



**Date:** September 6, 2024

**To:** Mayor & Council

**From:** Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary *Rebecca Huerta*

**Re:** Nueces County Appraisal District – Board of Directors Composition Changes

Currently, the Nueces County Appraisal District (the District) Board of Directors (the Board) consists of eight (8) members with two-year terms. Multiple taxing entities within the District directly appoint members to the Board.

The current Board membership is as follows:

Name	Start date	End date	Appointing Authority	Position	Category	Attendance
Deven S Bhakta	9/6/2022	1/1/2025	City Council		Place 3 (City)	7/9 meetings - 78%
Gerardo "Jerry" M. Garcia	9/14/2011	1/1/2025	City Council	Chair	Place 4 (City)	8/9 meetings - 89%
Caitlin Chupe	8/13/2022	1/1/2025	CCISD		Place 1 (CCISD)	
Susie Sullivan	12/31/2023	1/1/2025	CCISD		Place 2 (CCISD)	
Gabriele Hilpold	1/10/2018	1/1/2025	Nueces County		Place 5 (Nueces County)	
Leo Gonzalez	2/8/2018	1/1/2025	Urban- Robstown	Secretary	Place 6 (Urban)	
Luis Elizondo	5/9/2012	1/1/2025	Rural- Agribusiness	Vice-Chair	Place 7 (Rural)	
DeeAnna Heavilin	12/31/2023	1/1/2025	Del Mar College		Place 8 (Del Mar College)	
Kevin Kieschnick	N/A	N/A	Tax Assessor	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting	Tax Assessor-Collector	

Senate Bill 2, passed during the 88th Texas Legislature, 2nd session, made changes to Chapter 6 of the Texas Property Tax Code. The amendment increased the number of seats on the Board to nine. Three members were elected in a special election held in May 2024, and five will be appointed by the participating taxing units in the District this fall. Additionally, the Tax Assessor-Collector, who previously served as an ex-officio non-voting member, will now serve as an ex-officio **voting** member.

The selection process for appointed positions involves a nomination and voting process by participating tax units in the District. All taxing units can nominate individuals for the ballot, but not all units are

entitled to vote (please refer to the attached letter for the full list of vote entitlements per unit). Each taxing unit can nominate one qualified candidate for each open seat. Each entity may vote for one or more candidates on the ballots. The top five vote-getters will be the appointed directors.

The five appointed positions will each serve a four-year staggered term, starting on January 1 of every other even-numbered year. In the first appointment period, two members will serve one-year terms and three will serve three-year terms to achieve the staggered terms. The District will randomly determine which seats receive the different terms by drawing lots, but the specific process for this has not been determined yet.

The new Board composition is as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term</b>
Kevin Kieschnick	Tax Assessor-Collector	Ex-officio, Voting	Term of office
James Magill	Elected	Place 1	7/01/2024 – 12/31/2026
John M. Cudd	Elected	Place 2	7/01/2024 – 12/31/2026
Ed Bennett	Elected	Place 3	7/01/2024 – 12/31/2026
TBD	Eligible Taxing Units	Appointed	TBD – staggered one- or three-year terms
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The City’s role in the new process is two-fold: 1) nominate individuals for the open seats (up to five this year) and 2) allocate the City’s votes amongst the nominees on the ballot.

The top 5 entities in terms of vote entitlement are, in order:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Entitlement</b>
Corpus Christi ISD	1,305
City of Corpus Christi	1,100
Nueces County	700
Del Mar College	595
Port Aransas ISD	280

The remaining taxing units have fewer than 250 votes each and some smaller units are not entitled to vote.

The proposed timeline for the application, nomination, and selection process is as follows:

- **Aug. 1:** send memo to Council about NCAD nomination process and promote applications
- **Sept. 3:** applications due
- **Sept. 17 Council Meeting:** Council selects up to 5 nominees by resolution. Deadline to submit nominees to NCAD is Sept. 30.
- **Oct. 7:** NCAD delivers ballots to City
- **Oct. 22 Council Meeting:** Council approves resolution to allocate votes on the ballot. NCAD states to do this no later than the second open meeting of the body after the ballot is received. This is the second meeting after Oct. 7.
- **Oct. 23:** Return ballot resolution to NCAD. The deadline for all entities to return ballots is Nov. 29.
- **Dec. 6:** NCAD sends voting results to entities.
- **Dec. 10 (optional):** Council Meeting: during board appointments section, announce who was elected to the Board.

Enclosure: Letter from Ronnie Canales, Nueces County Chief Appraiser