



Illinois Library Association

LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE

MEETUPS

103rd Illinois General Assembly

| 2024 Spring Session |

Fund Libraries

Fully fund Fiscal Year 2025 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 throughout the year.

Raise the Current Competitive Bidding Threshold

The Illinois Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991 currently set the competitive bidding threshold at \$25,000. The association supports legislation seeking an inflationary adjustment to \$30,000 for administrative burden relief and taxpayer savings.

Amend the Acquisition of Treasurer Bonds for Libraries

Illinois libraries are required to acquire treasurer bonds at 50% of the total funds received by a library in the previous fiscal year. Other units of local government, however, are required to acquire treasurer bonds at 10% of yearly collected revenue. ILA will introduce legislation seeking parity between libraries and other governmental units to require library treasurers to hold a bond of 10% of total revenue collections from the previous fiscal year.

Equitable Access to Electronic Literary Materials Act

Restrictions placed on libraries accessing digital content have posed a challenge in acquiring and providing access to e-books, as publishers often impose restrictive licensing and contractual terms. Most publishers and aggregators force libraries to acquire e-books with licensing terms that make it impossible to meet library standard access and preservation missions. ILA is proposing legislation seeking to change this through a new state law based on consumer protection and contract law to regulate library e-books contracts with publishers.



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118th U.S. Congress

| Second Session |

Funding and Support

Dedicated library programs: Increase and maintain funding for the:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act, with priority on services and technology for underserved communities;
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy program and support for school libraries through the Department of Education;
- Improving Library and Museum Facilities proposed program or other approaches to support library renovation and construction, sustainability, and resilience; and
- National library programs, including the Library of Congress and the Federal Depository Library Program.

Library-eligible programs: Continue and enhance federal programs for which libraries are eligible recipients or partners. Recognize and support libraries' important roles in:

- Economic and workforce development, including in reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;
- K-12 and early education, including in reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act; and
- Higher education, including in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Library workers: Provide support and relief for library workers, including preserving the eligibility of library workers for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Digital Inclusion and Skills

To promote digital equity, access to technology, 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.

- E-rate: Improve outreach and technical assistance for applicants to increase library participation in the program, especially in underserved communities. Expand eligible uses.
- Digital skills and economic opportunity: Expand support for libraries to deliver digital skills training and business and workforce development resources.
- Content access and liability: Restore net neutrality protections. Preserve Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act liability protections for libraries.

Copyright, Licensing, and Competition

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible copyright policy to enable vital library services. ALA supports a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices in order to provide access to digital content such as e-books.

- E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs.
- Copyright Office: Preserve the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

Government Information and Services

Libraries provide access to government information and services in communities across the country. ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services, which includes voting.

- Federal Depository Library Program: Modernize the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Public access to research: Ensure public access to publicly-funded research and data.