

# 2025 TPEA ANNUAL MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION GUIDE



# FAQs

01.

## How can I vote?

TPEA developed an open and transparent process for our members to vote electronically or by mail. The electronic system allows more members to participate in the annual meeting and is faster, less costly, and more efficient. To submit your votes online, check your TPEA-affiliated email and login with the link provided. If you'd like to vote by mail, call TPEA toll-free at 1-888-367-8732 or email us at [membersupport@tpea.org](mailto:membersupport@tpea.org). Ballots must be returned to TPEA offices no later than 5pm on Friday, June 20, 2025.

02.

## Who administers and oversees the election?

The Executive Committee of the Board provides oversight of staff, the third-party electronic voting vendor, guidelines, eligibility, and election to ensure compliance. The Executive Committee is also responsible for resolving all disputes.

03.

## Who is entitled to vote?

Active members who are state employees or retirees of record and are in good standing at the close of business on May 15, 2025, are eligible to vote. Associate members (non-state employees) cannot vote.

04.

## Can I vote in-person at the meeting?

No. All votes need to be received before 5 pm on June 20, 2025, and elected members will be announced at the annual meeting on June 28, 2025.

05.

## How do I ask questions?

Members as of the record date may submit questions to [membersupport@tpea.org](mailto:membersupport@tpea.org). We will try to answer as many questions as possible that comply with the posted rules of conduct. Questions to the candidates should be directed at the candidate.

06.

## How do I obtain a printed copy of the election materials?

If you would like us to send you a printed copy of the election materials, please call us at 512-476-2691 or toll-free at 1-888-367-8732 or email [membersupport@tpea.org](mailto:membersupport@tpea.org).

## FAQs, cont.

07.

### How many votes do I get?

Every voter gets one vote for up to three candidates running for the Board of Directors.

08.

### How does the Board of Directors election work?

TPEA directors are elected at large, meaning they are elected to represent the entire membership of the body rather than a subset of that membership.

09.

### How will the winners be selected?

The people with the most votes based on the number of available positions will be elected to the Board of Directors unless the person with the most votes causes more than 1/3 of the Board of Directors to be a retiree or from a single state agency.

10.

### How do I obtain more information or ask questions?

If you have any questions about the voting process, please contact us at 512-476-2691 or toll free at 1-888-367-8732 or email us at [membersupport@tpea.org](mailto:membersupport@tpea.org).

# BOARD NOMINEES



## **Suzy Whittenton – Retired from Department of Public Safety (DPS)**

I have served as a Chief Financial Officer in five state agencies, and as a Director of Administration in a 6th agency. I have spent my career working alongside talented and dedicated state employees. I have 30+ years of experience in legislative and financial roles, obtaining appropriations for the agencies I have worked for. I believe that I can be effective in supporting state employees and retirees through legislative action and by advocating for all of us to ERS and TRS.

I appreciate all that TPEA does for state employees and retirees and would like to contribute. My goal is to obtain:

- Regular salary increases for active employees, and
- COLAs or a 13th check for all retirees.

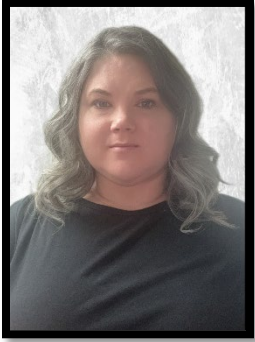


## **Tashia Dickerson – Department of Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

Howdy, I am Tashia Dickerson, proud Texas A&M alumni, Class of 1997. I recently moved away from my hometown of Aggieland to Henderson, Texas where I am working for the greatest Region and Unit in HHSC/CCS 04/05. Embarking on my 5-year anniversary with the State of Texas and HHSC/CCS, being a Community Care Case Manager, has been a true privilege. Working with the individuals that I have encountered has brought me joy, knowing that I/we as an institution have truly been able to provide care for and allow them to stay in their own homes, where they want to be. Now looking back on HHSC, I was a proud business owner for 19 years. Most importantly, I am a Mommy of two beautiful daughters. One will change the world, Cierra who is 25 years old, she graduated in December 2023 from Texas A&M with her Master's degree, WHOOP! The other will be my baby forever, Maci Nicole. Born with a genetic disorder, she was my baby for 19 years and now my Guardian Angel. I am looking for a NEW PURPOSE, for me.

Furthering the growth of the economy and improving assistance to the citizens of Texans has become something I am passionate about, being on the board would let me be able to be a small part in advocating for the future of our great state. It is about the WHOLE, not about one part, and I believe that as a Texan we can all agree, we must strategically find ways in our world today to work together to come up with solutions to assist the State as an entity, the Employees, and the Citizens. Let's keep TEXAS GREAT!

# BOARD NOMINEES, cont.



## **Amanda (Mandy) Flinn - Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**

I have devoted 20 years to serving the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the state of Texas, excelling in leadership roles across multiple divisions. Beginning my career in 2004 as a clerk in the inmate file room, I swiftly advanced, holding key positions such as Assistant Selections Administrator, Leaves Administrator, Correction Staffing Administrator, and HR Operations Manager. In 2022, I transitioned to my current role as Assistant Director of Classification and Records, where I oversee critical processes in correctional management. Beyond my extensive experience, I hold a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ashworth University. My deep commitment to fairness, operational excellence, and supporting the dedicated employees of Texas drives me.

Representing the employees of the State of Texas would be an incredible honor. With my background in HR as a state employee, I want to help shape policies and workplace practices that make Texas a great place to work—where employees feel valued, compensated fairly, and empowered to thrive in their careers. My goal is to drive meaningful changes that benefit both current employees and retirees, strengthening the foundation of public service in our state.

State employees and retirees are facing two major challenges: inadequate pay and high employee turnover. The rising cost of living has made it increasingly difficult for many to afford necessities, forcing tough choices between paying bills and buying groceries. At the same time, high turnover rates continue to strain state agencies, impacting employee morale and overall well-being. Long hours and limited time off further contribute to both physical and mental exhaustion. I believe my leadership and passion for ensuring equitable treatment would be a valuable asset to the TPEA board, and I would be honored to serve the employees of our great state.



## **Brandon Sanders - Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)**

With twelve years of experience as a safety officer with the Texas Department of Transportation's Waco District, I bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table! I earned my degree in Environmental Health and Safety from Texas State Technical College, equipping me with the skills to make a meaningful impact in the field.

I'm not just dedicated to safety at work; I'm deeply involved in my community too! I attend St. John United Church of Christ and proudly serve on the Board of Directors for Masters Workshop Church Camp, helping to foster growth and learning for all ages.

As the leader of Boy Scout Troop 308 and Girl Scout Troop 7073, I'm passionate about nurturing our future leaders and instilling in them the values of responsibility and teamwork. Being a second-generation safety professional fills me with pride, and my commitment to employee well-being drives me to assist TPEA in reaching its exciting goals and missions. Together, we can achieve greatness!