



Elena Marie Soto

November 19, 1961 - September 1, 2026

Austin, Texas

Elena Marie Soto loved a good card catalog, a Saturday dance, and the first cold plunge of spring at Barton Springs. Born in Austin in 1961, she spent three decades as a public librarian, learning the names of children who came back year after year and the books they were almost ready to try.

She played accordion with friends on back porches and kept a kitchen that smelled like cumin and coffee. Elena never confused being kind with being vague: she told the truth gently and showed up when a neighbor needed a ride, a form filled out, or a song.

Colleagues remember the quiet order of her desk and the way she saved the best stories for people who looked tired. She died in Austin in September 2026, in the city whose heat and music she had claimed as her own.

Services

A memorial hour at the branch library she loved, with music afterward. Guests may bring a favorite book to leave for the next reader.

NN-OBIT-2026-C003

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