



A Letter from TVCOG Board President Courtney Moore

6/15/23

Dear TVCOG Members -

Election season is here! **Before the season begins in earnest, I'd like to take a moment to talk a little bit more about what the Board does and how TVCOG elections work.** The official process is outlined in our bylaws, but here is my simplified take on what it means to be on TVCOG's Board:

As a 501(c)(3) organization, TVCOG is required by law to have a Board of Directors. The number of Board members and the election process is outlined in the organization's bylaws. **In our case, Board members are voted in by the TVCOG membership. Changes on bylaws are also voted on by the TVCOG membership. This ensures that TVCOG members have a say in how the organization conducts business.**

Board members are not responsible for day-to-day operations. So what do Board members actually do? According to the official job description, Board members are "the fiduciaries who steer the Tech Valley Center of Gravity towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies." **In simpler terms, Board members are public-facing representatives for TVCOG whose main responsibilities are the following:**

1. **Supporting strategic planning & execution,**
2. **Aiding in fundraising & fund development, and**
3. **Recruitment of membership, partners, & other board members through networking on behalf of the organization.**

Any member in good standing, excluding Associate members, is eligible to run for the Board. If you are potentially interested, here are a few things you need to know:

1. The time commitment to be a member on the TVCOG Board is approximately one 90-minute full board meeting per month, as well as one 60-minute subcommittee meeting per month. Additional volunteer shifts are required sporadically throughout the year (e.g special events like Victorian Stroll.)
2. Board terms are 2 years in length.
3. Active board members cannot be contractors to the COG and cannot serve as Zone Coordinators, due to conflict of interest. Current volunteers & contractors are welcome to consider running for the board, but will need to submit a transition plan to turnover key responsibilities with their intent to stand.

Individuals considering running for the Board are encouraged to attend meetings prior to election, and join committees. Individuals with no prior experience serving on a Board are encouraged to complete training prior to serving. We also encourage individuals with specific areas of expertise that align with TVCOG's business interests to join the Board (e.g patent law, non-profit management, fundraising, local economic development) and may, at times, actively recruit people with those backgrounds to join the Board. Anyone recruited to join the Board is required to have an active TVCOG membership to be eligible for elections.

We want the Board to accurately represent the needs of the membership, which is why it is so important that the membership be actively involved in each election. If you're interested in possibly running for the Board, please contact me via email at chair@tvkog.net. If don't want to be on the Board, please make sure you still vote! This is your opportunity to make your voice heard.

—*Courtney Moore*

Courtney Moore, TVCOG Board President, 2022-2023