

101st Illinois General Assembly

| 2020 Spring Session |

FUND LIBRARIES

Fully fund fiscal year 2021 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. Increase the per capita and per student grant rates for public libraries and school libraries, respectively, to keep pace with increased expenses libraries will incur due to the mandated minimum wage increase.

OPPOSE ADDITIONAL UNFUNDED MANDATES

Hundreds of unfunded mandates have been imposed on units of local government, only one of which is the minimum wage increase. 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.

PRESERVE LIBRARY FUNDING SOURCES

Public libraries' primary funding source is local property taxes. 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. Attempts to reform the property tax system must protect our ability to raise local funds for local needs. A freeze is especially harmful when accompanied by unfunded mandates.



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SUPPORT CONSISTENT LIBRARY TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

In 2018, 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.

PROTECT NET NEUTRALITY

Following the FCC's lifting of regulations protecting net neutrality, legislation has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly: First, in 2018, to prevent the state from doing business with internet service providers that engaged in activities that abridge net neutrality, such as throttling content or offering faster connectivity to sites based on content or content creator; then in 2019, to allow the state to do business with such providers, as long as practices were disclosed. Neither advanced, pending resolution of a federal lawsuit brought by the ACLU, coalition partners, and several state (including Illinois) attorneys general against the FCC. The D.C. Court of Appeals ruled in 2019 that the lifting of regulations could stand, but a prohibition against states taking action was lifted. ILA supports legislation that protects net neutrality for Illinoisans.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ARE MEDIA LITERACY EXPERTS

ILA continues to work with our partner organization, the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) on an eventual goal to have a licensed school librarian in all Illinois schools. ILA and AISLE recognize this is a long-term goal. In the meantime, we support legislation introduced in spring 2019 creating a Media Literacy Task Force, and advocate for the addition of a licensed school librarian as one of the appointees.

116th U.S. Congress

| Second Session |

FUND LIBRARIES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the only federal program that exclusively covers services and funding for libraries. The LSTA provides more than \$195 million for libraries, including \$6 million here in Illinois. We urge full funding for LSTA and for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant program authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the Federal Depository Library Program in fiscal year 2021.

COPYRIGHT, LICENSING, AND COMPETITION

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible copyright policy to enable vital library services, and on fair licenses and market practices in order to provide access to digital content such as e-books. We support any necessary federal and state scrutiny of unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs. We urge the preservation of the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Modern library services depend on high-speed internet. We support continued funding for the E-rate program, reduced complexity in applying for E-rate and increased support for applicants from the Universal Service Administrative Company. ILA supports the Access Broadband Act.

Net neutrality principles are at the core of libraries' mission to provide information without artificial barriers such as throttling or speeding up access to particular websites by internet service providers. ILA supports the Save the Internet Act, and the Digital Equity Act.

2020 CENSUS

Libraries are essential, trusted partners in achieving a complete count in the 2020 Census. Libraries deliver information about the Census and host community outreach activities; provide internet access and enable respondents to complete the Census form online; serve as trusted messengers, including in hard-to-count communities; and train data users and provide access to Census statistics for businesses and community members.

**ILLINOIS
LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**