



*Published Quarterly for Members of the Texas Lone Star Chapter of SWANA*

## **New and Amended Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – from Application to Permit Issuance**

*by Ty Embry & Taylor Niblett, Lloyd, Gosselink, Rochelle & Townsend PC*

The members of the Texas Legislature have been busy this year with election and legislative activities. As you likely noticed by the campaign communications reaching all Texans in various forms, the political parties in Texas held their primary elections to determine each party’s candidates for the general election scheduled for November of this year. Some races need run-off elections in May to ultimately determine a winner. Legislators are also meeting in their various committees to discuss the significant issues facing a growing state to prepare for the next Regular Session of the Texas Legislature.

Multiple statewide, legislative and judicial offices were up for election in March during the political party primary elections for Republicans and Democrats, including, United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of General Land Office, Commissioner of Agriculture, Railroad Commissioner, four members of the Supreme Court, three members of the Court of Criminal Appeals and three members of the 15th Court of Appeals. While most of the races were decided on March 3, there were several runoff races that concluded on May

26th.

The 2026 primary election has been gone down as the most expensive primary election in Texas history. Candidates for several different offices hit records for spending and advertising. One candidate spent \$71 million on ad buys to gain support for his candidacy. For many, the ad spending had significant results in increasing visibility and voter turnout, but for others it was not as beneficial. The results of the primary and primary runoff elections will heavily influence policies the Texas Legislature will focus on, specifically issues like immigration enforcement, the economy and education.

### **Political Party Primary Election Results**

**U.S. Senator:** Republican Ken Paxton received 63.84% of the vote (885,949 votes) to win the runoff election over current incumbent John Cornyn who received 36.16% of the vote (501,725 votes). Democrat James Talarico won the nomination receiving 53% of the vote, defeating Jasmine Crockett, in March.

**U.S. Congress:** For Republicans all

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## Message from the President

*by Clifton Gillespie*

As I reflect on the past few months, I am reminded once again of the strength of the Texas solid waste community and the value of coming together to learn, share ideas, and support one another.

Our 2026 TxSWANA Annual Conference in El Paso was a tremendous success, offering outstanding educational sessions, meaningful networking, and valuable engagement with our industry partners. On behalf of the Chapter, I extend a special thank you to El Paso Environmental Services Director and TxSWANA Secretary Nicholas Ybarra and his entire team for their hard work and hospitality. Nick and his team did an exceptional job, and we are grateful to them for making this year's event so memorable.

One of my favorite TxSWANA traditions is our annual Road-E-O, held this year June 5–6 at the 121 Regional Disposal Facility in Melissa and hosted by the outstanding solid waste team at the North Texas Municipal Water District. The Road-E-O showcases the skill and professionalism of the men and women who operate the equipment that keeps our communities clean every day, with competitors demonstrating their abilities through challenges that reflect our profession's realities. While we enjoy recognizing top performers, the event's true value lies in promoting safe work practices, professional development, and camaraderie among peers. Thank you to everyone who competed, volunteered, and helped make it another outstanding and safe competition.

I also want to recognize our conference and Road-E-O sponsors. Their partnership allows us to deliver high-quality educational programs, networking opportunities, and professional development resources for members throughout Texas, and we sincerely appreciate their continued investment in our industry.

Summer has arrived, bringing the challenge of working safely in extreme heat. As temperatures rise, we must stay focused on protecting employees through training, hydration, rest, and vigilance. At Dallas Sanitation, our "100 Days of Summer Safety" campaign keeps heat safety top of mind all season, and I encourage members to discuss summer practices in their workplaces and share successful strategies with peers. TxSWANA's Safety Management and Resource Team (SMART) is an excellent forum for that exchange; to get involved, connect with SMART Committee Chair David Vartian.

