

The election season is revving up, and the candidates are stumping all across the country. But the national candidates are not your only options. That's right! TMCA is also holding elections, and members who are interested in running for office can submit their petition to have their name added to the ballot. If you are interested in participating in the TMCA, you are encouraged to submit your name for consideration. Article XIII, Section 2 of the TMCA bylaws (available on the website) explain the process and deadlines. Petitions for inclusion on the May ballot must be received by the [Nominations Committee](#) by March 31, 2008. The positions of 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and the Regional Directors of even-numbered regions will be on the ballot. Please take the time to cast your vote because, unless you participate, the TMCA cannot effectively represent your interests. Additionally, if you have an interest in getting involved in the association but prefer a lower profile, talk to your regional director about serving on a committee assignment. There are lots of things to do, and your input is always welcome.

The [Building Committee](#) continues to look for a suitable location to build a permanent home for the TMCA and TMCEC. Several locations have been considered, and some even look promising. A portion of your annual membership dues is segregated into a building fund and has been accumulating for a few years now. For the first time, the association is in a viable position to seriously pursue purchasing a building. Additional donations will always be accepted and, if you see a possible building or building site in the Austin area that would be suitable for the TMCA headquarters, let the committee chairman, Steve Williamson, know about it.

Also, the legislative process is starting up again, at least with our [Legislative Committee](#). Judge John Vasquez of the Austin Municipal Court is the chairman of our legislative committee and wants our input on issues that should be on the TMCA legislative agenda. Over the next few months we will begin the process and, without input from our members, the TMCA doesn't know what you want. If you have suggestions or recommendations for changes to existing laws or observations (and hopefully solutions) on problems you experience in your court, send an email to someone on the legislative committee. Input from our members makes the TMCA more responsive and makes your membership more valuable. Our legislative committee was very active last session, and we hope to continue TMCA's positive presence in Austin during the 2009 legislative session.

The officers and [Regional Directors](#) of the TMCA welcome your input on how we can better serve our members. If you do not know who your regional director is, the TMCA website has an interactive map that can direct you. Get to know them and share your ideas about how the association can better meet your needs.