

# TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT

## BOARD OFFICERS

JAMES VALADEZ  
CHAIRPERSON  
DEBORAH CARTWRIGHT  
VICE CHAIRPERSON  
NICOLE CONLEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER



LEANA MANN  
CHIEF APPRAISER

## BOARD MEMBERS

TOM BUCKLE  
DR. OSEZUA EHIYAMEN  
BRUCE ELFANT  
JETT HANNA  
VIVEK KULKARNI  
DICK LAVINE  
JIE LI  
ELIZABETH MONTOYA  
SHENGHAO "DANIEL" WANG  
BLANCA ZAMORA-GARCIA

October 17, 2024

CITY OF AUSTIN – Juris No. 02  
ATTN: THE HONORABLE KIRK WATSON, MAYOR  
P.O. BOX 1088  
AUSTIN, TX 78767

The deadline has passed for jurisdictions to make nominations for the Board of Directors of the Travis Central Appraisal District. The following are the nominations, in alphabetical order by last name, and sponsoring jurisdiction:

Ken Bautsch	City of Lakeway
Deborah Cartwright	Austin ISD, City of Elgin
Nicole Conley	City of Austin
Dr. Osezua Ehiyamen	Austin ISD
Nathan Folse, Jr.	Austin ISD
Jim Gray	City of Lakeway
John Havenstrite	Eanes ISD, Leander ISD
Thomas Kilgore	City of Lakeway
Heidi Langan	Austin ISD
Jie Li	Austin ISD
Elizabeth Montoya	City of Pflugerville, Pflugerville ISD
Aaron Moreno	City of Manor
Matt Sherman	City of Lakeway
James Valadez	Travis County
Gretchen Vance	City of Lakeway
Blanca Zamora-Garcia	Del Valle ISD

This letter serves as a ballot and is being sent to the presiding officer of each taxing unit entitled to vote in the Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors' appointment. Enclosed you will also find biographies for any individual where one was provided with their nomination. Your entity is entitled to **950** votes that can be split among any of the nominees on the ballot. Votes must be formalized by resolution of the taxing unit's governing body. Please include the name and number of votes allotted to each nominee in your resolution. The resolution with voting allotment must be returned to the Chief Appraiser of the appraisal district by **December 14, 2024**, at the following mailing address or email address:

Travis Central Appraisal District  
ATTN: Leana Mann  
PO Box 149012  
Austin, TX 78714-9012  
[Lmann@tcadcentral.org](mailto:Lmann@tcadcentral.org)

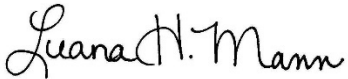
The nominees who receive the three highest number of votes will be appointed to 3-year terms. The nominees who receive the next two highest number of votes will be appointed to 1-year terms.

	<b>Term Length</b>	<b>Term Beginning</b>	<b>Term ending</b>
Board of Directors, Appointed Place 1	3 Years	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2027
Board of Directors, Appointed Place 2	3 Years	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2027
Board of Directors, Appointed Place 3	3 Years	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2027
Board of Directors, Appointed Place 4	1 Year	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2025
Board of Directors, Appointed Place 5	1 Year	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2025

Before December 31, 2024, the Chief Appraiser will count the votes submitted by each entity, declare the results, and submit the results to both the governing bodies of each entity and each of the nominated candidates. According to the Property Tax Code, any ties will be resolved by a method of chance by the Chief Appraiser.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (512) 834-9317 Ext. 405 or by email at [Lmann@tcadcentral.org](mailto:Lmann@tcadcentral.org).

