

BIOS FOR 2026 TCAD BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES

Deborah Cartwright

Debbie Cartwright 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 four property tax law firms representing appraisal districts in litigation and providing advice on public law and property tax administration. In addition to work in private law practice, Debbie served the State of Texas by working for two Comptrollers of Public Accounts for about ten years.

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 became a museum. 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 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 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.

Bruce Elfant

Education

Graduate, Leadership Austin (1997-1998)

Associate's Degree, Criminal Justice, Austin Community College (1994)

Bachelor of Science, Communications, University of Texas at Austin (1980)

Certifications

Texas Registered Election Official (2017)

Professional County Assessor-Collector (2017)

Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (2016)

County Tax Office Professional (2016)

Professional County Collector (PCC) (2013)

Texas Peace Officer License (1993)

Professional

Travis County Tax Assessor Collector & Voter Registrar, (2013 - 2024)

Texas Association of Tax Assessor Collectors

Vice Chair, Legislative Committee (2016 - 2018)

Legislative Committee (2013 - 2024)

Board Member, Travis County Central Appraisal District (2013 - 2024)

Travis County Constable, Precinct Five (1993 – 2012)

Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas

President (2001-2002)

Chair, Legislative Committee (2001 – 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011)

Board Member (1998 – 2003)

Member, Attorney General Child Support Work Group (2001 – 2012)

Board Member, Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices (1991-2002)

Chair, Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force (1989-1991)

Family Unit Director, Office of Travis County Constable Precinct Five (1986 – 1992)

Director, Travis County Sesquicentennial Committee (1985 -1986)

Research Associate, Office of the Attorney General (1983 -1985)

Clerk, Texas Legislative Council (1981-1983)

Texas Association of Counties

Vice President (2007 – 2011)

Member, Board of Directors (2000 – 2003, 2007)

Planning Analysis Group (1995 – 2000, 2007 – 2011)

Delegate and Speaker, White House Leadership Conference on Youth Drug Use and Violence (1996)

Community Activities

Board Member, Austin Community College Center for Public Policy and Political Studies
2015 -2020)

Alumni Advisory Council, Austin Community College (2013 - 2015)
Co-chair, Austin-Travis County U. S. Census Complete Count Committee (2009)
Co-chair, Veterans Intervention Project of Travis County (2007- 2012)
Austin Community Action Network Chair, Community Council (2002 - 2003)
Member Community Council (1997 - 2008)
Member, CAN Marketing Committee (2003 - 2008)
Chair, Butler Awards Selection Committee (2009 - 2012)
Task Force Member, Austin Independent School District Dropout Prevention and Reduction Task Force (1999-2002)
Board Member, Austin Kids Exchange (1994 -1998)
Board Member, Metropolitan Volunteer Center (1988-1992)
Chair, Public Responsibility Committee, Austin State Hospital (1987-1992)

Awards and Recognitions

Commendation for 38 Years of Public Service to the Citizens of Travis County, Travis County Commissioners Court (2024)
Commitment to Civic Engagement, TX Votes (2023)
Torch Bearer Community Partnership, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., (2023)
PACESetter Award, PACE Nation (2021)
Standout Local Elected Official, National All In (2020)
Recognition of Leadership, 2020 Complete Count Committee, U, S. Census Bureau (2020)
Legacy of Building Tomorrow's Leaders Award, Austin Community College Center for Public Policy and Political Studies (2018)
Purple and Gold Award, The Men of Epsilon Iota Chapter, Omega Psi Fraternity (2018)
Tax Assessor of the Year, Tax Assessor Collectors Association of Texas (2017)
Outstanding Leadership, Veterans Intervention Project (2016)
Trailblazer Award, Indian American Coalition of Texas (2016)
Commendation, Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Project (2016)
Commendation for Outstanding Voter Registration efforts, Austin League of Women Voters (2014)
Legacy Award, Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force (2014)
Public Official of the Year, Capital Area Asian American Democrats (2014)
Commendation, Travis County Veterans Services Office (2014)
Distinguished Alumni, Austin Community College (2013)
Constable of the Year, Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas (2012)
Commendation for Outstanding Service to the Child Support Division of the Office of Attorney General (2011)
Commendation by Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court for Service as Co-Chair, Austin -Travis County Complete Count Committee (2010)
Partnership Award, City of Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (2009)

