

KARA SANDS / NUECES COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE INCUMBENT (R)

<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE LEFT</u>	<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE RIGHT</u>
• <u>SANDS HAS BEEN ON A YEARS LONG HUNT FOR VOTER FRAUD AND HAS REPEATEDLY FAILED TO FIND IT</u> • <u>SANDS HAS REPEATEDLY MADE MISTAKES IN ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS</u> • <u>SANDS HAS A HISTORY OF INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS TOWARD MINORITIES</u>	• <u>SANDS HAS NOT FORCIBLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE 2020 ELECTION WAS STOLEN</u>

Key Findings Include:

- **Has Repeated Said That Voter Fraud Was An Issue:** Since at least 2018, Sands has said her office would fight against voter fraud. Notably, no statement regarding the 2020 election was found.
- **Worked With Attorney General Ken Paxton To Prosecute Alleged Voter Fraud Only To Lose At Least One Of The Cases:** In 2018, Sands had her office gather evidence of alleged voter fraud. Attorney General Paxton announced it would prosecute three alleged offenders and thanked Sands for gathering evidence. In at least one of the cases, the defendant was found not guilty. Another case resulted in a 76-year-old woman spending time in jail for assisting voters.
- **Made Repeated Mistakes In Administering Elections:** In 2020, Sands' office mailed out a letter to 1,500 voters stating that they need to send identification back with their ballots. Sands said it was a mistake. In 2025, Nueces County printed ballots that had propositions out of numerical order.
- **History of Inflammatory Statements:** In July 2013, in response to a tweet stating that the not guilty verdict for the killing of Trayvon Martin meant that it was legal to kill Black children, Sands tweeted that "No, Roe v Wade did." In September 2013, Sands tweeted that Sarah Palin's statement of "Let Allah sort it out" regarding the Syrian Civil War was "pretty darn good."

Jurisdiction Summary

Nueces County is located in southeast Texas with Corpus Christi being the largest city in the county. The Commissioners Court, the county's legislative body, has a Republican majority. In 2024, Trump won the county with 55.30% of the vote to Harris's 43.75%, a 14,000 vote difference. Nueces County has a population of 353,125 with 63.4% of the population being of Hispanic descent.

The county clerk serves a four year term with elections held during midterm elections. Sands won re-election in 2022 with 59.63% of the vote.

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Kara Rae Sands is a 51-year-old Republican candidate for the 2026 election to become Nueces County Clerk, a seat held by her since January 2015.

2010: James Keith Rose Filed For Divorce Against Kara Sands, Then Kara Rose, But Dropped The Divorce Suit. [Nueces County, 10-02210-00-0-A, accessed [7/20/25](#)]

- **A Temporary Restraining Order Was Filed In The Case But Unclear Against Which Party.** [Nueces County, 10-02210-00-0-A, accessed [7/20/25](#)]

From At Least 2008 To 2010, Sands Reported She Was A Homemaker Or Housewife On Campaign Contributions. [FEC, individual contribution search, accessed [7/14/26](#)]

Sands' Sister Was Killed In A Fatal Car Accident. “Deaver was arrested in January in connection with a crash that killed Cecilia Stanford, Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands' sister.” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [3/16/18](#)]

- **The Charges Were Dropped Against The Man Involved In The Fatal Incident.** “Prosecutors have dismissed charges against a Corpus Christi man once accused in a crash that killed the Nueces County clerk's sister. The Texas Attorney General's Office had been handling the case against Dakota Deaver, which included charges of manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide. On Wednesday, his attorney Scott Lemanski said the charges had been dropped. Deaver, 22, was arrested in January in connection with a crash that killed Cecilia Stanford, the sister of Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands.” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [8/22/18](#)]

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

Sands Has Been County Clerk Since 2015 And Was Previously County Treasurer. “Kara Sands has served as the Nueces County Clerk since 2015 and is currently serving her second term after winning re-election in 2018. She is one of only five County Clerks in the state who also serve as the County Treasurer.” [Nueces County, updated [9/24/25](#)]

2025: Nueces County Mistakenly Had Propositions Out Of Numerical Order On Its Ballot. “Early voting is underway across Texas, but some Nueces County voters are spotting a mistake

on their ballots. Some of the proposed amendments to the state's constitution are out of numerical order. [...] In a statement, Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands acknowledged that Propositions 14 and 15 are out of numerical order, however they are the correct proposition language and votes will be counted and tabulated accurately.” [KRIS TV, [10/29/25](#)]

2020: Nueces County Unintentionally Informed 1,500 Voters That They Would Be Required To Send Identification Back With Their Ballot Despite Not Needing To Do So.