Sincerely,



Leana Mann, RPA, CCA, CGFO  
Chief Appraiser  
Travis Central Appraisal District

## Taxing Entity Voting Entitlement

Taxing Unit ID	Taxing Unit Code	Type	Taxing Unit	Levy	% of Levy	Voting Entitlement
1001	01	School	AUSTIN ISD	\$ 1,592,442,300.75	30.54%	1,525
1002	02	City	CITY OF AUSTIN	\$ 990,998,728.29	19.00%	950
1003	03	County	TRAVIS COUNTY	\$ 959,172,382.00	18.39%	920
1097	68	Junior College	AUSTIN COMM COLL DIST	\$ 274,197,394.72	5.26%	265
1026	19	School	PFLUGERVILLE ISD	\$ 272,657,626.58	5.23%	260
1006	07	School	LAKE TRAVIS ISD	\$ 197,345,130.11	3.78%	190
1007	08	School	EANES ISD	\$ 185,094,356.43	3.55%	175
1005	06	School	DEL VALLE ISD	\$ 161,896,596.08	3.10%	155
1098	69	School	LEANDER ISD	\$ 161,391,498.81	3.10%	155
1053	34	School	MANOR ISD	\$ 118,963,096.64	2.28%	115
1072	5A	School	ROUND ROCK ISD	\$ 107,608,571.04	2.06%	105
1035	20	City	CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE	\$ 60,084,543.62	1.15%	60
1023	16	School	LAGO VISTA ISD	\$ 36,000,563.68	0.69%	35
1004	05	City	CITY OF MANOR	\$ 14,709,464.00	0.28%	15
1090	6F	City	CITY OF LEANDER	\$ 12,234,446.61	0.23%	10
1036	21	City	CITY OF LAKEWAY	\$ 11,297,713.97	0.22%	10
1071	49	City	CITY OF LAGO VISTA	\$ 9,895,763.60	0.19%	10
1027	2A	School	ELGIN ISD	\$ 9,655,171.37	0.19%	10
1042	3A	School	MARBLE FALLS ISD	\$ 8,762,100.14	0.17%	10
1046	3F	City	CITY OF CEDAR PARK	\$ 5,981,118.86	0.11%	5
1008	09	City	CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS	\$ 5,832,892.50	0.11%	5
1078	50	City	CITY OF JONESTOWN	\$ 4,250,354.87	0.08%	5
1018	11	City	CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD	\$ 2,994,707.73	0.06%	5

## Nominees Biographies

### Ken Bautsch (City of Lakeway)

Mr. Ken Bautsch is a Lakeway resident. He and his wife have lived in Lakeway for 15 years. Ken has a BBA-Mktg degree from University of Houston. He served in the US Army and is a Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Bautsch had a long corporate career. His 36 years in sales and sales management in the IT industry spanned electronic accounting systems, mainframe computer systems, minicomputer systems, corporate PC-based LANs and WLANs. As a Burroughs Corporation salesman/trainee I sold and installed electronic accounting systems (programmable posting machines) and later mainframe computer systems. As an OEM for Hewlett Packard, we developed and customized operational software, installed hardware and software, and supported one-source integrated business systems. As an HP/Intel/Novell/Microsoft partner, we designed, sold, implemented, and supported corporate PC-based local area networks and multi-location wide area networks. I retired in 2010. Ken Bautsch developed many skills throughout his career, including: accounting, estimating, work plan development, proposal development, project management, profit responsibility, training and communication skills.

## **Deborah Cartwright (Austin ISD, City of Elgin)**

Debbie received her law degree from the University of Houston and a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. Her undergraduate degree in secondary education music and history is from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Debbie enjoyed a lengthy career as an attorney and administrator in the field of property taxation. She worked for three property tax law firms representing appraisal districts in litigation and providing advice on public law and property tax administration. She received professional awards from the Texas Association of Appraisal Districts and the Texas Rural Chief Appraisers Association. She was the recipient of the Wayne Peveto Award from the Texas A&M Real Estate Center in 2013 for her work and professionalism in the field of property taxation.

In addition to work in private law practice, Debbie served the State of Texas as assistant general counsel for Comptroller Carol Keeton Strayhorn from 2001 to 2006 and then the director of the Property Tax Assistance Division for Comptroller Susan Combs from 2009 to 2014. She then worked with the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association, providing legal and legislative counsel from 2016 to 2019. In the 2021 legislative session, Debbie consulted with the law firm of Low Swinney Evans & James on legislative matters.

During much of this time, Debbie was involved in charitable endeavors. A native of Elgin, Texas, Debbie worked with the Elgin Historical Association in the late-1990's to raise money to restore the Union Depot, which had fallen into disrepair. She was responsible for a monetary grant from the Texas Historical Foundation to place a new floor in the building, which became the Elgin Depot Museum. Debbie became more involved with the Association and served as an officer from 2017 to 2019. During that time, she worked to organize the historical archives held by the Association and assist with public access to the Museum and its exhibits. She also contributed stories to two books published by the Association.

