

**26.10 Opening and considering bids.**

1. The date and time that each bid is received by the governmental entity, together with the name of the person receiving the bid, shall be recorded on the envelope containing the bid. If bids are received in an electronic format as provided in [section 26.7](#), the governmental entity shall electronically record the date and time each bid is received. All bids received after the deadlines for submission of bids as stated in the project specifications shall not be considered and shall be returned to the late bidder unopened. The governmental entity shall open, announce the amount of the bids, and file all proposals received, at the time and place specified in the notice to bidders. The governmental entity may, by resolution, award the contract for the public improvement to the bidder submitting the lowest responsive, responsible bid, determined as provided in [section 26.9](#), or the governmental entity may reject all bids received, fix a new date for receiving bids, and order publication of a new notice to bidders. The governmental entity shall retain the bid security furnished by the successful bidder until the approved contract form has been executed, a bond has been filed by the bidder guaranteeing the performance of the contract, and the contract and bond have been approved by the governmental entity. The provisions of [chapter 573](#), where applicable, apply to contracts awarded under [this chapter](#).

2. The governmental entity shall promptly return the checks or bidder's bonds of unsuccessful bidders to the bidders as soon as the successful bidder is determined or within thirty days, whichever is sooner.

[2006 Acts, ch 1017, §10, 42, 43; 2007 Acts, ch 144, §6; 2022 Acts, ch 1018, §3](#)

Referred to in [§26.3, 314.1](#)