



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

DECEMBER 18, 2018

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- President
– [Chris Davis](#)
- Vice-President
– [Yvonne Ramon](#)
- Treasurer
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– [Remi Garza](#)
- Education Chair
– [John Oldham](#)
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Staying On Top of Proposed Election Legislation

As election-related bills are [being pre-filed](#), the TAEA Legislative Committee is trying to keep up with analysis of them. You can see what’s coming down the pike and what our (developing) views are on them here:

[Election Bills of the 86th Legislative Session – a TAEA Document](#)

The document is currently set for read-only, but anyone can comment on any cell there by (1.) simply clicking on a cell where they want to comment and then (2.) clicking on the grey word balloon icon in the upper right of the screen:

2. Then click on the grey word balloon to leave a comment.

	G	H
	in TEC.	FOR
uty registrars.	Statewide VDR's, regardless of county appointed.	AGAINST
	OVR.	FOR
election ballot.	Preserves order of candidates in runoff ballot to original election ballot order.	FOR
election seeking bonds supported by	Limits one project/category of bond expenditure per ballot proposition.	AGAINST
ince or change of a artement of Public	Automatic registration upon issuance or change of drivers license at DPS	
a penalty.	Adds to oath of assistance; higher criminal penalty.	FOR?
creation of voters by	Allows call-widens to photograph voters	

1. Click on a cell where you want to leave a comment.

While many bills likely won't see the light of a committee hearing or floor vote, we still want to hear from you. And we'll be discussing some of the major bills at our Mid-Winter meeting in January.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

-CJD

Vice President

As 2018 comes to an end, I have to take a deep breath and reflect on how we all got so much done. This was an extraordinarily difficult year. We all prepare for the "PRIMARY" even-numbered year, but even with experience and a great staff, the demands never seemed to lessen; the demands seemed to want more and more of us. Add in the "new" division of what is known as cybersecurity, and bam.... we are now at yet another level of demands. Just keeping up with so many emails; just keeping up with the understanding of so many processes and procedures was a full-time job on its own.

But, here comes 2019! A great start to a great year begins with our TAEA Mid-Winter Conference. Chris Davis and awesome staff will host this year's conference. I know that so many of us have auditors that do not allow payment in the previous year for a charge for the following year, so communicate with Michele Bennett, our Treasurer, and let her know you are going to the conference so that we can get a great head count. You are able to take your check to the conference and pay there. She will work with you!

So much happening! REO classes will take place on Monday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 8th while the renewal class for the REO certification will take place the morning of Wednesday, January 9th. The conference starts at 1:00 pm on that Wednesday, January 9th. There are great topics and great presenters, break-out sessions and best of all, lots of socializing and networking! Chris and staff have done an amazing job preparing for this very important conference. Thank you so much, Williamson County! See you there!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all. May each of us be blessed with happiness and the love of family and friends.

- Yvonne Ramon



REO Classes - January 7 - 8
REO Renewal Class - January 9 Morning only
TAEA Conference - January 9 - January 11



Election Center REO Course Information

There's still time to reserve a spot in the REO classes at our Mid-Winter Conference. The deadline to submit payment for them is Friday, December 28th. [Here's the link to the info.](#)

Past graduates of the REO program should take note of the renewal course information at the bottom of that page. 2016 graduates MUST take a renewal class to maintain REO certification for a new 3-year term. 2017 & 2018 graduates can also take the renewal course and have their 3-year certification extended to another 3-year term.

Continuing Education



As we bid farewell to a fun filled 2018 we can look forward to 2019 and the training opportunities available to those of us lucky enough to live in Texas. In just a few weeks, our Association will be meeting in Georgetown for our annual mid-winter conference. Prior to the opening gavel, our members will have the opportunity to continue their classes in the Texas Registered Election Official Program (REO). Classes 1, 2, 3, & 4 are being offered on January 7 & 8, and a new renewal class is being offered on the morning of January 9. Classes and the Conference are both at the Sheraton in Georgetown, TX. If you have not yet registered, you can find the information and links at www.taea-elections.org. You can also find the membership form and list serve application at the website.

In March, the Election Center will also be offering Certified Election/Registration Administrator (CERA) classes in Texas. Classes 9-12 will be available to Texas election officials at the Houston Westin in Memorial City. This is a great opportunity to complete your CERA certification without traveling out of state. Class and registration information will soon be posted on the TAEA website.