Debbie was a member of the Texas Historical Foundation from 2020 to 2022 and served as co-chair of the Elgin Sesquicentennial Committee in 2022. She was actively involved in the activities of the city's celebration of its 150th birthday and assisted in the preparation of an updated history book entitled "Milestones: History of Elgin, Texas."

Debbie is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the International Association of Assessing Officers. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Austin and served as a trustee for her alma mater Howard Payne University from 2015 through 2023. Debbie currently serves on the board of directors for the Travis Central Appraisal District and is a member of the Bastrop County Historical Society. She is an officer of the Elgin Oral History Project, a non-profit organization created in 2021, to record audio stories from residents and former residents of Elgin.

## **Nicole Conley (City of Austin)**

Nicole Conley joined Siebert Williams Shank & Co. LLC. as Managing Director in 2020 to expand and support issuer clients in the Austin-area MSA; and, to closely serve the K-12 school district market. Previously, she served as both the Chief Financial Officer and Chief of Business & Operations for the Austin Independent School District, where she was responsible for managing a nearly \$3.5 billion budget and capital program, which included 129 school communities serving more than 80,000 students. Nicole has more than 25 years of financial management experience, amassing a breadth of knowledge from serving large, complex, urban systems, including: the City Council of New York, New York City Department of Education, District of Columbia Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools and Atlanta Public Schools. Ms. Conley developed and secured voter approval for the school district and Austin-area's first ever billion-dollar bond program; and, has issued nearly \$4 billion in tax-exempt and taxable bonds. Under her leadership, AISD earned its highest financial ratings and national accolades for budget presentation, financial reporting and transparency. In 2018, Nicole was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Texas Commission on Public School Finance, whose work culminated in a historic \$11.6 billion investment into public education and property tax relief. In 2018, Conley lobbied the state of Texas to better fund public education on this influential committee which helped shape marquee legislation the following year that made sweeping changes to the Texas school finance system, which emerged as a national model for funding equity. She previously served on several investment boards including, TexStar, an \$8 billion investment pool for the state's local governments and INVESTQ, a Retirement Plan cooperative for employees across the State of Texas. She is a recipient of the Council of Great City School's Bill Wise CFO Award for Innovation and Excellence, the Texas Association of Business Officials Champion for Education Award; and, the Austin Business Journal named her among its "Profiles in Power," CFO of the year in 2013 and she recently won a Legacy Award in 2022 for her decades of work in Education Finance. As she continues to pay it forward, in 2023, Ms. Conley was recognized by colleagues as an industry pioneer and received the Bond Buyer's Freda Johnson award which honors trailblazing, women leaders in public finance. Ms. Conley has a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a master's degree from the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management, and a Certificate of Public Finance from Georgetown University. Ms. Conley holds SIE, Series 52, 53, 63 and 7 licenses. She serves on the Boards of the Greater Austin Chamber as Vice Chair of Finance; Travis Central Appraisal District; LINQ Technologies; and, Mindpop.

## Dr. Osezua Ehiyamen (Austin ISD)

Dr. Osezua Ehiyamen is a distinguished academic and researcher with over two decades of experience in public administration, conflict management, and property tax. He currently serves as a Resident Researcher and Associate Professor of Public Administration with Innovations for Peace and Development at the University of Texas at Austin. Between 2018 and 2022, Dr. Osezua was a distinguished visiting research scholar in the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin, and he continues to contribute as an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at Austin Christian University, Georgetown, Texas.

In addition to his academic roles, Dr. Osezua actively contributes to his community, serving as the co-chair of the District Advisory Council (DAC) of the Austin Independent School District (AISD). He previously held leadership positions as University Chair (2014–2018) for the Departments of Political Science and Public Administration in Nigeria and was an elected member of the Nigerian University Senate. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Administration (CIPAN), Dr. Osezua's commitment to public administration has been recognized globally.

