

Senate Finance
Committee Hearing on
State Library Budget Set

Texline 299

Texas Library Association
www.txla.org/advocate



Texline 299, January 29, 2015

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A CALL TO ACTION!!

Dear Librarians, Friends, Educators, and Advocates,

The Texas Senate Finance Committee will conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 4, and will begin consideration of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's budget.

We need all library advocates to contact their senators and urge them to support libraries! This action is especially critical if your senator serves on the Finance Committee (see the list below). If your senator does not serve on the Committee, we still need you to contact your senator and ask him/her to work with colleagues on the Committee to support libraries.

While both the Senate version (SB 2) and House version (HB 1) of the Appropriations Bill fund the State Library's base budget request, neither chamber approved funding for the agency's request for additional funds for programs, including the two key library programs mentioned below. Securing appropriations for these requests funded is our mission!

[TAKE ACTION NOW!](#)

Action Needed: Deliver the Message!

The Message: **Support for the full budget and exceptional items requests of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Article I/General Government). We ask you to support the educational and workforce infrastructure in your district by supporting the following library-related initiatives.**

Shared Digital Content: \$6.4 million to build digital educational collections. Through TexShare (for public and college library users) & TexQuest (for K-12 public schools), libraries support education and economic development through shared digital content.

This program leverages the purchasing power of the state and reaps enormous savings. A conservative Return on Investment (ROI) for this service shows that, for every \$1 spent, taxpayers gain \$8 of valuable resources.

Funds for Libraries in Support of Workforce and Economic Development: \$550,000 to train and help equip libraries of all types to support the Texas workforce. Libraries provide a central path for meeting the state's priorities of establishing educational opportunities, creating a favorable environment for business, and increasing literacy.

Throughout the state, libraries and local Workforce Solutions offices are partnering to meet the demands for worker training programs. However, these efforts are only a fraction of the activity that could be undertaken. With additional training, the State Library can position many of the state's libraries to increase their programming and leverage resources and opportunities.

- A one page handout ([BUDGET PRIORITIES](#))
- Click on [TLA's Advocate!](#) site for links to legislator look-up tools and other resources.
- See TLA's advocacy page for additional information on contacting legislators:
<http://www.txla.org/advocacy-how-to>

About the Hearing

When: Wednesday, February 4th
Time: 9:00 am
Room: E1.036

The Texas State Library is scheduled 6th (out of 8) agencies on the roster for that day. However, the Committee can take agency information in any order.

See the [full agenda](#) for instructions on testimony, etc.

Budget hearings are an interesting process. Often, advocates find themselves listening through hours of testimony, as there is no guaranteed time for agency presentations or public testimony. Changes in scheduling are common. That being said, it is so incredibly important to have advocates who are committed. Nothing is more powerful than persuasive testimony!

We invite you to take part in this exciting democratic process. If you would like to travel to Austin to testify, contact [Gloria Meraz](#).

Texas Senators

Note: The mailing address for all senators is:

Senator First Name Last Name

Capitol Station

P.O. Box 12068

Austin, TX 78711

Senators Serving on the Finance Committee

District 1: [Senator Kevin Eltife](#); 512-463-0101

District 3: [Senator Robert Nichols](#); 512-463-0103

District 5: [Senator Charles Schwertner](#); 512-463-0105

District 7: [Senator Paul Bettencourt](#); 512-463-0107

District 9: [Senator Kelly Hancock](#); 512-463-0109

District 11: [Senator Larry Taylor](#); 512-463-0111

District 12: [Senator Jane Nelson](#); 512-463-0112

District 14: [Senator Kirk Watson](#); 512-463-0114

District 15: [Senator John Whitmire](#); 512-463-0115

District 17: [Senator Joan Huffman](#); 512-463-0117

District 18: [Senator Lois Kolkhorst](#); 512-463-0118

District 19: [Senator Carlos Uresti](#); 512-463-0119

District 20: [Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa](#); 512-463-0120

District 23: [Senator Royce West](#); 512-463-0123

District 31: [Senator Kel Seliger](#); 512-463-0131

All should contact: Lt. Governor Dan Patrick: (512) 463-0001

All Other Senators

District 2: [Senator Bob Hall](#); 512-463-0102

District 4: [Senator Brandon Creighton](#); 512-463-0104

District 6: [Senator Sylvia Garcia](#); 512-463-0106

District 8: [Senator Van Taylor](#); 512-463-0108

District 9: [Senator Kelly Hancock](#); 512-463-0109

District 10: [Senator Konni Burton](#); 512-463-0110

District 13: [Senator Rodney Ellis](#); 512-463-0113

District 16: [Senator Don Huffines](#); 512-463-0116

District 17: [Senator Joan Huffman](#); 512-463-0117

District 21: [Senator Judith Zaffirini](#); 512-463-0121

District 22: [Senator Brian Birdwell](#); 512-463-0122
District 24: [Senator Troy Fraser](#); 512-463-0124
District 25: [Senator Donna Campbell](#); 512-463-0125
District 26: [Senator Leticia Van de Putte](#); 512-463-0126
District 27: [Senator Eddie Lucio](#); 512-463-0127
District 28: [Senator Charles Perry](#); 512-463-0128
District 29: [Senator Jose Rodriguez](#); 512-463-0129
District 30: [Senator Craig Estes](#); 512-463-0130



To find out **who represents you**, click on the button at the left.

For the most accurate data, be sure to include your full 9-digit zip code.

[TAKE ACTION NOW!](#)

More on Contacting Senators

1) If you are calling the office:

- Ask to speak to the staff person working on Finance.
- When you get that person, introduce yourself, tell them you are a constituent, and tell them you are calling to ask for the Senator's support of library funding.
- Mention that the State Library's hearing is set for Wednesday, Feb. 4, and you want to speak to them on a couple of library requests: 1) Shared Digital Content (TexShare and TexQuest) and 2) funding for library workforce training.
- You can use the talking points provided here as you cover these issues briefly with the staffer.
- Ask if s/he has any questions and thank them. It's that easy!

2) To learn more about contacting legislative offices: [read the TLA Advocacy Primer](#).

School Librarian Certification

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) will meet on March 6, 2015 in Austin. One of the items up for discussion is the certification of school librarians. SBEC members will review the various components of the certification requirements, including the critical element of two years of teaching experience.

TLA's Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL) has been hard at work drafting information for SBEC members. Additionally, TLA worked with SBEC in providing information and support as SBEC gathered school library representatives to discuss the criteria and make recommendations. A taskforce met in November and offered key points for consideration. The TASL and TLA position was conveyed to SBEC in a letter submitted by TASL leaders. See: [School Librarians are Teachers](#).

Agenda information for the March 6 meeting will be available at [the SBEC website](#) along with information on contacting members of the Board.

School Library Standards

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been asked to make a presentation on the School Library Standards to the State Board of Education (SBOE). This update will be an agenda item in the regular SBOE meeting scheduled February 11-13, 2015 in Austin. The agenda has not been finalized, and updated information is available at:

[http://tea.texas.gov/About TEA/Leadership/State Board of Education/SBOE - State Board of Education/](http://tea.texas.gov/About%20TEA/Leadership/State%20Board%20of%20Education/SBOE%20-%20State%20Board%20of%20Education/).

TSLAC is working to begin the process of updating the School Library Standards, and as state statute stipulates, the agency must work TEA on the process. The update being presented to the SBOE is an important step in moving the process forward. The School Library Standards were last revised several years ago, and Texas students, teachers, education stakeholders, and librarians will benefit from updated standards reflective of quality school library programs today.



February 12, 2015 is VIRTUAL ACTION DAY!

Speak out for libraries! Make Library Virtual Action Day your own. Be as creative as you want! The important thing is to deliver the message: **SUPPORT THE FUNDING REQUESTS FOR STATEWIDE LIBRARY PROGRAMS!** Take the time to contact your state senator and representative on this day. They must hear from you! Tell them about the incredible services your library provides.

Recruit friends to join the effort! Make a commitment to get others involved. Organize a letter-writing campaign, tweet-up, and other virtual campaigns and activities to get people talking about libraries. Have supporters create videos and send links to them to your elected officials. It is particularly important to have administrators, city or county officials, and parents contact elected officials on behalf of libraries and library users.

Please be sure to let TLA know of your activities by posting on our social media platforms. Help us help libraries statewide!

LEGISLATIVE PRECONFERENCE

Taking the Capitol by Storm: Libraries, Legislation, and Leadership (Ticketed)

9 am - 5pm, Tuesday, April 14

With the 84th Legislature in full swing, join colleagues and experts as you study key library issues and become an articulate and knowledgeable advocate with decision-makers. The first half of the preconference is an intensive training and skill-building workshop.

The second half is an afternoon of actual visits with legislative offices coordinated through TLA. Participants will earn a badge of honor to wear throughout conference. Lunch will be provided. TLA is offering 10 stipends to help new advocates attend this program. See below.

Legislative Pre-Conference Stipends

The TLA Legislative Committee is offering 10 stipends to TLA members to participate in the pre-conference, "Taking the Capitol by Storm: Libraries, Legislation, and Leadership."

These legislative program stipends are designed to help new professionals and recruits to the library community learn about the legislative process and issues. The stipend will cover the registration fee. The applications are due on January 30, 2015.

This [simple application form](#) is available on the TLA website:

***Thank you for your support and passion for libraries.
Texas libraries need your voice!***

We also offer our thanks to Gale Cengage Learning, EBSCO Information Services, and LearningExpress, LLC. for their support of library advocacy.

Texline is produced by the Texas Library Association. It is published as needed to provide information on state and other policy matters related to libraries. For additional information, send an email to Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications, gloriam@txla.org.



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