hendry

I swear or affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Melvin M. Hylton
Original Signature of Person Bringing Complaint

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1 day of
October, 20 24

Brenda Whitehead
Signature of Officer Authorized to Administer Oaths or Notary Public



(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known Or Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced _____

5. IMPROPERLY COMPLETED COMPLAINT FORMS MAY BE RETURNED:

- You **MUST submit this** completed complaint form in order to file a complaint.
- You **MUST** complete **ALL FOUR** of the above sections of this form. **DO NOT** leave any blanks.
- You **MUST** submit the **ORIGINAL** complaint form. Copied/faxed/emailed forms are returned.
- Each complaint can only be filed against **ONE PERSON** or **ENTITY**. If you wish to file against multiple parties, you **MUST** submit a complaint form **for each party** you wish to file against.
- **DO NOT** submit multiple complaint forms with one set of attachments applying to multiple complaints. You **MUST** attach **copies** of attachments **to each complaint** to which they apply.
- **MAKE SURE** the alleged violation(s) of **Chapters 104 or 106** occurred within the last **2 years**.
- **MAKE SURE** your complaint is **sworn** and there is **no defect** to the **notarization** in Section 4.

REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
7 OCT 24 PM 3:47

I, Hillary Hyslope, hereby file this complaint against Roly Gonzalez for violating Section 106.143 of the Florida Election Code, which governs the requirements for political advertisements circulated prior to an election.

Mr. Gonzalez is a candidate for the Clewiston City Commission. I have observed multiple instances where his political advertisements fail to include the required disclosure statement mandated by Section 106.143(1)(a). This section requires that all political advertisements paid for by a candidate must prominently display: "Political advertisement paid for and approved by (name of candidate), (party affiliation), for (office sought)."

The specific violations include:

1. **Large Campaign Signs:** Mr. Gonzalez has several large campaign signs displayed in Clewiston that do not contain the proper disclosure. Photographic evidence of these signs will be submitted with this complaint.
2. **Residential Yard Signs:** Mr. Gonzalez's campaign has distributed residential yard signs in two different designs, neither of which includes the required disclosure. Photographic evidence of both designs will be provided.
3. **Mailer:** Mr. Gonzalez has sent out a mailer to Clewiston residents, including members of my household, that does not have the proper disclosure statement. A copy of this mailer is included as evidence.
4. **Facebook Advertisements and Posts:** Mr. Gonzalez has run paid Facebook ads from his campaign page, as well as posts on his personal Facebook page, that do not include the proper disclosure. Screenshots of these ads and posts will be included in this filing.
5. **Stickers:** Mr. Gonzalez's campaign has circulated stickers that are displayed around town and do not include the required disclosure statement. Photographic documentation of these stickers is included in this complaint.
6. **Instagram Posts:** Mr. Gonzalez has also posted campaign-related images on his personal Instagram page that do not include the proper disclosure. Photographs of these Instagram posts will be included as evidence.

These omissions violate Section 106.143 and hinder the transparency required for voters to clearly identify the source of campaign advertisements. I request that the Florida Elections Commission investigate these violations and take the appropriate corrective action.

Sincerely,
Hillary Hyslope

VOTE FOR
ROLY GONZALEZ
For City Commissioner
Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez
With a clear vision
for our children's future.

VOTE FOR
ROLY GONZALEZ
For City Commissioner
With a clear vision
for our children's future.

FLORIDA
660 716
GONZALEZ





**VOTE FOR
ROLY
GONZALEZ**

For City Commissioner

**With a clear vision
for our children's future.**

**Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez**



VOTE FOR ROLY GONZALEZ

For City Commissioner

Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez

**With a clear vision
for our children's future.**

Rolando- ROLY Gonzalez 4 City of Clewiston Commission

(863) 351-9663

Always open

Photos

See all photos



Rolando- ROLY Gonzalez 4 City of Clewiston Commission Yesterday at 6:40 AM



GONZALEZ4CLEWISTON.COM

Rolando- ROLY Gonzalez 4 City of Clewiston Commission

Learn more

1

1 share

Like

Comment

Copy

Share

Message.




VOTE FOR
ROLY
GONZALEZ

For City Commissioner

**With a clear vision
 for our children's future.**

**Political Advertising Approved
 & Paid by Roly Gonzalez**



PA
DE
CO

SIN OBLIGACIONES
 No valido en AZ, PR
 EST. Para participar
 en Cuenta de Ahorro
 y suscribirse a la Cita
 de 18 años en EE. UU.
 Al menos una vez por
 semana. 24/7 y 24/7. El ganador
 gana \$100,000. Ganador
 elegido por sorteo.
 Winner by Moral en EE. UU.
 Generation Beverage Co.

PEPS



VOTE FOR

**ROLY
GONZALEZ**

For City Commissioner

**Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez**

**With a clear vision
for our children's future.**



ROLY_YOURREALTOR
Posts

Follow



roly_yourrealtor



Chemistron
4
GONZALEZ
Roll
VOTE



RH FORDER
317 VIA DIEZ AULIA



VOTE FOR
ROLY
GONZALEZ

For City Commissioner

Political Advertising Approved
& Paid by Roly Gonzalez

**With a clear vision
for our children's future.**

A CLEAR CHOICE WITH A CLEAR VISION

Together, we can ensure that Clewiston not only thrives but also moves forward with progress that benefits everyone. In the upcoming election, I humbly ask for your vote to be your voice at the table.

Clewiston City Commission
Comisionado de la Ciudad de Clewiston

M. "Mali" Soto Gardner

Roly Gonzalez

James L. Pittman

Greg Thompson

Jason Williams II



Vote by November 5th

Paid for by Roly Gonzalez

STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ft. Myers, FL
Permit #41

Kyler Hyslope
104 Ridgewood Ave
Clewiston, FL 33440-5114



Meet Roly Gonzalez



I've spent the last four years in Clewiston, and during that time, I've come to deeply appreciate the close-knit community and unique character that makes this city special. I know many of us cherish the way of life we've built here, and while I respect our traditions, I also believe that progress is inevitable and when we embrace it together, it benefits us all. My experience in a larger city has given me valuable insights and skills that I can bring to help address some of the challenges Clewiston faces, including economic development and improving public services. At the same time, I'm committed to preserving the small-town charm we all love. I will work tirelessly to keep taxes and utility costs low while ensuring that services are efficient and meet the needs of our community. Clewiston deserves more opportunities for arts, entertainment, and support for our small businesses.

ROLY
GONZALEZ
CANDIDATE FOR CITY OF CLEWISTON COMMISSION '24

Roly Gonzalez

Hyslope
104 Ridgewood Ave
Clewiston, FL
33440



fee

Florida Elections Commission
107 West Gaines Street
Suite 224
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050



REC'D: FL ELECTIONS COM
7 OCT '24 PM3:48