



# 2017 TASB Nominations Committee Report

The Delegate Assembly is charged with the responsibility of electing TASB Directors and Officers, subject to TASB Bylaws, Articles VI and VII.

## Nominees

### Nominees for Officers

*(Nominated by TASB Board)*

**President-Elect**

**James de Garavilla**

*Silsbee ISD, regional member*

**Second Vice-President**

**Jim Rice**

*Fort Bend ISD, large district member*

**First Vice-President**

**Lee Lentz-Edwards**

*Kermit ISD, regional member*

**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Ted Beard**

*Longview ISD, regional member*

### Nominees for TASB Board of Directors

*(Nominated by Nominations Committee)*

#### EXPIRING TERMS (regional members for election to three-year terms, 2017–20):

**TASB Region 4, Position B**

**Charles Cunningham\***

*Humble ISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 14**

**Greg Welch**

*Clyde CISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 8**

**Thomas Darden**

*Cooper ISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 15**

**Raymond Meza**

*San Felipe Del Rio CISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 10, Position D**

**Donald Gant**

*DeSoto ISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 20, Position A**

**Rolinda Schmidt**

*Kerrville ISD, regional member*

**TASB Region 13, Position B**

**Will Streit**

*Leander ISD, regional member*

#### FOR ELECTION TO A TWO-YEAR TERM (2017–19), FILLING VACANCY:

**TASB Region 2**

**Carrie Gregory\***

*Gregory-Portland ISD, regional member*

#### FOR ELECTION TO A ONE-YEAR TERM (2017–18), FILLING VACANCY:

**TASB Region 1, Position A**

**Patricia O'Caña-Olivarez**

*Mission CISD, regional member*

## Directors elected by action of the regions

### ELECTED TO THREE-YEAR TERMS (2017–20), FILLING EXPIRED TERMS:

**TASB Region 4, Position D**  
**Rhonda Skillern-Jones**  
*Houston ISD, large district member*

**TASB Region 11, Position B**  
**Christene Moss**  
*Fort Worth ISD, large district member*

**TASB Region 4, Position G**  
**Jim Rice**  
*Fort Bend ISD, large district member*

**TASB Region 20, Position B**  
**Karen Freeman**  
*Northside ISD-Bexar County, large district member*

**TASB Region 4, Position H**  
**Rose Avalos**  
*Aldine ISD, large district member*

### ELECTED TO TWO-YEAR TERM (2017–19), FILLING VACANT TERM:

**TASB Region 4, Position E**  
**George Scott**  
*Katy ISD, large district member*

## President and president-elect

At the close of the TASA/TASB Convention, **Teresa Flores** (*Ingleside ISD*) will assume the office of President by virtue of her election as President-Elect by the 2016 Delegate Assembly. **Charles R. Stafford** (*Denton ISD*) will become Immediate Past President.

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Members of the Nominations Committee are pleased to place in nomination the names of the above individuals. Each nominee has agreed to serve, if elected. The members of the Committee believe that this is a representative and competent group of individuals worthy of the support of the membership.



Bret Begert, TASB Immediate Past President and Chair

#### Notes:

Pursuant to the TASB Bylaws: [Article VI, Section 2D(5)] “If a majority of the Active Members in an Association Region endorses the same candidate, that candidate shall be elected to the Director position and shall take office at the completion of the final official session of the annual convention during the year in which the Director was elected.”

The Bylaws also state: [Article VI, Section 2C] “For the purposes of this section, an Active Member school district with an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) meeting the requirements of Article VI, Section 4C(1), shall be treated as an Association Region and referred to in these Bylaws as a Large District.”

**\*Received endorsements from 25 percent or more of the Active Members in the region.**

# Biographical Information

## OFFICERS

### **Charles R. Stafford**

*Immediate Past President, one-year term, 2017–18*

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Stafford has been on the Denton ISD Board for more than 15 years and has held the positions of vice-president and secretary four times. He served as president in 1993–94, 2007–09, and 2013–14.