“About 1,500 people who vote by mail were incorrectly told they would be required to send identification back with their ballot — even though they have voted by mail previously and should not be required to do so, Democratic Party officials said. The letters were sent in late January — an incident that Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands said was an unintentional mistake. Some voters said they felt confused and intimidated by the error, and that it may have discouraged participation.” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [2/12/20](#)]

- **Sands Was Named In A Civil Suit Accusing Her Of Violating Voting Rights.** “Nueces County and county clerk Kara Sands have been named in a civil suit in which they are accused of violating the rights of voters. The suit, filed last week, alleges that some mail-in ballots contained incomplete or incorrect instructions, including those which asked voters to provide identification, according to court filings. The filing also alleges that a corrective letter was then sent to voters, further confusing them. On Feb. 12, Sands briefed Nueces County Commissioners on the incident and said the letter was an ‘unfortunate incident, completely unintentional.’” [KIRS TV, [9/24/20](#)]
- **The Case Was Dismissed With Prejudice.** [Nueces County, 2020CCV-61304-3, accessed [7/20/26](#)]

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

As of July 2026, Sands is associated with the following criminal or traffic violations:

Sands’ Criminal Or Traffic Violations						
Filing Date	State	Court Level/Degree	Charges	Disposition	Sentence	Link
6/26/14	TX	Traffic	Speeding - State Highway	Guilty		
5/2/13	TX	Traffic	Speeding - State Highway	Guilty		
6/12/95	TX	Misdemeanor	Speeding-Over 65 MPH-Passenger	Dismissed		

			Vehicle (Posted 65)			
6/12/95	TX	Misdemeanor	No Liability Insurance-Including (MH)	Dismissed		
6/12/95	TX	Misdemeanor Class C	Violate Promise To Appear	Dismissed		
4/22/93	TX	Misdemeanor	False Report To Peace Officer	Comm Suprv Unsatisf Discharged		
4/22/93	TX	Misdemeanor	False Report To Police Officer	Unknown		
4/2/93	TX	Misdemeanor	False Report To Police Officer	Unknown		
4/6/93	TX	Misdemeanor	False Report To Police Officer	Community Supervision		
4/6/93	TX	Misdemeanor	False Report To Police Officer	Deferred		

[Nexis Criminal Records Search, accessed 7/14/26]]

2018: Sands Was Falsely Accused Of Sexual Assault. “An 18-year-old woman accused of falsely claiming she was assaulted by Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands has been arrested. Rhiannon Gerragauch accused Sands of touching her breast while reaching for her court identification badge. After the Nueces County Sheriff’s Office reviewed courthouse surveillance video of the incident, they found the claim to be false, Sheriff Jim Kaelin told the Caller-Times.” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [3/14/18](#)]

- The Woman Who Accused Sands Of Sexual Assault Was The Stepdaughter Of The Attorney Defending The Man Involved In The Fatal Car Accident That Killed Sands’ Sister.** “The motion cited a separate case involving Sands and a family member of defense counsel Scott Lemanski and says several district attorneys are witnesses in that case. In that case, the attorney's stepdaughter is accused of falsely claiming Sands touched her inappropriately while reaching for her court identification badge. She's facing two misdemeanor counts of making a false report to law enforcement, court records show.” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [3/16/18](#)]

CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

Sands Was First Elected To County Clerk In November 2014. [KIIIITV, [11/17/17](#)]

2022 Nueces County Clerk General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	51,924	59.63%
Ruell Ector Gauna (D)	35,155	40.37%

[Nueces County, [11/8/22](#)]

2022 Nueces County Clerk Primary Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	16,136	100.00%

[Nueces County, [3/1/22](#)]

2018 Nueces County Clerk General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	47,498	51.36%
Diana Barrera (D)	44,983	48.64%

[Nueces County, [11/6/18](#)]

2018 Nueces County Clerk Primary Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	10,125	100.00%

[Nueces County, [3/6/18](#)]

2014 Nueces County Clerk General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	28,078	50.55%
Diana Barrera (D)	27,464	49.45%

[Nueces County, [11/4/14](#)]

2014 Nueces County Clerk Primary Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Kara Sands (R)	8,671	100.00%

[Nueces County, [3/4/14](#)]

IDEOLOGY & POLITICS

Sands Has Run As A Republican Since 2014. [Nueces County, [3/4/14](#)]

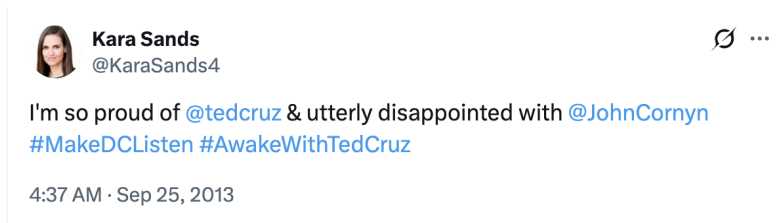
AFFILIATION WITH POLITICAL FIGURES/ORGANIZATIONS:

2013: Sands Supported Abbott's Bid For Governor.



