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TEXAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

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TPEA Announces Elke Gonzalez as New Executive Director

Austin, TX – October 7, 2025 – The Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA), the longest-serving organization representing active and retired state employees, proudly announces the appointment of Elke R. Gonzalez as its new Executive Director. With an association management career spanning more than 26 years, Gonzalez has dedicated her work to advancing mission-driven organizations through leadership development, operations management, membership growth, and professional development. She will lead TPEA's ongoing mission to advocate for state employees and retirees—because Texas relies on their services to stay strong.

“We are thrilled to welcome Elke Gonzalez to TPEA,” said Jimmy Teal, President of the TPEA Board of Directors. “Her deep understanding of association governance and proven leadership will strengthen TPEA across Texas, especially as TPEA celebrates 80 years in 2026.”

Gonzalez has held leadership positions in both small and large associations that served members at the local, state, and national level, and brings a deep understanding of governance, advocacy, and member engagement. Prior to joining TPEA, Gonzalez served as Chief Executive Officer for the Texas Counseling Association and previously as CEO of the Corpus Christi Association of REALTORS® and its for-profit subsidiary, the South Texas Multiple Listing Service. In these roles, she implemented strategic and operational plans, cultivated strong volunteer leadership pipelines, represented member interests before elected officials, and restructured governance models to improve organizational effectiveness. Her leadership resulted in stronger member engagement, streamlined operations, and heightened public awareness of the organizations' missions and value propositions.

“I am honored to join an organization with such a rich history of supporting Texans who've dedicated their careers to serving Texas residents,” said Gonzalez. “TPEA has been a trusted advocate for generations of state employees and retirees, and I look forward to working with our members and partners to ensure their continued recognition and support.”

Gonzalez is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and holds an MBA, reflecting her commitment to professional excellence and advancing the missions of the associations she serves.

About TPEA:

Founded in 1946 by dedicated state employees, the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) has advocated for over 79 years to promote and preserve the salaries and benefits for state employees and retirees—these benefits make it possible for Texans to devote themselves to careers in keeping Texas prosperous and growing. Today, TPEA is one of the largest associations for active and retired state employees, and it's also the only nonunion, nonpartisan, nonprofit association serving state employees during and after their careers. TPEA was instrumental in the creation of the Employees Retirement System (ERS) pension fund, and it successfully influenced the Legislature to offer health insurance to state employees and retirees. **For an interview, contact Suzanha Pena, Director of Marketing & Communications at spena@tpea.org or call (737) 305-3117.**