



THIS MONTH WITH THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS

Volume 24 | Episode 2

February 15, 2024



Jennifer Doinoff, President
janderson@co.hays.tx.us

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy Primary Season Everyone! I pray everyone's election prep is going smoothly and that you all have a successful and uneventful election. Remember to reach out to any of us if you have questions, or just need talking off the ledge. We're all in this together.

We have recently received our funding for the Executive Director position and it was posted on February 1, 2024. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them check out our website at <https://www.elections-taea.org> for more details on applying. In addition, we will be working on a process for extending grants to counties to attend REO and CERA courses. The grants will include travel expenses. We're very excited about this opportunity to allow some of our smaller counties to pursue these certifications.

Trudy Hancock and I have been working with Jay Williamson to identify legislative priorities and interim projects for 2025 legislative session. Some bills of obvious eminence are SB 924 (combining election precincts in vote center counties) and HB 1217 (extended hours in smaller counties), as well as, bringing back some form of HB 2722 from the 2017 session. That was the bill for professional hardship that allowed an outlet for voters in certain professions to vote by mail. This bill mainly focused on voters in the following categories: truck driver more than 200 miles from home, offshore oil worker, permanent caretaker of someone with a disability.

That's a wrap for right now, but sincerely wishing you all the best in the coming weeks with your election!

[Membership Information –
New Membership Form](#)
[Education](#)
[Resources](#)

NEWS

[Election Line](#)

As we prepare for upcoming elections, let's renew our commitment to these principles. The work we do is not just administrative; it's foundational to the functioning of our democracy. Let's continue to approach our responsibilities with the diligence, integrity, and passion they deserve.

As guardians of democracy, we play an essential role in ensuring the integrity and security of our electoral system. Though the challenges we face may seem overwhelming, they underscore the importance of our unwavering commitment to free, fair, and transparent elections.

Recent events have highlighted the complexities of our work, reminding us of the ever-evolving landscape of election administration, and the need for vigilance, adaptability, and continuous improvement in our processes and protocols.

As we navigate these challenges, let us focus on the key principles that unite us: Transparency, Security, Collaboration, and Education.

- **Transparency:** Keeping the public informed about our processes, safeguards, and how their votes are protected builds trust and confidence in the electoral system.
- **Security:** The threats to election security are multifaceted and evolving. Staying abreast of the latest security protocols, investing in secure technologies, and conducting regular audits are essential steps in safeguarding our elections.
- **Collaboration:** Working together, sharing insights, and learning from each other's experiences are crucial in addressing common challenges. Let's continue to foster a community of collaboration and support among election officials.
- **Education:** Educating voters about the election process, their rights, and how to participate effectively is a cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Let's intensify our efforts to reach out to our communities, providing clear and accessible information. Our dedication to these principles, and our commitment to approaching our responsibilities with diligence, integrity, and passion, is foundational to the functioning of our democracy.

Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication. Together, we can and will overcome the challenges ahead, ensuring that every vote is counted, and every voice is heard.

Devante Coe



Shannon Lackey,
Vice President
shannon.lackey@randallcounty.gov

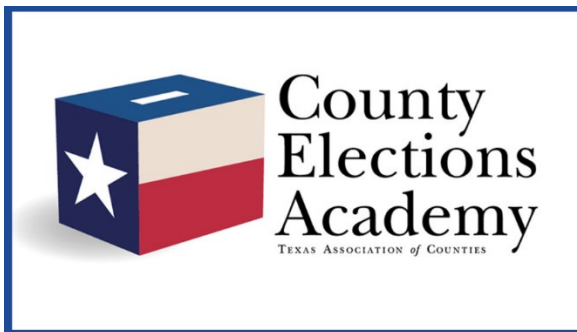
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT

I would like to wish everyone a successful and uneventful Primary Election.

We are still accepting applications for an Executive Director for TAEA. Applications will be accepted through Friday, January 16, 2024.