Dr. Osezua has received numerous accolades, including the Best Ph.D. Thesis Award in Africa (2006) from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Senegal, and a fellowship with the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) at Brown University in 2017. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD), where he focuses on increasing awareness within African immigrant communities about property tax systems, equitable appraisals, and public school funding. Dr. Osezua is also a laureate of the Texas State PTA Emerging Leaders Academy (2023).

With over 18 years of teaching experience, Dr. Osezua has taught various courses related to property tax, including Property Tax Systems and Public Revenue, Property Tax Policy and Reform Strategies, Ethics in Property Taxation, and Conflict Resolution in Property Taxation. His research explores the intersection of property tax and sustainable local government financing, urban development, and fiscal decentralization, with a focus on the role of property tax in public revenue generation. He also delves into the challenges of equitable tax systems, the impact of property tax reform, and the integration of technology in tax administration to improve efficiency and compliance.

Dr. Osezua's research has been widely published in national and international outlets, including the *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences*, *Romania Journal of Public Affairs*, *Dynamics of Public Administration*, and *Journal of Social Sciences*. He has co-edited the book *Contemporary Issues in the Management of Higher Education* (2017) and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Organizational Leadership and Management* at the University of Texas at Austin. His contributions to public policy reforms and public service management, especially in property tax reform, have been recognized as influential in the field.

Beyond his academic and professional accomplishments, Dr. Osezua is an active leader in various non-profit organizations, receiving leadership awards from the United States, South Africa, Ghana, and Russia. He also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Africans in the Diaspora.

Dr. Osezua earned his B.Sc. in Political Science and M.Sc. in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Benin, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration with a focus on Conflict Management from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. All his degrees were evaluated and certified as equivalent in the United States in 2018. He also holds a Diploma in Leadership from Austin Christian University, Texas (2023).

Dr. Osezua is happily married to Dr. Tina Osezua, and they are blessed with two sons, Samuel and Joshua. Samuel graduated cum laude in Software Engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas and is currently pursuing postgraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Joshua is a senior at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

## **Nathan Folse, Jr. (Austin ISD)**

Mr. Folse is a certified residential appraiser and holds a law degree. He shared that "serving on an advisory board offers a unique opportunity to contribute my expertise, insights, and leadership to an organization I care about. Currently having three children in AISD schools and a fourth child starting next year, it will allow me to help shape strategic decisions, provide guidance, and influence the direction of AISD for years to come. By serving, I can deepen my understanding of the industry and make a meaningful impact while enhancing my skills and experience.



## **Jim Gray (City of Lakeway)**

Jim Gray is a business professional and resident of Lakeway. He moved to Lakeway with his family in 2019. He is working to help attract business to the area.

Mr. Gray is a graduate of The Columbus Academy and Miami University.

In his professional life he spent 15 years with Sharp Electronics. His position culminated in running the facsimile division which was #1 in US sales. He moved to Austin in 1996 to begin working with entrepreneurs and technology firm startups. He is an experienced problem solver, whether it is in a large business or a new tech firm.

## **John Havenstrite (Eanes ISD, Leander ISD)**

John Havenstrite is Partner Engagement Manager for We Are Blood, the nonprofit providing all blood and blood related products to every hospital, cancer clinic, and surgery center in the Greater Austin / Hill Country region. There he works to enhance knowledge of the critical role blood banks play in the lives of Texans. Specifically, John helps electeds, policy makers, business leaders, and community groups collaborate to meet the rapidly growing needs of the health care community.

However, John began his career in municipal finance. For fourteen years he served as the Tax Assessor Collector for dozens of municipalities that served hundreds of thousands of commercial and residential property owners scattered across four urban and rural Texas counties. In that capacity John became expertly familiar with the varying functions, responsibilities, and operations of the region's appraisal districts, the tax assessment and collection cycle, and the relationship each has with municipal finance and economic development.

Prior to moving to Austin in 2004, John was a partner and vice president of a Houston based urban planning firm. Here he gained experience creating and managing virtually all public/private municipal entities permitted in Texas. All of which are dependent upon a reliable, well-functioning appraisal district, and tax assessment collection team.

