

MERCHANTS
BONDING COMPANYTM

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

FILED FOR RECORD
2024 FEB 26 PM 2:15

COUNTY CLERK TITUS CO TX

**TEXAS OFFICIAL BOND AND OATH
FOR COUNTY AUDITOR**

BY RPB DEPUTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Titus

Bond No. 100359857

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, Melissa Godfrey, 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 Titus, 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 20th day of February, 2024, duly Appointed to the office of County Auditor in and for Titus County in the State of Texas, for a term commencing on the 20th day of February, 2024 and expiring on the 30th day of September, 2025.

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 20th day of February, 2024.

Melissa Godfrey Principal
By: Melissa Godfrey
Melissa Godfrey

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)
By: Jeannette D. Blanke
Jeannette D Blanke Attorney-in-Fact

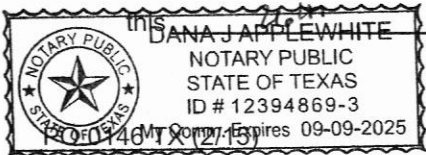
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCIPAL

THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Titus

Before me, Dana J Applegate, a notary public, on this day personally appeared Melissa Godfrey 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 1:49 pm



This day of February, 2024.

Dana J Applegate
Titus County, Texas.

OATH OF OFFICE
(General)

I, Melissa Godfrey, 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 Melissa Godfrey

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Titus County, Texas, this 26th day of February, 2024.

Leslie Brosnan
Titus County, Texas

SEAL



THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Titus } ss

The foregoing bond of Melissa Godfrey as County Auditor in and for Titus County and State of Texas, this day approved in open Commissioner's Court.

ATTEST:

Date February 26, 2024

Leslie Brosnan Clerk Bob Copen County Judge,
County Court Titus County Titus County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Titus } ss

I, Leslie Brosnan, County Clerk, in and for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing Bond dated the 26th day of February, 2024, with its certificates of authentication, was filed for record in my office the 26th 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

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,

Jeannette D Blanke

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 adopted by the Board of Directors of Merchants National Bonding, Inc., on October 16, 2015.

"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 20th day of February, 2024.



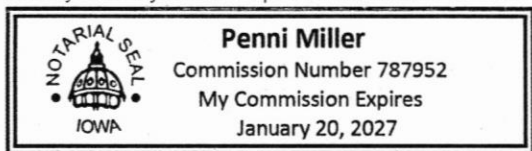
MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL)
MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.
d/b/a MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY

By

Larry Taylor
President

STATE OF IOWA
COUNTY OF DALLAS ss.

On this 20th day of February, 2024, 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.



[Signature]
Notary Public

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

I, William Warner, Jr., 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 20th day of February, 2024.



William Warner Jr.
Secretary



MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) P.O. BOX 14498, DES MOINES, IA 50306-3498

PHONE: (800) 678-8171 FAX: (515) 243-3854

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:

Offenhauser & Co Insurance Agency

Call: 903-793-5511

Mail: 2301 Moores Lane Texarkana, TX 75503

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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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.

FILED AND RECORDED

Instrument Number: 2024001

Filing and Recording Date: 02/26/2024 02:17:25 PM Pages: Recording Fee: \$0.00

I hereby certify that this instrument was FILED on the date and time stamped hereon and RECORDED in the PUBLIC RECORDS of Titus County, Texas.



Leslie Brosnan

Leslie Brosnan, County Clerk
Titus County, Texas

ANY PROVISION CONTAINED IN ANY DOCUMENT WHICH RESTRICTS THE SALE, RENTAL, OR USE OF THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED THEREIN BECAUSE OF RACE OR COLOR IS INVALID UNDER FEDERAL LAW AND IS UNENFORCEABLE.