



The Official Publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of

THE COUNTY TAX \$STATEMENT



SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2024

42nd Annual
V.G. Young School for County
Tax Assessor-Collectors

*Embassy Suites
San Marcus, TX*

**REGISTRATION
OPENS AUGUST 14TH**

**"LIGHTSABERS OF LEADERSHIP -
ILLUMINATING THE WAY
FORWARD"**



2024-2025

***TXDMV UPDATES**

***TAC**

***TPWD**

***REGIONAL
MEETING INFO**

The 2024-2025 Board of Directors

SHAY LUEDEKE, CTOP
PRESIDENT
BELL COUNTY



CHRISTINA McMURRAY, PCAC
PRESIDENT ELECT
RANDALL COUNTY

DAWN VIETH, PCAC
VICE-PRESIDENT
ARCHER COUNTY

BECKY ROBLES
SECRETARY
TOM GREEN COUNTY

ELLEN OWENS, PCAC, CTOP, PCC
TREASURER
BASTROP COUNTY

KEVIN KIESCHNICK, PCC
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
NUECES COUNTY

RUBEN P. GONZALEZ
DIRECTOR
EL PASO COUNTY

KAREN LANE, PCC, CTOP, PCAC
DIRECTOR
MADISON COUNTY

MONICA FOSTER, PCC
DIRECTOR
JACKSON COUNTY

KRISTEN BULANEK, PCC, CTOP, CIA
DIRECTOR
BRAZORIA COUNTY

The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas and is published four times each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of the organization is to promote professional standards, to unify actions for the benefit of its constituents, to be aware and participate in the legislative process, and to provide a vehicle to educate its members in the proper conduct of the constitutional office of the Assessor-Collector of Taxes.

TxDMV Updates

New Position to Support Senate Bill 224 Implementation

Senate Bill 224, passed during the 88th Legislative Session, amends Occupations Code, Chapter 2305, by providing additional requirements for certain, regulated entities that buy and sell catalytic converters. The Vehicle Titles and Registration (VTR) Division will use allocated funding for a new position. To facilitate the new record keeping requirements, the department plans to automate reporting with programming changes to webSALVAGE. This information will then be made available to the respective regulating entities for any enforcement efforts. The new VTR position will be dedicated to developing business requirements for necessary programming changes and title policy and procedure efforts relative to theft prevention activities. The new employee will serve as a liaison between VTR and the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for such initiatives.



Warehousing and Distribution Request for Proposal (RFP)

House Bill 718 eliminates temporary paper tags and replaces them with metal plates for their customers and their own business use. To ensure dealers and buyers have the plates needed, metal license plates will need to be distributed to individual dealerships statewide. This change will require a fundamental overhaul of the current distribution model.

In Fiscal Year 2023, approximately 5.4 million license plates were distributed to county tax office and TxDMV Regional Service Center (RSC) locations. Currently, a Texas Department of Criminal Justice warehouse in Huntsville distributes plates to county tax offices and RSCs. The plates are then issued to dealers and the public. The Motor Vehicle Division also distributes dealer license plates to individual dealerships via the U.S. Postal Service.

Our License Plate Design and Manufacturing Committee considered multiple options for distribution while considering risk, efficiency, and stakeholder benefit. The committee determined that shipping license plates directly to dealers, instead of routing them through county tax offices, is the preferred method. A third-party warehouse and order fulfillment vendor is currently being selected under a competitive procurement process.

webDEALER Training Initiative

VTR's webDEALER training efforts continue for dealers and counties across the state.

Lori Stovall, Jessica Jimenez, and Paige Noble conducted webDEALER training at the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association (TACA) conference on June 4 in Dallas. There were approximately 150 Tax Assessor-Collector staff in attendance.

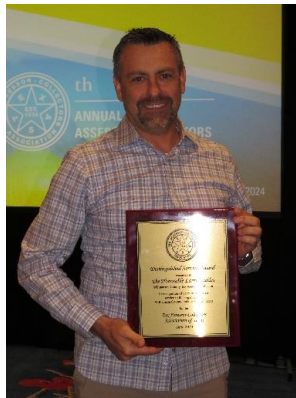


President's Award



Shay Luedeke, Bell County
and Christina McMurray,
Randall County

Distinguished Service Award



Larry Gaddes, Williamson County

Programs Committee



Karen Lane, Madison County
and Robin Shafer,
Leon County (not shown)

Thank you for all you do for our Association!

