



NLAC Update: FEBRUARY 2020

The 2020 spring and fall NLAC meetings have been set and invitations sent. These meetings provide NLAC members the opportunity to discuss pertinent nursing issues being examined to lay the foundation for the 2021 Nursing Legislative Agenda. Details and materials will be provided to you as the meeting dates approach.

NLAC Spring Meeting, Austin: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST Tuesday, April 28, 2020
NLAC Fall Meeting, Austin: - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020

** Remember, each organization may send two (2) representatives to each meeting at no cost. Those wishing to send additional attendees will be charged a fee to cover lunch. Please contact Cathy White (cwhite@texasnurses.org) with any questions you have.*



Please note - NLAC member Texas Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE) changed its name to Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL) in January 2020. Updates have been made to the roster and website.



Please welcome TSNO new representative to NLAC - **Becca Harkleroad, RN, NCSN**. NLAC looks forward to working with you as we develop the nursing legislative agenda for 2021!



*** Follow us on Twitter at @TXNursesLege, the twitter handle for Nursewatch.*

Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

Special Elections

There were a few special elections held on Jan. 28, one of which garnered national attention. When Dr. John Zerwas, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, resigned his seat, democrats immediately began signaling that the election could serve as a bellwether for the general election. The race for HD 28, which covers a large swath of Fort Bend County, received national media attention, significant out-of-state campaign contributions, and even endorsements from presidential candidates.

Republican Gary Gates had some prominent supporters in the state. Governor Abbott's campaign contributed \$30,000 to Gates, and the Associated Republicans of Texas contributed \$14,000. Democrat Elizabeth Markowitz, on the other hand, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from groups outside of Texas. Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, and Michael Bloomberg all endorsed her campaign, and Beto O'Rourke avidly campaigned for her in the district. Ultimately, the push by the democrats was not enough. Gates won with 58% of the vote, roughly doubling the margin of victory recorded by Zerwas in 2018. O'Rourke urged viewers on a Facebook Live broadcast to "keep your eyes on the prize," a nod toward November elections.

The other two special elections were in firmly democratic territory. The first was a race to replace Jessica Farrar in HD 148, a dark blue Harris County district. Democrat Anna Eastman, a former Houston Independent School District trustee, won with 65% of the vote. She defeated Republican Luis LaRotta, an engineer who received a video endorsement from Governor Abbott. In Dallas' HD 100, the seat vacated by Mayor Eric Johnson, the race was between Democrat Lorraine Birabil, a staffer for former Congressman Marc Veasey, and Democrat James Armstrong, a nonprofit executive. Birabil won with 66.3% of the vote.

Keep in mind that all of these races were merely to fill the remainder of unexpired terms. In other words, all of these seats will be up for grabs again in the November election. In HD 28, Markowitz is running unopposed in the primary, while Gates has an opponent. In HD 148, Eastman has four primary opponents while LaRotta will be unopposed. We will be keeping an eye on these and other races and sharing tips on how you can get involved. So stay tuned!



Bookmark [Texas Tribune](#) to get the latest political news!

Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

There were no pertinent nursing rules or regulations in January.

Remember ...

- You can find the [Texas Register](#) on the Texas [Secretary of State](#) website, where ALL the rule proposals and adoptions from the Texas BON and other state regulatory agencies are updated weekly on Fridays and published. *Nursewatch* will print some of the more pertinent updates to nursing rules and regulations but you can delve deeper into current and past issues of the Texas Register at your leisure on the S.O.S. website.

Upcoming Events

- [TNA Nurse Talks Empowerment Series](#) - Identifying, Responding to Human Trafficking in Clinical Settings, 6 p.m. CST Feb. 13. Information available [here](#). This web series is designed to bring more nurses into conversations and inform TNA's decision-making processes and policy priorities. CE available for this session.
- Texas Tribune: [Teach Me How to Texas - Pregaming the Primaries](#), 5:30 p.m. CST Feb. 25 The Brewer's Table in Austin. Free. Get details and RSVP via the link.
- TNA 2020 Policy Summit and House of Delegates: Building Nursing Influence Through Policy Capacity - June 5-6, 2020, Houston. Early-bird registration is now open through March 31, 2020! Details and registration [here](#).

*If your NLAC organization/association is having an open event or you know of a relevant activity/event, please send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in upcoming issues of *Nursewatch*.*



Election season is here, and now is when your investment helps the most! Contribute to the the Texas Nurse PAC today and strengthen nursing's influence with the Texas Legislature in 2021. [Invest](#) in your profession. [Invest](#) in your peers. [Invest in the Texas Nurse PAC today!](#)

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[Texas Nurses Association](#)

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