

# 100<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly

| 2017 Spring Session |

## SUPPORT STATE FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES

**APPROVE** **Fiscal 2017** state general appropriations to fully fund the Illinois Secretary of State's **2017** grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. A specific example of crucial state funding is the Illinois Talking Book program which serves over 16,000 adults and children who cannot read print due to a physical or visual limitation. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library as well as appropriations for higher education which include state university and community college academic libraries.

**APPROVE** **Fiscal 2018** state appropriations for both general revenue and Live and Learn funds to the Illinois Secretary of State for equalization and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries and library systems. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library as well as appropriations to higher education which include state university and community college academic libraries.

## ILA INITIATIVES

**SUPPORT** **Senate Bill 851 / House Bill 373!** Sponsored by **Sen. Hutchinson (D-40, Olympia Fields) and Rep. Willis (D-77, Northlake).**

This legislation is an initiative of village public libraries that will improve public disclosure of anticipated library tax levies by moving the disclosure date closer to when a levy must actually be approved. Identical legislation was approved by the House in 2016, but was not called for a final vote in the Senate.

**SUPPORT** **Bill Numbers and Sponsors to Follow.**

This proposal allows any library established under the Illinois Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act to place non-binding, public advisory referendum questions on the ballot if approved by its board of trustees and complies with Illinois Election Code requirements.

## LOCAL CONTROL

**OPPOSE** **Proposed Property Tax Freeze Legislation!**

A statewide property tax freeze totally preempts local control. Local library trustees' primary duty is to manage local revenues and expenditures. A freeze nullifies this most basic responsibility. A freeze is especially harmful when the state has failed to provide funding support for local libraries and continues to impose unfunded mandates.

**OPPOSE** Legislation which limits access to information in libraries or imposes unconstitutional burdens on intellectual freedom. Legislation mandating statewide Internet filters is an example of legislation that ILA opposes because it takes away local control. Legislation which impairs free speech or impacts the Library Confidentiality Act should also be strongly opposed.

**Strong Libraries = A Strong Illinois**



# 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress

| First Session |

## KEY ISSUES

### Calibrating Security & Privacy

Protecting patron privacy has been a core library value and practice for over a century. Every state in the nation specifically protects individuals' library borrowing records. Librarians believe that we must not and need not trade civil liberties for security and are committed to sensibly amending the PATRIOT ACT, FISA, and other key surveillance statutes and orders accordingly. Maximizing transparency and oversight are key priorities.

### Assuring Fast & Fair Internet Access

Robust and equitable public access to information is a fundamental goal of all librarians. High-speed broadband is essential to that access and full participation in the digital age. America's libraries are critical existing infrastructure essential to achieving universal broadband access, adoption, and use, particularly in rural communities. Investing in fast, fair and affordable broadband networks for libraries will help create jobs, build a skilled workforce, and bring the benefits of the Internet and e-commerce to all Americans.

### Protecting Copyrights & Enabling Innovation

Copyright is the "traffic code" for much of the information that flows through the Internet and society. Libraries respect it and spend more than \$4 billion annually for copyrighted works. As the Supreme Court has affirmed, ILA believes that "fair use" and other legal exceptions to copyright assure its consistency with the First Amendment and are vital to the health of our innovation economy, culture, and democracy.

### Maximizing Government Information Access

Librarians are dedicated to government transparency and the broadest possible public access to non-classified government information. ILA strongly supports legislation to make all non-confidential Congressional Research Service reports available online without charge, and the fastest possible free public access to scientific articles published by the recipients of federal funds.

### Helping States Leverage Federal Library Funding

Every state determines how best to use its population-based share of \$156 million in annual matching grant funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Funds enable a wide range of programs and services including: child literacy; broadband access; e-rate application; job search training; and veteran reintegration and support. ILA urges rapid reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act and the essential "Grants to States" program it contains.

## Strong Libraries = A Strong Illinois

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