



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Tricia Rudisill Bentley | 713-993-2489 | tricia.bentley@h-gac.com

February 20, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H-GAC Announces 2026 Board of Directors Officers

*Councilmember Joe Garcia, Pattison, Texas,
will lead the board of directors as chairperson for 2026.*

Houston, TX – The [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) (H-GAC) announces the election of new officers for its 2026 board of directors. On Friday, February 20, 2026, the organization held its annual State of the Region and [General Assembly](#) meeting to swear in the 2026 officers. Joe Garcia, councilmember for the city of Pattison, Texas, will preside over the board as chair throughout 2026.

“As board chair, Councilmember Garcia carries the critical responsibility of leading our region,” said Chuck Wemple, executive director of the regional planning organization. “He will guide monthly meetings where member governments and school districts address key challenges and opportunities and convene advisory committees to provide strategic guidance for the well-being and growth of our 13-county region.”

Serving alongside Garcia will be Colorado County Judge Ty Prause as vice chairperson of the board, and city of Bellaire Councilmember Ross Gordon as chair elect.

“It’s an honor to serve as chair. I believe in working together, rolling up our sleeves, and doing what’s best for the people and communities we represent,” said Joe Garcia, city of Pattison councilmember and 2026 H-GAC Board of Directors chair. “We’ve got a strong region and dedicated partners, and I look forward to keeping us focused on practical solutions that make a real difference for the folks we serve.”

In addition to announcing the 2026 board officers at the annual meeting, Wemple recognized outgoing 2025 H-GAC Board Chair and Waller County Judge Trey Duhon.

Celebrating Regional Leadership

As part of the annual gathering, Wemple highlighted exemplary leaders in the region by presenting special recognition awards celebrating their dedication and impact.

The Tom Reid Award for Excellence in Regional Leadership was awarded to city of Lake Jackson Mayor Gerald Roznovsky.

“Roznovsky has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to public service through more than two decades of municipal leadership,” said Wemple. “He continues to apply his experience in operations,

-continued next page-



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

PRESS RELEASE

management, and economic development to advance regional collaboration and strengthen communities across the Houston-Galveston region.”

Before being elected mayor, he served seven terms on the Lake Jackson City Council, including three terms as Mayor Pro Tem, where he helped implement strategic planning practices that continue to guide the city’s budget process. He has also been active in regional and community initiatives, including service as the chair of H-GAC’s Healthcare Committee and a member of its Water Resources Committee as well as a longstanding leadership with Community Health Network.

The Bridge Builder Award for outstanding commitment to regional unity and progress was presented to Guy Robert Jackson of Chambers County. Jackson has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to regional collaboration through his service on the Gulf Coast Economic Development District and the Gulf Coast Workforce boards.

“As former mayor of Anahuac, he has been highly engaged in advancing regional priorities and strengthening partnerships,” Wemple added.

Jackson currently serves as vice chair for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board as well as chair of its Audit and Monitoring Committee and the Government Relations Committee. He serves as secretary and treasurer of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. In addition, he co-chairs the External Relations Committee of the Texas Association of Workforce Boards and continues to champion coordinated efforts that benefit communities across the Houston-Galveston region.

Showcasing H-GAC’s 2025 Impact

H-GAC released its annual report and videos highlighting the agency’s most significant accomplishments of 2025. The annual report is available at h-gac.com/about.

The H-GAC board of directors comprises 38 local elected officials representing 13 counties, 187 cities, and 78 school districts. The board leads collaborative efforts with local governments and considers regional issues in solving area-wide challenges for an array of programs such as transportation planning, rural 9-1-1 services, workforce development, aging and disability resources, and disaster and recovery programs.

Monthly board meetings, crucial for open dialogue and decision-making, are open to the public. For more information about the H-GAC board of directors, please visit h-gac.com/board-of-directors. To access the schedule of upcoming board meetings and other H-GAC events, visit h-gac.com/calendar.

About H-GAC

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and nearly eight million people. H-GAC promotes efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.

-photo cutlines next page-



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

PRESS RELEASE

File Name: 2026_H-GAC_Board Officers (attached)



Cutline – The 2026 board officers for the Houston-Galveston Area Council are sworn in by outgoing 2025 H-GAC Board Chair and Waller County Judge Trey Duhon on February 20, 2026, at the organization’s annual State of the Region meeting.

Pictured L to R: Bellaire Councilmember Ross Gordon, chair elect; Pattison Councilmember Joe Garcia, board chair; and Waller County Judge Trey Duhon, 2025 H-GAC board chair.

File Name: 2026_H-GAC_TomReidAward (attached)



Cutline – H-GAC Executive Director Chuck Wemple presents the Tom Reid Award for Excellence in Regional Leadership to Lake Jackson Mayor Gerald Roznovsky during H-GAC’s 2026 annual gathering, recognizing his more than two decades of municipal leadership and contributions to regional collaboration.

Pictured L to R: Chuck Wemple, H-GAC executive director; and Gerald Roznovsky, Lake Jackson mayor.

File Name: 2026_H-GAC_BridgeBuilderAward (attached)



Cutline – H-GAC Executive Director Chuck Wemple presents the Bridge Builder Award to Guy Robert Jackson of Chambers County, honoring his longstanding dedication to regional collaboration and leadership in advancing economic development and workforce initiatives across the Houston-Galveston region.

Pictured L to R: Guy Robert Jackson of Chambers County; and Chuck Wemple, H-GAC executive director.

-end-