[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [11/12/13](#)]

2013: Sands Tweeted She Was Proud Of Ted Cruz And Disappointed With John Cornyn.



[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [9/25/13](#)]

PARTISAN POSTS

Sands Reposted Marco Rubio's Tweet Stating That "God Protected President Trump" From The July 2024 Assassination Attempt Against Him.



[Twitter, @marcorubio, [6/13/24](#)]

Sands Reposted Governor Greg Abbott's Tweet Stating "Pray For Trump" In Response To From The July 2024 Assassination Attempt Against Him



[Twitter, @GregAbbott_TX, [6/13/24](#)]

2017: Sands Congratulated President Trump On Being Inaugurated.



[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [1/20/17](#)]

2013: Sands Praised Then-Candidate Greg Abbott As A “Staunch Defender Of #2A” At An Event At A Gun Store.



[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [11/12/13](#)]

CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE

Sands Said She Would Continue To Fight Voter Fraud If Reelected. “If elected, what would be your top three priorities to maintain and/or improve the services provided by the County Clerk office? Implement our newly acquired safe and secure records management system with multiple-level data replication which includes a user-friendly search portal as well as a Fraud Alert to notify residents if something is recorded in their name/property. Continue to protect the integrity our elections by fighting voter fraud; and provide fair, cost effective elections which ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot at any convenient and accessible polling location. Increase outreach with our Thank a Vet program to honor more Veterans and increase business participation.” [KIII TV, [10/24/18](#)]

ENDORSEMENTS

No findings of note

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

As Of January 2026, Sands Reported \$5,450 Cash On Hand. [Nueces County, filed [1/5/26](#)]

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

According to a Texas Ethics Commission individual contribution search, Sands has given \$385.00 to state-level political candidates.

Sands Political Giving History - State					
Contributor name	Recipient	Employer	Occupation	Receipt date	Amount
Sands, Kara	Hispanic Republicans of Texas	Self	Consultant	8/16/2012	\$250.00
Sands, Kara	Nueces County Republican Women		Consultant	1/14/2013	\$30.00
Sands, Kara	Nueces County Republican Women		Political Consultant	7/2/2012	\$30.00
Sands, Kara	Nueces County Republican Women		Political Consultant	10/8/2012	\$20.00
Sands, Kara	Nueces County Republican Women		Consultant	1/8/2014	\$30.00
Sands, Kara	Nueces County Republican Women	Nueces County	County Clerk	8/21/2018	\$25.00
Total:					\$385.00

[Texas Ethics Commission, individual contribution search, accessed [7/20/26](#)]

According to an FEC individual contribution search, Sands has given \$4,470.57 to federal political candidates.

Sands Political Giving History - Federal					
Contributor name	Recipient	State	Employer	Receipt date	Amount
ROSE, KARA	ELECT BLAKE FARENTHOLD COMMITTEE	TX	HOUSEWIFE	04/02/2010	\$1,000.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	02/16/2010	\$250.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TX	SELF	12/11/2008	\$0.58
ROSE, KARA MRS.	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TX	SELF	11/07/2008	\$2.99
ROSE, KARA MRS.	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TX	NONE	09/29/2008	\$180.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TX	HOMEMAKER	09/02/2008	\$105.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	JOHN MCCAIN 2008 INC.	TX	HOMEMAKER	08/31/2008	\$105.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	JOHN MCCAIN 2008 INC.	TX	HOMEMAKER	08/31/2008	\$105.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	JOHN MCCAIN 2008 INC.	TX	HOMEMAKER	08/29/2008	\$105.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	JOHN MCCAIN 2008 INC.	TX	HOMEMAKER	08/06/2008	\$142.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$250.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$5.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$25.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$10.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$75.00

ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$75.00
ROSE, KARA	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS	TX	HOMEMAKER	05/16/2008	\$35.00
ROSE, KARA MRS.	BUSH-CHENEY '04 INC	TX		04/13/2004	\$2,000.00
Total:					\$4,470.57