Stafford studied in the Plan II Honors program at The University of Texas at Austin and continued his education with accounting classes at the University of North Texas. He is a self-employed real estate broker and developer with Keller Williams Realty.

Stafford's activities include participation in the Kiwanis Club and Greater Denton-Wise Association of Realtors®, chair of the Advisory Council for the Children's Advocacy Center of Denton County, chair of the Denton Central Appraisal District, member of the Advisory Board for the College of Public Affairs and Community Services at the University of North Texas, co-chair of the Capital Campaign for College of PACS, board member of the Animal Shelter Foundation, and board member of the Denton Chamber of Commerce.

### **Teresa Flores**

*President, one-year term, 2017–18*

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Flores has served on the Ingleside ISD Board since 1999 and has held the positions of secretary, president, and Delegate to the TASB Delegate Assembly. She was elected to the TASB Board of Directors for Region 2 in 2006. For more than 20 years, Flores has served as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.

After graduating from Ingleside High School, she attended Del Mar College. She currently participates in local school events and has a special interest in legislative activity involving education. Most recently, she was asked to participate on the District 32 State Representative's Educational Advisory Committee.

Past civic involvement includes president of the high school band booster organization, director for the Corpus Christi Harbor Playhouse, member of the Corpus Christi Symphony Community

Outreach Committee, chair of the scholarship committee for the Del Mar College Foundation, and treasurer and player agent of the Ingleside Little League, serving more than 450 children and their parents.

### **James de Garavilla**

*President-Elect, one-year term, 2017–18*

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De Garavilla has represented Region 5 on the TASB Board since 2009, serving on each of the board's standing committees. He also served on the Special Committee on School Finance and chaired the Legislative Committee during the 83rd Legislative Session, which saw the passage of HB 5.

He was elected to the Silsbee ISD Board in 2006 and completed the Leadership TASB and Leadership Southeast Texas programs. He also has been active in the grassroots advocacy process and served on the TASB Legislative Advisory Council. De Garavilla has served in various leadership roles at Silsbee ISD, including chairing its Budget and Finance Committee and an ad-hoc committee on board operating procedures.

Professionally, de Garavilla is currently a senior polymer research engineer at DuPont and holds several patents in his field. Throughout his 33-year career with DuPont, he has held a variety of technical, managerial, business, and marketing roles.

### **Lee Lentz-Edwards**

*First Vice-President, one-year term, 2017–18*

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Lentz-Edwards is serving her 12th year on the Kermit ISD Board of Trustees. She is currently in her third term as president, having served previously as secretary for several years. She is a graduate of Sul Ross State University with a bachelor of business administration, master of education, and master of business administration.

She has worked in the field of education for many years. Currently, she is a special education coordinator. Lentz-Edwards has been active in her community, having served as a leader in both Girl Scouts and 4-H, a Sunday school teacher and superintendent at her church, and a

member of the Kermit Rotary Club, where she held officer positions as secretary and president.

She has been honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Permian Basin Girl Scout Association, an Outstanding Adult 4-H Leader District VI, and Kermit Woman of the Year.

### **Jim Rice**

*Second Vice-President, one-year term, 2017–18  
Region 4, three-year term, 2017–20*

Rice was elected to the Fort Bend ISD Board in May 2010. During the past six years, he has served as board secretary and president.

Elected to the TASB Board of Directors in 2012, he chaired the Legislative Committee during the 84th Legislative Session and served on the Nominations and Planning and Development committees. He is a 2014 graduate of Leadership TASB.

Rice is president of Rice and Gardner Consultants, Inc., an engineering and construction management firm. In addition to his professional duties, he currently serves as the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Education Division chair and is a 2005 graduate of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Forum Class.

He is also very involved in numerous civic organizations for Fort Bend, including the Fort Bend Literacy Council, Fort Bend P16 Regional Council, and Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. Rice is co-founder of the charity Fort Bend Cares, which benefits underprivileged youth in the community.

