

Lalani's Legislative Letter

Interim Edition #1

Greetings!

As the summer draws to an end I am reminded about the important role that libraries play for kids and adults everywhere. Public library reading clubs have provided summer adventures for families for generations. Lately, Texas libraries are in the news often. The efforts to limit the books that children have access to have been vast and calculated. Fortunately for House District 76, Fort Bend County Libraries have escaped such efforts and are doing a tremendous job to provide meaningful educational opportunities for our community.

In this newsletter we explore the work of Fort Bend County Libraries and offer some insight to other library programs and updates from across the state. If your family doesn't have a library card, I encourage you to get one today! There is an entire world for you to explore.

We are back in the district for now and are working on some great programs, and events for you.

Remember this is your District. You are the most important part of what happens here. Get engaged, get involved, help make your community a better place for all.

Blessings,
Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D

Ft. Bend County Libraries

Established: 1947

Collection: more than a million pieces

Circulation: more than 4 million

Card Holders: nearly 400,000

Number of Branches: 11

Programs: To see what is happening in the library nearest you everyday, click [here](#) to see the Fort Bend County Libraries Calendar.

[2023 Summer Reading Challenge](#) ends on August 31, there is still time to participate!

How to Get a Library Card: Click [here](#) for more information.

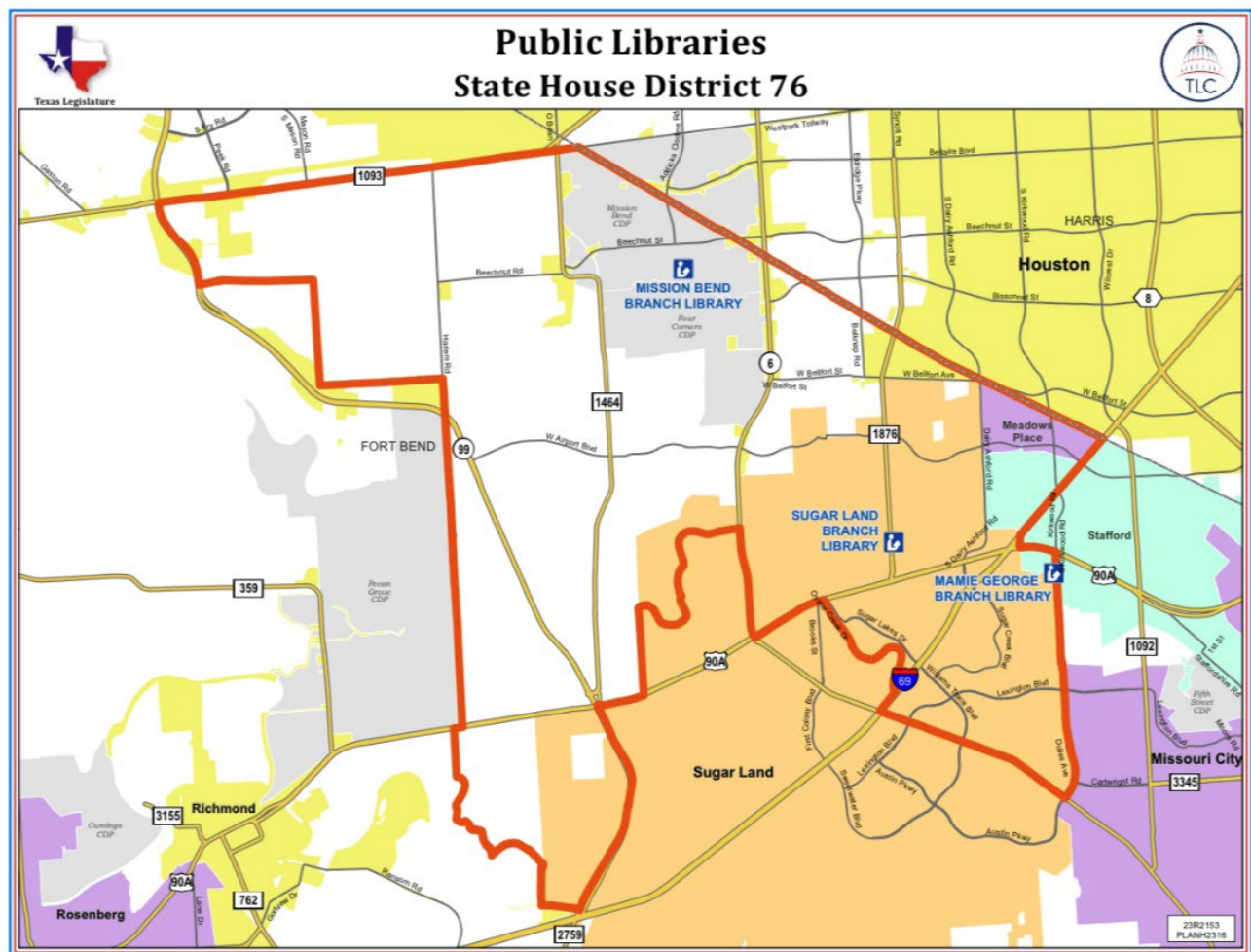
To apply for or renew a full-service library card, please visit any FBCL location during business hours. You MUST provide one of the following forms for valid photo ID that is not expired:

- A valid, unexpired government-issued photo ID
- Passports from any country
- Any state driver license

If the photo ID does not include your current address, bring a separate document to validate this information (mail, utility bill, etc. from the last 30 days).