[FEC, individual contribution search, accessed [7/14/26](#)]

ISSUES

Taxes / Controversial Budget Cuts

No findings of note

Good Government/Ethics

Sands Claimed She Improved The Effectiveness And Efficiency Of The County Clerk's Office In A Transparent Manner. "Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, and excellent, please explain your answer to this questions, 'How would you rate the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Nueces County Clerk functions?' Above average. We made changes to the expenses and operations of my predecessor to increase effectiveness and efficiency in elections and other County Clerk functions. We operate under a format of continuous improvement and training to be aware of and comply with changes to State and Federal laws. We provide services treating all with dignity and conduct the business of the County in a transparent manner." [KIIITV, [10/24/18](#)]

Public Safety

No findings of note

Healthcare

Sands Called For Repealing The Affordable Care Act.



Barack Obama


@BarackObama · Jul 13, 2013

When politicians try to get in the way of a woman and her doctor, it's time to [#StandWithWomen](#). [OFA.BO/EV3afb](#)

721
2.8K
1.1K



Kara Sands
@KaraSands4

Or [#RepealObamacare](#) RT @BarackObama: When politicians try to get in the way of a woman and her doctor, it's time to [#StandWithWomen](#).

2:00 AM · Jul 13, 2013

Economic development

No findings of note

Housing & Development (affordable housing, zoning, data centers)

No findings of note

Environment / Land Management

No findings of note

Infrastructure (roads, parks, water and utilities, bike paths)

No findings of note

Education

No findings of note

Elections/Voting Access

2018: Sands Claimed “Election Fraud Is Real In Nueces County.” Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands had a blunt message for members of the commissioners court on Wednesday. ‘Election fraud is real in Nueces County,’ she said. ‘There's a problem.’” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [1/17/18](#)]

January 2018: Sands’ Office Gathered Evidence Of Alleged Voter Fraud In Robstown. “Sands said her office was gathering documentation and other information to turn over to the Texas Attorney General's office related to reports of mail-in voter fraud in Robstown. That impropriety reportedly occurred in November 2017, as well as during a runoff election the following month. ‘This is not a victimless crime,’ she said. ‘It affects several people.’” [Corpus Christi Caller-Times, [1/17/18](#)]

- **March 2018: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Announced His Office Would Prosecute Three Robstown Residents For Voter Fraud Allegedly Committed In 2016.** Attorney General Ken Paxton today announced that his office will prosecute three Robstown residents who were recently indicted by a San Patricio County grand jury for nine counts of voter fraud during the 2016 election cycle in Nueces County. The grand jury indictments are for violations of the Texas Election Code and include charges against the defendants for ballot theft, mail-in ballot fraud, vote harvesting, unlawfully divulging a vote and illegal voting.” [Texas Attorney General, press release, [3/7/18](#)]
 - **Paxton Thanked Sands “For Uncovering These Election Fraud Cases.”** ““Nothing is more vital to our democracy than the integrity of our voting process,

and my office will do everything within its abilities to solidify trust in every election in the state of Texas,' Attorney General Paxton said. 'We're grateful to Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands for uncovering these election fraud cases. I'm hopeful these prosecutions will send a message that deters voter fraud in the future.'" [Texas Attorney General, press release, [3/7/18](#)]

- **May 2019: At Least One Defendant, Robert Gonzalez, Was Found Not Guilty For Alleged Voter Fraud.** "It was an emotional moment for Robert Gonzalez as he heard the jury's verdict read aloud: not guilty. tears and sobs of relief after being cleared of those charges for an election that furthered his political career, but also was muddled by a criminal investigation into voter fraud. The case by the Texas Attorney General's office goes back two years. Today, jurors provided closure for Gonzalez." [KRIS TV, [5/8/19](#)]
 - **Gonzalez Was Accused Of Voter Fraud For Assisting Voters Cast Their Ballots.** "The case centered around a December 2016 runoff election in Robstown. The election was for the Robstown utility board, and Gonzalez was a candidate on the ballot. In a surveillance video, it appears he also assisted 19 voters at the polls and helped them cast ballots. This incident was the subject of a 6 Investigates Report which exposed the legal loophole in Texas election laws. Jurors learned that what Gonzalez did is legal." [KRIS TV, [5/8/19](#)]
 - **Gonzalez Claimed That Disabled Voters Were Not Being Properly Assisted By Election Workers.** "During one of those poll visits, Gonzalez complained to an election judge that he saw another man who is a family member of his, vote for his opponent. He claimed the vote was a mistake and happened because the man is blind and wasn't properly assisted by an election worker at the polls. According to testimony, that complaint was never fully investigated." [KRIS TV, [5/8/19](#)]
 - **Gonzalez's Lawyer Claimed That Sands Failed to Investigate Gonzalez's Complaint Due To Her Political Motivations.** "The indictment of Gonzalez happened more than a year after he reported voter fraud. his defense attorney Rey Pena said the complaint was not fully investigated because of political motivations of Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands. We called sands for comment. She has not returned our call." [KRIS TV, [5/8/19](#)]
- **Cynthia Gonzalez Was Sentenced To Five Days In Jail For Mailing In Ballots That Were Not Her Own.** "Cynthia Gonzalez, of Nueces County, marked and mailed ballots that were not her own in the 2016 Nueces County Democratic Primary. Gonzalez pleaded guilty to three charges of election code violations and was sentenced to serve five days in the San Patricio County Jail." [Heritage Foundation, accessed [7/20/26](#)]
- **76-Year Old Rosita Torres Flores Was Sentenced To 10 Days In Jail.** "A Robstown woman who committed voter fraud will be spending part of the summer in jail. 76-year old Rosita Torres Flores pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawfully assisting a voter. Specifically, Flores obtained a mail-in ballot from an elderly voter and used it to vote in the 2016 election without the voter's permission. In exchange for her guilty plea, Flores