### **Ted Beard**

*Secretary-Treasurer, one-year term, 2017–18*

Beard was elected to the Longview ISD Board in 1998 and has served in various capacities, including assistant secretary, vice-president, and president.

Beard earned a bachelor's degree in human services from LeTourneau University and now works as a claims representative and an equal employment opportunity counselor for the Social Security Administration. He is a retired sergeant major from the United States Army and a combat veteran of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Beard was appointed to the TASB Risk Management Fund Board in November 2007 and currently serves as chair. He is also a member of Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

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## **DIRECTORS**

### **Patricia O'Caña-Olivarez**

*Region 1, Position A, one-year term, 2017–18*

For nine years, O'Caña-Olivarez has served on the Mission CISD Board. She currently is the board's president and has previously served as vice-president and secretary. In addition, she has chaired the Finance, Curriculum and Instruction, and Facilities committees.

A native of Mission and a proud product of Mission CISD schools, she continued her education at St. Mary's School of Law. After graduating with a doctor of jurisprudence, she returned to her hometown to serve as an attorney and counselor of law/civil and family mediator.

O'Caña-Olivarez currently serves as a member of the Guadalupe Catholic Mission Sunset Lion's Club. Previously, she was a board member of the Silver Ribbon Community Partners and

aided the local adult protective services program. She is a founding member of the Education Foundation of Mission CISD.

### **Carrie Gregory**

*Region 2, two-year term, 2017–19*

Gregory is secretary for the Gregory-Portland ISD (GPISD) Board of Trustees. She has served on the board for three years. In addition, she has served on the district's strategic planning committee and assisted with community education efforts for the district's 2015 bond election.

A physical therapist, she earned a bachelor of science in health education from Texas A&M University and a master's in physical therapy from Texas Woman's University.

Gregory is a member of the East Cliff Elementary PTO, where she previously served

as vice-president, and the Portland Chamber of Commerce. She has been an active community volunteer, serving on the Friends of GPISD Political Action Committee and as an AVID tutor and assisting with fundraising efforts for a variety of organizations.

### **Charles Cunningham**

*Region 4, Position B, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Since 2007, Cunningham has served on the Humble ISD Board of Trustees. He is chairman of the board's Audit Committee and a member of the Finance, Building and Planning, and Legislative committees. He also serves as the board's representative to the Humble ISD Education Foundation Board.

A graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University, Cunningham is a key accounts consultant for CenterPoint Energy.

He is a current director and the past president of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards. He has served on his homeowner's association as president and vice-president and on the Humble Chamber of Commerce as vice-chair of governmental affairs.

### **Rhonda Skillern-Jones**

*Region 4, Position D, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Skillern-Jones was first elected to the Houston ISD Board of Education in 2011 and is currently serving her second consecutive term. She has held several leadership positions on the board, including assistant secretary, secretary, first vice-president, and president.

A native Houstonian, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in clinical sociology from Texas Southern University. While she has enjoyed being a stay-at-home mother for 25 years, Skillern-Jones has had interval employment as a state social worker, teacher, and census director and currently works for Harris County Precinct One as a community engagement director.

Skillern-Jones is vice-chair of the steering committee for the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) and sits on the board of the National Black Council of School Board Members. Her other memberships include Delta Sigma Theta, Top Ladies of Distinction, and NAACP. Skillern-Jones has received numerous awards and honors, including Top 40 Professional Women of the Year, School Board Member of the Year, Community Partner of the

Year, Law Enforcement Children's Champion, Outstanding Advocate Award, TSCC Community Service Honoree, Top 10 Women to Watch, PTA Partner of the Year, and PTO President's Award.

### **George Scott**

*Region 4, Position E, two-year term, 2017–19*

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Scott was elected to the Katy ISD Board of Trustees in May 2016. Scott served as publisher of *The Katy Times* newspaper from 1983 to 1986 before becoming senior researcher and then president of the Tax Research Association of Houston and Harris County. He also served on the executive committee of the Harris County Appraisal District, where he performed both internal and external media functions, as well as special projects.

