

CAUSE NO. 348-367652-25

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT FRANCIS O'ROURKE and
POWERED BY PEOPLE,

Defendants.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

348th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND ORDER
SETTING HEARING FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION**

After considering Plaintiff the State of Texas's application for Temporary Restraining Order, pleadings, affidavits, and arguments of counsel and after holding a Temporary Restraining Order hearing during which Plaintiff's attorneys appeared in person and via Zoom and Defendants' attorneys appeared via Zoom, the Court finds that harm is imminent to the State, and if the Court does not issue the Temporary Restraining Order, the State will be irreparably injured. Specifically, Defendants' fundraising conduct constitutes false, misleading, or deceptive acts under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §§ 17.46(a), (b)(2), (b)(5), (b)(7), and (b)(24) because Defendants are raising and utilizing political contributions from Texas consumers to pay for the personal expenses of Texas legislators, in violation of Texas law. Because this conduct is unlawful and harms Texas consumers, restraining this conduct is in the public interest. DTPA § 17.47(a); *see also* Tex. Const. art. III, § 5.

Furthermore, Defendants have and will continue to engage in unlawful fundraising practices and utilization of political funds in a manner that either directly violates or causes Texas Democratic Legislators to violate: (1) Texas Penal Code, § 36.01(3); (2) Texas Elections Code, § 253.035; (3) Rule 5, § 3 of the House Rules of Procedure; and (4) Tex. Pen. Code §§ 36.08, 36.10. Consumers have and continue to suffer irreparable harm through these unlawful acts

because they are making political contributions that are being used to fund personal expenses and violate State law.

Therefore, by this Order, the Court issues this Temporary Restraining Order, immediately restraining Defendants from the following:

- i. Using political funds for the improper, unlawful, and non-political purposes of (1) funding out-of-state travel, hotel, or dining accommodations or services to unexcused Texas legislators during any special legislative session called by the Texas Governor, or (2) funding payments of fines provided by Texas House rules for unexcused legislative absences;
- ii. Raising funds for non-political purposes, including to (1) fund out-of-state travel, hotel, or dining accommodations or services to unexcused Texas legislators during any special legislative session called by the Texas Governor, or (2) fund payments of fines provided by Texas House rules for unexcused legislative absences, through the ActBlue platform or any other platform that purports to exist for political fundraising purposes;
- iii. Offering, conferring, or agreeing to confer, travel, hotel, or dining accommodations or services (or funds to support such accommodations or services) to unexcused Texas legislators during any special legislative session called by the Texas Governor as consideration for a violation of such legislators' Constitutional duties; and
- iv. Removing any property or funds from the State of Texas during the pendency of this lawsuit.

The foregoing Order shall remain in effect from the date and time of the entry of this Order until fourteen days after entry or until further agreed by the parties or as otherwise ordered by this Court, whichever occurs first.

This Court further Orders the Clerk to issue notice to Defendants Robert Francis O'Rourke and Powered by People that the hearing on the State's Application for Temporary Injunction is set for **August 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** The purpose of the hearing will be to determine whether a temporary injunction should be issued upon the same grounds and particulars as specified herein or as requested in Plaintiff's then-current petition. This hearing will take place in person in the courtroom of the 348th District Court, Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building, 100 North Calhoun Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76196.

The Clerk shall, forthwith, issue a temporary restraining order in conformity with the law and the terms of this Order.

Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code § 6.001(a), the State is exempt from bond requirements. *See also* DTPA § 17.47(b).

SIGNED on August 8, 2025, at 5:32 p.m.


JUDGE PRESIDING