



# TML Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation

You've got questions...we've got answers.

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## Speaker Bios

August 17-18, 2023 – San Antonio



### **Betsy Price**

Former Mayor, City of Fort Worth

Betsy Price served as Mayor of Fort Worth for 10 years. When she was first elected Mayor in 2011, she brought an ambitious vision to raise the bar for the city of Fort Worth. This started with improving the basics of any growing city – public safety, mobility, fiscal responsibility, and job growth. She also wanted to help ensure a sustainable city for future generations by promoting grassroots public engagement, supporting healthy lifestyles, and championing public education.

Prior to serving as Mayor, Betsy has been an active mother and a leader in the Fort Worth community for years, serving numerous boards, commissions, and professional associations. She'll be quick to say that, prior to her public service, one of her favorite community roles was to lead the PTA for Paschal High School, watching bright local youth grow into productive members of the community.

After running her own successful business for 17 years, Betsy turned to public service and was first elected in 2000 to serve as Tarrant County's Tax Assessor. Not afraid to ask the tough questions, Betsy quickly made her department one of the most efficient in Texas, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. She is proud of her proven record as a strong and energetic leader who brings people together to focus on what's best for our entire community.

Betsy graduated from Arlington Heights High School and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Together with her husband Tom, Betsy has three adult children. In her spare time, Betsy is an avid cyclist and enjoys spending quality time with her six grandchildren.



### **Lee Woodward**

City Secretary/PIO, City of La Porte

Lee Woodward is the city secretary and public information officer for the City of La Porte. She is the President-Elect of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) and an instructor for their annual Election Law Seminar, as well as for the annual Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) seminar on election law. Woodward holds credentials as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk, Texas Certified Public Manager, IIMC Master Municipal Clerk, Certified Records Manager (ICRM), Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Certified Parliamentarian, and Certified Public Communicator. She is a member of the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers, Texas City Management Association, Texas Women Leading Government, The League of Women

in Government, and a number of parliamentary organizations, and is an IIMC Athenian Leadership Society Fellow and Dialogue Facilitator. Woodward earned her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University (College Station) and her master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

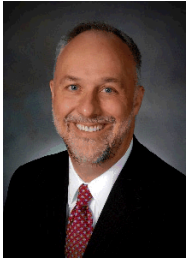


### **Bill Longley**

General Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Bill Longley graduated from the University of Richmond in 2004 with a degree in political science and sociology. In 2007, he received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Bill worked as a law clerk at TML while in law school. Prior to working for TML, Bill served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Open Records Division of the Office of Attorney General. In his 14 years at TML, Bill has worked on a variety of legal and legislative issues as they relate to Texas cities. He co-authored the TML Revenue Manual and TML Economic Development Handbook, and has spoken on numerous topics, with a focus on

economic development, municipal revenue, open government, and elections.



**Dan Johnson**

Former City Manager, City of Richardson

Dan Johnson is the recently retired City Manager of Richardson, Texas. Johnson’s 45 years as a public administrator have been served in a variety of capacities in the DFW Metroplex. Dan’s most recent 25 years with the City of Richardson included his 2012 appointment as City Manager, and his prior service as Deputy City Manager for Richardson from 1996.

Prior to his move to Richardson in 1996, Johnson served for 11 years at the City of Carrollton, Texas, including three years as City Manager, and eight years as Deputy City Manager. Earlier service included responsibilities as Director of Regional Services for three years at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (D-FW metro area), and he was Budget Officer in Sherman, Texas, for five years.

Dan holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Austin College, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Texas. He is also a graduate of the Public Executive Institute of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Johnson is the 1995 Distinguished Alumni recipient for the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas. He is a Past-President for the Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT), the North Texas City Management Association (NTCMA), and the Texas City Management Association (TCMA).

In 2022, Dan was named a “Distinguished Member” of the Texas City Management Association - one of only six in the 100-year history of TCMA. He also received the TCMA Lifetime Achievement Award and is the inaugural recipient of TCMA’s Excellence in Ethics and Integrity Award. Dan has received “Life Member” status in both ICMA and TCMA. Dan is the 2021 “Citizen of the Year” award recipient from the Richardson Chamber of Commerce. The North Central Texas Council of Governments presented Dan with the 2022 Bill Pitstick Commitment to Regionalism Award for demonstrated service over his 45-year public administration career.

Dan serves on the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Advisory Board, the University of Texas at Dallas Development Board and the Advisory Council for the UTDallas School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences. He is also a Board Member of the University of North Texas Public Administration Advisory Board. He was the Past-Treasurer & Board Executive Committee Member of the North Texas Commission.

Dan, and his wife Tina, live in Richardson. Dan continues as an active public administration advisor and trainer on topics of municipal service, including Ethics & Governance, Economic Development, Public Finance & Budgets, Transit-Oriented Planning and Development, and Public Management & Leadership, among other topics. Dan and Tina homeschool their miniature schnauzer, Luna!



**Stephanie Huser**

Legal Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Stephanie Huser is a graduate of St. Mary’s University School of Law and has previously worked as a research attorney at the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. Her experience also includes working for the City of New Braunfels and state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and General Land Office.



**Brenda N. McDonald**

Founder, Brenda N. McDonald, PLLC

Brenda McDonald was a founding partner in the North Texas law firm of Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC but has recently started her own firm. She has over 30 years of experience representing both municipalities and private development entities in general municipal matters, land use matters, public/private partnerships, real estate transactions, project financing and economic development incentives. Brenda currently serves as the City Attorney for the towns of Argyle and Sunnyvale and the cities of Ennis, Haslet and Pilot Point. In both public and private practice, Brenda has helped create the public/private partnership framework for numerous large scale development and redevelopment projects in North Texas.

Brenda is a co-author of Texas Municipal Zoning Law 3rd ed. published by Lexis Publishing Company.

She is a proud Texas Aggie having received her undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture and her Master’s degree in Urban Planning, both from Texas A & M University. She received her law degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law, J.D, where she studied with renowned land use attorney Robert Freilich.



**Monty Wynn**

Director, Grassroots and Legislative Services, Texas Municipal League

Monty Wynn is the Director of Grassroots and Legislative Services for the Texas Municipal League where he coordinates and implements the legislative policy program for the 1,175 member cities. He has been with TML for 16 years. Prior to his work at TML, Monty worked for two state comptrollers, was the Committee Director for the House Public Education Committee and served as the Chief of Staff to two Senators.

Monty is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Economics and Political Science. He and his wife, Rosemary, have two sons.



**JJ Rocha**

Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager, Texas Municipal League

JJ Rocha is the Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager at the Texas Municipal League where she coordinates the legislative policy program for the 1,175 member cities. Before joining TML in 2010, she interned at the Texas House of Representatives. JJ is a graduate from St. Edward’s University with a degree in political science. In 2014, she received her Master’s from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.



**Amber McKeon-Mueller**

Assistant Director of Legal Services, Texas Municipal League

Amber McKeon-Mueller is the Assistant Director of Legal Services for TML. Amber provides legal information to city officials, presents on issues relevant to cities, and monitors legislation during the legislative session. She graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska. Prior to joining the TML Legal Department in 2018, she worked for the Texas Attorney General’s Office as a litigator. She also litigated for over 6 years in private practice in San Diego, California.



**Sarah Tompkins**

Legal Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Sarah Tompkins is an attorney in the legal department at Texas Municipal League. Sarah received her undergraduate degree in English Literature from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and her law degree from the University of Texas. Prior to joining TML, Sarah served as a legislative attorney at the Texas Legislative Council and a briefing attorney for Judge Elsa Alcalá at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.



**Evelyn Njuguna**

Director of Legal Services, Texas Municipal League

Evelyn Njuguna is the Director of Legal Services at TML where she provides legal information to city officials, presents on issues relevant to cities, and monitors legislation during the legislative session. She graduated from the University of Tennessee where she received both her undergraduate and law degrees. Evelyn previously worked at TML in 2006-2008, and recently returned to TML after serving as an Assistant City Attorney at the City of Houston and First Assistant City Attorney at the City of Missouri City.

**Workshop Moderators**



**David Rutledge, CMO**

TML President, and Mayor, City of Bridge City

Rutledge has served as the mayor of Bridge City since 2016 and previously served as a councilmember for six years. He has earned his annual certified municipal official designation with TML since 2015. Before being elected TML president-elect in June 2021, he served as the TML Region 16 president, represented TML Region 16 and TAMCC on the TML Board, and participated in numerous TML committees.



**Beverly Gaines, CMO**

*TAMCC President and TML Board Director and Mayor Pro Tem, City of Webster*

*Beverly Gaines has served the City of Webster since 1999 when she became a resident. Gaines and Ron, her husband of 50 years, moved to Webster from Sealy where she had been very active in local government as an election clerk and judge. Gaines served on city council from 2006 to 2012, then from 2015 to the present. She presides as mayor pro tem, just as she did in 2015.*

*Of great importance, Gaines is very active in the Texas Municipal League (TML) and Texas Association of Mayors, Council Members and Commissioners (TAMCC), a TML affiliate organization. Gaines serves as president of TML Region 14 and presides as vice president of TAMCC.*

*During Gaines' tenure on city council, she earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Official designation that connotes dedication to her office and city. Just as society and its challenges and opportunities evolve, so, too, do regulations, laws, and best practices for city officials. Continuing education prepares Gaines to serve her constituents, fellow council members, and staff in the best possible manner.*

*Gaines fuses her vocation as life and health insurance agent with public service. She serves on a number of boards and civic organizations, including the Webster Economic Development Corporation and the Webster Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. Her service illuminates a wide range of interests, like the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, Zoning Board of Adjustments, Celebration Committee, Harris County Mayor and Council Association, Houston-Galveston Area Council, and ERCOT. Gaines is dedicated to serving Webster with her commitment to maintain a high level of safety, City services, fiscal responsibility, and quality of life, together with a low property tax rate and pro-business mentality.*



**Bert Miller**

*TAMCC Second Past President and Mayor, City of Navasota*

*William A. (Bert) Miller III has been the mayor of Navasota since 2006 and previously served as a councilmember from 2005-2006. A product of Navasota High School, Miller attended Stephen F. Austin University and Blinn College. He is the president of Miller Insurance Agency, where he has worked since 1997. He also owns the Classic Rock Coffee and Kitchen in Navasota. Previously, he worked as a sales representative with Trinity Industries for eight years.*

*Bert serves on several boards, including the Navasota Economic Development Corporation, the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, the Grimes County Crime Stoppers, the Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, the Grimes County Health Resource Commission, the Navasota Kiwanis Club, and the Navasota ISD Education Foundation. Additionally, he is a member of the 100 Club, the Washington-On-The-Brazos Park Association, the Navasota Theater Alliance, the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas, the Grimes St. Joseph Healthcare Council, and more.*