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### **Senator Eckhardt Vows Impartiality as Juror in Paxton Impeachment Trial**

The Texas House of Representatives delivered the Articles of Impeachment for Attorney General Ken Paxton to the Texas Senate on Monday, May 29 . Under the Texas Constitution, the Texas Senate is now required to serve as a "Court of Impeachment" and hold a trial to determine whether Attorney General Paxton will be relieved of his office. The date for this trial will be decided later this summer.

It is also the responsibility of the Texas Senate to determine the rules and procedures by which the Court of Impeachment will conduct itself. Historically, the Lieutenant Governor appoints a limited number of Senators to a committee which drafts proposed rules and procedures that are then reported to the full Senate for approval. Senators Birdwell (Chair), Hinojosa (Vice Chair), Creighton, Flores, Huffman, King and West have been appointed to the committee. The committee is set to report their proposed rules and procedures to the full Senate on June 20, 2023.

The Texas Constitution requires each Senator to swear an oath of impartiality and consider all relevant facts and evidence, similar to a jury in any court of law. During the last impeachment trial, the rules adopted by the Senate prohibited the senators from discussing the proceedings with anyone other than senators and the presiding officer of the Impeachment trial.

"Please be assured that I am committed to fulfilling my constitutional duty, including my duty to act as an impartial juror in weighing the facts and merits of the case."

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