



August 10, 2026

Marika Konings (marika.konings@icann.org)
Vice President, New gTLD Program Lead
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
12025 Waterfront Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Re: ICANN New gTLD Program ".texas" Applications

Dear Ms. Konings:

I understand that individuals not affiliated with the government of the State of Texas may submit, or may have submitted, an application for the gTLD string ".texas" in the 2026 Round of ICANN's gTLD Program. Under ICANN rules, applications for gTLD "strings that are exact matches of sub-national place names, such as . . . states, listed in the ISO 3166-2 standard" must include "documentation of support or non-objection from the relevant governments or public authorities."¹ The gTLD string ".texas" matches the geographic name of the State of Texas, which is a subdivision listed in ISO 3166-2.² It therefore requires a letter of support or non-objection from the State of Texas.

At the Governor's direction, I hereby inform you that the State of Texas does not support and does object to the application for the gTLD string ".texas," and any derivative thereof. The ".texas" string represents the official name widely recognized as referring to the sovereign State of Texas, and its use without the consent of the State could mislead the public or imply unauthorized affiliation. Delegating this string to an entity other than the State of Texas risks misuse, reputational harm, and potential confusion among residents and businesses. *See, e.g.,* TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 19 (the "Seal of the State," which is used "officially under the direction of the Governor," shall contain "the words 'The State of Texas'"); TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE § 17.46 (prohibiting deceptive practices like implying association with a governmental entity); TEX. GOV'T CODE § 411.017 (imposing criminal penalties for misuse of certain state insignia).

¹ INTERNET CORP. FOR ASSIGNED NAMES & NUMBERS, NEW GTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND APPLICANT GUIDEBOOK Rule 7.5.2 (Apr. 24, 2026), <https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/sites/default/files/documents/new-gtld-program-2026-round-applicant-guidebook-current-en.pdf>.

² *See* Int'l Org. for Standardization, *Online Browsing Platform – Country Codes: United States of America*, <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:code:3166:US> (listing Texas as a subdivision of the United States and assigning the ISO 3166-2 subdivision code of "US-TX.").

The State of Texas has not granted support to any applicant for use of the ".texas" string. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you require any additional information.

Thank you,



Anthony E. Sauerhoff
Texas State Chief Information Officer

Cc: Jared Erwin, Senior Director, New gTLD Program, ICANN (jared.erwin@icann.org)
Michael Karakash, Sr. Policy Research Manager, ICANN (michael.karakash@icann.org)
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