

## 2026 Library Advisory Board Members

Current members fulfilling terms:

- Sherri McCall
- Lea Reed
- Donna Asbill
- Bernadette Thompson

Recommendations to fill open positions:

- Holly Morey (renewal)
- Marsha Rakestraw (renewal)
- Dorothy Foley (renewal)
- Staci Ely (renewal)
- Michelle Graham
- Diana Bevans
- Mary Newport
- Marcia Metzner

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Bernadette Thompson (ext. 196).



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** To serve on the Library Advisory Board for Rains County Public Library, a candidate must be a resident of Rains County and be at least 18 years of age. A candidate must not have any conflict of interest that would impede his/her ability to carry out the duties written in the board by-laws. Candidates must not be delinquent in payment of any amounts due to Rains County.

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Name of Applicant: Marsha Rakestraw  
Home Address: 4184 FM 2324  
City: Emory State: TX Zip: 75440  
Email Address: mrakestraw54@yahoo.com  
Phone Number: 903-268-6307

Are you currently a resident of Rains County? yes

How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 30 years

Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

to continue support of our Library, the  
Director, & the Freedom to Read Act, the  
American Library Association & Texas Library Association

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

By deeds & actions - I am an active member of Friends of the Library for many years participating in public activities promoting our Library. I will do all in my power to help ensure ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> Library continues to meet the varied needs of our community.

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

The ability to set aside personal opinions, to listen, to respect others despite any differences.

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

As a child with physical issues the Library provided a world I was not participating in. This world beyond any walls should be available to all & meet their needs.

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

I truly respect those that think this question is necessary, but take offense to it. If you would like to discuss this with me, you've got my number.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

*M. Peltz*

Date: 12-26-2025



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**Name of Applicant:** Staci Ely

**Home Address:** \_390 N 1st St\_\_\_\_\_

**City:** Point\_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_Tx\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_75472\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_stacilynnely@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_9034740024\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently a resident of Rains County?** \_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_

**How many years have you been a resident of Rains County?** \_\_\_\_\_5 yrs

this time\_\_\_\_\_ **Are you a current member of the Rains County Library**

**Advisory Board?** Yes x

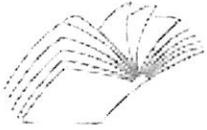
No

**Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?** With 32 years of experience as an educator and reading teacher, I am deeply committed to literacy and lifelong learning. Libraries have always been an essential partner in my work, supporting students of all ages and abilities. I would like to serve on the Library Advisory Board to share my professional perspective, support inclusive and engaging collections, and help strengthen the library's role as a vital community resource.

**Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?**

Yes

No



**RAINS COUNTY**

### **Rains County Library Advisory Board Application**

**How will you advocate for the library? As a 32-year ELA educator, I will advocate for the public library by bringing a valuable perspective that connects library services to student success and lifelong literacy. I will champion equitable access to diverse, high-quality books, support strong literacy programming for all ages, and defend intellectual freedom with professionalism and clarity. I will also promote meaningful community involvement by strengthening partnerships with schools, families, and local organizations, encouraging inclusive programs and events that reflect community needs, and ensuring the library remains a welcoming hub for learning, connection, and civic engagement for all.**

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

My skills and experience are important for this position because as an ELA educator

gives me a deep understanding of literacy development, equitable access to resources,

and the critical role libraries play in education and community life. I bring firsthand

experience working with diverse learners, collaborating with families and educators, and

supporting programs that foster reading, research, and lifelong learning. This

background allows me to contribute informed, thoughtful perspectives to board

decisions, advocate for inclusive collections and strong programming, and help

strengthen partnerships between the library, schools, and the broader community.