One of TxSWANA's greatest strengths is the active involvement of its members. Whether you are new to the industry or a longtime member, I encourage you to find a way to participate. Serving on committees, supporting events, and sharing expertise are among the best ways to grow your network, develop leadership skills, and help shape our profession's future. I also encourage you to take full advantage of SWANA's broader resources, which support professionals at every stage of their careers. One of the premier opportunities is SWANA's annual conference, RCon, which this year will be held September 29 through October 2 in St. Louis.

Thank you for your continued support of TxSWANA and for the important work you do every day in service to your communities. Have a safe and productive summer. I look forward to seeing you at future TxSWANA events.



**Clifton Gillespie**

(Continued from page 1) incumbents won, with the exception of Dan Crenshaw (40%) who was defeated by Steve Toth (56%). The winners were Hale (District 7); Mealer (District 9); Bauman (District 16); Sell (District 19); Jackson (District 30); Gillespie (District 33); De La Cruz (District 35); and Pena (District 37). For Democrats, all incumbents who ran won their elections with the exception of incumbent Al Green who lost District 18 to Christian Menefee. The winners were Prince (District 1); Hockett (District 5); Bartie (District 14); Shepard (District 17); Burge (District 24); Allred (District 33).

**Governor:** Republican Greg Abbott won with the 81.8% of the vote. Democrat Gina Hinojosa won with 59.3% of the vote.

**Lieutenant Governor:** Republican Dan Patrick won with 84.8% of the vote. Democrat Vikki Goodwin (67%) beat Marcos Isaias Velez (32%) in the May runoff election.

**Attorney General:** Republican Mayes Middleton (39%) beat Chip Roy (44%) in the runoff election. Democrat Nathan Johnson (60%) beat Joe Jaworski (40%) in the May runoff election.

**Comptroller:** Republican Don Huffines won the nomination with 57% of the vote. Democrat Benjamin Flores won with 55% of the vote.

**Land Commissioner:** Republican Dawm Buckingham was unopposed. Democrat Benjamin Flores won with 55% of the vote.

**Railroad Commissioner:** Republican Bo French (50.56%) beat Jim Wright (49.44%) by approximately 14,700 votes out of 1,312,657 votes cast.

**Texas Senate:** All Republican incumbents won (Hughes, Hall, Schwertner, Kolkhorst, Flores, Perry and Sparks). Trent Ashby (62%) won District 3; Brett

Ligon won District 4; Leigh Wambsganss won District 9; Dennis Paul won District 11; Julie Dahlberg won District 21; and David Cook won District 22. Marcus Cardenas (52%) beat Robert Marks Jr (48%) in District 19. All Democratic incumbents won (Miles, R. Gutierrez, Menendez) including Zaffirini (District 21) who received 73% of the vote in a contested election. Thomasson won District 5 with 51% of votes; Dickey won District 11 with 75% of votes.

**Special Election for Senate District 9 (Tarrant County):** Democrat Taylor Rehmet beat Republican Leigh Wambsganss in January 2026 by 14%.

**Texas House:** All Republican incumbents won with the exception of Stan Kitzman (District 85), and Cecil Bell (District 3). Winners of contested elections include Spenser, Thigpen, Bailey, Callas, Halibo, Rosa, Cisneros, Johnson-Hernandez, Moreno, Mushtaler, Gupta G. Hunt, Hardway, and Howell. Winners of runoff elections were Cabrerra-Huff (District 40); Groves (District 41); Stanart (District 126). All Democratic incumbents won with the exception of Chris Turner in District 101. Democrat incumbent Venton Jones won in District 100 and incumbent Hubert Vo lost (District 149). Winners were Ochoa Jr (District 37); Salinas (District 41); Garibay (District 49); McLaughlin (District 97); Reyna (District 125); and Childs (District 131).

**Texas Court of Criminal Appeals:** Republican Thomas Smith (58%) beat Alison Fox (41%) for Place 3.

With the general election scheduled for November 3, 2026, voters will select individuals who will serve in very important offices in the upcoming term. The outcomes of these races will influence the direction of future legislative priorities and policy initiatives.

The Texas Legislature is also working in preparation for the next Regular Session which begins in January 2027. The Lieutenant Gov-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) ernor and Speaker have assigned the committees of their respective chambers with charges or topics to study and hold hearings on to prepare legislation for next session. The interim committee charges that are of particular interest to TxSWANA and its members are as follows:

**House Environmental Regulation:**

**Improving the Regulatory Process:** Study environmental regulations governing air, land, and water quality, waste disposal, and industrial development. Examine opportunities to streamline permitting processes.

**House Ways and Means:**

**Local Government Spending:** Examine local government spending and debt practices, including the use of certificates of obligation, to determine the overall impact on property tax rates. Evaluate other revenue sources, such as fees, utilized by local units of govern-

ment to facilitate increased spending.

**Senate Local Government:**

**Holding Local Government Fees Accountable:** Examine the collection, use, and oversight of fees imposed by local governments, including but not limited to utility connection charges, permit and inspection fees, and drainage or stormwater improvement fees. Evaluate whether these fees are subject to adequate financial transparency requirements and whether independent audits should be required.

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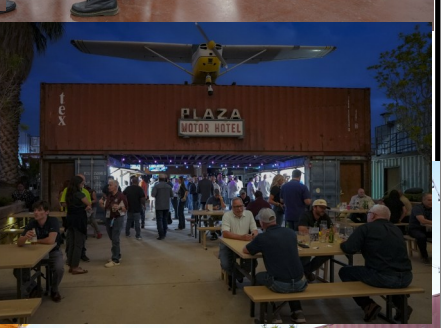
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# TXSWANA EL PASO ★ 26

Partnering With Mundo To Wrestle Waste



# YP Update!



## TxSWANA Young Professionals Update

The Texas SWANA Young Professionals group continues to grow, and our recent YP Happy Hour at the Texas SWANA Conference in El Paso was a great example of that growth. The turnout was far better than we initially anticipated, and it was great to see so many young professionals come together to network, share experiences, and build relationships within the industry. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success. The conversations throughout the evening reinforced the importance of continuing to invest in the next generation of leaders in the solid waste industry. If you attended the happy hour but are not currently registered as a Young Professional, please take a moment to update your membership designation. This helps us better understand our membership and continue growing the program.

Looking ahead, one of our primary goals is to continue expanding the Young Professionals program across Texas. Whether you're new to the industry or have been involved for several years, the YP group provides opportunities to connect with others, grow professionally, and become more involved with both TxSWANA and SWANA National. We're already working on future networking opportunities and ways to increase participation throughout the state. If you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you.

If you have any questions about the Young Professionals program, membership, upcoming events, or ways to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. I am always happy to connect with fellow Young Professionals and help however I can.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at a future YP event and at the TxSWANA Road-e-o in Melissa, Texas.

**Devon Zygarlenski**  
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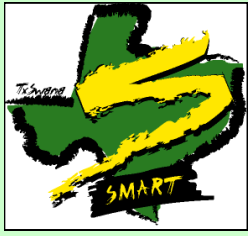


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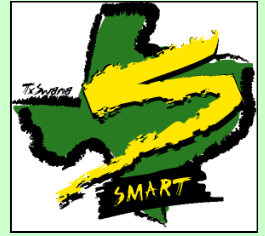
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# Transfer Station Safety

by David Vartian, City of University Park



Transfer stations are an integral part of the integrated management system for solid waste. They serve an important function in efficiently moving material to landfills or alternate disposal sites. While important in the role they play, transfer stations can present challenging safety issues that should be addressed in a serious and dedicated manner.

Although you may categorize safety issues in many ways and our lists could go on and on, here today I will examine several areas where safety is a concern with daily operations.

One issue presented is the vast level of equipment operator experience. A Transfer station may need to accommodate many types of vehicle traffic issues and types of vehicles. Some vehicle operators will be professional truck drivers who have a high level of skill and knowledge. Others will be citizens or civilians who lack the same skills and training of those professionals. The safety risk that the "Civilian" poses is that they do not know where to go and what to do while on site. A good "Best Practice" to follow in dealing with this "Risk" is to provide clear signage at the entrance with clear directions. Color coding may even help. Size and location of the signs are important to. If the sign is too small, it may go unnoticed.

