

# 102<sup>nd</sup> Illinois General Assembly

| 2021 Spring Session |

## FUND LIBRARIES

Fully fund current fiscal year 2021 appropriations for the Illinois Secretary of State's grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. Maintain funding at this level in the fiscal year 2022 budget, to enable libraries to keep pace with increased expenses they will incur due to the minimum wage increase. Preserve public libraries' primary source of revenue: local property taxes. 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.

## COVID-19 RELATED LEGISLATION

Ensure that public libraries, both district and local, are eligible for any COVID-19 relief funding measures that are enacted, such as the Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Support Program for units of local government. If and when considering legislation or guidelines that affect libraries regarding COVID-19 mitigation measures, please work with the library community to craft the most effective and appropriate language.

## 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.



Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401  
Chicago, IL 60654  
phone: 312-644-1896  
fax: 312-644-1899  
e-mail: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)  
[www.ila.org](http://www.ila.org)

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

| First 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 2022.

## 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.

## INTERNET ACCESS AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

To promote digital equity and enable modern library services, libraries in all parts of the country must be able to serve their users with fast and affordable broadband, technology access, and digital skills training. We support continued funding and improved outreach and technical assistance for the E-rate program, funding for libraries to strengthen internet and technology access and digital skills training, and the restoration of net neutrality protections.

## GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Libraries provide access to government information and services in communities across the country. We support policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services, including modernizing the Federal Depository Library Program and ensuring public access to publicly funded research and data.

**ILLINOIS  
LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM<sup>®</sup>**