

# **Credentials, Bylaws and Elections Committee**

## **Report and Recommendations**

### **2025-2026**

This committee shall receive all amendments to these Bylaws and put them in the proper form for submission to the Board of Directors and House of Delegates. This committee shall serve as the Elections Committee for all TSTA statewide elections. The President shall select the Credentials and Elections Committees for the annual House of Delegates from this committee.

*—TSTA Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1.A.2*

#### **I. FULFILLMENT OF COMMITTEE CHARGES**

##### **CHARGE #1**

**Receive amendments to the Bylaws and prepare in proper form for submission to the Board of Directors and House of Delegates.**

**ACTION:** The Credentials, Bylaws and Elections (CB&E) Committee received 2 proposed bylaws amendments.

##### **CHARGE #2**

**Serve as the Elections Committee for the TSTA House of Delegates. The Elections Committee shall conduct all elections at the House of Delegates and shall certify the results to the House of Delegates.**

**ACTION:** At the annual House of Delegates, the CB&E Committee divides into three separate committees—a Bylaws Committee, a Credentials Committee, and an Elections Committee—that serve distinct purposes. The Elections Committee will conduct elections and canvass ballots as needed.

##### **CHARGE #3**

**Serve as the Credentials Committee for the TSTA House of Delegates. The Credentials Committee shall rule on the seating of any delegate and on any challenges to the election of local delegates.**

**ACTION:** At the annual House of Delegates, the CB&E Committee divides into three separate committees—a Bylaws Committee, a Credentials Committee, and an Elections Committee—that serve distinct purposes. The Credentials Committee examines the credentials of elected delegates and presents for certification the delegates in attendance.

##### **CHARGE #4**

**Act as Statewide Elections Committee to canvass NEA Delegate elections.**

**ACTION:** The CB&E Committee will meet specifically as an Elections Committee in 2026 to canvass the elections of NEA State Delegates by Region, NEA State Delegates Category II, and NEA Supervisory Cluster Delegate

## **II. 2025 NEW BUSINESS ITEMS/BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

There were 2 NBI's and 2 Bylaw Amendments submitted to the committee in 2025.

### **Credentials, Bylaws, and Elections Committee**

Eric Charon, Port Arthur Teachers Association (Region 17)

Alejandra Diaz-Lightner, Laredo United TSTA/NEA (Region 4), Chair

Gilbert Lara, El Paso Teachers Association (Region 13)

Jose Luis Noriega, Judson Education Association (Region 3)

Felecia Owens, TSTA-Retired (TSTA-R)

August Plock, Pflugerville Educators Association (Region 10)

Mary Ann Quintana, Klein Education Association (Region 16)

Trasell Underwood, Education Austin (Region 11)

Barbara Reed Wilson, Arlington TSTA (Region 19)

# PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Proposed Additions = Wording in **Bold and Underlined**  
Proposed Deletions = Wording in [~~Brackets with Strikethrough~~]

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment 1

**INTENT: To revise substantially the Acknowledgements and Recognitions requirements, providing for acknowledgements and recognitions being flexible to evolving language and understanding.**

## ARTICLE II

### Mission, Acknowledgements and Recognitions

#### A. Mission

The Texas State Teachers Association will unite, organize, and empower public education advocates to shape public education in Texas thus providing a quality public school for every child.

#### B. **Statewide Labor Recognitions and Land Acknowledgements**

~~We acknowledge that TSTA exists, works, and meets on the stolen lands of Texas' First Peoples. We honor America's First Peoples and all elders past, present, and emerging. We are called on to learn, and share what we learn about the tribal history, culture, and contributions that have been hidden from the story of America.~~

**All meetings of the House of Delegates and other TSTA statewide events shall include a Land Acknowledgement that connects and directly collaborates with the Indigenous People in the area in accordance with policy to be established by the TSTA Board of Directors. The Board will review this policy annually to ensure it is respectful, supportive, and current.**

**All meetings of the House of Delegates and other TSTA statewide events shall include a Labor Recognition that connects and directly collaborates with Black History and Empowerment Groups in the area in accordance with policy to be established by the TSTA Board of Directors. The Board will review this policy annually to ensure it is respectful, supportive, and current.**

#### C. **Region and Local Land** Acknowledgements

~~We acknowledge that TSTA exists, works, and meets on the stolen lands of Texas' First Peoples. We honor America's First Peoples and all elders past, present, and emerging. We are called on to learn, and share what we learn about the tribal history, culture, and contributions that have been hidden from the story of America.~~

**TSTA Locals, Regions, and Affiliates are strongly encouraged to contact the Indigenous Peoples in their area to connect and collaborate with them directly on Land**

**Acknowledgements, in accordance with policy to be established by the TSTA Board of Directors. The Board will review this policy annually to ensure it is respectful, supportive, and current.**

D. **Region and Local** Labor Recognitions

~~We pay homage to those who were stolen from Africa, placed in bondage, falsely named chattel, and forced into labor, who were called slaves, but never submitted to such and always been fully human, with an unbroken connection to the divine and each other. We honor our African Ancestors for the still unpaid labor which built what is now Texas and the Americas. To our indigenous and African forebearers, we commit to the continued struggle for liberation and reparations, for it is through freedom and justice that we truly give honor.~~

**TSTA Locals, Regions, and Affiliates are strongly encouraged to contact Black History and Empowerment Groups in their area to connect and collaborate with them directly on Labor Recognitions, in accordance with policy to be established by the TSTA Board of Directors. The Board will review this policy annually to ensure it is respectful, supportive, and current.**

E. **Recognitions**

- ~~All meetings of the House of Delegates shall include a Land Acknowledgement that recognized the traditional lands of the People(s) where the meeting is located and Labor Recognition.~~
- ~~All meetings of the House of Delegates shall include a presentation that recognizes and educates the HoD on the history, culture, contributions, and/or accolades of the Native people of the region, and a separate presentation that recognizes and educates the HoD on the history, culture, contributions, and/or accolades of the African People and history in the region.~~
- ~~The agenda for all meetings of statewide committees shall include a Land acknowledgement and Labor recognition.~~

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2

**INTENT: As an organization that leads by example, we must ensure that member votes are counted fully when it comes to votes that represent us. A board member holding two seats dilutes the voice of TSTA members.**

### **ARTICLE VII Board of Directors**

#### Section 3. Qualifications

Board of Directors members shall:

- A. Be actively engaged in the education profession within the state at the time of election, except for the President of TSTA-R and the President of TSTA-AE, who shall maintain membership and office in those respective groups.
- B. Have held Active, TSTA-R, TFA or any combination of Active, TSTA-R and TFA membership for at least the three (3) consecutive years preceding election, or be a Life member of TSTA/NEA, except for the President of TSTA-AE.
- C. Be a nonsupervisory member unless elected as a supervisor-at-large to the Board, except for the TSTA-R and TSTA-AE Presidents.
- D. Be employed within the represented region if serving on the Board as a regional president.
- E. Maintain membership status and educational position during term of office if serving as an at-large board member.
- F. Hold no more than one voting seat on the Board.**