All references in this document to “articles” shall refer to articles in this Constitution; all references to “chapters” shall refer to chapters in these Bylaws; and all references to “the association” shall refer to the Texas Medical Association.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this organization is the Texas Medical Association.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES.

The purposes of the association are to (1) serve the people of Texas in matters of medical care, (2) federate members of the profession practicing medicine and surgery, (3) provide effective representation for its members, (4) unite with similar state associations to form the American Medical Association, (5) promote unity and cooperation among its members and component organizations, (6) secure the enactment of appropriate medical and health care legislation, (7) extend medical knowledge and advance medical science, and (8) strive for the prevention and cure of disease and the improvement of public health.

The association shall have the authority to regulate ethical conduct among its members, to maintain and advance the standards of medical care, and to enact bylaws regulating such matters.

ARTICLE III. COMPOSITION.

Sec. 1. This association shall be composed of members of duly chartered county medical societies and affiliate and at-large members of the association.

Sec. 2. Those eligible for membership in the association are physicians holding the degree of Doctor of Medicine and/or Doctor of Osteopathy, and full-time students pursuing a course of study in a Texas medical school recognized by the Texas Medical Board that leads to the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy. Deans of these medical schools and presidents of health science centers of which these medical schools are component schools also shall be eligible for membership in the association provided they hold doctoral degrees.

Sec. 3. All members shall subscribe to the Principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association and shall not hold themselves out as practitioners of sectarian medicine.

Sec. 4. All physician members shall be licensed to practice medicine in Texas; a temporary license, certificate, or permit shall not be deemed adequate. The exceptions to this licensure requirement for membership are:

(1) House staff physicians serving in training programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education who hold institutional permits from the Texas Medical Board.

(2) Physicians who are military medical officers, employees of governmental entities, and those with academic and administrative appointments in medical schools who are not required to register under the Medical Practice Act of Texas, and who are residents of the State of Texas.

(3) Physicians who are fully retired from the practice of medicine.
ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS.

The officers of the association shall be the president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary/treasurer, and speaker and vice speaker of the House of Delegates. Their election, responsibilities, and terms of office shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Sec. 1. The legislative and policy-making body of the association shall be the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates shall transact all business of the association not otherwise specifically provided in this Constitution and Bylaws, shall elect the officers except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, and shall meet as provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 2. House of Delegates membership shall consist of:

1. Delegates representing county medical societies, elected in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws; and
2. Ex officio members, including:
   a. The president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary/treasurer, and speaker and vice speaker of the House of Delegates;
   b. Councilors;
   c. Nine members elected at large to the Board of Trustees plus the young physician, resident, and student members of the board.
   d. Texas delegates and alternate delegates to the American Medical Association;
   e. Chairs of standing councils and members of the Council on Legislation;
   f. Delegates from the International Medical Graduate Section, LGBTQ Health Section, Resident and Fellow Section, Women Physicians Section, and Young Physician Section;
   g. Delegates representing the Medical Student Section from each approved and active Medical Student Section Chapter;
   h. Delegates of medical specialty societies selected in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws;
   i. Past presidents of the association who are active or emeritus members;
   j. As nonvoting members, the chair of TEXPAC and delegates emeritus of the AMA delegation; and
   k. Delegates representing at-large members, with one delegate for the first 100 at-large members or less, and one additional delegate for each additional 100 at-large members or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of at-large members elected as provided in the bylaws and, ex officio, with vote, the president, president-elect, immediate past president, secretary/treasurer and speaker and vice speaker of the House of Delegates; one young physician who shall be elected as provided in the bylaws, and one resident and one student member, who shall be appointed annually. This board shall establish interim policy of the association. All policies established by the Board of Trustees shall be subject to ratification by the House of Delegates. The Board of Trustees shall perform other duties as defined in the Bylaws and as may be established by the House of Delegates. The board shall meet at intervals between meetings of the House of Delegates.
The Board of Trustees shall manage the business and financial affairs of the association. All association funds shall be subject to the exclusive control of the Board of Trustees except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws. The Board of Trustees shall serve in general as a board of directors within the meaning of the corporate laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF COUNCILORS.

The Board of Councilors shall consist of one member from each councilor district. All questions of medical ethics shall be referred to this board, as provided in the Bylaws. The Board of Councilors shall supervise component county societies.

ARTICLE VIII. COMPONENT COUNTY SOCIETIES.

Component county societies shall be chartered by and organized under the direction of the Board of Councilors. Component county societies shall have general jurisdiction over the medical affairs within their geographical boundaries, as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. COUNCILOR DISTRICTS.

The House of Delegates shall divide the state into councilor districts for the primary purpose of electing councilors and vice councilors and to promote the best interests of the public and the profession.

ARTICLE X. ANNUAL SESSION.

The association shall hold an annual session for the presentation of general and scientific programs.

ARTICLE XI. FUNDS, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS.

Funds may be raised by annual dues and by assessments of members of the association, as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII. INCORPORATION.

The association shall have the authority to take out papers of incorporation under the corporate laws of the State of Texas. The association shall have a common seal with power to break, change, or renew the same at pleasure. Component county societies shall have the authority to take out papers of incorporation, provided that said incorporation does not remove the said component county societies from the jurisdiction of the association.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS.

The House of Delegates may amend this Constitution by a two-thirds affirmative vote of its members present and voting at any annual session, provided that the proposed amendment shall (1) have received majority approval at the preceding annual session, (2) have been published in Texas Medicine, and (3) have been sent officially to each member of the House of Delegates and each component county society at least two months before the meeting at which final action is to be taken.