In addition, he has served on former education commissioner Mike Moses' Accountability Advisory Committee and was appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court to the board of managers of the Harris County Hospital District.

During his tenure in local media, Scott worked directly with hundreds of civic and service organizations and individuals to help publicize their positive work for the community and volunteered in various activities, including the Katy Chamber of Commerce and youth sports leagues.

### **Rose Avalos**

*Region 4, Position H, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Avalos is vice-president of the Aldine ISD Board of Trustees. She was elected to the Position 3 seat in May 2006.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree and a master's in education from Sam Houston State University. Avalos began her educational career in 1972 as a teacher in Aldine ISD and remained with the district for 33 years. During her Aldine tenure, she also served as a counselor, program director, assistant principal, and principal at Escamilla Intermediate School. In 1994, she returned to her alma mater and served as MacArthur Senior High's principal for 11 years before retiring in 2005. She was named the district's Principal of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

She currently serves as an educational consultant for the Region 4 ESC. She also is a member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

**Thomas Darden**

*Region 8, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Darden has served on the Cooper ISD Board of Trustees since 2002 and currently serves as board president. He also has been active in the grassroots advocacy process, serving as a TASB Legislative Advisory Council representative.

He is a 2007 graduate of Leadership TASB. In addition, he has served in leadership roles for the Northeast Texas School Boards Association and currently is a board member for the Delta County Appraisal District. Darden also has been active in his community, serving on the Friends of Doctor's Creek Park and Delta County youth baseball association.

Darden holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University and a master of science in electrical engineering from The University of Texas at Arlington. He is a systems engineering manager for L-3 Communications, where he has worked for more than 30 years.

**Donald Gant**

*Region 10, Position D, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Gant has served for 17 years on the DeSoto ISD Board, holding the positions of president and vice-president for two years each. He has served as a director for the North Texas Area Association of School Boards and is currently the secretary/treasurer for the National Black Council of School Board Members.

Gant received a bachelor of business administration from Lane College. He is a Leadership TASB graduate and completed Leadership Southwest in 2008. Gant is the area franchise director for DBR, Inc. (Dickey's Barbecue).

He is actively involved in the Council of Urban Boards of Education, School Board Advocacy Network, Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members, and Texas Alliance of Black School Educators. In addition, Gant is a member of the Texas Association of Sports Officials and National Association of Sports Officials.

**Christene Moss**

*Region 11, Position B, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Moss was elected to the Fort Worth ISD Board in 1990 and is currently second vice-president. She also is the president-elect of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members.

Moss is a registered nurse by training and vocation. She holds an ADA degree from Tarrant County College, a bachelor's from Texas Wesleyan University, and a master's degree from Texas Woman's University. Her minor was in financial management, which she has taught at Tarrant County College as an adjunct professor. She is a graduate of Leadership TASB.

Moss is active in a variety of organizations, including the Racial Equity Committee, Historic Rosedale Park Association, Texas Wesleyan University Advisory Dual Credit Board, Church Women United, Women's Policy Forum, Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color, African American Leadership Institute for Public Policy, and Greater Fort Worth Area of Negro Business and Professional Women.

**Will Streit**

*Region 13, Position B, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Streit was elected to the Leander ISD Board of Trustees in May 2008 and is currently serving as vice-president. He previously served as board president in 2015–17 and 2009–12. He was appointed to the Lone Star Investment Pool Board in July 2013.

Streit completed the education studies undergraduate program at the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) and his student teaching at the elementary level. In addition, he graduated from UCSD with a bachelor of arts in history, political science, urban planning, and philosophy. He earned his master of business administration from Duke University and his master's degree in history from Sam Houston State University. He also holds professional certificates in accounting and finance.

He is director of business development at IBM.

**Greg Welch**

*Region 14, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Welch has been on the Clyde CISD Board for 19 years. He served 10 years as president and three years as vice-president.

He attended Angelo State University and went on to work as a machinist and production manager at Froman Manufacturing. He currently works as a manufacturing plant manager for Ludlum Measurement, Inc., where he has been employed since 2002.

