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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 18 June 2026

SUBJECT: Commission and Staff Update

Commission Update

All four of our members representing county government have chosen not to seek reelection and will be leaving us later this year. We cannot begin to express our thanks to these members for their service to our state, their constituents, and the commission. Copies of Senate Resolutions honoring these gentlemen for their service are attached, as is a resolution honoring County Clerk Mary Gaither, whose retirement we announced last month. In summary:

- Mayor Rogers Anderson was first elected county executive of Williamson County in 2002 after serving on the county commission for 16 years. He has served as a board member on the Workforce Development Board and the Tennessee Veterans' Home board, among other roles, and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He was first appointed to TACIR in 2006.
- County Clerk Mary Gaither was first elected Tipton County Clerk in 2010 and has served as president of the Tennessee County Clerks Association and as a board member of the County Officials Association of Tennessee, among other roles. She was first appointed to TACIR in 2019.
- County Executive Jeff Huffman, Tennessee's second-longest-serving county mayor, was first elected county executive of Tipton County in 1986 after serving eight years on the Tipton County Commission. He has served as a board member on the Delta Human Resource Agency and the Aging Commission of the Mid-South, among other roles. TACIR's longest serving member, County Executive Huffman was first appointed in 1994.

- Mayor Bob Rial was first elected mayor of Dickson County in 2010 after serving on the Dickson City Council for seven years. He has chaired the Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency and the Tennessee Association of County Mayors, among other roles. He was appointed to TACIR in 2023.
- Mayor Larry Waters, Tennessee's longest-serving county mayor, was first elected county executive of Sevier County in 1978. He has served as president of the Tennessee County Services Association, chaired the Tennessee Development District Association, and served as vice-chairman of TACIR, among other roles. He was first appointed to TACIR in 2008.

Please join me in thanking all five once again.

Staff Update

We are pleased to be joined in our work by two interns this summer, Hayden Phillips and Omar Watkins. Hayden earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Alabama and is enrolled in Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, where she is pursuing a Master of Public Policy degree. Omar recently graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and has been accepted into the Master of Public Policy program at the Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs at the University of Tennessee.