Who We Are

The Texas Rural Water Association is a statewide non-profit educational and trade association that represents the full spectrum of the rural water community.

We have been dedicated to helping water and wastewater systems provide efficient service and clean, safe drinking water to their customers since 1969.

TRWA is well-respected in the industry for the high-quality support we provide to the rural water industry in Texas. Our mission is to serve, represent, support, and strengthen member water and wastewater utilities, and our vision is to be recognized by our members, the regulatory community and state leaders as the leader on water and wastewater utility issues, to be the premier provider for education and expert assistance through our well-qualified and knowledgeable staff, and to have an active and engaged membership.

We represent approximately 871 retail public utilities that provide water and wastewater service to 3 million customers throughout Texas. This membership is comprised of non-profit water supply and/or sewer service corporations, water districts, municipal utilities and privately-owned water utilities. We also have approximately 150 water/wastewater industry suppliers that make up our Associate Membership.

We are headquartered in Austin, Texas, and we also have staff located all over the state available to help systems in need. Because of their expertise, training, longevity with our association and dedication to the industry, our team members are the go-to experts for systems around the state on water- and wastewater-related issues.

We are governed by a 14-member Board of Directors who are elected by our membership. Each of our board members is the general manager of a retail public utility in the region of the state they represent.

The Texas Rural Water Association is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association and is part of a nationwide network of State Rural Water Associations that encompasses all 50 states.
TRWA is engaged in representing rural water and wastewater utility interests at both the state and federal legislative levels. Here are just a few of the ways we advocate for our members:

- We draft bills that represent our members’ interests and work to secure sponsors in the legislature.
- We operate the Texas Rural Water Political Action Committee, pooling contributions to support candidates that champion the issues important to rural water systems.
- We publish articles and columns on legal issues to educate our members.
- We file amicus briefs in precedent-setting legal cases.
- We meet with agency staff, attend stakeholder meetings and provide comments on rule packages.
- Our staff sits on and actively participates with several water-related regulatory committees.
- We meet with lawmakers to educate them about our issues and cultivate relationships.
- We promote favorable legislation and defend against unfavorable legislation.
- We meet with transportation officials. Our weekly enewsletters and social media accounts keep our members and industry experts up to date on subjects ranging from funding sources to working with state agencies and utilities across the state. These services are funded through federal contracts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency and a state contract with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- We publish a variety of legal resources, including sample forms and policies for utility mergers and acquisitions, financial, managerial and technical assistance they need. Some of the common issues we help with include:
  - Water and wastewater system operations
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Board governance
  - Water loss
  - Rate calculations and analysis
  - Energy efficiency
  - Source water protection
  - GIS mapping and drone services

TRWA has a library of more than 30 publications, including salaries and rate surveys, legal handbooks, training manuals, sample policies and tariffs and guidelines for system operators, managers and directors. We regularly revise these publications to ensure they provide updated and accurate information.

We produce a trade magazine, Quench, which is published monthly and features columns answering legal and technical questions from utilities, regulatory and legislative hot topics, Association news, rural system features and contributed articles from industry experts.

Our website houses archives of questions and answers for members to reference, as well as toolkits filled with links and information on subjects ranging from funding sources to working with state transportation officials. Our weekly enewsletters and social media accounts keep our members and other stakeholders abreast of the latest developments in the rural water community.

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TRWA takes pride in our onsite assistance programs that are highly regarded by the regulatory agencies and utilities across the state. These services are funded through federal contracts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency and a state contract with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Our experienced field staff are available to provide systems with the water and wastewater financial, managerial and technical assistance they need. Some of the common issues we help with include:

- Water and wastewater system operations
- Regulatory compliance
- Board governance
- Treatment optimization
- Energy efficiency
- Source water protection
- GIS mapping and drone services

- Texas Rural Water Foundation

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