



---

## SWAPA Fast Facts

### Mission

The Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee association representing the pilots of Southwest Airlines. The **Mission** of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association is to represent, support, and advance the goals and expectations of our membership through negotiations and advocacy for professional pilots. The **Vision** of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association is to be the most effective labor organization in the aviation industry by maintaining trust, delivering results, and providing the highest quality of representation to our membership.

### Boilerplate

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, SWAPA is the sole bargaining unit for the more than 11,000 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA is an independent union and is not affiliated with any national or international labor organization.

### Facts

- Pilots are based at 13 domiciles (crew bases): Atlanta (ATL); Austin (AUS); Baltimore (BWI); Nashville (BNA); Dallas Love Field (DAL); Denver (DEN); Houston Hobby (HOU); Las Vegas (LAS); Los Angeles (LAX); Orlando (MCO); Chicago Midway (MDW); Oakland (OAK); and Phoenix (PHX).
- Southwest pilots are among the most experienced in the industry and are considered experts on the B-737 aircraft.
- SWAPA governance includes three full-time executives (president, vice president, and 2nd vice president) who lead a Board of Directors (BOD) comprising two elected representatives from each of the 13 domiciles.
- Executive officers and BOD members serve two-year terms with a term limit of two consecutive terms. The board meets roughly every quarter at SWAPA headquarters in Dallas.

### History

- Since its founding in 1978 with 112 members, SWAPA has negotiated 10 contracts with Southwest Airlines.
- Under terms of the Railway Labor Act governing airline union negotiations, pilot contracts do not expire but rather become amendable on a certain date.
- SWAPA and Southwest Airlines ratified their most recent contract in January of 2024.
- The current contract becomes amendable January 1, 2029.

### Services

- Collective bargaining
- Contract administration
- Grievance assistance
- Legal and disciplinary representation
- Proactive safety program
- Organizational, labor, and aviation industry communication
- Aeromedical, Special Services (Critical Incident Response Team), and Professional Standards programs

*Last updated February 2026*