John spent six years on the Eanes ISD Board of Trustees, three as Board President. He was elected to the Board in 2017 and rolled off in 2023. During that time John served three years as the Secretary of the Central Texas School Board Association (CTSBA), and earned the Master Trustee designation as a graduate of the 2020 class of Leadership-TASB (L-TASB). John currently serves on Capital Area Council of Government's (CAPCOG) General Assembly as a public education delegate (Eanes ISD).

John grew up in New Orleans, and graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) with degrees in History, Political Science, and Journalism. He volunteers regularly at his church, and in his community whenever he can. But more important than any of the foregoing, John is the proud father of two Westlake High School graduates, one of whom is now at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), while the other is attending California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). John is also the slightly addled owner of one dog, two cats, and three chickens.

## **Thomas Kilgore (City of Lakeway)**

Thomas Kilgore is the Mayor for the City of Lakeway. He was elected in 2021. His focus is on Public Safety, Transparency, Accountability and Conservative Management.

Mr. Kilgore is a retired US Army Officer. Following his public service, he worked for 20 years in the Energy Industry. He retired in 2016 from the private equity firm where he was the Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Compliance Officer.

Mr. Kilgore is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, commissioned in 1980. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. While on active duty he served as an Assistant Professor of Economics at West Point.

Tom strongly believes in service, to our nation and our community. He and his wife purchased their Lakeway home in early 2016. They moved to Lakeway to be closer to children and grandchildren.

## **Heidi Langan (Austin ISD)**

Heidi Langan is a recently retired teacher with over 25 years of experience. She has served as the area President of the Association of Texas Professional Educators. She has also been involved in advocacy for school funding and public schools at the local and state levels. Ms. Langan shared that "I want to make sure that the funding for schools is stable and I believe that fair property values is a way to achieve that."

## **Jie Li (Austin ISD)**

Jie Li is an investor and advisor to startups, passionate about mentoring entrepreneurs and helping them achieve their goals. She has served as a mentor and judge for Techstars and the Harvard Innovation Lab. Beyond her involvement in Austin's innovation ecosystem, she is committed to the education sector. Jie has been a member of the Kealing Middle School Campus Advisory Council since 2022, serving as co-chair since 2023, and also contributed to the AISD District Calendar Taskforce. Additionally, she mentors first-generation Harvard students and was appointed to the Board of the Travis Central Appraisal District by AISD in January 2024. Jie holds a BA in Economics with honors from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

# Elizabeth Montoya (City of Pflugerville, Pflugerville ISD)

## **Elizabeth J Montoya, Certified Public Accountant**

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1002 Rocky Creek Drive Pflugerville, Texas 78660  
Cell: (512) 296-1081 – [elizabeth@montovamonzingo.com](mailto:elizabeth@montovamonzingo.com)

### **Executive Profile**

A results-driven, hands-on Certified Public Accountant with wide industry experience and proven success in tax, budget development, accounting and finance operations, strategic and operational planning, process improvement, integrated system design and implementation, and organizational alignment with demonstrated team building and problem solving skills that have consistently led to highly motivated and efficient teams.

### **Government Board Experience**

Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors, currently serving  
City of Pflugerville TIRZ Board of Directors, currently serving  
Travis County Citizens Bond Advisory Committee, 2023  
Past service for the City of Pflugerville: Equity Commission, Finance and Budget Committee and various task specific commissions

### **Non-Profit Board Experience**

The House of Songs, Treasurer, currently serving  
Senior Access, Treasurer, currently serving  
100 Women of Pflugerville, Treasurer, currently serving  
John Brotherton's Pitmaster Foundation, Treasurer, currently serving

### **Skill Highlights**

- Executive and Investor Presentations
- Diverse Industry Experience
- Collaborative Team building
- Accounting and Finance Operations
- Business Expansion
- Financial and Strategic Planning
- New Business Modeling
- Contract Negotiation
- Demand Planning
- Financial Modeling
- Cross-functional Team Building
- Supply Chain Management
- Organizational Alignment
- Infrastructure Design
- Budgeting and Benchmarking

### **Professional Experience**

**Managing Partner**  
April 2015 to present  
**Montoya & Monzingo, LLP Certified Public Accountants**

Manage the daily operations of a local firm focused on helping small to midsized businesses and individuals with their goals.

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## **Elizabeth J Montoya, Certified Public Accountant**

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1002 Rocky Creek Drive Pflugerville, Texas 78660  
Cell: (512) 296-1081 – [elizabeth@montoyamonzingocpas.com](mailto:elizabeth@montoyamonzingocpas.com)

### **Chief Financial Officer**

October 2001 to April 2015

Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. — Austin, Texas

Responsible for the integrity of the organization's systems, policies, processes and transactions to ensure the successful implementation of a rapid growth plan. Texas Electric Cooperatives is the statewide association of electric cooperatives in Texas with multiple business lines and 22 locations that provides a diverse offering of products and services including manufacturing, distribution services, logistics, consulting, education and training, and publications.

- Developed and executed strategic initiatives and programs designed to enhance the strength and competitiveness of the cooperative and its members
- Manage strategic and tactical corporate financial operations and cash flow, including responsibility for purchasing, process development, human resources, accounting and information technology
- Design and implement a fully integrated infrastructure for a multi-business line company, including an end-to-end supply chain solution that supported a revenue growth from \$30 million to \$200 million in 10 years and a training and education solution that supported 300% growth in class participation
- Executed multiple strategic business transactions including the formation of alliance partnerships, real estate sales, oil and gas leases and timberland transactions

### **Military Experience**

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Accounting and Finance Career Field

January 1986 to January 1995

United States Air Force

### **Education**

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MS: Human Relations

University of Oklahoma

BBA: Accounting

Park University

### **Skills**

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accounting, acquisitions, administrative, balance sheet, benefit design, budgeting, cash flow, consulting, CPA, demand planning, distribution, due diligence, education and training, ERP, equity planning, facilities management, financial management, GAAP, Great Plains Dynamics, human resources, information technology, logistics, management reporting, manufacturing, media production, oil and gas, operations, policies, process development, publications, purchasing, radio production, real estate, reporting, sales, SEC reporting, software implementation, strategic planning, supply chain, system integration, telecommunications, television production, tax, tax planning, leadership, strategic planning

## Aaron Moreno (City of Manor)

### AARON MORENO CITY OF MANOR COUNCIL MEMBER PLACE 5

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Councilman Aaron Moreno was born in Austin and raised in Manor, Texas. He has deep roots in the community since graduating from Manor ISD in 2014. His upbringing was filled with hands-on experiences that shaped who he is today. Growing up, Aaron learned the value of hard work and determination through ranching alongside his brothers and grandfather. While managing backstage operations for the Manor High School Theater Department, he further developed his skills in coordination and problem-solving. These early experiences paved the way for Aaron to connect with the community in various roles, including as an after-school counselor at the YMCA and as "Farmer Aaron" at Crowes Nest Farm.

Professionally, Aaron built a solid foundation at Applied Materials, where he spent four years gaining industry knowledge. He then transitioned to the Austin Transportation Department, which allowed him to contribute to the city's infrastructure and growth.

At 24, Aaron began his formal journey into local governance as a City's Board of Adjustments member. In 2021, he was elected to Place 5 on the Manor City Council, becoming one of the youngest individuals in the city's history to serve in this capacity. Aaron's dedication to public service is evident through his active participation in several key committees, including Parks and Trees, Health, Budget, and Emergency Management. Over the past three years, he has been committed to understanding the needs of his constituents and advocating for their interests.

Outside of work and public service, Aaron enjoys life's super pleasures—spending time with family, hiking, riding his Harley, and fishing. His love for film, music, and the arts fills his creativity and inspires him to embrace every experience.



## **Matt Sherman (City of Lakeway)**

Matt Sherman is a Lakeway City Council Member, elected in 2024. He and his family have been proud residents of Lakeway since 2019.

Professionally, he works in advertising, where he helps clients maximize their revenue through effective ad sales strategies.

Mr. Sherman commitment to community service began with his role on the Aviation Zoning Committee. Before being elected to the city council, he served as a Commissioner on the Lakeway Zoning and Planning Commission (ZAPCO) and chaired the Lakeway 2024 Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Matt is a commercially rated pilot. His dedication to the community extends to his involvement with various local organizations. Matt is a member of the Lake Travis Trail Coalition and Lakeway Friends of the Parks. Additionally, he has combined his interest in flying with his love for animals by serving as a pilot for Pilots N Paws, an organization that relocates dogs from high-kill shelters to specialized rescue organizations. He also serves on the board of the Lakeway View HOA.

