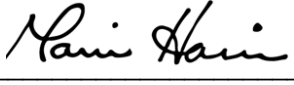


23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.270 Part B Multitype Library System Annual System Report

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Library System: **Reaching Across Illinois Library System**

Signed: 	Date: September 29, 2026
Board President	
Signed: 	Date: September 28, 2026
Executive Director	

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1.0 Narrative Report

Introduction

The narrative report below is the summary of all of the activities RAILS accomplished in FY 2026. It is organized in accordance with our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

As a library system, RAILS's highest commitment is to our member libraries and resource sharing. We seek to ensure that each library has the resources it needs to serve its users. We do that via interlibrary loan delivery, professional development, cost sharing programs, grants, connections & networking, and much more.

Some of the FY 2026 report highlights include:

- **Ensured Uninterrupted Digital Access:** Swiftly migrated the eRead Illinois program to the open-source Palace Project app following the sudden closure of primary vendor Baker & Taylor, ensuring continuous library access for residents across the state.
- **Expanded Digital Literacy in Cook County:** Launched the Cook County Digital Navigator Network program, leveraging grant funding from the Cook County Equity Fund to help bridge the digital divide in suburban Cook County libraries.
- **Supported Library System Independence:** Successfully assisted with the completion of the Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) Independence Project in January 2026, strengthening operational self-sufficiency within the regional system.
- **Invested in Library Leadership:** Launched *RAILS Catalyst*, a high-impact leadership development program designed to build core management and strategic capabilities among library leaders across RAILS's service area.
- **Advanced Data-Driven Advocacy:** Hosted the inaugural *Libraries Count* pre-conference event, training library staff and trustees on data collection methods to better demonstrate local ROI to community stakeholders.
- **Championed Equitable E-Content Access:** Partnered with statewide allies to produce and distribute advocacy materials highlighting the critical role and current challenges of eBooks and eAudiobooks in modern public library service.
- **Earned Statewide Recognition for Advocacy:** Awarded the 2026 American Marketing Association (Chicago Chapter) Palmer Marketing Award for an advocacy campaign that helped local libraries advocate for Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding.
- **Enhanced Resource Sharing Visibility:** Launched the updated interactive RAILS Resource Sharing Map, providing member libraries and stakeholders real-time visibility into library resource sharing across the state.

Although our work often takes place behind the scenes, everything we do is designed to elevate the visibility and value of local libraries. As libraries navigate unprecedented funding and operational challenges, RAILS provides the strategic support necessary to safeguard and strengthen library services across Illinois.

Over the past two fiscal years, RAILS has taken a lead role in addressing the core funding challenges facing our libraries. In FY 2025, RAILS focused heavily on helping our libraries demonstrate the essential value of federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding.

In FY 2026, we equipped member libraries with the tools and data needed to explain the soaring market costs of e-book and digital audiobook access to their communities.

As these signature issues impact library operations statewide, RAILS continues to step forward in direct response to member needs—providing proactive leadership today and in the years ahead.

Strategic Plan Goal One: *RAILS provides leadership in ensuring sustainable, equitable resource sharing for all member libraries.*

Objectives	Planned Activities
Enhance the sharing of knowledge and best practices through member networking and communications between all types of libraries	Planned/scheduled virtual and in-person networking opportunities for staff at all levels at all sizes and types of libraries, including: • Illinois College, RAILS Member Meetup • Churchill Elementary School in Homewood, IL, RAILS Member Meetup • Black Hawk College, RAILS Member Meetup • Fountaindale Public Library, RAILS Member Meetup • Ela Area Public Library, RAILS Member Meetup • “Resource Sharing Map,” RAILS Showcase • “Makerspaces and Digital Scholarship,” RAILS Online Roundtable • “Libraries Supporting Reentry,” RAILS Online Roundtable • “Human Library,” RAILS Online Roundtable • “Library Demographics,” RAILS Online Roundtable Worked with statewide partners, including AISLE, IACRL, IHLS, ILA, and others to plan additional networking opportunities for staff from different types of libraries and for trustees from public libraries. (See examples throughout this document.) Regularly publicized networking opportunities offered by these organizations Continued updating site visit map to help member libraries visualize the connections that RAILS creates through one-on-one meetings Continued offering online networking event to encourage academic and school library workers to meet and exchange ideas Continued coordinating RAILS Convenors Club, which brings together networking group organizers to discuss best practices

