

FRIENDS OF NORTHSIDE LIBRARIES
ADVOCACY REPORT
TLA LEGISLATIVE DAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Delegates were briefed by Sam Stone, TLA Legal Counsel, and Gloria Meraz, TLA Director of Communications, on the priorities for the 81st legislative session:

Funding Initiatives:

TEXSHARE – provides library resource sharing and database services to college students/faculty and public library users. Request \$5.25 million each year of the biennium.

LOAN STAR LIBRARIES – grant program for public libraries.
Request \$4.35 million each year of the biennium.

K-12 DATABASES – provides online resources for students and teachers.
Request \$4 million each year of the biennium.

TEXAS LIBRARY SYSTEMS – network of 10 services centers supports public libraries.
Request \$2 million each year of the biennium.

These requests for additional funding will just get us back to where we were with funding seven years ago.

Policy Initiatives:

PURCHASING EFFICIENCY - update language in Education Code to allow community colleges to have the same purchasing exemptions as state universities.
Request support of HB 962

*SCHOOL LIBRARIES FOR ALL STUDENTS – equitable access to quality school library programs and certified school librarians.

***Delegates were told that this was a difficult issue, given our current economic climate, and that even our staunchest supporters have expressed concern over trying to put this issue forward.**

We were also briefed on a recent TLA survey of Texas voters which shows that Texas voters support more funding for public and school libraries. At least seven in ten voters across every demographic, geographic and political segment support increased funding for both public and school libraries.

The full survey is available at <http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>

Attending Legislative Day were FONL members Jana Knezek, Faye Hagerty, and Kathy Lindley.

Jana spoke with staff members of Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker of the House Joe Straus. Jana, Faye, and Kathy spoke with a staff member of State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer and with Senator Leticia Van De Putte.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Lindley
Advocacy Chair