

# 2026 Proposed TRTA Bylaws Amendments

There are three proposed bylaw amendments to be considered by the TRTA House of Delegates on March 25, 2026. Each proposal includes recommendations and rationales from the TRTA Organizational Affairs Committee (OAC) and the TRTA Board of Directors (BOD). If adopted, changes to the bylaws are indicated by text that is struck through for deletions and underlined for additions.

## Proposed Amendment 1

If adopted, Local Chapters will be referred to as Chapters.

### Article II. Purpose

The corporation is organized for the purpose of promoting the economic, intellectual, and social well-being of retired school personnel and other public-school employees through the district and ~~local~~ chapters.

### Article III: Affiliation

The TRTA Districts and ~~Local~~ Chapters shall affiliate only with TRTA and shall support its objectives and the policies established by the Board of Directors. Any policy mandating action upon the ~~Local~~ Chapters shall be subject to ratification by the next House of Delegates for the policy to continue in effect.

### Article V. State Officers and Elections

#### **Section 3. Eligibility**

Members are eligible for office if they receive an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, have been in a ~~local~~ chapter for at least three (3) years, have served as an elected officer of a district or ~~local~~ chapter, but need not have served as a statewide officer.

### Article VI. State Board of Directors

#### **Section 2. Terms**

All board members shall serve two-year terms in their respective positions, except for the Legislative coordinator, who shall be eligible for reappointment and serve no more than 8 years. The Legislative coordinator is required to be a member of a ~~local~~ chapter and be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

### Article VIII. State Committees

#### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

The following standing committees shall be held by the organization: Communications, Finance, Historian, Legislative, Member Benefits, Membership/Volunteer Services/Community Involvement, Organizational Affairs, and Retirement Education. Committee chairs are required to be members of a ~~local~~ chapter and be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. The First Vice-President shall be the Membership/Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee Chair, the Second Vice-President shall be the Communications Committee Chair, and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be the Finance Committee Chair.

### Article X. Districts

The districts, as established by TRTA, shall follow and implement TRTA standing rules. Each district shall provide leadership to and communication with the ~~local~~ chapters. Elected district officers and committee chairs are required to be members of a ~~local~~ chapter within that district and receive an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

#### **Section 3. Conferences**

The districts may conduct two (2) conferences per year for the purpose of offering resources to elected ~~local~~ chapter officers and appointed committee chairs. Districts may meet via electronic communications media so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

## Proposed Amendment 1 Continued

### Article XI. Local Chapters

Each local chapter meeting the following requirements established by the Board of Directors shall be issued a TRTA certificate of affiliation:

1. Adoption of standing rules not in conflict with the bylaws or policies of TRTA;
2. A minimum of five (5) regular meetings per year; and
3. All elected officers and committee chairs must be members of the local chapter and of TRTA.

#### **Section 1. Local Chapter Officers**

The local chapters shall have a minimum of five (5) officers: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If circumstances prevent an in-person meeting, election of officers may be conducted electronically.

#### **Section 2. Local Chapter Committees**

The local chapters shall have a minimum of five (5) committees: Communications, Legislative, Member Benefits, Membership/Volunteer Services/Community Involvement, and Retirement Education. The First Vice-President shall be the Membership/Volunteer Services/Community Involvement Committee Chair and the Second Vice-President shall be the Communications Committee Chair.

#### **Section 3. Meetings**

The local chapters shall conduct a minimum of five (5) regular meetings per year. Local chapters may meet via electronic communications media so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

### Article XIV. House of Delegates

#### **Section 3. Local Chapter Delegates**

The delegates shall be determined by:

1. Two (2) delegates for the first 100 members in a local chapter or fraction thereof;
2. One (1) delegate for each additional 100 members in a local chapter or fraction thereof; and
3. Delegates must be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

### Article XVI. Amendments

#### **Section 1. Submittal Process**

Proposed bylaws amendments to be considered by the House of Delegates shall be submitted to the TRTA office by a date specified by the Board of Directors. Proposed bylaws amendments may originate from a district, local chapter, the Board of Directors, or the Organizational Affairs Committee when authorized by the Board of Directors.