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Publicized existing RAILS networking groups and the benefits of belonging to a networking group to all levels of staff at all types and sizes of libraries Assisted in the creation of new RAILS networking groups, including: • Queer Librarians Networking Group • Civic Empowerment Networking Group Continued to build and strengthen relationships and engagement with RAILS networking groups. Visited networking group meetings to share the latest RAILS news and gather feedback on RAILS programs/services Provided subsidized Zoom licenses to 26 networking groups Encouraged use of RAILS mailing lists, including lists geared toward different library types and sizes, and staff at all levels. Established new lists as needed
Leverage economies of scale to provide greater purchasing power for member libraries so they can offer more resources to their users than libraries would be able to afford on their own	Continued to expand the RAILS discount and group purchase program. Gathered input from members at all types and sizes of libraries on desired discounts/group purchases and acted on input as possible. RAILS members saved over \$2 million through the program in FY 2026 Offers in FY 2026 included: • Auto-Graphics MONTAGE, digital collections storage • Auto-Graphics VERSO, integrated library system • BiblioBoard Creator • Blinkist, key insights from popular books • BookBrowse for Libraries, readers' advisory resource • Brainfuse CollegeNow, college application process tools • Brainfuse HelpNow, tutoring and study suite • Brainfuse JobNow, job search services and tools • Brainfuse VetNow, benefits, career and academic assistance • <i>Chicago Tribune</i> Digital Access • Comics Plus, digital comics, graphic novels, manga collection • Communico events planning and room booking tools • Creativebug, craft education hub • Credo Reference, online reference service • EBSCO K-12 resources • EBSCO public library resources • Era Books Online, phonics, readers, picture books, activities • Fiero Code, coding education • Gale Early Literacy database package • Gale Presents: Udemy, online adult learning tool • Hiveclass, digital youth sports training encyclopedia

Objectives	Planned Activities
	• InfoBase databases • InfoBase streaming collections for all ages • JSTOR/ARTSTOR, Full-text articles and image collections • Library Journal Professional Development Courses • LOTE4Kids, digital picture books in world languages • Playgarden, interactive online preschool • PressReader for Libraries, newspaper/magazine access • ProQuest O'Reilly, online learning, e-books and videos • Public Web Browser • RDA Toolkit group purchase • READsquared, online tool for managing reading programs • SizeUp, Inc., small business advisor • Storykin, creative writing education • Swank annual public performance license • Tumblebooks, e-books and audiobooks • WhoFi, calendar and data analytics platform Continued expansion of Consortia Manager platform to manage and optimize RAILS group purchases & discounts and streamline work processes Networked with group purchasing managers statewide and nationwide to explore new opportunities and discuss challenges related to consortial group purchasing Created new public and K-12 deals-specific email lists to help communicate to libraries about the availability of deals and upcoming vendor demos Online High School Diploma Programs Continued partnership with the Career Online High School (COHS) and Gale Excel Adult High School platforms to enable libraries to offer adult learners accredited high school diplomas and career certificates Continued to meet with COHS/Excel library staff participants to develop and promote the program Partnered with the Illinois Literacy Foundation in support of the Alternative Methods of Credentialing (AMOC) Program for adult learners to secure a high school diploma. The AMOC pilot program launch is planned for Fall 2026
RAILS will continue to seek greater efficiencies, innovations, and	Worked with RAILS members of all sizes and types to determine the most appropriate delivery method to meet their needs

Objectives	Planned Activities
enhancements to delivery services.	Consulted with members on delivery issues/concerns on an ongoing basis. Widely promoted the use of the delivery help desk ticketing system Promoted the need to complete quarterly delivery volume counts to RAILS members. Consulted with libraries on an individual basis as needed. Examined count data to help inform potential changes to existing delivery routes and necessary frequency changes Continued utilizing and adding features to the iPad app for delivery drivers' data collection. This makes aggregation and real-time data more manageable Worked closely with IHLS and CARLI to announce a change in the evening delivery shuttle from evening to morning Continued providing high-quality statewide delivery services to CARLI via ILDS (Illinois Library Delivery Service) Continue to meet quarterly with IHLS, ISL, and CARLI, where we share ideas, brainstorm issues and provide updates on completed projects. CPL has recently joined the group
Work collaboratively with members, the Illinois Heartland Library System, and the Illinois State Library to identify and support appropriate and affordable shared catalog solutions and expand resource sharing to all libraries and residents	General Continued to work with the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee to investigate and recommend ways to improve and increase resource sharing in Illinois Co-presented “A Million Illinoisans Without Libraries? Let's Change That!” with member library representatives at the 2025 ILA Annual Conference, highlighting collaborative efforts to eliminate service gaps and extend library access statewide Collaborated with AISLE, CARLI, CPLS, IACRL, IHLS, ILA, ISL, and other stakeholders to expand resource sharing as referenced throughout this document Collaborated with and supported the work of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC), including attendance at the annual conference in Orlando and co-presenting with a panel: "Stronger Together: Designing Professional Development That Crosses Consortial Boundaries"

