Form 2204 - Oath of Office
(General Information)

The attached form is designed to meet minimal constitutional filing requirements pursuant to the relevant provisions. *This form and the information provided are not substitutes for the advice and services of an attorney.*

Execution and Delivery Instructions

An Oath of Office that is required to be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State is considered filed once it has been received by this office. The Oath of Office may be administered to you by a person authorized under the provisions of Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code. Authorized persons commonly used to administer oaths include notaries public and judges.

***Mail*:** P.O. Box 12887, Austin, Texas 78711-2887.
***Overnight mail or hand deliveries*:** James Earl Rudder Officer Building, 1019 Brazos, Austin, Texas 78701.
***Fax*:** (512) 463-5569. If faxed, the original Oath should also be mailed to the appropriate address above.
***Email*:** Scanned copies of the executed Oath may be sent to register@sos.texas.gov. If sent by email, the original Oath should also be mailed to the appropriate address above.

***NOTE**: Do not have the Oath of Office administered to you before executing and filing the Statement of Officer (Form 2201 – commonly referred to as the "Anti-Bribery Statement") with the Office of the Secretary of State*.

Commentary

Pursuant to art. XVI, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution, the Oath of Office *may not* be taken until a Statement of Officer (see Form 2201) has been subscribed to and, as required, filed with the Office of the Secretary of State. Additionally, gubernatorial appointees who are appointed during a legislative session *may not* execute their Oath until after confirmation by the Senate. Tex. Const. art. IV, Section 12.

***Officers Required to File Oath of Office with the Secretary of State*:**

Gubernatorial appointees
District attorneys
Appellate and district court judges
Officers appointed by the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals, or the State Bar of Texas
Associate judges appointed under subchapter B or C, chapter 201 of the Texas Family Code
Directors of districts operating pursuant to chapter 36 or 49 of the Texas Water Code file a duplicate original of their Oath of Office within 10 days of its execution. Texas Water Code, Sections 36.055(d) and 49.055(d)

***Officers Not Required to File Oath of Office with the Secretary of State*:**

Members of the Legislature elected to a *regular* term of office will have their Oath of Office administered in chambers on the opening day of the session and recorded in the appropriate Journal. Members elected to an *unexpired* term of office should file their Oath of Office with either the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate.

All other persons should file their Oaths locally. Please check with the county clerk, city secretary or board/commission secretary for the proper filing location.

As a general rule, city and county officials do not file their oath of office with the Secretary of State– these officials file at the local level. The Legislature amended the Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 1, in November 2001 to no longer require local level elected officials to file with our office. **The Office of the Secretary of State does NOT file Statements or Oaths from the following persons**: Assistant District Attorneys; City Officials, including City Clerks, City Council Members, Municipal Judges, Justices of the Peace, and Police/Peace Officers; Zoning/Planning Commission Members; County Officials, including County Clerks, County Commissioners, County Judges (*except County Court of Law Judges who file with the Elections Division),* County Tax Assessors, and District Clerks; and Officials of Regional Entities, such as, Appraisal Review Districts, Emergency Service Districts, and School Districts (ISD's). Questions about whether a particular officer is a state-level officer may be resolved by consulting relevant statutes, constitutional provisions, judicial decisions, and attorney general opinions.

All state or county officers, other than the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the legislature, who qualify for office, are commissioned by the governor. Tex. Gov't Code, Section 601.005. The Secretary of State performs ministerial duties to administer the commissions issued by the governor, including confirming that officers are qualified prior to being commissioned. Submission of this oath of office to the Office of the Secretary of State confirms an officer's qualification so that the commission may be issued.

Questions about this form should be directed to the Government Filings Section at (512) 463-6334 or register@sos.texas.gov.

Revised 9/2017

Form #2204 Rev 9/2017 **Submit to:** **SECRETARY OF STATE** **Government Filings Section** **P O Box 12887** **Austin, TX 78711-2887** **512-463-6334** **FAX 512-463-5569** **Filing Fee: None**	**This space reserved for office use** **OATH OF OFFICE**

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,
I, _____ , do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God.

_____
Signature of Officer

Certification of Person Authorized to Administer Oath

State of _____

County of _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Affix Notary Seal, only if oath administered by a notary.)

_____
Signature of Notary Public or
Signature of Other Person Authorized to Administer An Oath

_____
Printed or Typed Name

Print Reset