Brazoria County Hosts Houston Regional Meeting

Brazoria County recently hosted the Houston Regional TACA Meeting with the following 6 counties in attendance: Harris, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Galveston, Wharton and Brazoria County. Knowledge and expertise were shared from Nina Yonemoto, Lead Compliance Specialist with TxDMV and Esteban Sanchez, TxDMV Houston Regional Manager who both were very informative and helpful. A great lunch was sponsored by Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott (PBFCM) where attendees focused on networking with each other strengthening the bonds between counties. To close the day Ms. Ro'Vin Garrett, Client Liaison with PBFCM, spoke about customer service and was able to share some technics on how to deal with difficult tax payers. And last, but not least, Brazoria County's very own Holly Fox, Director of Human Recourses, and Melissa Henken, Assistant Director of Human Recourses, spoke on how to level up your ability to have meaningful conversations with your staff. It was a full day of education and building relationships. Brazoria County would like to thank all who attended as well as our door prize sponsors Spindlemedia and Certified Payments.



The Longview Region has a meeting scheduled for July 16th at the Country Tavern in Kilgore, Texas.

Laurie Mann from Linebarger will present a TNT refresher and Jessica Kelly, the interim Longview RSC Director, will do a presentation on the BIAR report and an overview of apportion & forestry registration.

Ft. Worth Regional meeting for July 30th has been canceled.

Red River Region Hosts Regional Meeting

On April 4th “The Red River Region” hosted a Regional Meeting at the Region IX Education Service Center in Wichita Falls. We take great pride in training here in our region that consist of (18) counties and attempt to host no less than two and sometimes three regional workshops annually. We were extremely pleased with this regional meeting as we had no less than approximately (68) in attendance which included offices from the Dallas/Ft. Worth metro-plex area and offices from the panhandle as far away as the Amarillo area. We have no reservations with saying that this may be one of the largest regional meetings that we have ever hosted.

We were extremely honored to have had a who’s who of our Tx. State DMV Family attend and who took the first half of our workshop to provide a very diverse DMV presentation inclusive of: a DMV update from both Mr. Roland Luna, Deputy Executive Director and Mrs. Annette Quintero, Director Vehicle Titles & Registration Division. Mrs. Lori Stovall, Organizational Training Developmental Specialist who provided a presentation on web-dealer training and Mrs. Jeanna Gordon, Compliance Specialist and Mr. Phillip, Lead Compliance Specialist both presented an update on Compliance Trends. We were very fortunate to dedicate the afternoon itinerary to property taxes and had two speakers who are both well respected in their respective fields. Mrs. JeanMarie Baer, Senior Partner and Wichita Falls Office Manager for (PBFCM) who provided a presentation on exemptions, delinquent accounts and filing of suits. Mrs. Lisa Stephens Chief Appraiser for the (WCAD) Wichita Co. Appraisal District provided an overview of compression rates.

We are very pleased with the level of engagement and interaction that attendees had with our presenters during this workshop. We certainly want to thank our attendees, our presenters and especially Region IX Staff who routinely allow us to use their great facilities and the staff with the Wichita Falls Office of (PBFCM) for sponsoring a great lunch. As always, no matter how near or how far we extend a warm welcome to any of our (TAC) Family who wish to attend any of our regional training as we always try to have a diverse itinerary with speakers who are well versed in their specialized areas.





Texas Association of Counties

A new Legislative Consultant, Stefan Silveira, is now assigned to work with the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association. Stefan comes to the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) from the Office of Senator Sarah Eckhardt where he worked for three years, most recently as Legislative Director. Stefan has also work for the Office of Congressman Josh Harder at the U.S. House of Representatives as well as then-Senator Kirk Watson. Stefan's passion for county government issues makes him a wonderful addition to the team. Stefan can be reached at StefanS@county.org. Caroline Love is now Director of Legislative Services for TAC and can still be reached at CarolineL@county.org.