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Continued gathering data for the RAILCAR project, which aggregates an expanded dataset related to LLSAP services and activities across RAILS. Maintained two publicly available dashboards, and began expanded analysis after completing three full years of data collection Promote/Support LLSAP Membership Helped with the transition of RSA staff from RAILS employment to direct employment by the RSA organization effective January 1, 2026, and from RAILS IT services and support effective July 1, 2026. RAILS assisted with areas such as payroll, benefits, policies, staff IT equipment and services, and other operational systems. The RAILS Board of Directors also approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RSA at the January 2026 board meeting for the transfer of two passenger vehicles Continued to provide financial support to six RAILS LLSAPs: CCS, Pinnacle, PrairieCat, Rock River Library Consortium, RSA, and SWAN via the annual LLSAP Support Grant process. As components of their respective grant awards, RSA received financial services and the use of RAILS' East Peoria facility, and PrairieCat received financial services Offered Catalog Membership Grants to encourage libraries to join a RAILS LLSAP and to make LLSAP membership more affordable. Awarded \$106,940 in grants to three libraries: • Wauconda Area Public Library (CCS) • Rolling Meadows Library (CCS) • Spoon River Valley CUSD #4 (RSA) Launched a new spreadsheet-based budget template to improve the Catalog Membership Grant application and review processes Provided consultation to applicants and grantees throughout the process and monitored quarterly reporting for eight awardees whose 18-month grant terms were active during FY2026 Promoted the value of consortium membership to all types and sizes of RAILS libraries via RAILS communication tools, committee work, and member encounters Consulted with individual RAILS member libraries on LLSAP membership, Catalog Membership Grants, and automation-related tasks and responsibilities Continued to work with RAILS Consortia Committee to investigate and recommend ways to improve and increase consortial services in Illinois,

Objectives	Planned Activities
	including the potential use of ILS data as a component of the periodic manual delivery count Expand and Promote Find More Illinois (FMI) Widely promoted benefits of joining FMI: • Featured regular articles about FMI in the weekly <i>RAILS E-News</i> • Worked with RAILS Communications and vendor on producing a new logo which will launch in September 2026 • Targeted academic libraries with lender-only program that allows libraries to share their collections with a wider community • Met individually with interested libraries for customized demos and discussions • Direct outreach to libraries that had previously requested quotes Onboarded 10 new libraries to FMI in FY 2026, including • 1 public library • 1 school library • 8 academic libraries Onboarding includes technical setup, workflow consulting, and library staff training. There were 95 FMI participating libraries by the end of FY 2026 Added Northern Illinois University as a new member which brought more than 2 million items to the FMI collection Provided ongoing training, consulting, and technical support to FMI libraries and worked with vendor to resolve support issues and advocate for software enhancements Continued to offer IHLS the opportunity to participate in FMI Support High-Quality Cataloging Continued offering iCAMP mentoring program in collaboration with IHLS/CMC. In FY 2026, there were 63 total participants including 24 mentors and 39 mentees Four cataloging training sessions were conducted, totaling 37 hours of instruction, on the following topics: • Authorities & Authority Control • The New RDA: What's New? What's Different?

Objectives	Planned Activities
	• Cataloging Monographs Using RDA • MARC 21 Standard: An Introduction Offered RDA Toolkit group purchase and WebDewey purchase as referenced above Continued offering World Language Cataloging Service as detailed below Provided expert consulting to RAILS member library staff on cataloging matters Publicized IHLS Cataloging Maintenance Center (CMC) programs via regular articles in the <i>RAILS E-News</i> Cataloging Services Manager served as chair of the ALA Core Cataloging Norms Interest Group and co-chair of ALA Core Cataloging Competencies and Education Cataloging Services Manager contributed as a member of the Board of Reviewers for Open Rules of Cataloging Cataloging Services Manager was a member of South Asia SACO Funnel Continued to serve on the Accessibility and Disability Working Group of the DEI in Metadata networking group, and maintain a presence in many networking groups and LLSAP committees eRead Illinois/The Palace Project Due to the abrupt closure of Baker & Taylor transitioned all eRead Illinois libraries from the Boundless app to The Palace Project app, managed by Lyris. This transition included: • Working directly with staff at Lyris to safely manage data and transition to new platform • Offering regular The Palace Project training sessions for eRead Illinois members • Communicating directly with IHLS, CARLI, LLSAP partners, and other stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition • Communicating directly with member libraries to ensure that they were abreast of developments and had everything they needed • Developing brand-new marketing materials for libraries including posters, social media graphics, sample messaging, and image captions

