



## PLD Candidate Information

**Name:** Roberto Zapata

**Candidate Position:** Chair-Elect, PLD

- Degree, Master of Public Administration
  - Institution, University of Texas at San Antonio
  - Start Year: 2012 - End Year: 2015
- Degree, Master of Library Science
  - Institution, University of Arizona
  - Start Year: 2002 - End Year: 2003
- Degree, Bachelor of Arts
  - Institution, University of Texas at Austin
  - Start Year: 1995 - End Year: 2001

### Work Experience

- Title, Library Director
  - Institution, Waco-McLennan County Library
  - Start Date: 07/22/2025 – Present
- Title, Assistant Director of Customer Experience
  - Institution, Houston Public Library
  - Start Date: 06/01/2021 – 07/02/2024
- Title, Senior Manager of Neighborhood Libraries
  - Institution, Houston Public Library
  - Start Date: 10/01/2018 – 05/30/2021
- Title, Assistant Director of Public Services
  - Institution, McAllen Public Library
  - Start Date: 02/01/2016 – 09/15/2018

Additional Work Experience:

- Branch Manager, San Antonio Public Library, (2007 – 2016)
- Librarian, Houston Public Library, (2003 – 2007) served in various roles including Children's Librarian and Branch Manager

### TLA Activities

- TLA Launch Instructor,
  - Dates: 2023 - 2024
- Latino Caucus Round Table, Chair
  - Dates: 2018 - 2019
- Tall Texans, Class of 2015

**Other Professional Association Membership Information**

- TMLDA, 2024-Present

**Publications and Presentations**

- Presented at TLA from 2019-2021
- Served as Moderator at TLA 2024

**Statement of Concern:**

I am honored to run for Chair-Elect of the Public Libraries Division of the Texas Library Association. Public libraries are cornerstones of community growth, providing access to information, lifelong learning, and connection. Yet, we face challenges such as funding pressures, evolving technologies, and threats to intellectual freedom.

My concern is ensuring libraries across Texas thrive amid these challenges. If elected, I will focus on:

Advocacy: Amplifying our collective voice to secure the support libraries need.

Professional Development: Expanding training and resources to empower library staff.

Equity: Promoting access to quality services for all.

With years of library leadership, I am committed to collaboration and innovation to strengthen public libraries statewide. Thank you for your consideration.