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

**Libraries are important because they are one of the few places where everyone is**

**welcome, valued, and given equal access to knowledge, stories, and opportunity.**

**They open doors for children discovering the joy of reading, for teens searching for**

**identity and belonging, for adults building new skills, and for seniors staying**

**connected and curious. Libraries are safe spaces that foster imagination,**

**understanding, and community, offering not just books, but hope, connection, and**

**lifelong learning. In a world that often divides, libraries quietly bring people**

**together—reminding us that access to information and stories has the power to**

**change lives.**

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

Signature of Applicant:

Staci Ely

Date:

12/29/05 OK



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**Name of Applicant:**  Mary Newport

**Home Address:**  778 RS County Road 1430

**City:**  Point  **State:**  TX  **Zip:**  75472

**Email Address:**  mary.eliz.sander@gmail.com

**Phone Number:**  214-704-7847

**Are you currently a resident of Rains County?**  Yes

**How many years have you been a resident of Rains County?**  3  years

**Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?**

No

**Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?**

I want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board because I'm passionate about learning and literacy, and I would like the opportunity to serve my community. I care about the quality of life of the people within Rains County, and I would like the opportunity to make a positive impact on their lives.

**Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?**

Yes



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

### How will you advocate for the library?

I will advocate for the library by actively supporting its interests and promoting the importance of the programs and services it offers. Additionally, I will serve as an example of how to utilize the libraries' programs and services in my personal life by attending programs such as the Children's Storytime on Wednesday mornings and using my library card to check out reading materials.

### What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?

I believe I would bring a helpful perspective to the Rains County Advisory Board. I am a mother to two young children who actively utilize the library, so I am passionate about maintaining the library's quality for other young families. In addition to bringing a mother's perspective to the board, I am a certified E-6 teacher and a former 3rd-grade reading teacher. I have seen firsthand the importance of literacy in the lives of children.

### Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.

Libraries are a vital part of every community. Libraries serve as a safe place for community members of all ages to come and access a multitude of free services. Aside from providing the public with access to reading materials, libraries offer people access to resources and support they wouldn't have otherwise.

### As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.

As a former teacher, I learned to master the skill of expressing my opinions while remaining receptive to feedback from others. Instead of being defensive when criticism was given, I learned to remain calm and encourage dialogue between myself and others. I understand that people have different opinions and feel it's important to remain open when listening to others. While I may not agree with what's being said, I will respond with respect and work towards a mutual understanding. I believe that everyone's opinion is important and should be heard.

Signature of Applicant: Mary Newport Date: 12/30/2025



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Name of Applicant: Marcia Metzner  
Home Address: 609 RS County Rd 3446  
City: Emory State: TX Zip: 75440  
Email Address: mmezner@rocketmail.com  
Phone Number: 903 312 0177  
Are you currently a resident of Rains County? YES  
How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 11 yrs  
Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Giving back to the community by assisting the library strengthens all aspects of life in Rains County.

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

I would advocate through direct interaction with members of my neighborhood group by highlighting upcoming events and soliciting volunteers. Community events are great opportunities for library outreach.

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

As a prior president of a Louisiana women's service organization, manager of a retail pharmacy, and supervisor in a hospital pharmacy I am equipped for managing people, projects, and workflow.

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

Libraries can build community cohesion through programming for life long learning. Early childhood through adult programming brings generations together to build relationships for greater understanding.

As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.

My experience within the women's organization was to collectively discuss pros and cons, and build a respectful consensus for final decisions.

Signature of Applicant:

*Marcia Metzger*

Date: 12-30-2025



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Name of Applicant: Holly Morey

Home Address: 395 RCR 3317

City: Emory State: Tx Zip: 75446

Email Address: hjmcorey@verizon.net

Phone Number: 903-473-6236

Are you currently a resident of Rains County? yes

How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 23 years

Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

We still need a number of improvements to the library and I want to continue working on unfinished projects

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

Always. The Library is more than just a source for books. It is a resource for community information and education.

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

As an avid reader I think that variety in resources is important to a public library. I worked for 30 years in customer service as well as holding offices in a number of community & charitable organizations.

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

As stated above the library is the source for community information. It also makes available computer services. It promotes a love of reading and programs for children.

