

PROPERTY CODE

CHAPTER 209. TEXAS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS PROTECTION ACT
§§209.005 - 209.0051

of a justice precinct in which all or part of the property that is governed by the association is located requesting relief in accordance with this subsection. If the justice of the peace finds that the member is entitled to access to or copies of the records, the justice of the peace may grant one or more of the following remedies:

(1) a judgment ordering the property owners' association to release or allow access to the books or records;

(2) a judgment against the property owners' association for court costs and attorney's fees incurred in connection with seeking a remedy under this section; or

(3) a judgment authorizing the owner or the owner's assignee to deduct the amounts awarded under Subdivision (2) from any future regular or special assessments payable to the property owners' association.

(o) If the property owners' association prevails in an action under Subsection (n), the association is entitled to a judgment for court costs and attorney's fees incurred by the association in connection with the action.

(p) On or before the 10th business day before the date a person brings an action against a property owners' association under this section, the person must send written notice to the association of the person's intent to bring the action. The notice must:

(1) be sent certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by the United States Postal Service with signature confirmation service to the mailing address of the association or authorized representative as reflected on the most current management certificate filed under Section 209.004; and

(2) describe with sufficient detail the books and records being requested.

(q) For the purposes of this section, "business day" means a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state or federal holiday.

History of Prop. Code §209.005: Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 926, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2002. Amended by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., ch. 1367, §6, eff. Sept. 1, 2007; Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., ch. 1026, §2, eff. Jan. 1, 2012.

PROP §209.0051. OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

(a) This section does not apply to a property owners' association that is subject to Chapter 551, Government Code, by application of Section 551.0015, Government Code.

(b) In this section, "board" means:

[(1)] ["Board"] meeting":

(1) [(A)] means a deliberation between a quorum of the voting board of the property owners' association, or between a quorum of the voting board and another person, during which property owners' association business is considered and the board takes formal action; and

(2) [(B)] does not include the gathering of a quorum of the board at a social function unrelated to the business of the association or the attendance by a quorum of the board at a regional, state, or national convention, ceremonial event, or press conference, if formal action is not taken and any discussion of association business is incidental to the social function, convention, ceremonial event, or press conference.

[(2)] ["Development period" means a period stated in a declaration during which a declarant reserves:]

[(A)] [a right to facilitate the development, construction, and marketing of the subdivision; and]

[(B)] [a right to direct the size, shape, and composition of the subdivision.]

(c) Regular and special board meetings must be open to owners, subject to the right of the board to adjourn a board meeting and reconvene in closed executive session to consider actions involving personnel, pending or threatened litigation, contract negotiations, enforcement actions, confidential communications with the property owners' association's attorney, matters involving the invasion of privacy of individual owners, or matters that are to remain confidential by request of the affected parties and agreement of the board. Following an executive session, any decision made in the executive session must be summarized orally and placed in the minutes, in general terms, without breaching the privacy of individual owners, violating any privilege, or disclosing information that was to remain confidential at the request of the affected parties. The oral summary must include a general explanation of expenditures approved in executive session.

(c-1) Except for a meeting held by electronic or telephonic means under Subsection (c-2) [(B)], a board meeting must be held in a county in which all or part of the property in the subdivision is located or in a county adjacent to that county.



(c-2) A board meeting may be held by electronic or telephonic means provided that:

(1) each board member may hear and be heard by every other board member;

(2) except for any portion of the meeting conducted in executive session:

(A) all owners in attendance at the meeting may hear all board members; and

(B) owners are allowed to listen using any electronic or telephonic communication method used or expected to be used by a board member to participate; and

(3) the notice of the meeting includes instructions for owners to access any communication method required to be accessible under Subdivision (2)(B).

(d) The board shall keep a record of each regular or special board meeting in the form of written minutes of the meeting. The board shall make meeting records, including approved minutes, available to a member for inspection and copying on the member's written request to the property owners' association's managing agent at the address appearing on the most recently filed management certificate or, if there is not a managing agent, to the board.

(e) Members shall be given notice of the date, hour, place, and general subject of a regular or special board meeting, including a general description of any matter to be brought up for deliberation in executive session. The notice shall be:

(1) mailed to each property owner not later than the 10th day or earlier than the 60th day before the date of the meeting; or

(2) provided at least 72 hours before the start of the meeting by:

(A) posting the notice in a conspicuous manner reasonably designed to provide notice to property owners' association members:

(i) in a place located on the association's common property or, with the property owner's consent, on other conspicuously located privately owned property within the subdivision; or

(ii) on any Internet website maintained by the association or other Internet media; and

(B) sending the notice by e-mail to each owner who has registered an e-mail address with the association.

(f) It is an owner's duty to keep an updated e-mail address registered with the property owners' association under Subsection (e)(2)(B).

