

# What is illegal electioneering?

It is the misuse of any public resources or funds to influence an election. The violation is committed by those working for or appointed to positions within government who misuse its resources and funds, not by those in a campaign, even if campaign workers ask or tell those in government to do something.

Early this year, the GHA wanted to promote its plans with the City Council candidates, so it decided to put on something called Public Housing 101, on 24 January. Although she did not name the GOP, Betty Massey said that many “vocal critics are misinformed and pass on incorrect information”; which was obviously aimed in our direction. What else can they do, they can’t debate the facts; so they attempt to tell people that we are “misinformed”! Of course, it isn’t working!

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/286602>

In an effort to pass on correct information, as opposed to propaganda, the GOP offered to brief each candidate on the Fair Housing Act and how demographic data **MUST** be used, rather than political deals, to select Public Housing sites.

<http://www.galvestonogp.org/gha/PressRelease-PrivateBriefing.pdf>

The GOP press release set off the following series of emails:

Note: The emails have been cut out of a pdf file sent to the GOP by the GHA in response to an ORR. The entire raw file is available for inspection; please contact us to do so. GOP comments follow each email in [blue](#).

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From: [ogp@ath.net](mailto:ogp@ath.net)  
To: [ogp@ath.net](mailto:ogp@ath.net)  
Subject: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!  
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 2012 11:25:16 -0600

<http://www.galvestonogp.org/GHA/PressRelease-PrivateBriefing.pdf>

[This was the email we sent out for our press release.](#)

## Note:

Paula Neff resigned as Chair of the GHA Board on 07 November 2011, “because of health reasons”, to take some undisclosed position with the Jaworski campaign, or as some kind of a consultant to the campaign. Therefore, when these emails were sent, she was in the private sector outside of the GHA.

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/270666>

**From:** Paula Neff [mailto:[paulan@att.net](mailto:paulan@att.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 11:43 AM  
**To:** Mona P.  
**Subject:** FW: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

You should get Dr. Pringle from HUD or someone from HUD to do training to shut down this myth that we are violating HUD guidelines... my two cents.

Why is Paula Neff telling the GHA’s Interim Executive Director, Mona Purgason, to “shut down this myth that **WE** are violating HUD guidelines”? Since Ms. Neff left the GHA to work on the campaign, she should have no say in their operations!

**From:** Mona Purgason [mailto:[mpurgason@gha.org](mailto:mpurgason@gha.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Pringle, Edward L; Rodriguez, Dan  
**Cc:** 'Betty massey'; [betty.massey@gha.org](mailto:betty.massey@gha.org)  
**Subject:** FW: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

Dr. Pringle,

Please see the data below. As you may remember, Paula Neff is our former board chair.

This email blast sent out by GOP is in response to some training GHA offered to provide for candidates who will be running for public office on housing 101—just the basics on subsidized housing. We did not plan to spend a great deal of time on the development component as that is information that is routinely discussed.

Is there any training that HUD can do to address the accusations that GHA is violating HUD and fair housing guidelines?

Thank you,  
Mona Purgason

Once again, if Paula Neff is “our FORMER Board Chair”, then why is Ms. Purgason doing what Ms. Neff told her to do? These actions certainly give the appearance of a coordinated effort between someone outside of the GHA, on a campaign staff, or acting as a consultant to that staff, and the GHA Interim Executive Director, in order to promote a certain message on Public Housing that they hope will influence the election.

**From:** Pringle, Edward L. [mailto:Edward.Pringle@gha.tx.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 4:34 PM  
**To:** 'Mona Purgason'; Rodriguez, Dan  
**Cc:** 'Betty massey'; 'bettymassey@ghatx.org'  
**Subject:** RE: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

Thanks for the invite. I sent a message to the Mayor that both I and Dan Rodriguez would attend the GHA Seminar on Tuesday, January 24, 2011, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the GHA building. We will explain HUD programs and processes. We allow local governments and Housing Authorities to run their own programs with some HUD oversight. We will explain that HUD does not dictate the role of the governing authorities in running their programs to make their citizens safe.

*Edward L. Pringle, Jr., PhD*  
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Field Policy and Management  
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Why did Dr. Pringle send a “message to the Mayor”? Wasn’t this strictly an “educational effort” by the GHA? What does this have to do with the City’s “highest elected official”? It should be noted that neither Dr. Pringle nor Dan Rodriguez decided to attend Public Housing 101.

**From:** Mona Purgason [mailto:mpurgason@gha.tx.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 4:38 PM  
**To:** Joseph Jaworski  
**Cc:** 'Betty massey'  
**Subject:** FW: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

It looks like you are already aware, but just FYI.

Mona

Finally, why did the Interim Executive Director of the GHA report to the Mayor? The GHA tells us that it is an agency that is completely independent of City government. They can do whatever they want to do regardless of the wishes of City Council! So, why is the Mayor involved in this?

**From:** Joseph Jaworski [JoeJaw@jlawfirm.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 4:40 PM  
**To:** Mona Purgason  
**Cc:** 'Betty massey'  
**Subject:** RE: GOP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

Thank you

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The GOP has made a valiant effort to tell the employees of the GHA that they are the ones culpable for the misuse of public funds, and tampering with evidence, not outsiders who may ask, tell, direct, or coerce them into doing so. We hope that they will wake up and get the message!

We welcome more Whistleblowers.