TAC is hosting an Election Academy on April 4th and 5th. This is a virtual event. I would encourage anyone that is relatively new to Elections or if you have new staff members to consider enrolling in the Election Academy. You can register and pay online.

Good luck and keep smiling!



County Elections Academy

📅 April 04, 2024 - April 05, 2024

🕒 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM

📍 Virtual Event

📞 Contact Deanna Auert or Megan West at (800) 456-5974.

<https://www.county.org/education-and-events/calendar-of-events/2024/county-elections-academy/overview>



Lisa Hayes, Treasurer
lisa.hayes@co.guadalupe.tx.us

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

I had a conversation with my county judge awhile back when we were talking about pushing on when things get tough and he gave what I considered one of the best and most succinct motivational speeches I had ever heard – he said “it has to work, there is no other choice”. He was right and we’ve got this. Hang in there.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Executive Director – TAEA](#)

Are you seeking the perfect candidate for a position on your staff, contact us to post it in our monthly newsletter





Kristin Miles, Secretary
elections@co.bastrop.tx.us

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Best wishes for a successful election!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LEGISLATIVE CHAIR



Trudy Hancock,
Legislative Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDUCATIONAL CHAIR



John Oldham,
Educational Chair



EDUCATION
REO PROGRAM
CERA CERTIFICATION

REGIONAL GROUP INFORMATION

Region 1 -

Region 2 –

Region 3 - I am jealous if any of the regions have been able to meet as a group. I had grand plans to get the group together after the TAEA meeting however...I keep finding myself trying to find a good answer when someone asks “how you doing?” I answer either that I have a freight train behind me, about to run over me or that I am running like my behind is on fire. It usually gets a laugh and some much-appreciated encouragement. I know we are all super busy, as was expected, but time really does seem to be going faster than I expected. Thankfully, I have some great people coming in to help. One of them came in at the end of their first day and asked, “Does time go faster here?” I know we can all appreciate that question.

Several members of our region were able to attend the TAEA mid-winter meeting and afterwards we wanted to have the SOS come to meet with our group to assist with the security plans, etc. I did reach out to the state to try to schedule a meeting but we have not been able to schedule one yet.

The mid-winter meeting was great and thankfully, the weather was much better than it could have been. I think a super cold front, with snow, ice, etc., moved in just after we left. Thanks to the hosts for putting together a great meeting – it is so much work but they did a superb job.

Another of my plans was to try to forward copies of the presentations from the meeting to the group but I have not received them all and have not had time to think about sending them. Since our group contains so many members that have 2 or more other jobs, I thought this might be a good way to help spread the information since we have not been able to have a meeting. Hopefully, at some point, I will find a way to help our group have access to all the information and knowledge that is coming our way.

A few of our members participated in the statewide Risk Limiting Audit which seemed to go well. Erik reported, “We successfully met our risk limit of 10%, and actually surpassed it for a final risk of 4%!”

I encourage all of you to remember that despite what some might think and say, as election administrators, we have always strived to conduct elections with integrity and we do so all-out, with our hearts, minds, and bodies. We ask our staff, however limited, to give their all and gratefully many of them are right there in the trenches with us. We should never lose sight of the fact that we give it our best, no matter what. I wish all of you across the state successful elections. I pray that you have at least one person that tells you that they appreciate the job you do – it can go a long way to reinvigorating you. Be strong, rest well.

Vona Hudson, Region 3 Director

Region 4 -

Region 5 -

Region 6 - Meeting dates for 2024 are March 28th in Burlason County, June 20th in Washington County, September 12th and December 12th in Lavaca County. We are still looking for a host county for the meeting in September. Kristin Miles, Bastrop County Elections Administrator, 512-581-7160, elections@co.bastop.tx.us

Region 7 –

Region 8 – Andrea Wilson, Region 8 Director | elections@co.llano.tx.us



We will all need this to help us through the next few weeks.