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For Immediate Release**Texans Strongly Support Public Libraries According to New Statewide Poll**

April 29, 2026, Austin, Texas - A new statewide public opinion poll conducted by KRC Research on behalf of the Texas Library Association confirms that Texans overwhelmingly value public libraries as essential public services.

At a time when public discourse has questioned the relevance of libraries and the role of librarians, the data tells a very different story: Texans across political perspectives and demographics strongly support their libraries, trust library professionals, and believe in maintaining broad access to information.

Nearly all Texans (95%) agree that public libraries play a vital role in providing free and equitable access to information, promoting literacy, and supporting workforce readiness. Nine in ten (90%) say libraries should be treated as an essential public service—placing them alongside other critical community infrastructure.

Texans are not only supportive of libraries—they actively use them. Ninety-two percent are aware of a library in their community, and 80% of households have used library services within the past three years. Among library users, 92% report positive experiences.

These findings reinforce the role of libraries as cost-effective, locally driven solutions to education, digital access, and community engagement.

Texans express strong confidence in public librarians, with 89% trusting their ability to select materials that reflect community needs and interests. A majority (92%) agree librarians should ensure collections meet local informational, educational, and cultural needs.

Texans overwhelmingly support the core principles that guide library services. Ninety-four percent agree libraries should provide access to a broad range of information and ideas, and 72% believe decisions about age-appropriate materials should be made at the local level—by parents and professional librarians—rather than through broad restrictions.

“Texans have sent a clear message: public libraries matter, and they expect them to be supported and strengthened,” said Shirley Robinson, Texas Library Association Executive Director. “This research underscores that libraries are trusted, high-impact institutions that deliver real value to communities across our state. Continued investment in libraries is an investment in education, workforce development, and informed communities.”

The full report is available at TrulyTexas.txla.org.

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About the Texas Library Association

TLA is the largest state library association in the United States with more than 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic, and special libraries. For more information, visit www.txla.org.

Methodology Statement:

KRC Research conducted a comprehensive survey among 1,000 Texas adults, 18 years and older. The random sample survey was offered in both English and Spanish and was conducted both online and by phone (landline and cell phone), from Nov. 20 to Dec. 19, 2025. The sample was drawn from an online panel and from phone sample, weighted to be demographically representative by Texas region, age, sex, race/ethnicity, household income, and educational attainment.