



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 9 June 2021

SUBJECT: Commission and Staff Updates

Commission Update

I, like all of you, was greatly saddened by the passing of Chairman Mike Carter on May 15, 2021. Chairman Carter's lifetime of public service is detailed in the attached resolution. He was a member of the Commission since 2013 and served as our chairman since May 2019. Chairman Carter was a true champion for our mission and a dedicated servant to the people of Tennessee. Please join me in taking a moment of silence in recognition of his passing and in offering heartfelt condolences to his wife Joan and the rest of his family.

According to our enabling statute and our bylaws, our members are to elect our chair and vice chair for two-year terms. Chairman Carter and Vice Chairman Brooks were both elected in May 2019, so we will be taking nominations for both offices at this meeting. Vice Chairman Brooks is eligible to stand for reelection.

Our chairman must be a member of the General Assembly. While not set in statute or our bylaws, it has been the practice of the Commission to alternate the chairmanship between the House and the Senate when the position becomes vacant.

Staff Update

Two of our research staff, Senior Research Associate Rabia Chaudry and Senior Research Associate Emma Johnson, will be leaving us this summer as their families move out of state. Both Rabia and Emma have made significant contributions to our

work and have been talented, valued members of our team. We will miss them greatly, but we are fortunate that Emma will continue to work with us part time as we train new staff. Please join me in thanking Rabia and Emma for their service to the State of Tennessee.

Research Associate Kevin Vanzant, who joined our staff just over a year ago, is celebrating five years of service with the state. Overcoming the challenges of working remotely, Kevin has proven to be an excellent researcher and team member. Please join me in congratulating Kevin on achieving this longevity milestone.

Also, we are pleased to have two interns working with us this summer, Carley Bowers and Kaylee Sheppard. Carley is a student in the Master of Public Policy and Administration program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Kaylee just graduated from the same program last month. Please join me in welcoming Carley and Kaylee.