

Illinois Library Association Secretary of State Candidates Questionnaire

Dan Brady

- **Do you have a library card and what was the reason for your last library visit?**

*I do have a library card. The last time I went was for research.*

- **What is the value of the library in 21st century Illinois communities?**

*Libraries are very important. They are a gateway to the 21st century for technology and digital learning.*

- **Given the disparity of local funding for libraries, what is the role of the Secretary of State in assuring access to electronic resources and other materials for Illinois residents?**

*As Secretary of State, I would be tasked with prioritizing grant funding for rural libraries that need internet and technology upgrades as well as structural upgrades. One example of the Secretary of State's office involvement is through the Public Library Construction Grant Program, which recently released a grant of 5.7 million dollars for the expansion of the Bloomington Illinois Library.*

- **By statute, all Illinois residents are served by public elementary, secondary, and community college school districts. Currently one million Illinois residents do not receive public library services. Would you support a similar provision to make library services available to all Illinois residents?**

*Yes.*

- **We are seeing increased numbers of challenges to library materials in Illinois and surrounding states. As state librarian, how will you support Illinois libraries and library workers' ability to develop and maintain diverse and inclusive collections and services?**

*I have always believed that local control of boards should be allowed to address these issues. The Secretary of State should only become involved if local control has an issue they cannot resolve.*