was sentenced to a year and a half probation. She will also have to spend 10 consecutive Saturdays in jail. Her arrest comes after a six news investigation into fraud allegations in 2016. Flores was seen on video helping people vote at the city hall polling site.” [KRIS TV, [6/14/18](#)]

2016: Sands Claimed She Launched A Successful Vote Centers Program. “In 2016, we implemented Vote Centers allowing eligible voters to cast their ballot in any convenient, accessible polling location; which the Secretary of State deemed Successful.” [KIITV, [10/24/18](#)]

2018: Sands Said She Would Continue “Fighting Voting Fraud.” “Further, I will continue to ensure the security and integrity of elections by fighting voter fraud and seeking prosecution of those who prey on our most vulnerable voters.” [KIITV, [10/24/18](#)]

Affordability / Cost of Living

No findings of note

Ideology, Rhetoric & Extremism Signals

2013: Sands Tweeted That There Was A “War On Christians & Women By Radical Islamic Extremists.”



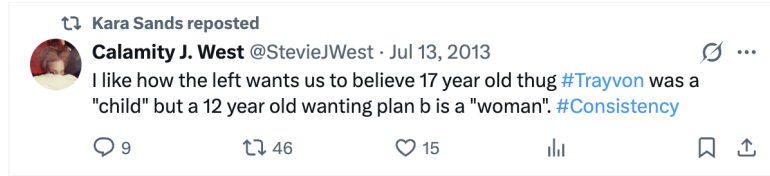
[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [10/11/13](#)]

2013: In Response To Sarah Palin’s Tweeting “Let Allah Sort It Out” Regarding The Syrian Civil War, Sands Called Palin’s Statement “Pretty Darn Good.”



[Twitter, @SarahPalinUSA, [8/30/13](#); Twitter, @KaraSands4, [9/3/13](#)]

Sands Retweeted A Post Calling Treyvon Martin A “Thug.”



[Twitter, @StevieJWest, [7/13/13](#)]

Abortion Access

In Response To A Tweet Stating That The Not Guilty Verdict For The Killing Of Trayvon Martin Meant That It Was Legal To Kill Black Children, Sands Tweeted That “No, Roe v Wade Did.”



[Twitter, @KaraSands, [7/14/13](#)]

Sands Praised The Passage Of HB2.



[Twitter, @KaraSands, [7/13/13](#)]

- **HB2 Banned Abortion After 20 Weeks.** “Texas passed House Bill 2, or “HB2” as it is commonly known, an omnibus abortion bill that imposed several additional restrictions on abortion: Doctors must have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion facility. Abortion after 20 weeks post-fertilization is banned, unless a patient is at risk of death or the fetus has a severe medical problem.” [ACLU, accessed [7/20/26](#)]

Sands Posted That Texas Women Needed To “See That There Comes A Time When It’s Not About Us, It’s About The Baby.”



[Twitter, @KaraSands4, [7/9/13](#)]

Sands Reposted That “No Human Is Insignificant Or Disposable Because Life Is A God Gift.”



[Twitter, @SteveTothTX, [7/8/13](#)]

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

1. [Personal Facebook](#)
2. [Campaign Facebook](#)
3. [Official Facebook](#)
4. [Campaign Instagram](#)
5. [Personal X Account](#)