



MEET A TRUSTEE | Allison Heyward

The TML Risk Pool is committed to providing risk management services and a full suite of liability, property, workers' compensation, and cyber coverages to Texas cities and other local governments. The Pool's Board of Trustees is comprised mostly of municipal officials from across the State of Texas.

For the latest installment of "Meet a Trustee," Pool Staff interviewed City of Schertz Councilmember and current Texas Municipal League President Allison Heyward, who holds Place 3 on the Pool's Board of Trustees.

Allison Heyward never imagined she would run for city council. Her goal was simple: she wanted her city officials to be approachable and accountable. After attending some meetings in Schertz and yearning for more engagement and transparency, her husband and friends looked at her one day and said, "You know what? Someone should run, and that someone is you." Those words ignited a spark in her, and before long, she found herself preparing for her very first campaign, walking through neighborhoods and driven by a passion to bring about the change she wished to see.

That campaign in 2018 was no small feat. Schertz is a growing community, and her race coincided with the high-turnout Cruz-O'Rourke Senate election. But Heyward dove in, walking neighborhoods, talking to voters, and standing outside polling places each day of early voting and Election Day. She did it all with help from her family and friends – six of whom each contributed \$100 to kickstart her campaign. "It was our city, our campaign," she said. Her commitment paid off. She won the election by 1,145 votes.

Once on council, Heyward focused on smart growth. With a booming population and increasing traffic along corridors like I-35 and F.M. 1518, she championed efforts to attract retail and restaurant development, ensure balanced housing options, and manage infrastructure expansion. Her work helped spur Schertz's participation in the International Council of Shopping Centers' economic development conference in Las Vegas. "I wanted us to be intentional about how we grow, not just let it happen," she said.

Housing has been one of her most challenging and rewarding issues. "We needed more than just single-family homes," she said. From townhomes to duplexes to new rental housing options, Heyward pushed for a wider variety of housing stock – something she calls "gap housing." That work hasn't been without controversy. Her support for a planned development on a former golf course, intended to include quadplexes, drew strong opposition and even false accusations. But Heyward didn't waver. "Everyone deserves

options,” she said. “The American dream is evolving, and our zoning should try to evolve with it.”

Allison’s husband (of almost 33 years) Ferrando is a retired U.S. Navy officer. During his service, they spent years stationed abroad, including a memorable tour in Naples, Italy. That international experience shaped her appreciation for cultural diversity, adaptability, and strong community roots. Eventually, they settled in Schertz and bought a home – ready to put down roots after years of mobility.

Heyward’s path into municipal leadership continued through the Texas Municipal League. She attended the newly elected officials’ training in early 2019, then quickly became a Certified Municipal Official, served as Region 7 President, Region 7 Board Director, and now leads as TML President. Along the way, she reimagined regional meetings to be more interactive – offering DISC personality workshops, stress management sessions, and even mindfulness training. “If people are driving three hours to attend, they should come away with tools, not just dinner,” she explained.

Her service on the Pool’s Board of Trustees was a natural fit. She appreciates the Pool’s member-focused structure and the opportunity to support cities from the inside. “We’re not here for profit,” she said. “We’re here to help cities be resilient and responsive. That matters.”

Whether tackling growth issues in Schertz or rethinking leadership development statewide, Allison Heyward brings energy, integrity, and a forward-thinking vision. As she puts it, “I don’t just get involved – I dive in.”

Allison and her husband, Ferrando, are the proud parents of two children, Arianna and Jonathan, as well as a son-in-law, Tyler. They also cherish their role as grandparents to three wonderful grandchildren. In her free time, Allison loves crafting, gardening, woodworking, and reading, but nothing brings her more joy than spending quality time with her family.

The Risk Pool’s Board is comprised of Trustees who work in local government, are dedicated to public service, and understand the day-to-day challenges of governing. To learn more about your Board Members, visit the Risk Pool website. Other editions of Meet a Trustee can be found on the blog located in the “News” dropdown at the top of the page.