

House Appropriations
Wed; SBEC on Friday

Texas Library
Association



Texline 302, March 3, 2015

Table of Contents

1. [Overview: Funding Decisions Are Being Made!](#)
2. [School Librarian Certification](#)
3. [Contacting State Legislators](#)
4. [Who Represents Me?](#)
5. [House Appropriations Committee Members](#)
6. [More on Contacting Elected Officials](#)
7. [Legislative Preconference](#)

Overview: Funding Decisions Are Now Being Made!

State Budgeting

The full House Appropriations Committee will hear and likely act on the Article I Subcommittee recommendations for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission tomorrow, **Wednesday, March 4**.

In addition the full base budget request (i.e., funding for the CURRENT level of programs), the Subcommittee is recommending approval of the agency's requests for additional funds (known as exceptional items requests) for the following:

1. \$900,000 over the biennium for the e-archives program
2. \$6 million over the biennium for shared digital content (TexShare and TexQuest)

TLA is very grateful to the Article I Subcommittee for recommending some of the key items TSLAC requested. The agency requested several exceptional items totaling \$9.6 million over the biennium, including the following two library-related initiatives:

1. \$6.4 million for TexShare/TexQuest (the \$400,000 not funded in the Subcommittee recommendations for this item relates to additional staff for the programs) and
2. \$550,000 for workforce development training in libraries (which is not recommended for funding in the Subcommittee proposal to the full committee).

We need library supporters to take ACTION TODAY! and email their representatives, even if they do not serve on the committee. Reps not on the committee should be asked to contact colleagues who serve on Appropriations to urge funding for libraries. Reps on the Appropriations Committee should be asked to fund library programs.

Specifically, our message is:

We are grateful for the subcommittee's recommendations and ask the Appropriations Committee to fully fund [the budget and exceptional items requests of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission \(Article I\)](#), especially the following two library initiatives that benefit communities all across the state!

[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.

[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.

And please note: Even if ALL of the State Library's exceptional items are funded, the agency would still be 18% BELOW its funding level prior to 2011!! Support libraries by continuing to rebuild library services this session!

RESOURCES

- A one-page handout on [TLA's Budget Priorities](#)
- A one-page handout on the funding request for [Shared Digital Content](#) (TexShare and TexQuest)
- A one-page on the funding request for [Workforce Development Training for Libraries](#)
- 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>

Contacting State Legislators

WHO REPRESENTS ME? Click on the button below. You can find your state senator, representative, and State Board of Education member.



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

Texas House

Texas House Members

Representatives Serving on the House Appropriations

[Representative Trent Ashby](#); phone: 512-463-0508
[Representative Cecil Bell](#); phone: 512-463-0650
[Representative Greg Bonnen](#); phone: 512-463-0729
[Representative Cindy Burkett](#); phone: 512-463-0464
[Representative Giovanni Capriglione](#); phone: 512-463-0690
[Representative Sarah Davis](#); phone: 512-463-0389
[Representative Dawnna Dukes](#); phone: 512-463-0506
[Representative Helen Giddings](#); phone: 512-463-0953
[Representative Larry Gonzales](#); phone: 512-463-0670
[Representative Donna Howard](#); phone: 512-463-0631
[Representative Bryan Hughes](#); phone: 512-463-0271
[Representative Linda Koop](#); phone: 512-463-0454
[Representative Oscar Longoria](#); phone: 512-463-0645
[Representative Marisa Marquez](#); phone: 512-463-0638
[Representative Ruth Jones McClendon](#); phone: 512-463-0708
[Representative Borris Miles](#); phone: 512-463-0518
[Representative Rick Miller](#); phone: 512-463-0710
[Representative Sergio Munoz](#); phone: 512-463-0704
[Representative John Otto](#); phone: 512-463-0570 (Chair)
[Representative Dade Phelan](#); phone: 512-463-0706
[Representative Four Price](#); phone: 512-463-0470
[Representative John Raney](#); phone: 512-463-0698
[Representative Justin Rodriguez](#); phone: 512-463-0669
[Representative J.D. Sheffield](#); phone: 512-463-0628
[Representative Sylvester Turner](#); phone: 512-463-0554 (Vice-Chair)
[Representative Gary VanDeaver](#); phone: 512-463-0576
[Representative Armando Walle](#); phone: 512-463-0490

Everyone should contact: [Speaker Joe Straus](#)

More on Contacting Elected Officials

1) If you are calling the office:

- Ask to speak to the staff person working on Appropriations or Finance (Senate).
- When you get that person, introduce yourself, tell them you are a constituent, and tell them you are calling to ask for the legislator's support of library funding.
- Tell them you are contacting them to discuss the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's budget, which is in Article 1. You want them to support two key 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!

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 last 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.

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.

***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.