

# Water Mark



## Jelynn LeBlanc Burley Tapped as First Woman To Lead SAWS Board

Getting a new board chairperson is a big deal in any organization. But when it's also a historic first, the occasion takes on even more significance.

On Sept. 1, **Jelynn LeBlanc Burley** took the helm as the first woman to lead San Antonio Water System's Board of Trustees. She replaces **Berto Guerra Jr.**, who led the SAWS Board for the past nine years.

"I strongly and firmly believe that Jelynn Burley is the best prepared person — man or woman — to ever hold this gavel," Guerra said at the utility's Sept. 1 Board meeting, before handing his ceremonial mallet to the new chairwoman. "So let me tell you, she knows how to lead. She knows utilities. And she intimately knows our great city."



**Leticia Ozuna**  
Southeast Quadrant  
Trustee

Burley is the president and chief executive officer of The Center for Health Care Services, the mental health authority for Bexar County. She previously served as executive vice president and chief delivery officer for CPS Energy. Burley also worked for the City of San Antonio for 24 years, including a stint as deputy city manager.

"I stand on your shoulders and I stand on the shoulders of this Board in going forward with the work on behalf of the citizens of San Antonio," Burley told Guerra just before taking the oath of office.

"I came here 38 years ago as a grad student with some very wise words from my mother: Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy. And it is with those words and my heart that San Antonio has embraced me and I have been able to contribute for the past 38 years. And I look

forward to continuing to do so."

Burley will serve a four-year term representing the North Side.

"Although we will miss the steady guidance of Chairman Berto Guerra, I look forward to working with Ms. Burley as SAWS enters this exciting new chapter," said SAWS president/CEO **Robert R. Puente**.

Joining Burley on the SAWS Board is former District 3 San Antonio City Councilwoman **Leticia Ozuna**, who will represent the Southeast quadrant. A third board member to replace outgoing Trustee **Pat Jasso** has yet to be appointed by City Council.