

#12

COMPLETE

# Responses of Monica R. Alonzo, District 6

Page 1: Dallas Public Library Survey

**Q1** How often have you visited a Dallas Public Library branch within the past year? **6 or more times**

**Q2** If you have visited a DPL location, which location(s) have you visited? **Central Library, Bachman Lake, Dallas West, Hampton-Illinois, Park Forest**

**Q3** The Dallas Public Library is committed to providing clean, inviting and safe libraries for customers and staff. Do you agree that Dallas Public Library buildings are clean and inviting? **Yes**

**Q4** Libraries are an important resource for children. Through private funding, the Dallas Public Library offers FREE preschool programs, hosts the Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge, FREE SMART Summer programs, provides computer and wi-fi access. Do you support the library providing programs for our youngest citizens? **Yes**

**Q5** Libraries are also critical resources to Dallas's senior population; however, funding for senior programs is limited to private sources. Do you agree that it is important to increase public funding for senior programs at the Dallas Public Library? **Yes**

**Q6** Program funding is paid for by private funding obtained by the nonprofit Friends of the Library, not by tax dollars. The city does not pay for these library programs and services. Do you agree that some public funding should be allocated to programming? **Agree**

**Q7** Refer to the graph above - Compared to peer cities like Phoenix, San Diego, Denver & Detroit, The Dallas Public Library is one of the poorest funded library system per capita. Do you feel that Dallas deserves a better funded library system?

Yes

If yes, what are your ideas?:

By working with you to continue increasing funding yearly or every year- we must continue to advocate- we have a good relationship working together. I plan to continue with that and work by your to provide a better quality of life for all

**Q8** Following the 2008-09 financial crisis, The Dallas Public Library's budget was cut by 40 percent, which led to the libraries hours being cut dramatically and the loss of 50 percent of the staff. Budget cuts continued through 2011-12. Finally, in 2014, the City of Dallas committed to restore the library's budget. With its current operating budget, in 2018, the Dallas Public Library did some amazing things - Over 9 million people visited a Dallas Public Library location or accessed the library online Nearly 500,000 attended a program or event at one of the 29 branch locations More than 8,000,000 items circulated with an additional 4,000,000 digital items checked out 90,000 children and caregivers attended a literacy program at a library Library staff connected over 1,000 people to social services and provided over 3,200 programs for library customers experiencing homelessness Over 30,000 adults attended English Language Learning, Basic Reading, GED and citizenship classes Launched Applied English classes at 8 branches to help participants practice their English language skills while doing practical activities such as filling out standard forms, grocery shopping and banking If elected, will you commit to continuing to responsibly grow the library's operating budget?

**Q9** The Dallas Public Library's materials budget to purchase all library materials – books, media, ebooks/e-audiobooks and databases – has remained at \$4.2 millions since FY 2015. The costs of providing these materials has continued to increase and public libraries pay higher prices for ebooks and eaudiobooks than other consumers. Will you commit to support a budget that provides the library the resources it needs to meet our community's needs?

Yes

**Q10** In your opinion, what is the role of the Dallas Public Library system?

A great resource to prepare you for tomorrow. Reading is key for knowledge and the library is there for that as well as offer opportunities for our community

**Q11** Additional Comments Please share any other thoughts or information regarding your views on the Dallas Public Library system.

Thank you for your advocacy. I plan to continue working with you to not only increase funding for opportunities but to keep it going for all.

**Q12** Please provide the following information.

First Name

**Monica R.**

Last Name

**Alonzo**

Office Sought/District

**City Council District 6**