A second Safety Risk is crossing traffic may induce accidents or collisions. A "Best Practice" for such unavoidable circumstances, or for dealing with vehicles of different sizes and types is to make crossing perpendicular and ensure good sight lines. Speed bumps, traffic signs and flashers can also assist in this process. The goal is to make it very clear what all are to do at any onsite intersection. Uncertainty leads to the possibility of accidents.

A third Safety Risk is Vehicles of different types and sizes interacting at the same site. A "Best Practice" for this issue would be to have separate and clearly defined roads and areas for different vehicle types. Vehicles working on site should seek to travel on different roads than vehicles coming in from off site. By keeping vehicles separated but traveling in the same direction may minimize acci-

dents.

Another area where there is a safety risk is the unloading areas. A "Safety Risk" to note here is the Commercial versus Public drop /tipping areas. The "Best Practice" suggestion here is having a separate area for both so that the professionals and the novice have very little interaction

Vehicles and Staff are another "Safety Risk" we deal with. Here a good "Best Practice" would be to follow all OSHA regulations relative to PPE, ensure back up alarms are working on vehicles so the audible and light warnings provide opportunity for staff and others to be alert of moving vehicles. A standard operating procedure should be in place for this purpose and all staff should be trained on a regular basis.

And lastly, continually look for improvement and seek to identify and manage risks at the site. It is said that nothing in life comes without risk and transfer stations are for sure not an exception. No two sites may be identical however they do share common risks that can be identified. In doing such, strategies may be implemented to manage those risks in an effective and safe manner.

Alternatively, if you have an interest in safety and or training please inquire as to how you may become involved. Also remember: Safety of our Operations our part of our daily objectives.

=====  
This safety tidbit is brought to you by your TxSWANA Safety Management And Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T). If you should have a solid waste safety question, please feel free to reach out.

**As always, please make it a Safe Day!**



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# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We Welcome the Following New Members (through June 1, 2026)

Patrick Barrientez	NTMWD
Jordan Beasley	Stanton Systems
Jose Cavazos	City of Lubbock
Hyeonmin Doh	Student
Amanuel Duga	SWANA
Jamar Epkins	Student
Giacomo Gallon	Nord Engineering
Gerardo Garcia	City of Brownsville
Dallas Gibson	Tomorrow RNG
Jason Hunt	City of Lewisville
Jim Hunter	The Water and Carbon Group
Kizzie Jimmerson	City of Houston
Zamile Kuwana	Petco
Erika Loftis	Routeware, Inc.
Precious Mangum	City of Dallas
John McGrath	Houston, TX
Sean Meadows	Butch's Rathole & Anchor Service
Nick Midboe	BI Worldwide

Ryan Miller	BTE Body Company, Inc.
Navaneetha Krishnan Murugadoss	WSP Canada Inc.
Hadley Nelson	Student
Courtney Nesbitt	City of Longview
Oluwaseyi Odusanya	Student
Ikechukwu Ogbodick	Student
George Postlethwaite	Dayjob
Andres Quijano	Envirosuite Corp.
Mario Rabago	City of West University Place
Jeremy Rendon	BTE Body Company, Inc
Nolan Samek	Siddons-Martin Emergency Group
Tracy Schorle	SWANA
Lincoln Sutton	American CNG
Katie Turner	City of Sherman
Gustavo Valle	City of Austin
Brian Ward	Apateq
Aletha Weaver	Morrow Energy, LLC

## Calendar of Events

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 2026 MEETINGS

July 10	San Antonio
Aug. 14	Dallas
Sept. 11	Midland
Oct. 9	San Antonio
Nov. 13	Houston

**RCon 2026**  
**Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2026**  
**St. Louis, MO**