Find the Branch Nearest You: Click [here](#) for more information.

House District 76 has 3 libraries within its boundaries:



Texas State Library and Archives Commission

How to contact a librarian at TSLAC: ref@tsl.texas.gov or 512-463-5455

About the TSLAC:

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been serving the people of Texas for more than a century.

There has always been an official library and archives of Texas. The State Library and Archives Commission mission is also to ensure that citizens have information they need to lead informed, productive, and fulfilled lives.

What they do:

- **Archives and History:** TSLAC preserves the archival record of Texas, supports research, and makes primary resources available to the public ([Archives and Information Services](#))
- **Libraries and Learning:** Assist public, academic, and school libraries across the state in meeting the needs of their communities and students ([Library Development and Networking](#)).
- **Access to Public Records:** TSLAC is responsible for helping public agencies maintain their public records ([State and Local Records Management](#)).
- **Reading Services:** We support the reading needs of thousands of Texans with disabilities preventing them from reading a standard book ([Talking Book Program](#))

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has been serving the people of Texas for more than a century.

There has always been an official library and archives of Texas. The State Library and Archives Commission mission is also to ensure that citizens have information they need to lead informed, productive, and fulfilled lives.

Established: 1909

Programs:

[TBP Youth Services](#): Find resources for youth reading programs, and book lists.

[Online Exhibits](#): Browse digital versions of the lobby exhibits going back over ten years, plus special online exhibits on topics such as historic flags of Texas, Texas state parks, and the collection of Texas Treasures, including the Texas Declaration of Independence, Travis's letter from the Alamo, and much more.

[Texas Digital Archive](#): The TDA manages, preserves, and facilitates access to the electronic records collections of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, including those transferred by state agencies or digitized by the State Archives. All records visible in this portal are unrestricted and available for public use.

[Genealogy Resources](#): The Genealogy Collection at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission includes vital statistics indexes, city directories, county records, publications such as printed family and county histories, a variety of Texas government records, federal census schedules and many other resources to help you compile your family history.

[E-Read Texas](#) brings electronic books and audiobooks to Texans served by small community libraries in all parts of the state. E-Read Texas provides more than 18,000 downloadable e-books and audiobooks and a mobile e-reader application that make it possible for all Texans served by public libraries to access e-books. The E-Read Texas collection primarily includes adult fiction and popular non-fiction and is most appropriate for an adult audience. All content can be accessed using the SimplyE mobile application.

[E-Read Texas Unlimited Collection](#) (BiblioBoard) (access restricted to Texas users)

[E-Read Texas for Kids Collection](#) (Biblioboard) (access restricted to Texas users)

In the News:

[Texas Center for the Book Announces 2023 Texas Great Read Titles](#)

The Texas Center for the Book at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission has chosen [Nell Plants a Tree](#) by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Daniel Miyares, as the 2023 Texas Great Read Youth Selection and [West with Giraffes](#) by Lynda Rutledge as the 2023 Texas Great Read Adult Selection. Every year, the Library of Congress asks each state Center for the Book to select titles that represent the state's literary landscape to highlight at the National Book Festival. The event showcases the importance of books and reading. The 23rd Library of Congress National Book Festival will take place on August 12 in Washington, DC, with varied offerings online. Check out the [Library of Congress website](#) for details.



Library Legislation during the 88th Session*

The controversy over what children have access to was a topic of debate over this legislative session. [HB 900](#) was filed as a way to keep explicit content out of the hands of school children. The bill passed the legislature and becomes effective on September 1, 2023.

What HB 900 does:

- Defines sexually explicit and sexually relevant material and requires library material vendors (any entity that sells library materials to a public school in Texas) to assign sexually explicit and sexually relevant ratings to any material the vendor determines meet the law's definitions. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) is required to adopt standards for collection development, to be approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) that school districts are required to follow when developing and implementing collection development policies. The mandatory TSLAC collection development standards apply to materials in school libraries and in classroom libraries. ([Texas Library Association](#))

Key Points in HB 900:

- School districts and librarians operate under existing, approved procurement, collection development and reconsideration policies as 2023-2024 school year begins.
- Vendors, not librarians or any other district staff, are responsible for rating library materials.
- Ratings are only applied to material vendors determine meet the definitions of sexually relevant or sexually explicit
- Material rated sexually explicit by vendors must be removed from the collection.
- Parental consent for materials rated sexually relevant needed when vendors provide those ratings.
- Reconsideration requests follow current, approved district policies. ([Texas Library Association](#))