## **James Valadez (Travis County)**

A native Austinite, James Valadez owns and operates Sequoia Real Estate, LLC, a full-service real estate brokerage focused on residential and commercial sales and leasing in the Austin area. He is a member of the Austin Board of Realtors, Texas Real Estate Commission, and Credit Union National Association and serves on the Board of Directors for the Travis Central Appraisal District, A+ Federal Credit Union, and Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas. Valadez has previously served as a member of the City of Austin's Board of Adjustment, the City of Austin's Community Development Commission, and the 2023 Travis County Citizens Bond Advisory Committee.

He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and McCallum High School.

## **Gretchen Vance (City of Lakeway)**

Gretchen Vance is a Lakeway City Council Member, and the Mayor Pro tem. She was first elected in 2019. She and her family have lived in Lakeway since 2011.

Mrs. Vance attended the University of Georgia. She began her career in the hospitality industry with Ritz Carlton. In 2009, Gretchen became a TCEQ Licensed Irrigator (LI18220). This knowledge puts her in a unique position to understand water supply and safety, back flow and irrigation planning and requirements.

She and her family are entrepreneurs. Her family businesses have included one of the largest irrigation companies in south central Texas, and a water acrobatics and jet boarding business. Currently she owns and operates Electric Avenue Athletics (EAA).

Electric Avenue Athletics (EAA) is the only dedicated Junior Olympics Acrobatics & Tumbling (A&T) gym in the nation. This facility is home to the 2018 & 2019 USA Gymnastics National Champions in both the Senior and Junior Division. As well as the 2021 & 2022 NYATA National Champions.

## Blanca Zamora-Garcia (Del Valle ISD)

24 years ago, Blanca started Casa Blanca Realty. Blanca is known for integrity, diplomacy and sincerity in all her dealings. In her tenure in the real estate business, she has strived to be someone her clients and other real estate professionals can trust. A former educator with the Austin Independent School District and consultant with the Texas Education Agency, Blanca applies her unique teaching and listening skills to her business. Being a long-time Central Texas resident, she offers a seasoned knowledge of Austin and surrounding suburbs, counties and communities. Blanca's motto is, "Relationships over Transactions." Much of her business comes from repeat clients or referrals. Whether it is a starter home, investment property or second home, Blanca provides the same level of service for all her buyers, sellers and renters.

Blanca is committed to serving the Austin community by volunteering her time and expertise and serving on boards that she feels help improve the lives of the communities she cares for.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Travis Central Appraisal District where her real estate expertise, desire to increase avenues for the Hispanic community to learn more about how the property tax system, and dedication to ensuring funding for local public schools have led to her being a strong advocate for the District's outreach to underserved communities, increased transparency with Travis County property owners, and accurate and equitable appraisals.

Blanca has served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC), where she was the Chair of the Education Committee and partnered with Wal-Mart to mentor students in grades 9 through 12 to help them prepare for postsecondary education. During her tenure as Board Chair, the GAHCC grew to over 800 members. She was named the GAHCC Business Woman of the Year 2012 and received the GAHCC Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Blanca served on the Foundation of the GAHCC, the non-profit arm of the GAHCC. In her role as Co-Chair of the "Let's Win The Future", endowments were established at the University of Texas School of Education, Texas State University, School of Business, Austin Community College, St. Edward's University and Houston Tillotson University, raising more than \$400,000 for Central Texas students.

She is also a long-time member of the Settlement Club, the fundraising arm for the Settlement Home for Girls who have experienced emotional trauma, abuse or neglect. As Chair of the Education Committee, she began the Annual Quince Celebration. It has become so popular that all girls look forward to participating in the annual celebration.

Blanca previously served on the Avance Austin Board, a national non-profit organization working to transform the lives of underserved, under-resourced families.

Blanca was voted the Best Real Estate Agent for 2021 by the *Austin Chronicle*.

Blanca received a BS from Texas A&I University and a Master's in Education/Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Texas. She has resided in Austin since 1975. She is married to longtime attorney Alberto Garcia and her daughter, Bianca Garcia, also resides in Austin.