Since 2010, he has served as board secretary for the Callahan County Appraisal District Board. He also has been active on the boards of multiple youth sports organizations.

**Raymond Meza**

*Region 15, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Meza has served on the San Felipe Del Rio CISD Board of Trustees since 2007 and is currently serving his third term as the Place IV trustee. Meza has held several leadership positions, such as board president and vice-president. He is a Leadership TASB graduate.

Meza attended Sul Ross University, earning a bachelor of science and master's in secondary education. He has certifications in bilingual, early childhood, and mid-management in school administration. A retired educator, his experience in education includes serving as a kindergarten teacher, a sixth-grade teacher, and a middle school principal.

He also has served the community as past president of the Lion's Club, president of the local United Way, elected member of the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, and vice-president of the appraisal board.

**Rolinda Schmidt**

*Region 20, Position A, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Schmidt has served on the Kerrville ISD Board since 1996 and has held the positions of board president and vice-president. She is currently the board secretary.

A graduate of San Jose State University with a bachelor's in social services, Schmidt is a managing partner in her family-owned and family-operated commercial real estate development and management company.

She is actively involved in local youth education programs, including the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Rotary Club Foreign Exchange Student Program, Head Start, and the Kerrville ISD sixth-grade outdoor education program. She was named Families and Literacy's 2014 Champion of Education.

She is a Leadership TASB graduate and a member of the School Board Advocacy Network.

**Karen Freeman**

*Region 20, Position B, three-year term, 2017–20*

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Freeman was elected to the Northside ISD-Bexar County (NISD) Board of Trustees in 2005 and was reelected for her fourth term in May 2017. She is chair of the Policy and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and is a member of the Academics, Building, Finance, and Technology committees.

Prior to board service, Freeman served on the district's School Advisory Teams, the first NISD School Boundary Advisory Committee, NISD strategic plan committees, three NISD bond committees, and the NISD Citizens' Bond Advisory Committee. Additionally, Freeman has held numerous PTA and booster organization positions in NISD schools and is an Honorary Life Member of the Texas PTA.

A Leadership TASB graduate, she is a member of the Bexar County School Boards Coalition and the National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network. Freeman serves on the board of directors of the Helotes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Freeman earned a bachelor of science degree in clinical laboratory medical technology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and is currently the office manager in her husband's medical practice.

## Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met September 8–9, 2017, to interview candidates and review nominations for Director positions under consideration at this year’s Delegate Assembly. The Committee is made up of 11 members, including the President, and eight alternates to serve in a designated order. The members of the Nominations Committee, elected at the September 2016 meeting of the TASB Board, are as follows:

**Bret Begert, chair**  
*TASB Immediate Past  
President, Fort Elliott CISD*

**Charles R. Stafford, vice-  
chair**  
*TASB President  
Denton ISD*

**Ted Beard**  
*Longview ISD*

**Ann Calahan**  
*Stephenville ISD*

**Bob Covey**  
*Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*

**Debbie Gillespie**  
*Frisco ISD*

**Sandy Hughey**  
*North East ISD*

**Jayme Mathias**  
*Austin ISD*

**Benny May**  
*Barbers Hill ISD*

**Armando Rodriguez**  
*Canutillo ISD*

**Mildred Watkins**  
*La Vega ISD*

**Kay Alley**  
*Alternate, Crosbyton CISD*

**Jason Dohnalik**  
*Alternate, Cameron ISD*

**Linda Gooch**  
*Alternate, Sunnyvale ISD*

**John Green**  
*Alternate, Nordheim ISD*

**Bowie Hogg**  
*Alternate, Arlington ISD*

**Vernagene Mott**  
*Alternate, Pflugerville ISD*

**Bobby J Rigues**  
*Alternate, Aledo ISD*

**Cindy Spanel**  
*Alternate, Highland Park  
ISD–Potter County*

**Teresa Flores, nonvoting  
ex officio**  
*TASB President-Elect,  
Ingleside ISD*