



North Central Texas Council of Governments

TO: Local Government Officials
FROM: Todd Little
Executive Director

DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Nominations for NCTCOG's *Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management*

As a memorial to Linda Keithley, the North Central Texas Council of Governments established the **Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management** in 1986. This award annually recognizes an outstanding woman in public management from the North Central Texas region who best exemplifies the standards represented by Linda Keithley during her 17 years of service with NCTCOG. Those standards include dedicated service as a public servant, service to the public management profession, and service to the community. Former recipients (with their titles at the time the award was presented) are:

2025 - **Erin Rinehart**, City Manager, Carrollton
2024 - **Loretta Getchell**, City Manager, Euless
2023 - **Jennifer Wichmann**, Deputy City Manager, Arlington
2022 - **Rebecca Vice**, Assistant City Manager, Allen
2021 - **Gina Nash**, City Manager, Sachse
2020 - **Alison Ortowski**, Assistant City Manager, Southlake
2019 - **Jennifer Nguyen**, Chair, Community Multicultural Commission, Garland
2018 - **Mindy Manson**, City Manager, Wylie
2017 - **Shelli Siemer**, Assistant City Manager, Allen
2016 - **Opal Mauldin-Robertson**, City Manager, Lancaster
2015 - **Debra Wallace**, Assistant Town Manager/Chief Financial Officer, Flower Mound
2014 - **LaShon Ross**, Deputy City Manager, Plano
2013 - **Paulette Hartman**, City Manager, Joshua
2012 - **Jennifer Fadden**, City Manager, Colleyville
2011 - **Sharon Hayes**, Assistant City Manager, Weatherford
2010 - **Karen Montgomery**, Assistant City Manager, Fort Worth
2009 - **Anna Doll**, Deputy City Manager, Grand Prairie
2008 - **Michelle Thames**, Assistant City Manager, Richardson
2007 - **Shana Yelverton**, City Manager, Southlake
2006 - **Anita Thetford**, Finance Director, Hurst
2005 - **Linda Groomer**, City Manager, Farmers Branch
2004 - **Julie Couch**, City Manager, Rockwall
2003 - **Cathy Anderson**, Assistant City Manager, Mansfield
2002 - **Kathy DuBose**, Assistant City Manager, Denton
2001 - **Nancy Amos**, Deputy Assistant General Manager, Fort Worth Transportation Authority
2000 - **Ranette Larsen**, City Secretary/Legislative Liaison/Records Mgmt. Officer, Garland
1999 - **Barbara Childress**, Chief of Police, Richland Hills
1998 - **Beth Little Bormann**, Assistant City Manager, Carrollton
1997 - **Alice Church**, City Secretary, Fort Worth
1996 - **H. Kay Godbey**, City Manager, Burleson
1995 - **Patricia Doyle**, Assistant City Manager, McKinney, and **Mary Kay Suhm**, Assistant City Manager, Dallas
1994 - **Betty Culbreath**, Director of Human Services, Dallas County
1993 - **Elizabeth Watson**, Assistant City Manager, Fort Worth
1992 - **Natalie Flores-Kelly**, City Manager, Mineral Wells
1991 - **Harriet Harral**, Personnel Administrator, Fort Worth
1990 - **Barbara Watkins**, Vice President, Parkland Hospital, Dallas
1989 - **Jan Hart**, First Assistant City Manager, Dallas
1988 - **Patsy Fulton**, President, Brookhaven College, Dallas County Community College Dist.
1987 - **Martha Ritter**, Director, Dallas County Children's Emergency Shelter
1986 - **Kay D. Kramme**, Administrative Assistant to Police Chief, Plano

We are inviting nominations for the **2026 Linda Keithley Award**, which will be presented at NCTCOG's Annual General Assembly Meeting scheduled to be held at the Hurst Conference Center on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. A distinguished panel of local government professionals will select this year's winner. Previously nominated candidates are eligible, and re-nominations are welcome.

Both the nomination **guidelines** and the **nomination form** are available online. You may download an editable form or nominate online at www.nctcog.org/nominations. We would appreciate return of the form no later than **May 15, 2026**. Thank you for your interest in the principles represented by this award and, in advance, for your response to this call for nominations.

TL:jw
Attachments

**North Central Texas Council of Governments
Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management**

GUIDELINES

In 1986, the North Central Texas Council of Governments established the Linda Keithley Award to be presented each year at NCTCOG's Annual General Assembly Meeting. The award honors the dedicated professionalism of Linda Keithley during her 17 years of service to the council of governments. The award recognizes a woman who displays the "Linda Keithley traits" of integrity, dignity, poise, loyalty, commitment, and dedication while serving as a faithful public servant.

Who is Eligible?

Any woman who is employed as a full-time public management professional in the 16-county North Central Texas region (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise counties). This award defines "public management professional" as a professional position in local government.

Who Can Nominate?

Local government staff members, local elected officials, chamber of commerce officials, or interested citizens may nominate someone for this award (individuals may nominate themselves).

How Do I Nominate?

- Submit a one-page transmittal letter to identify the nominator(s) and the nominee (including title and employer), and to summarize the nominee's qualifications for this award.
- Complete the nomination form. To be qualified, nominations must be submitted on this form or a facsimile thereof. Additional comments relative to why your nominee should receive this award must not exceed one typed 8 ½" x11" page. Please provide additional information beyond solely a resume.

Selection Criteria

Nominators need to provide evidence that the nominee has made substantial contributions in each of these three areas:

- **Service** as a public management professional — effectiveness in meeting the challenges of the position, as well as dedicated, honest, and courteous performance;
- **Service** to the public management profession — participation in and leadership to professional associations; and
- **Service** to the community — participation in and leadership to civic, service, charity, or public school organizations, in church activities, and/or in community volunteer projects.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MAY 15, 2026

PLEASE NOMINATE ONLINE AT www.nctcog.org/nominations
or email the nomination form to the Executive Director's Office at nominations@nctcog.org

Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management NOMINATION FORM

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

PRINCIPAL NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Date:	Nominee Name:
Name:	Nominee Title:
Title:	Nominee Organization:
Organization:	Nominee Email:
Email:	Nominee Mailing City/State/Zip:
Mailing City/State/Zip:	Nominee Office Phone:
Office Phone:	Nominee Home/Cell Phone:
Home/Cell Phone:	

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Include degrees, certifications, institutions, dates:

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summarize nominee's public management career (title, organization, dates, major responsibilities):

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Memberships, offices held, and leadership to organizations related to professional career:

CIVIC, CHURCH, ETC. SERVICE

Participation in and leadership to community service, civic, and church organizations:

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS

Special honors, awards, recognitions and why received:

DESCRIBE WHY YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD RECEIVE THIS AWARD

Be specific about her accomplishments, public service, and mentoring in the public management profession and in the community and how they relate to the "Linda Keithley traits". Please provide additional information beyond solely a resume.