

ASCE Texas Section Officer Election 2026 Contested Position Questions

Each candidate of a contested VP position is given the opportunity to provide brief responses to at least 3 posed questions. Responses are being made public for all subscribing Section members to review and consider during voting.

VP Professional Elect candidate questionnaire for Fadi Faraj:

1. What does it mean for you personally and professionally to have the opportunity to serve as VP Professional of the Texas Section?

Fadi Faraj: *Serving as VP Professional of the Texas Section would be both a meaningful personal honor and an important professional responsibility.*

Personally, it would give me the opportunity to give back to an organization that has contributed greatly to my growth as an engineer, leader, and volunteer. ASCE has provided me with mentorship, professional development, and opportunities to serve, and I would be proud to help create those same opportunities for others. I joined ASCE in 2002 and began volunteering shortly thereafter. Over the years, I have lived and worked throughout the Texas Triangle, including Houston, Austin, and Dallas, and have remained actively involved with ASCE through the Houston, Austin, and Dallas Branches.

Professionally, this role would allow me to contribute to issues that directly impact our profession and our communities, including infrastructure advocacy, legislative engagement, and the development of future engineering leaders. I have been a Texas resident for over 25 years, and I have worked with numerous public agencies statewide. Through my involvement in Legislative Drive-Ins, Infrastructure Report Card efforts, and Texas Section leadership activities, I have seen firsthand the positive impact ASCE can have on public policy and infrastructure investment.

The opportunity to serve as VP Professional would allow me to combine my technical background, leadership experience, and passion for service to support the Texas Section's mission, strengthen member engagement, and help position future volunteers and leaders for success.

2. Looking back on your previous tenure as a volunteer for the Texas Section, what one or two experiences have had the greatest impact on your readiness to serve as VP Professional?

Fadi Faraj: *If I were to identify one experience from my service with the Texas Section that most prepared me for the role of VP Professional, it would be my time as Geo-Institute Chair 2019–2022, followed by Immediate Past Chair 2022–2023.*

I still remember receiving a call from the Texas Section President asking if I would be willing to take on the role. I accepted without hesitation, and it proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Early on, I realized the institute had effectively been a one-man show for several years. Rebuilding it required not only recruiting and organizing a committed volunteer base, but also restoring financial stability and engagement across the state.

During my tenure, I reestablished a board following the institute bylaws, expanded participation at CECON through technical speakers and sponsors, and increased member and exhibitor involvement. I enhanced student engagement by introducing Geo-Institute activities at CECON. I also supported the formation of a new local Geo-Institute chapter in the Rio Grande Valley. By the end of my term, the institute had active representation from major regions across Texas, including Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and Austin/San Antonio, and we successfully reinstated an annual standalone meeting outside of CECON.

Equally important were the leadership lessons I gained. I faced challenges with engagement and reliability of volunteers. While initially frustrating, these experiences taught me how to motivate and inspire volunteers, lead with patience and kindness, and adapt to varying levels of commitment. These lessons proved invaluable in my subsequent role as ASCE Dallas Branch President and continue to shape my leadership approach today.

This experience not only strengthened my organizational and leadership skills, but also reinforced the importance of service, collaboration, and resilience; hence, prepared me well to serve as VP Professional for the Texas Section.

3. Explain why you chose to be considered as a candidate for VP Professional and 3 of your strongest attributes.

Fadi Faraj: *I chose to be considered as a candidate for VP Professional Affairs because I believe my experience, commitment to ASCE, and passion for infrastructure advocacy align well with the responsibilities of this role.*

A key responsibility is planning the Texas Legislative Drive-In. I first participated in 2021 with limited experience, but through ASCE's mentorship and guidance, I gained valuable knowledge and confidence. Since then, I have participated in additional Texas and Washington Drive/Fly-Ins, giving me the experience needed to help organize future events.

Another important responsibility is supporting the Texas Infrastructure Report Card (IRC). Through my participation in Drive-Ins, Presidents and Governors Forum, and Multi-Regional Leadership Conferences, I have developed a strong understanding of both the Texas and National IRCs, including their categories, scoring methodology, and overall impact on infrastructure advocacy.

The VP Professional Affairs role also oversees committees that align with my background. As a former Texas Section Geo-Institute Chair, and a business owner, I understand the importance of technical expertise, collaboration, and professional advocacy. I look forward to supporting the Government Affairs Committee, Texas IRC Committee, Residential Foundations Oversight Task Committee, and the new Subject Matter Experts Bureau.

My 3 strongest attributes:

- 1. Commitment to Learning:** *I am a lifelong learner seeking to expand my knowledge, strengthen my leadership abilities, and stay informed on emerging issues affecting the profession. This mindset allows me to continuously improve and better serve ASCE and its members.*
- 2. Dedication:** *I am deeply committed to the mission and responsibilities of this role. I take pride in being dependable, organized, and proactive, with a focus on delivering meaningful results.*

3. ***Passion for Service:*** *I strongly believe in giving back to the profession and helping develop future leaders within ASCE. I am committed to supporting others to grow and succeed in their own leadership journeys.*