

TASL: Chair-Elect Candidates

Elizabeth Gilbert, *Aldine ISD*

Now more than ever Texas librarians need the support of their professional organizations. We need both the emotional support of our peer relationships through our library organizations and the professional and educational opportunities provided by groups like TASL and TLA.

As librarians and educators our duty and responsibility is to serve our communities and all of our patrons. My ambition is to help TASL and my fellow librarians do their best to serve those communities by providing support through training, professional advice, and advocacy.

Every student in Texas deserves the opportunity to see themselves represented in their school library collections, and our libraries need to continue to represent safe spaces for all of our students. Diversity and inclusion are vital parts of building healthy communities, schools, children, and families. School libraries are a vital part of every community.

Amanda Trowbridge, *Keller ISD*

I think the two most critical issues facing teacher-librarians and TASL right now are time and censorship. With each passing year there are more and more time constraints on teachers and librarians, making it harder to create authentic instructional partnerships. Through strong professional development and district trainings, we can build a bigger network of librarians to share ideas and information that will help forge connections and partnerships with teachers on our campuses., which will bring about more authentic experiences and inquiry based lessons for students. Censorship continues to be an issue for school librarians. I feel like more training and opportunities to learn about collection development can help combat some of the soft censoring that has started due to the political climate we are experiencing.