Timeline for Implementation:

June 13, 2023	Signed by Governor Abbott
September 1, 2023	Effective date
January 1, 2024	TSLAC mandatory collection development standards, approved by SBOE, final
April 1, 2024	Vendors provide initial list of materials they rated sexually explicit or sexually relevant to TEA <i>Materials rated sexually explicit must be removed from school libraries</i>
September 1, 2024	Vendors provide updated list of materials they have rated to TEA
January 1, 2025	School districts review vendor rated sexually relevant material in their current collection and post a report on their website

([Texas Library Association](#))

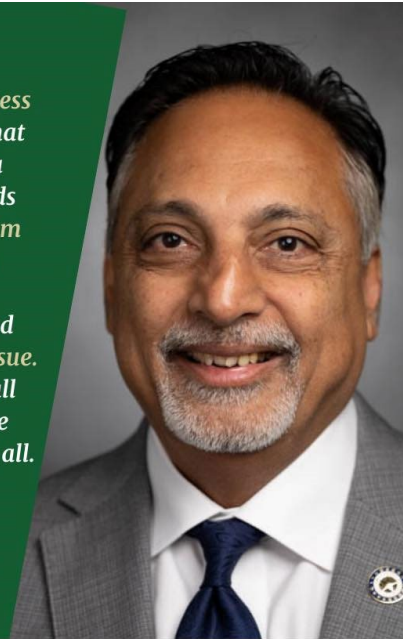
*If this or any other legislation, issue or policy interests you, please get engaged! If you need ideas on how to get engaged, please contact us at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov. We can help!

Lalani Legislation Spotlight*

When I came to the Texas House I was determined to make a difference in the way Texans access healthcare. One of the ways that I accomplished this was to become a coauthor on [HB 12](#). This piece of legislation would allow people who have given birth to keep their Medicaid benefits through the first 12 months postpartum. Texas remains the state with the highest rate of maternal mortality in the nation and this bill would help to give new mothers the start they deserve.

“ I am determined to make a difference in the way Texans access healthcare. One way that I did that during the 88th was to become a coauthor on HB 12, which extends Medicaid coverage for postpartum women to 12 months. Texas has amongst the highest maternal mortality rates in the country and HB 12 will help to address this issue. I am proud to have played a small part in the momentum across the country to provide healthcare to all.

REPRESENTATIVE SULEMAN LALANI, M.D.
HOUSE DISTRICT 76



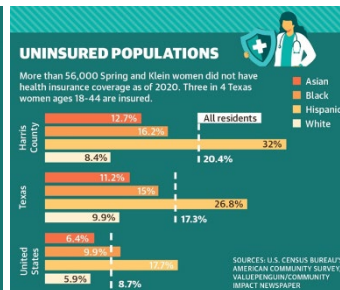
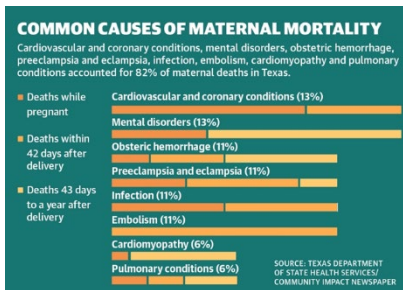
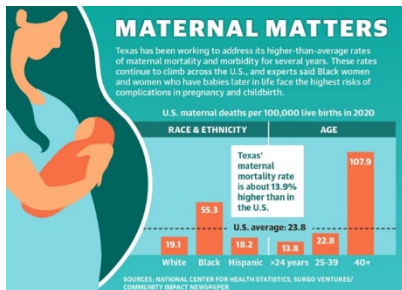
HB
12

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 76

Effective
immediately



If you want to read about any of my legislation, please go to my House [website](#).

*If this or any other legislation, issue or policy interests you, please get engaged! If you need ideas on how to get engaged, please contact us at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov. We can help!

Out and About in HD 76

Moms Demand Action Rally and Blood Drive June 3, 2023



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast District Exchange Clubs Meeting June 10, 2023



***Artificial Intelligence Briefing
sponsored by the Ismaili Council for the Southwestern USA
June 16, 2023***



***City of Sugar Land's Red, White and Boom!
July 4, 2023***



***Asia Arts Society's Young Leaders Institute
July 18, 2023***



***International Conference on Higher Education
hosted by North American University
July 18, 2023***



*NASA Day
July 22, 2023*



*SURE Program Graduation
at the University of Houston
July 29, 2023*



How to Reach Us



TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 76

Office Contacts

Jennifer Strobel
Chief of Staff
jennifer.strobel@house.texas.gov

Capitol Office Room Number
E1.512

Capitol Office Phone
(512) 463-0596

Capitol Office Email
district76.lalani@house.texas.gov

Follow us!

 @LalaniTX

 @DoctorLalani

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • phone (512) 463-0596
SULEMAN.LALANI@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV