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**McAllen Public Library Director Kate Horan Elected  
2026 Texas Library Association President-Elect**  
*Statewide recognition highlights decades of leadership advancing library  
excellence and community impact.*

The City of McAllen is proud to announce that McAllen Public Library Director Kate P. Horan has been elected President-Elect of the 2026 Texas Library Association (TLA). Her election reflects more than three decades of leadership in public and academic libraries and further elevates McAllen’s presence in library innovation and advocacy statewide.

In 2025, Horan received the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award for her decades of service. With nearly 35 years in public and academic libraries experience, Horan holds a BA in English from SUNY Stony Brook and an MLS from St. John’s University. Originally from New York, she has called Texas home for more than 20 years and currently leads the award-winning McAllen Public Library (MPL) System, also serving as Chair of the South Texas Book Festival.

Under Horan’s leadership, MPL programs continue to achieve statewide recognition. In 2025, the South Texas Book Festival earned Best in Texas honors as it celebrated its 12th anniversary. Día de los Niños also marked its tenth year, reflecting the library’s ongoing commitment to literacy, culture, and community engagement.

“Kate Horan’s election as President Elect of the Texas Library Association is a tremendous honor for her and our community,” said Mayor Javier Villalobos. “Her leadership reflects the vital role libraries play in expanding literacy, fostering imagination, and ensuring access to knowledge for residents of all ages. We are proud that McAllen’s commitment to education and lifelong learning is being recognized at the state level through her service.”

Horan’s professional service extends beyond her local role. She co-chaired the 2024 TLA Conference Planning Committee and has served as an officer for the Hidalgo County Library System Board, the Texas Municipal League Directors Association, and TLA District 4. She is a graduate of the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute and continues to mentor emerging leaders.

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“Kate’s election underscores the impact that dedicated library professionals have in shaping strong, informed communities,” said City Manager Isaac J. Tawil. “Libraries are essential public institutions that connect, educate, and empower, and her leadership within the Texas Library Association positions McAllen as a model for innovation, outreach, and excellence in public service.”

As President-Elect, Horan will help guide the next phases of the Texas Library Association’s Strategic Plan, supporting transparent communication, strong governance practices, and meaningful engagement across school, academic, public, and special libraries. Her leadership comes at a pivotal time for libraries statewide, reinforcing the values of access, equity, intellectual freedom, and thoughtful advocacy.

For more information about the McAllen Public Library and its programs, visit [www.mcallenlibrary.net](http://www.mcallenlibrary.net).

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**About the City of McAllen**

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the “City of Palms,” McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit [www.mcallen.net](http://www.mcallen.net) and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen