

# 101<sup>st</sup> Illinois General Assembly

| 2019 Spring Session |

## SUPPORT LIBRARIES THROUGH FUNDED APPROPRIATIONS

Fully fund fiscal year 2020 state appropriations for the Illinois Secretary of State's grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library and higher education institutions including state university and community college academic libraries for the benefit of students, their families, and our communities.

## OPPOSE ADDITIONAL UNFUNDED MANDATES

Hundreds of unfunded mandates have been imposed on units of local government. Libraries are among the smallest property tax recipients, and opportunities to raise other sources of revenue to address mandate imposition are virtually non-existent. Consequently, unfunded mandates often result in library service reductions, exacerbating the strain that has been placed on our schools, parks, and other community organizations.

## OPPOSE PROPERTY TAX FREEZE

A statewide property tax freeze 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 accompanied by unfunded mandates.

## PROTECT NET NEUTRALITY

Net neutrality is the principle that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. Under this principle, ISPs should not "throttle" (restrict, impair, or degrade) network speed or traffic on the basis of content, applications, services, or mobile devices. Such interference with Internet traffic, favoring some sources and limiting others, impedes the free

flow of information and profoundly disrupts both the right of individuals to participate in public discourse, and the full functioning of a library. Illinois is one of 22 states plus the District of Columbia to have joined in a suit against the FCC over its 2017 vote to eliminate net neutrality protections. ILA affirms the importance of preservation of net neutrality and is monitoring the status of this litigation before seeking legislative action.

## ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INITIATIVES

### Refine language and make consistent for district and municipal libraries the current qualifications for serving as a library trustee

Public Act 100-1476/HB 2222 updated trustee eligibility to those who had lived in the district for at least one year, those who are not "in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the library district," and those who have not been convicted of a crime. ILA seeks first to change "payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the library district" to "payment of a property tax," primarily over concerns about breaching patron privacy. Second, we seek to have this law also apply to the Local Library Act so that municipal libraries and district libraries are treated consistently.

### Make clear libraries' eligibility for pursuing performance contracting

Currently, Chapter 50 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, dealing with local government, includes a provision in section 515/5 about cooperative purchasing that includes articulated language stating "Unit of local government" means a county, township, municipality, or park district." Since units of local government are already defined, inclusive of library districts as "special districts," in the Illinois Constitution, ILA seeks to have the language above from 50 ILCS 515/5 stricken and replaced with "In addition to the definition prescribed to it by Article VII, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, a 'unit of local government' includes a school district for the purposes of this Act.

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

| First Session |

## FUND LIBRARIES

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2018, approved in both the House and the Senate and signed by the President on December 31, 2018, is an important signal of support that will help insulate the Institute of Museum and Library Services' programs from proposed elimination or rescission in future budgets. We thank all our elected representatives who supported IMLS via this legislation. IMLS administers the Library Services and Technology Act, the only federal program that exclusively covers services and funding for libraries. The LSTA provides more than \$183 million for libraries, including \$5.5 million here in Illinois.

We ask Illinois Senators and Representatives to sign "Dear Appropriator" letters urging full funding in fiscal year 2020 for LSTA and for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant program, authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Libraries and library funding generally enjoy bicameral, bipartisan support, evidenced by how many Illinois signatures we've had on such letters in recent fiscal years; please look for the 2020 versions in March.

## OPPOSE TRANSFER OF HIRING AUTHORITY FROM THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS TO THE PRESIDENT

S.1010, the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act, transfers hiring authority for the Register of Copyright from the Librarian of Congress to a Presidential appointment with Senate confirmation. It was sponsored in the 115th Congress by Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and had small, bipartisan support among three cosponsors. The rationale for opposing this is three-fold: 1) it is unnecessary; 2) it would politicize this position; and 3) it would slow the hiring process. ILA opposes such legislation in the 116th Congress.

## SUPPORT STRENGTHENING THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

The FDLP Modernization Act, HR 5305, was sponsored by Gregg Harper (R-MS) in the 115th Congress and had bipartisan support among eight cosponsors. This act would update the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to improve public access to government information. The act would provide greater flexibility, facilitate collaboration, streamline program requirements, and allow more libraries to participate in the FDLP, making the program's services more widely available to the public. ILA supports such legislation in the 116th Congress.

**ILLINOIS  
LIBRARIES  
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