



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 508  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0760  
Phone: (615) 741-3012  
Fax: (615) 532-2443  
www.tn.gov/tacir

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Cliff Lippard *Cliff*  
Executive Director

**DATE:** 15 June 2022

**SUBJECT:** Commission and Staff Updates

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### **Commission Update**

**Bylaws.** Staff recently made several small, technical changes to the duties (Preamble) and member appointment (Article I, Section 2) portions of the bylaws to bring them into compliance with changes made over the years to our enabling statute. Those changes are double-underlined in the attached copy of the bylaws.

In addition to those changes, staff is recommending several other minor changes to recognize the increased use of email and the emergence of remote conference technology. We are asking for the Commission's approval of these changes, which will give the Commission more flexibility when it needs to conduct business remotely. The changes, which are underlined, are in Article III, Sections 9, 12, and 16, a new section—Article III, Section 18—and in Article VI, section 2.

**Departing Members.** We are saying goodbye to two long term TACIR members, Mayor Keith McDonald and Deputy Commissioner Paula Davis. Mayor McDonald, who chose not to seek reelection as Mayor of Bartlett, has served two separate terms on the Commission. He first served from July 2008 to July 2012 and then again from July 2017 to February 2022. Deputy Commissioner Davis, one of our longest serving members, served on the Commission from July 2003 until February 2022. Both Mayor McDonald and Deputy Commissioner Davis have been honored with Senate Joint Resolutions commemorating their service to TACIR. The text of those resolutions, as

well as separate TACIR certificates of service, are located behind this tab. Please join me in thanking them for their service to the Commission and the State of Tennessee.

**New members.** We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Commission, all appointed in February 2022. They include Senator Heidi Campbell, Deputy Commissioner Deniece Thomas of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Councilman Chase Carlisle of the City of Memphis. Please join me in welcoming our new members.

### **Staff Update**

Senior Research Director Leah Eldridge graduated this month from the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. TGEI is the “two-week residential executive institute that provides senior-level managers in Tennessee state government the opportunity for academic study and learning in executive responsibility and cross agency networking designed to enhance the individual skills of senior leaders.”

Two staff members recently reached service longevity milestones, and a third has completed a training goal. Web Development and Publications Manager Teresa Gibson achieved 30 years of state service in February, and Research Manager Michael Mount hit 10 years in March. In January, Research Manager Jennifer Barrie became the second staff member so far to complete the rigorous TACIR Learning Pyramid. Please join me in congratulating Teresa, Michael, and Jennifer on their accomplishments.

We will be saying goodbye to Senior Research Associate Kevin Vanzant in August when he leaves to return to teaching. But we are fortunate that Dr. Vanzant has agreed to continue to serve the Commission in a part-time role as an editor/proofreader. Please join me in wishing Kevin the best of luck in his new endeavor.

Finally, we are fortunate to have two interns from the University of Tennessee working with us this summer. Lukas Gonzalez is in the Master of Public Policy and Administration program with an expected graduation date of next January. Jack Duncan is a rising junior majoring in economics and philosophy, with an emphasis on politics and the law. Please join me in welcoming Lukas and Jack.