

Speakers' Letter



Physicians Caring for Texans



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Speaker



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July 1, 2020

Fellow TMA Delegates and Alternate Delegates:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Medical Association Disaster Board has voted to cancel the in-person gathering of the association's Fall Conference.

However, the TMA Disaster Board voted to support conducting a virtual meeting of the TMA House of Delegates (HOD) that will culminate in a live virtual session on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9:00 am.

We are providing the following information to help you plan for the meeting. Check the [House of Delegates webpage](#) for ongoing updates to this Speakers' Letter. If you have questions, please email us at hod@texmed.org.

HANDBOOK

The digital *Handbook for Delegates* will be posted on July 31 on the [House of Delegates webpage](#).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Given the limitation of the virtual environment and time, the TMA Disaster Board supported that business considered should be limited to essential or urgent or informational items or reports that could reasonably be adopted by consent. Your speakers and the HOD Caucus Chairs are working to identify the essential business to be considered by the house. It is expected that all other resolutions and business will be tabled to the 2021 HOD.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY/REFERENCE COMMITTEE

A single reference committee will review written testimony on essential business. You must be logged into your TMA account in order to submit testimony. You will be notified by email once the website to receive written testimony is ready.

The reference committee will meet in executive session between Aug. 7-22. The final reference committee report will be posted online no later than Aug. 29. The reference committee members have been selected by the Speakers from the original pool of volunteers.

CONDUCTING THE REMAINING 2020 CONTESTED ELECTIONS

The TMA Disaster Board officially closed all nominations for election of the contested races on June 28, 2020.

Election by acclamation of uncontested positions occurred in May by the TMA Disaster Board, along with the transition in leadership. Voting for contested elections will take place prior to the house meeting, starting Friday, Aug. 21. That morning, an email will be sent to each credentialed delegate to review candidate materials and cast their ballot. Voting will require credentialed delegates to log on to the TMA website and cast their ballot before the close of voting on Aug. 28 at 11:59 pm.

In the event of the need for a run-off election, the house will be notified of the run-off in a similar

manner. Run-off elections would be held after the formal house opening on Sept. 4 and closed by Thursday, Sept. 10 at 11:59 pm. Review of election results will be performed by the chief teller.

Below is the list of contested races:

CONTESTED ELECTIONS 2020

OFFICERS

Office	Incumbent	Eligible for Election	Term of Position	Candidates Announced as of April 26
Three Trustees*	G. Ray Callas Gary W. Floyd	Yes Yes	2020-23	G. Ray Callas Jefferson John T. Carlo Dallas Gary W. Floyd Tarrant Kimberly E. Monday Harris
Board of Trustees Young Physician Member	Lindsay K. Botsford	No	2020-2022	M. Brett Cooper Dallas Joseph Maxwell Hendrix Dallas Melanie M. Vettimattam Tarrant

*Trustee positions are “at large,” not slotted. TMA Bylaws provide that all nominees for trustee will be listed on a single ballot. At-large trustees serve three-year terms.

ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Delegates and alternate delegates serve two-year terms, Jan. 1, 2021-Dec. 31, 2022.

Alternate Delegates	Incumbent	Eligible for Reelection	Term (2 Years) Jan. 1-Dec. 31	Candidates Announced as of April 26
1-3	Laura Faye Gephart* Vacant Vacant	-	2021-22	Shanna Combs Eddie L. Patton Jr. Jim Walton Yasser Zeid

*Dr. Gephart is moving out of state

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate profiles and videos will be posted on the TMA website Aug. 1. The Speakers will provide additional information about other virtual events that will allow delegates to gain familiarity with the candidates soon.