T. A. Vines Award, Justices of the Peace and Constable's Association of Texas (2009)
Public Innovation Award, Centex Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators (2009)
Distinguished Service Award, Community Action Network (2008)
Best Practices Award for Exceptional Delivery of Services, Texas Association of Counties (2008)
Best Practices Award for Exceptional Delivery of Services, Texas Association of Counties (2005)
Outstanding Alumnus, Westbury High School Foundation, (2005)
Person of the Year, Women's Advocacy Project (2004)
Certificate of Appreciation, Texas Attorney General (2003)
Service Above Self Public Safety Award, Rotary Clubs of Austin (2003)
Elected Official of the Year, Central Texas Society of Professional Administrators (2001)
Liberty Bell Award, Austin Young Lawyers Association (2000)
Commendation, Texas Women in Law Enforcement (1999)
Commendation, Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities (1997)
Constable of the Year, Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas (1997)
Governor's Community Achievement Award-Keep Austin Beautiful (1996)
Commendation, ADAPT of Texas (1996)
Spirit of Cooperation Award, United East Austin Coalition (1995)
Golden Heart Award, Texas Association for the Enforcement of Child Support (1993)
Person of the Year, Austin Center for Battered Women (now Safe Place) (1991)
Outstanding Leadership and Initiative, Austin Women's Political Caucus (1991)
Commendation, Austin Police Department, Victim Services Division (1991)
Commendation, Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices (1991)
Outstanding Service and Leadership, Texas Attorney General (1990)

Elizabeth Montoya

Elizabeth has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1998 and is licensed in Texas. She joined Blakeslee, Monzingo & Co. in 2016 to form Montoya, Monzingo & Blakeslee, LLP and is the Managing Partner with Montoya & Monzingo, LLP. Using her decades of experience as a financial executive, Elizabeth's focus is to help her business clients align effective tax planning with best practice business process strategies to achieve their organizational goals. She serves on several local non-profit and government boards and is a TCU Horned Frog fan. She holds a MS from the University of Oklahoma and is the proud mom of two daughters and a son.

Paul Roberts

Paul Roberts is a fourth-generation Texan, business owner, and public servant dedicated to transparency, fiscal discipline, and responsible governance. He serves on the Lago Vista City Council (Place 5), where he has led initiatives centered on *better planning and smarter growth* to align development with infrastructure capacity, community priorities, and long-term sustainability.

Prior to his election, Mr. Roberts served as Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, a member of the Building and Standards Commission, and a member of the 2021 Charter Review Committee. He is also active in community service as a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Lions Club.

Mr. Roberts is the founder and President of Solid Technology Solutions, Inc. (STS), a certified electronic component distributor serving OEMs and manufacturers worldwide. With more than 25 years of experience in business leadership, contract management, and financial oversight, he brings a pragmatic, results-driven perspective to public service.

Since moving to Lago Vista in 2016 with his wife and three children, Mr. Roberts has worked to enhance transparency, preserve open space, strengthen infrastructure, and ensure that growth occurs responsibly and sustainably. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to the community and to prudent, data-driven decision-making on behalf of taxpayers.

Melody Ryan

Melody Ryan has been a resident of Pflugerville since 2007. A graduate of UCLA with a degree in Business Economics and a minor in Accounting, Melody is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who brings financial expertise and nearly two decades of dedicated service to the Pflugerville community. Her contributions include serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Finance and Budget Committee, multiple bond committees, and the Pflugerville Community Development Corporation (PCDC), where she focused on evaluating projects for community impact and return on investment. She served as Treasurer for her Homeowners Association for 15 years, where she upheld fiscal responsibility by maintaining dues at the same level for over 17 years while successfully overseeing the development of a new park and a 1.2-mile trail. As a mother of students in the Pflugerville Independent School District, Melody has been deeply involved in supporting local schools. She has volunteered extensively for campus events, fundraising efforts, and classroom activities, and she has served as a mentor to students, providing guidance and encouragement to help them succeed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she signed up as a guest educator, helping to ensure students and staff had the resources they needed during a challenging time. Melody is a strong advocate for community engagement and believes in empowering residents with a voice on critical projects and issues. She is dedicated to ensuring citizens have the opportunity to vote on major initiatives and prioritizes listening to diverse perspectives to make the best decisions for Pflugerville's future. Committed to ensuring Pflugerville remains a thriving, safe, and welcoming city, Melody is a strong supporter of essential services like roads, water, and parks. Her experience on the Aspire 2040 and 2030 comprehensive plans guides her prioritization of projects that support the city's growth. Dedicated to collaboration and fiscal responsibility, Melody strives to create a balanced approach to governance that benefits residents and businesses.