



Session speakers, topics, and times are subject to change without notice.

*Embassy Suites Breakfast Buffet 6:00–9:30 a.m. – Complimentary for overnight hotel guests*  
*Embassy Suites Evening Reception - 5:30–7:00 p.m. – Complimentary for overnight hotel guests*

## Thursday, March 14

7:45 a.m. Registration

8:45–9:45 a.m. **Welcome and Keynote**  
TML President **Tito Rodriguez**, Councilmember, North Richland Hills

### **Creating Inspired Communities Where People Love to Live**

Whether you are looking to build capacity, overcome negativity, or position your community for short- and long-term success, you will find tremendous value in this visionary and insightful keynote presentation. Best-Selling Author and Community Enthusiast Doug Griffiths focuses on ideas and proven methods that are realistic and attainable, supporting them with real-life examples of success that will leave you imagining all that your community can be.

**Doug Griffiths**, President and CEO, 13 Ways Inc.

9:50–10:50 a.m. **Expanding Economic Prosperity in Texas Communities**

In this data-packed presentation, Larry McManus from Texas Economic Development & Tourism within the Governor’s Office, will discuss the state of the Texas economy and how their office works with local leaders to expand economic growth and job creation in rural, suburban, and metro communities across Texas.

**Larry McManus**, Director, Business & Community Development, Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Governor

10:50–11:10 a.m. Stretch Break

11:10 a.m.–Noon **The State of Water in Texas**

As the Texas population and economy continue to grow, it is increasingly critical to expand infrastructure to help manage and improve our water supply statewide. Texas Water Development Board Member L’Oreal Stepney will discuss Texas’ plan to provide water for a growing population and tools to support better planning and create tangible benefits for our communities and residents.

**L’Oreal Stepney P.E.**, Board Member, Texas Water Development Board

Noon–1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch** (Spring Lake Ballroom)

1:00–2:15 p.m. **Disaster and Emergency Management in Texas**

Over the past decade, Texas has experienced some of the worst disasters the state has ever faced. In this session, executive staff from the Texas Division of Emergency Management will discuss how Texas prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates against disasters, and provides resources to serve local leaders in emergency management.

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**, Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management, and Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services, The Texas A&M University System

2:20–3:20 p.m. **The Future of Transportation**

The growing Texas population underscores the need to build and strengthen transportation in our state so it is safe, reliable, and intelligent. In this eye-opening session, Texas A&M Transportation Institute Director Gregory Winfree will discuss the impact of growth on the future of transportation in Texas, including technology, traffic, and funding.

**Gregory D. Winfree Esq.**, Agency Director, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

3:20–3:30 p.m. Stretch Break

3:30–4:30 p.m. **Understanding Reliability and Challenges of the Texas Power Grid**

Since Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, the Public Utility Commission of Texas has taken historic action to increase reliability of the ERCOT power grid, including mandatory winter weatherization of electric generation infrastructure, requirements that generation plants have access to back up fuel, and adjusting market triggers to incentivize more power on the grid when tight conditions are forecast. Today, the biggest challenge facing the grid is demand for power in our fast-growing state outpacing the growth in dispatchable generation resources. Commissioner Kathleen Jackson will explain what the PUCT is doing to meet these challenges to ensure grid reliability, accountability, and affordability for Texans.

**Kathleen Jackson P.E.**, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Texas

## Friday, March 15

8:30–8:55 a.m. **Good Governance Gets the Work Done**

Former Texas State Senator Kel Seliger has always taken a principled approach to governance. His long career in elected office, including nearly a decade as mayor of Amarillo and 17 years in the Texas Senate, exemplifies the Texas spirit of community and public service. In the legislature, Seliger was known as an advocate for local officials making decisions that impact their communities. In this inspiring keynote, Seliger will share his approach to governance and leadership – one that involves prioritizing integrity, cultivating trust, and collaborating to solve the tough issues.

**Kel Seliger**, Former Texas State Senator and TML Legislative Hall of Honor Inductee

9:00–10:00 a.m. **Advocacy and Influence**

Good ideas matter. But without successful advocacy for those ideas, nothing happens. What does it take to have influence in conversations, meetings, and presentations? In this session, you will discover a five-step model for successful influence. You will learn some very specific

techniques that will enhance your persuasiveness when trying to advocate for your ideas.  
**John Daly Ph.D.**, Liddell Centennial Professor of Communication, University of Texas (Austin)

10:05–11:30 a.m. **2024 Legislative Update**

Whether you're an experienced city advocate or new to legislative activities, keeping track of bills that affect your city is critical. In this informative session, TML staff will discuss the implementation of bills from the 2023 Texas legislative session, the city-related issues that may be priorities in the 89th legislative session, and how you can effectively serve your community through grassroots involvement.

**Bennett Sandlin**, Executive Director; **Monty Wynn**, Director, Grassroots and Legislative Services; **JJ Rocha**, Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager; and **Michael Martin**, Legislative Counsel, Texas Municipal League

*Mark your calendars!*

*2025 TML Midyear Conference*

*March 20-21, 2025 - Austin*