The Legislative Services Department hosted four Legislative Exchange meetings earlier this year in Cameron, El Paso, Jefferson and Yoakum Counties providing an opportunity for county officials and staff to candidly discuss legislative issues with our team. We are planning to host four additional exchanges later this year which will be announced on the TAC website and through our newsletters once the locations and dates are established.

Additionally, we continue to monitor the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) rulemaking process related to implementation efforts for legislation passed last session transitioning from temporary paper plates to metal plates and eliminating the safety inspection requirements for vehicles in 2025. As it relates to the elimination of temporary paper plates, the rules proposed at the TxDMV Board meeting June 27, 2024 outlined a process in which TxDMV will deliver plates directly to dealers, thereby not requiring counties to consider secure distribution options for dealers picking up plates at county offices. The TxDMV Board is currently accepting comments and plans adopt the rules at their October 2024 meeting.

Lastly, registration remains open for TAC's 2024 Legislative Conference, happening Aug. 28-30 in Austin. In addition to some great networking events, the conference agenda includes sessions covering Truth-in-Taxation updates and how to handle First Amendment Audits. Don't miss this chance for learning, networking and important county discussions. [Learn more and sign up here](#).

*A big welcome to Stefan Silveira and
congratulations to Caroline Love as the new Director of
Legislative Services for TAC!*



Boat Titling & Registration

Program Training

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Boat Titling, Registration and Marine Licensing section offers online training covering a variety of program related topics. This training is open to all processing staff, from the beginner to those with more experience, and both counties who participate with our program, as well as those who do not.

To sign up and attend the training participants must have:

- Access to a computer with internet access.
- An email address to receive the class invitation and any associated training material.
- Speakers or headphones to be able to listen to the audio portion of the presentation.

* A microphone is helpful during question-and-answer sections but is not required to attend.

The BRITS core class is an introductory class covering the core program basics, including available resource materials, the most common forms used, basic transaction processing in the Boat Registration Information and Titling System (BRITS), common reports, document packaging, and more. This class is four (4) hours in length, typically divided into two, two-hour sessions (typically with the first held in the morning, and the second half held in the afternoon on the same day).

Other classes vary in length depending on the topic being covered, usually taking 30 minutes to one hour. Additional training topics include:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Decal Inventory Procedures | • Document Packaging |
| • Fee Overrides, Processor Errors & Voids | • Forms |
| • Non-Standard Titles (Skip, Bond, Abandoned) | • Post Transaction Audit Compliance |
| • Statutory Lien Foreclosures | • Temporary Tax Permits |

To sign up for a training class, please contact a TPWD Boat Liaison at 512-389-4393. Interested in a training topic not listed above? Please reach out to Jeffery Merrick, our Resource Development and Training Coordinator, at 512-389-4339 or Jeffrey.Merrick@tpwd.texas.gov.

A recording of our BRITS core class is also available for viewing at any time by selecting the BRITS Documentation icon after the initial login to the TPWD network. Once selected, look for the link labeled "Training Class Recordings". Additional training topics will be made available as additional classes are recorded.

Current folder: /



New Boat Registration & Titling System

A new Boat Titling & Registration system (BTR) is under internal development by TPWD. Designed to be a web-based application, it will provide greater flexibility to plan and execute future changes and updates. While the look and feel will be different, incorporating a modern UI/UX design, basic system functionality will remain the same.

At the recent TACA conference in June, several participating counties volunteered to provide intermittent testing assistance as the system is developed. We appreciate the opportunity to work with our partners and system stakeholders on this project.

Implementation of the new system is currently planned for January of 2026, with training expected to begin in the Fall of 2025.

If you have any questions about any of the information provided by TPWD in this article, or about any other aspects of the Boat Titling & Registration Program, please contact a TPWD Boat Liaison at (512) 389-4393 for assistance.

TACA COMMITTEES



If you didn't have a chance to sign up for one or more of the TACA Committees, please follow the link below and sign up. It's a great way to learn and grow with your fellow TAC's!

[TACA Committee Sign-Up Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://surveymonkey.com)

90th Annual Tax Assessor-Collectors Association Conference

Great group of people to work with!