**Maker of Amendment:** TRTA Board of Directors

**Board of Directors Recommends:** Approval

**Board of Directors Rationale:** During the 2022 State Convention House of Delegates, "Local Units" was changed to "Chapters" but the word "Local" was not removed.

**OAC Recommends:** Approval

**OAC Rationale:** The OAC agrees with the maker and recommends the proviso that the TRTA staff and leadership will fully implement all necessary changes by July 1, 2027.

## Proposed Amendment 2

If adopted, elected district officers and committee chairs are required to be members of a local chapter within that district. Elected district officers shall be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

### Article X. Districts

The districts, as established by TRTA, shall follow and implement TRTA standing rules. Each district shall provide leadership to and communication with the local chapters. Elected district officers and committee chairs are required to be members of a local chapter within that district, ~~and receive~~ Elected district officers shall be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**Maker of Amendment:** Joe Ramirez, District 13 President

**Individual to Contact:** Joe Ramirez, District 13 President

**Maker's Rationale:** According to Article IV, Section 1, membership in TRTA is open to "any person interested in public education and will to work to achieve the objectives of TRTA." To be inclusive of all members in TRTA and address challenges of filling leadership positions at the district level, TRTA should allow college and university educators retiring from ERS, former teachers who left the profession and withdrew their TRS funds, school employees retiring under different states' pension systems, or beneficiaries of living TRS annuitants to serve in these positions because they support the same goals as TRS annuitants. No fiscal impact to TRTA or its districts and local chapters.

**OAC Recommends:** Approval

**OAC Rationale:** The amendment allows Districts to fill volunteer leadership roles of non-officer positions with TRTA chapter members. This provides more options in seeking volunteers for these roles.

**Board of Directors Recommends:** Approval

**Board of Directors Rationale:** The Board of Directors agrees with the OAC's rationale and would like to further clarify that this amendment permits district committee chairs to fill volunteer leadership roles in non-officer positions, and they are not required to be TRS annuitants.

## Proposed Amendment 3

If adopted, "3. Delegates must be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas." will be struck through the list.

### Article XIV. House of Delegates

#### **Section 3. Local Chapter Delegates**

The delegates shall be determined by:

1. Two (2) delegates for the first 100 members in a local chapter or fraction thereof;
2. One (1) delegate for each additional 100 members in a local chapter or fraction thereof; and
3. ~~Delegates must be receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.~~

**Maker of Amendment:** Joe Ramirez, District 13 President

**Individual to Contact:** Joe Ramirez, District 13 President

**Maker's Rationale:** TRTA Bylaws open membership to "any person interested in public education and willing to work to achieve the objectives of TRTA." At the same time, the Bylaws prevent anyone who does not receive an annuity from TRS from serving as a chapter delegate to the House of Delegates. This includes college and university educators retiring from ERS, former teachers who left the profession and withdrew their TRS funds, school employees retiring under different states' pension systems, or beneficiaries of living TRS annuitants. These members share the same goals as TRTA and are willing to serve in leadership positions or as chapter delegates, especially when many chapters face the challenge of getting new officers or meeting the number of delegates allotted to them. No fiscal impact to TRTA, its districts, or local chapters.

**OAC Recommends:** Disapproval

**OAC Rationale:** The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) chief governing body is the House of Delegates responsible for electing officers, approving amendments and protecting the long-term governance of TRTA.

A core aspect of the TRTA Bylaws stipulates that State and District officers are all annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. This ensures that the TRTA leadership focus is exclusively on the mission of TRTA to protect the retirement security of all TRS Texas members.

To protect the integrity of this mission, the TRTA OAC believes all House of Delegates and all TRTA state and district officers meet the same bar of dedication and distinction to protect the governance of the TRTA and our work to protect retirement security for all TRS members.

**Board of Directors Recommends:** Disapproval

**Board of Directors Rationale:** The Board of Directors agrees with the OAC's rationale.