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

As a member of the Board, I have always listened to all sides of an issue. I may not agree with a viewpoint, but I will respect the majority decision on any issue.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

12/11/05



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Name of Applicant: Dorothy Foley

Home Address: 8433 FM 514

City: Emory State: TX Zip: 75440

Email Address: DFoleyVOS@yahoo.com

Phone Number: 214-709-6668

Are you currently a resident of Rains County? yes

How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 29

Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Rains Co Library in my opinion is A Vital Community Asset  
AND AS SUCH THE BOARD SHOULD BE MADE UP OF CITIZENS WHO WANT  
TO MAKE SURE THE LIBRARY ASSETS ARE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ALL OF US

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

By following established Rules & Guideline of By Laws & Elected OFFICIALS of the COUNTY, Be informed in these matters & vote when the need arises

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

Single mom over 20 years Raised 2 Sons in the Dallas & Surrounding Cities - 10 years working in Dallas Radio - Accounting for Hospitals - Commercial Real Estate & Non-Profit Organizations

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

Make Resources & information Available To All Ages & Economic Situations. I like Having to Voting info. Available & Non Fiction DVD, Plus a Room for Meetings.

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

Rely on my experience in life and use By Laws & Laws which Govern our County, Common Sense.

Signature of Applicant:

*Dorothy Kelly*

Date: 12-12-25



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Name of Applicant: Michelle Graham

Home Address: 110 Reno St

City: Emory State: TX Zip: 75440

Email Address: MrsM.graham83@gmail.com

Phone Number: 903)513-91090

Are you currently a resident of Rains County? Yes

How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 15 years

Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

I want to help ensure the library remains a welcoming, inclusive and valuable resource for everyone. Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the library's role in the community.

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

I will advocate for the library by highlighting its vital role in supporting literacy, access to information, and community belonging. I will also work to ensure that the library's needs and priorities are represented. I will champion the library as an essential, welcoming space that enriches the entire community.

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

As a library assistant, I bring firsthand insight into daily operations, patron needs, and the practical challenges staff encounter. I also bring a balanced, community-minded perspective.

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

Libraries serve as a welcoming space where people of all ages can explore ideas, develop skills, and connect with resources they might not otherwise have.

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

I am able to separate my personal values from my role on the board to ensure policies and decisions reflect the needs and interests of the entire community.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

*Michelle Johnson*

Date: 12/11/2025



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Name of Applicant: DIANA BEVANS

Home Address: 256 RSCR 42101

City: EMERY State: TX Zip: 75440

Email Address: BEVANSDIANA5@GMAIL.COM

Phone Number: 661-965-6509

Are you currently a resident of Rains County? yes

How many years have you been a resident of Rains County? 19 YRS

Are you a current member of the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

Yes

No

Why do you want to serve on the Rains County Library Advisory Board?

ENCOURAGE ALL PEOPLE TO ENJOY THE LIBRARY AND HELP BRING YOUNG CHILDREN THE JOY OF READING.

Do you currently hold an active card at Rains County Public Library?

Yes

No



## Rains County Library Advisory Board Application

**How will you advocate for the library?**

SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WITH  
FUNDRAISING & BOOK SALES.

**What applicable skills, experience, and/or perspectives can you bring to the board?**

RETIRED AS A PROGRAM MANAGER AFTER 47 YEARS  
HIGH COMPUTER & ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

**Please share your opinion on the importance of libraries.**

THE INTERNET IS ENCOURAGING THE YOUNG TO  
STOP READING BOOKS AND THAT'S NOT GOOD. THEY  
NEED TO REALIZE THE JOY OF BOOKS & THE  
KNOWLEDGE.

**As a public library representing the community of Rains County, one of our main goals is to provide access to a wide range of materials, information, and ideas. Explain how you are able to express your thoughts, while remaining open and respectful of others' viewpoints.**

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO BOOKS FOR  
BOTH EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS  
PURE ENJOYMENT READING CAN BRING.  
COMPUTER ACCESS IS BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY.

Signature of Applicant: Diana Beron Date: 12/16/25