



Texas Lottery Commission



Commissioners:

J. Winston Krause, Chairman

Mark A. Franz • Robert Rivera • Erik C. Saenz

Michael P. Farrell
Director

August 26, 2019

This letter is a follow-up communication to my letter dated July 17, 2019 and serves as a reminder of the deadline imposed by the 86th Legislature's House Bill (HB) 914, as well as providing additional information relating to that bill.

The most immediate matter for your attention is that your local government will only continue to receive a share of the bingo prize fees collected after Jan. 1, 2020 if it meets the requirements set forth in HB 914. Your governing body must:

- (1) approve the continued receipt of the share of bingo prize fee funds by a majority vote;**
- (2) notify the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) of that decision no later than Nov. 1, 2019; and**
- (3) notify each licensed authorized organization within the county's or municipality's jurisdiction, as applicable, of the continued imposition of the fee.**

If a county or municipality has not voted and notified the Commission by **Nov. 1, 2019**, that county or municipality will forfeit their right to receive prize fees generated by bingo permanently.

I have also enclosed the required vote verification notice (attestation form) to be used to notify TLC of your jurisdiction's status; the *Bingo Prize Fee Funds County/Municipality Governing Body Vote Verification Notice*. It is also located on the Charitable Bingo website at:

https://www.txbingo.org/export/sites/bingo/Documents/prescribed_attestation_form.pdf

(This is the same form that was enclosed in individual responses to local governments.)

Moreover, the Commission is creating an administrative tool that will allow municipalities and counties to generate a custom report on licensed, authorized organizations that conduct bingo occasions in their jurisdictions. This will provide local jurisdictions access to reports that will provide information on playing locations and organizational contact information. We anticipate having this tool available by the end of September.

Until then, you can access a report containing information on organizations conducting bingo in your jurisdiction by using the address below to the Charitable Bingo's website and accessing the Conductor Location/Address report.

https://bsc.txbingo.org/bsp/faces/bspPublicReports.jspx;jsessionid=2faMfrxr-ZtrYgKeaHMd_ZaSIRFa-hLlz7yVX7ZEfs1JX85EegZD!-1709348529.

Please note, the information changes regularly, as we process hundreds of licenses each year. The link provided will allow your organization to access numerous other reports which may be useful.

Another change effective Jan. 1, 2020 impacts the collection and remittance of prize fees. Local governments will no longer receive their bingo prize fee payments from TLC at the end of the fiscal year. After Jan. 1, 2020, licensed organizations conducting bingo in a jurisdiction that has fulfilled all of the requirements of Section 11 of H.B. 914 will remit to that jurisdiction, allocations up to 50% of the prize fees the charitable organizations collect payable on a quarterly basis.

It should also be noted that while precincts may have voted to allow bingo occasions, they are **ineligible** to receive any prize fee allocations.

If you have any questions, email us at bingo.services@lottery.state.tx.us, or if you would like to speak with a Charitable Bingo representative, please call 1-800-BINGO-77 (246-4677), press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish; then press 4 to reach the Bingo Division and press 5 for the Training and Education Department.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael P. Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael P. Farrell
Director
Charitable Bingo Operations Division

ENCL: *Bingo Prize Fee Funds County/Municipality Governing Body Vote Verification Notice*