

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY™

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) P.O. BOX 14498, DES MOINES, IA 50306-3498
PHONE: (800) 678-8171 FAX: (515) 243-3854

TEXAS OFFICIAL BOND AND OATH FOR COUNTY AUDITOR

THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Galveston

Bond No. 101463361

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, Sergio Cruz, as Principal, and the Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual), a corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of Texas, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the District Judge for the County of Galveston, State of Texas, his/her successors in office, in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION is such, that, whereas, the above bounden Principal was on the 4th day of April, 2025, duly Appointed to the office of County Auditor in and for Galveston County in the State of Texas, for a term commencing on the 4th day of April, 2025 and expiring on the 4th day of April, 2027.

Now, therefore, if the said Principal shall faithfully perform the duties of county auditor, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that regardless of the number of years this bond may remain in force and the number of claims which may be made against this bond, the liability of the Surety shall not be cumulative and the aggregate liability of the Surety for any and all claims, suits, or actions under this bond shall not exceed the amount stated above. Any revision of the bond amount shall not be cumulative.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that this bond may be canceled by the Surety by sending written notice to the party to whom this bond is payable stating that, not less than thirty (30) days thereafter, the Surety's liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts of the Principal.

Dated this 4th day of April, 2025.



Sergio Cruz Principal

By: [Signature]

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)

By: [Signature]

Kathy Martinez Attorney-in-Fact

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCIPAL

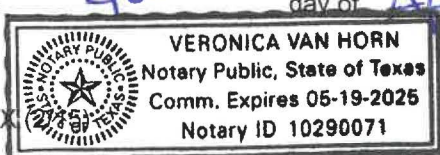
THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Galveston

Before me, Veronica Van Horn, a notary public, on this day personally appeared Sergio Cruz known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at Galveston, TX this 4th day of April, 2025

PO 0146 TX



Veronica Van Horn
Galveston County, Texas.

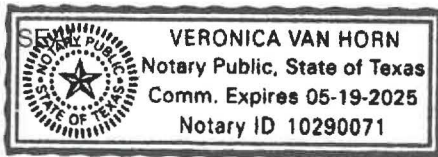
OATH OF OFFICE
(General)

I, Sergio Cruz, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of County Auditor of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected. So help me God.

Signed [Signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Galveston, Texas, this 4th day of April, 2025.

Veronica Van Horn
Galveston County, Texas



THE STATE OF TEXAS }
County of Galveston } ss

The foregoing bond of Sergio Cruz as County Auditor in and for Galveston County and State of Texas, this day approved in open Commissioner's Court.

ATTEST:

[Signature] Clerk
County Court Galveston County

Date April 14, 2025

[Signature] County Judge,
Galveston County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
County of _____ } ss

I, _____, County Clerk, in and for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing Bond dated the _____ day of _____, _____, with its certificates of authentication, was filed for record in my office the _____ day of _____, _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M., and duly recorded the _____ day of _____, _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M., in the Records of Official Bonds of said County in Volume _____, on page _____.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the County Court of said County, at office in _____, Texas, the day and year last above written.

Clerk

By _____ Deputy County Court _____ County
PO 0146 TX (2/15)

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY™

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know All Persons By These Presents, that MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., both being corporations of the State of Iowa, d/b/a Merchants National Indemnity Company (in California only) (herein collectively called the "Companies") do hereby make, constitute and appoint, individually,

Kathy Marines

their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, to sign its name as surety(ies) and to execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, undertakings, contracts and other written instruments in the nature thereof, on behalf of the Companies in their business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

This Power-of-Attorney is granted and is signed and sealed by facsimile under and by authority of the following By-Laws adopted by the Board of Directors of Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual) on April 23, 2011 and amended August 14, 2015 and April 27, 2024 and adopted by the Board of Directors of Merchants National Bonding, Inc., on October 16, 2015 and amended on April 27, 2024.

"The President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any Assistant Treasurer or any Assistant Secretary or any Vice President shall have power and authority to appoint Attorneys-in-Fact, and to authorize them to execute on behalf of the Company, and attach the seal of the Company thereto, bonds and undertakings, recognizances, contracts of indemnity and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof."

"The signature of any authorized officer and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile or electronic transmission to any Power of Attorney or Certification thereof authorizing the execution and delivery of any bond, undertaking, recognizance, or other suretyship obligations of the Company, and such signature and seal when so used shall have the same force and effect as though manually fixed."

