

832. The Purchasing Agent, except as otherwise provided herein, shall require sealed bids before contracting for the purchase of any item valued in excess of one hundred dollars, and for the purchase of any item valued in excess of five hundred dollars he shall advertise in at least two newspapers published in the County, at least a week in advance, an invitation for the submission of bids thereon. For the purchase of items valued at one hundred dollars or less, bids shall be solicited orally or by letter. In any event, the bid shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, unless the Purchasing Agent shall have stated in writing to the County Commissioners his reasons for desiring to reject such bid, and the lowest responsible bid shall then not be rejected by the Purchasing Agent until after the next regular weekly meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

833. (a) Neither the Purchasing Agent nor any employee of the Purchasing Bureau shall be interested in or in any manner connected with, directly or indirectly, any contract or bid for furnishing materials, supplies or equipment to any of the using authorities. Neither shall the Purchasing Agent or any employee of the Bureau accept or receive from any person to whom any contract may be awarded, directly or indirectly, by rebate, gift, or otherwise, any money or things of value whatsoever, or any promise, obligation or contract for future reward or compensation from any such party. If the Purchasing Agent or any employee of the Bureau shall violate any provision of this section, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the Court.

(b) All contracts for the printing of stationery, office forms, pamphlets, or other printed matter, required by any of the using authorities which come within the jurisdiction of this Act shall be made through or with the approval of the purchasing agent, which requirement includes the price, quantity, and quality of all printed matter other than ballots and including all stationery, cards, forms, and other paper supplies required by either the Board of Election Supervisors or the permanent Board of Registry.

(c) All insurance or surety bonds to be paid for entirely with money raised through the annual tax levy of the Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County shall be contracted and purchased by the County Purchasing Agent to the best advantages of the public protection required from such insurance or bonds and to the greatest advantage of the public Treasury of Montgomery County.