(g) If the board recesses a regular or special board meeting to continue the following regular business day, the board is not required to post notice of the continued meeting if the recess is taken in good faith and not to circumvent this section. If a regular or special board meeting is continued to the following regular business day, and on that following day the board continues the meeting to another day, the board shall give notice of the continuation in at least one manner prescribed by Subsection (e)(2)(A) within two hours after adjourning the meeting being continued.

(h) Except as provided by this subsection, a [A] board may take action outside of a meeting [acted by any method of communication], including voting by electronic or [and] telephonic means, without prior notice to owners under Subsection (e), if each board member is given a reasonable opportunity to express the board member's opinion to all other board members and to vote [director may hear and be heard by every other director, or the board may take action by unanimous written consent to consider routine and administrative matters or a reasonably unforeseen emergency or urgent necessity that requires immediate board action]. Any action taken without notice to owners under Subsection (e) must be summarized orally, including an explanation of any known actual or estimated expenditures approved at the meeting, and documented in the minutes of the next regular or special board meeting. The board may not, unless done in an open meeting for which [without] prior notice was given to owners under Subsection (e), consider or vote on:

- (1) fines;
- (2) damage assessments;
- (3) initiation of foreclosure actions;
- (4) initiation of enforcement actions, excluding temporary restraining orders or violations involving a threat to health or safety;
- (5) increases in assessments;
- (6) levying of special assessments;
- (7) appeals from a denial of architectural control approval; [or]

(8) a suspension of a right of a particular owner before the owner has an opportunity to attend a board meeting to present the owner's position, including any defense, on the issue;



- (9) lending or borrowing money;
- (10) the adoption or amendment of a dedicatory instrument;
- (11) the approval of an annual budget or the approval of an amendment of an annual budget that increases the budget by more than 10 percent;
- (12) the sale or purchase of real property;
- (13) the filling of a vacancy on the board;
- (14) the construction of capital improvements other than the repair, replacement, or enhancement of existing capital improvements; or
- (15) the election of an officer.

(i) This section applies to a meeting of a property owners' association board during the development period only if the meeting is conducted for the purpose of:

- (1) adopting or amending the governing documents, including declarations, bylaws, rules, and regulations of the association;
- (2) increasing the amount of regular assessments of the association or adopting or increasing a special assessment;
- (3) electing non-developer board members of the association or establishing a process by which those members are elected; or
- (4) changing the voting rights of members of the association.

History of Prop. Code §209.0051: Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., ch. 1026, §3, eff. Jan. 1, 2012. Amended by S.B. 1168, §8, 84th Leg., eff. Sept. 1, 2015.

PROP §209.0052. ASSOCIATION CONTRACTS

(a) This section does not apply to a contract entered into by an association during the development period.

(b) An association may enter into an enforceable contract with a current association board member, a person related to a current association board member within the third degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, a company in which a current association board member has a financial interest in at least 51 percent of profits, or a company in which a person related to a current association board member within the third degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a financial interest in at least 51 percent of profits only if the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the board member, relative, or company bids on the proposed contract and the association has received

at least two other bids for the contract from persons not associated with the board member, relative, or company, if reasonably available in the community;

- (2) the board member:
 - (A) is not given access to the other bids;
 - (B) does not participate in any board discussion regarding the contract; and
 - (C) does not vote on the award of the contract;
- (3) the material facts regarding the relationship or interest with respect to the proposed contract are disclosed to or known by the association board and the board, in good faith and with ordinary care, authorizes the contract by an affirmative vote of the majority of the board members who do not have an interest governed by this subsection; and

(4) the association board certifies that the other requirements of this subsection have been satisfied by a resolution approved by an affirmative vote of the majority of the board members who do not have an interest governed by this subsection.

History of Prop. Code §209.0052: Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., ch. 863, §2, eff. Sept. 1, 2013.

PROP §209.0055. VOTING

(a) This section applies only to a property owners' association that:

(1) provides maintenance, preservation, and architectural control of residential and commercial property within a defined geographic area in a county with a population of 2.8 million or more or in a county adjacent to a county with a population of 2.8 million or more; and

(2) is a corporation that:

(A) is governed by a board of trustees who may employ a general manager to execute the association's bylaws and administer the business of the corporation;

(B) does not require membership in the corporation by the owners of the property within the defined area; and

(C) was incorporated before January 1, 2006.

(b) A property owners' association described by Subsection (a) may not bar a property owner from voting in an association election solely based on the fact that:

(1) there is a pending enforcement action against the property owner; or

(2) the property owner owes the association any delinquent assessments, fees, or fines.

History of Prop. Code §209.0055: Acts 2007, 80th Leg., ch. 1367, §8, eff. Sept. 1, 2007.