In connection with obligations in favor of the Florida Department of Transportation only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact includes any and all consents for the release of retained percentages and/or final estimates on engineering and construction contracts required by the State of Florida Department of Transportation. It is fully understood that consenting to the State of Florida Department of Transportation making payment of the final estimate to the Contractor and/or its assignee, shall not relieve this surety company of any of its obligations under its bond.

In connection with obligations in favor of the Kentucky Department of Highways only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact cannot be modified or revoked unless prior written personal notice of such intent has been given to the Commissioner-Department of Highways of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at least thirty (30) days prior to the modification or revocation.

In Witness Whereof, the Companies have caused this instrument to be signed and sealed this 4th day of April, 2025.



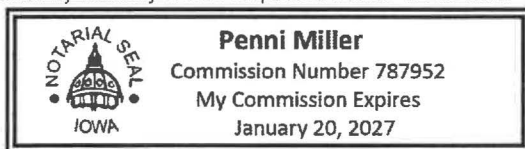
MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL)
MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.
d/b/a MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY

By

Larry Taylor
President

STATE OF IOWA
COUNTY OF DALLAS ss.

On this 4th day of April, 2025, before me appeared Larry Taylor, to me personally known, who being by me duly sworn did say that he is President of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.; and that the seals affixed to the foregoing instrument are the Corporate Seals of the Companies; and that the said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of the Companies by authority of their respective Boards of Directors.



Penni Miller
Notary Public

(Expiration of notary's commission
does not invalidate this instrument)

I, Elisabeth Sandersfeld, Secretary of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the POWER-OF-ATTORNEY executed by said Companies, which is still in full force and effect and has not been amended or revoked.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Companies on this 4th day of April, 2025.



Elisabeth Sandersfeld
Secretary



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TEXAS ENDORSEMENT

The following has been added, and supersedes any provision to the contrary.

The following actions shall be commenced within 2 years and 1 day from the date the cause of action first accrues:

1. Any claim, action, suit or proceeding against the Surety.



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NOTICE TO BOND HOLDER – RETAIN THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS

Have a complaint or need help?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company or HMO first. If you can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company or HMO. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company or HMO:

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)

Call: Compliance Officer at (800) 671-8171

Toll-free: (800) 671-8171

Email: regulatory@merchantsbonding.com

Mail: P.O. Box 14498, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-3498

To get insurance information, you may also contact your agent:

Galveston Insurance Associates

Call: 409-740-1251

Mail: PO Box 16767 Galveston, TX 77552

The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439

File a complaint: www.tdi.texas.gov

Email: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Mail: Consumer Protection, MC: CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance,

¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros o HMO:

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)

Llame a: Compliance Officer al (800) 671-8171

Teléfono gratuito: (800) 678-8171

Correo electrónico: regulatory@merchantsbonding.com

Dirección postal: P.O. Box 14498, Des Moines, Iowa, 50306-3498

El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439

Presente una queja en: www.tdi.texas.gov

Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Dirección postal: Consumer Protection, MC: CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance, PO Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711-2030

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ADDENDUM TO BOND

This Addendum is in reference to the bond(s) to which it is attached.

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual) ("Merchants") deems the digital or electronic image of Merchants' corporate seal below affixed to the bond(s) to the same extent as if a raised corporate seal was physically stamped or impressed upon the bond(s). The digital or electronic seal below shall have the same force and effect as though manually fixed to the bond(s).

All terms of the bond(s) remain the same.

Signed and effective March 23, 2020.

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL)



By: _____

Larry Taylor

Larry Taylor, President

FILED

TEXAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XVI § 1

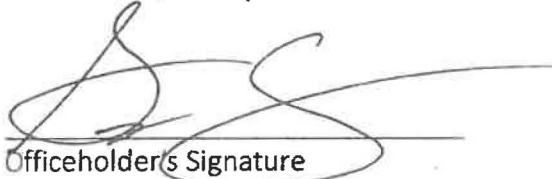
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Statement of Officer

"I, Sergio Cruz, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly or indirectly paid, offered, promised to pay, contributed, or promised to contribute any money or thing of value, or promised any public office or employment for the giving or withholding of a vote at the election at which I was elected or as a reward to secure my appointment or confirmation, whichever the case may be, so help me God."

Oath of Office


"I, Sergio Cruz, do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of Galveston County Auditor of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God."


Officeholder's Signature

04/08/2025
Date

County Auditor/Galveston County
Office City and/or County

SWORN TO and subscribed before me by officeholder on this 8th day of April, 2025.


Signature of Person Authorized to Administer Oath/Statements

Jeth Jones
Printed Name

Judge, 122nd District Court
Title