This summer, 2019 Annual Conference of the International Association of Government Officials (IGO) will be held July 11-16, 2019 in Houston at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Houston. Registration materials are not yet available but will be posted on the association's website www.iaogo.org IGO was formerly known as IACREOT.

Finally, the 2019 Election Law Seminar conducted by the Texas Secretary of State will again be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. The dates are July 29-31. Watch for the announcement so we can all frantically call to try to book a room.

2018 was so demanding that many of us could not take advantage of the training opportunities available to us; however, since some of us may only have two elections in 2019, we should have 363 free days to improve ourselves.

Soon to come, the 86th edition of the Texas Legislature. A boat load of election related bills have already been filed, and I assume that we will be updated on the best and worst of them while we are attending the TAEA Georgetown Conference. Some of these bills appear to have been written for no good reason than to make our lives miserable, so be prepared to lobby your legislators in the coming months.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday. We are headed North soon to celebrate both Christmas and Thanksgiving with our daughters, granddaughters, and the greatly outnumbered sons-in-law. We had to postpone Thanksgiving due to a runoff election, so now we can cram all the calories associated with two holidays into one week.

If you are traveling, please do so safely.

- John Oldham



Treasurer



Wow, can you believe that Mid-Winter Conference is right around the corner? We in just a few short weeks TAEA will take Georgetown by storm! Okay, maybe I am being a little too dramatic. Ha ha! I am attaching the spreadsheet of those who have already paid their 2019 membership and conference dues. If you aren't listed it could be for a number of reasons. A couple of examples are checks received without a registration form or everything was mailed to a previous Treasurer. Anyways, I have reached out to those who sent checks without registration forms. Please get back to me as soon as possible.

In just a few short weeks 2018 will be behind us. With that in mind I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy 2019. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in January. Until then, take care.

- Michele Bennett

Legislative Chair



Hello everyone! This is my last newsletter piece to this organization, as I am retiring the end of this month, and I would like to say to all of you PLEASE be an involved of TAEA, whether it be researching prospective legislation or taking a look at an existing law on how to improve it, or going to the Capitol, or simply networking with your peers to have discussion how something could be better.

Don't be afraid to be a part of the TAEA board. Years ago, when I would attend meetings I would be in awe of the board thinking these people have so much knowledge, and believe me they do, but we ALL do, which is what makes this organization so strong. Get involved & be part of the process!

I am going to miss all of you so much, but as the saying goes, life goes on, and I am so excited to see what's ahead of me, and I wish each one of you the very best and will think of you often as I go on to my next adventure.

All in all it's been a great experience for me, and as I said I wish each of you the very best!

Love y'all,

- Mina Cook

Secretary

Season's Greetings! I marvel at how quickly November passes, but the election feels like it just wrapped up a few days ago. This mid-term had the power to linger like the smell of a campfire on old wool jacket. But all good things must end... with an invoice. Then without much ceremony, planning starts for May.

With the Legislature in session, we get both opportunity and vulnerability. I don't think anyone can pay too much attention to the upcoming work of our elected representatives. Over the next few months they have the chance to make our work smarter or harder. Please keep an eye out for things that will have an impact on how you do your work and let your local Reps know how it will impact your office. Whether you like it or not you are the election expert in your county.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Georgetown in a few weeks. I know we will get a chance to swap stories and recharge our batteries. The focus I am sure will be on facing upcoming challenges but let us not forget to celebrate the incredible election cycle we just went through. I know I will remember it and seeing it from this side happy to have endured it, or is the correct word survived.

Happy Holidays.

- Remi Garza



Blanco County - Elections Administrator





2018 US Election Assistance Commission

[Webinar: Overview of the 2018 EAVS](#) – Moderated by EAC Vice Chair Christy McCormick, webinar panelists discuss a number of topics helpful for respondents, including what’s new for the 2018 survey, the EAVS data collection timeline, resources available to respondents, and helpful hints for completing the survey.

A series of six “bootcamp” videos, which provide detailed section-by-section guidance for completing the survey. These include:

[Section A](#) related to voter registration data;

[Section B](#), related to military and overseas voting data;

[Section C](#), related to domestic civilian by-mail voting data;

[Section D](#), related to polling place and poll worker data;

[Section E](#), related to provisional ballot data; and

[Section F](#), related to voter participation and election technology data.

[2018 Election Administration and Voting Survey](#)

Just a SPECIAL NOTICE for the recipients of the newsletter. The association newsletter is intended for members and associates of Texas Association of Election Administrators. Those individuals who are not members or associates of the association may be removed at any time.