Objectives	Planned Activities
	• Worked extensively with the Palace team on platform development, including web-based access and K-12 requirements for scoping, authentication, and student data privacy for the 550 eRead Illinois school library buildings Announced a \$150k content boost for eRead Illinois in August 2025. These funds were used to purchase additional e-books and audiobooks Recruited RAILS libraries and IHLS non-SHARE libraries to join eRead Illinois and The Palace Project. Supported training and marketing needs of participants Updated the eRead Illinois membership dashboard to improve efficiency and record keeping during the sign up, renewal, and onboarding processes Evaluated eRead Illinois content to ensure that it continued to meet member needs: • Continued to add additional content for K-12 students • Continued to seek input from eRead participants on the collection and implemented suggestions as possible • Explored and purchased new and favorable licensing models offered through the Palace Marketplace Evaluated e-content ordering procedures with the Palace Marketplace team to improve efficiency and available content Networked with e-content managers statewide and nationwide to stay abreast of new developments and initiatives Inkie.org & Inkie.org Library Continued to partner with BiblioLabs to offer the Inkie.org Library to support self-publishing, Illinois authors, and Illinois e-content Publicized Inkie.org Library resources as being free (courtesy of RAILS) to all Illinois libraries and all Illinois residents, including those not served by a public library Integrated all of Inkie.org Library resources into The Palace Project, which resulted in checkouts of more than 2,000 titles via The Palace Project platform Purchased perpetual licenses for over 300 Arcadia Publishing & The History Press e-book titles highlighting Illinois history

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Continued offering group purchase pricing on BiblioBoard products for self-published authors Explore More Illinois (EMI) 471 libraries and 75 attractions participated in Explore More Illinois Continued to seek new ways to promote and expand the program Continued to work with IHLS to recruit IHLS libraries and set them up in the program Offered new America250 marketing materials for member libraries Continued to expand the number and types of participating attractions, and added 10 new attractions in FY26 Worked with vendor to develop platform enhancements and networked with ePass (EMI's software) administrators nationwide to explore new opportunities and solutions Other E-Resources Initiatives Supported the ISL and RAILS members with messaging about Illinois Reliable Information Sources (IRIS) database program Continued to develop RAILS Vendor Privacy Policies and VPAT (Vendor Product Accessibility Template) web pages with links to policies and VPATs for third-party vendors providing e-resources to public libraries Supported additional efforts related to web accessibility including the development of a Digital Accessibility pulse page for the RAILS website, provided guidance from legal regarding discrimination complaints related to web accessibility, and the availability of several CE events focused on best practices in accessibility

Strategic Plan Goal Two: *RAILS models best practices in equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion.*

Objectives	Planned Activities
RAILS will provide leadership in developing and providing resources that will support member libraries' efforts to provide	Continued offering "Social Justice for Libraries" asynchronous course available through Freedom Lifted to deliver EDIA training to member libraries

Objectives	Planned Activities
equitable, diverse, and inclusive services.	Offered EDIA-related CE, including: • "Building Stronger Multi-Generational Teams in Your Library" • "Effectively Evaluating and Sharing Library Accessibility" • "Document Accessibility Essentials: A Step-by-Step Guide from Word to PDF" • "LGBTQ+ Inclusive Schools & Libraries" • "Practical Tips for Improved Digital Accessibility" • "Community as Resistance: Building Courage in Uncertain Times" • "ADA Title II Compliance for Digital Resources" Continued offering and publicizing the World Language Cataloging Service statewide. Continued seeking grant funds from ISL to fund the program. In FY 2026, 1,120 total catalog records were created. The program was used by 62 multitype libraries. There were 18 languages represented Diversity was one of several criteria weighted in the evaluation process of applicants for RAILS Catalyst to ensure a cohort that represents a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives within RAILS member libraries Recruited attractions for Explore More Illinois of interest to an ethnically, geographically, and culturally diverse audience Included an EDIA category in RAILS Academy with access to 46 tutorials on EDIA topics such as accessibility, inclusive cataloging, neurodivergence, curating diverse voices in collections, supporting transgender patrons and staff, and serving LGBTQIA+ youth Offered discounts to help libraries with EDIA efforts as noted above, including: • LOTE Online for Kids, digital picture books in world languages • EBSCO Core Collection en Espanol collection development resource • Infobase World Cinema Collection • PressReader for Libraries, access to newspapers/magazines from over 120 countries Provided/promoted opportunities for members from all types and sizes of libraries to share best practices and collaborate on EDIA-related challenges through the RAILS EDI mailing list, EDIA Pulse Page, and other activities

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Continued the RAILS Digital Accessibility team to help educate staff on the ways to make content more digitally accessible and to create a framework for creating accessibility expectations Promoted and provided administrative support as applicable for RAILS EDIA-related networking groups, including the Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color Group and their mentor program; the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Metadata Group; and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team in Youth Services Included EDI elements in RAILS' My Library Is... grant to encourage applicants to provide equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessibility programs/services for their community of users Continued membership in the Black Metropolis Research Consortium, a Chicago-based membership association whose mission is to connect all who seek to document, share, understand, and preserve Black experiences Continued supporting publicly available dashboards to share useful library data from IPLAR and other sources to support library decision makers and their advocacy efforts
Examine all aspects of RAILS policies, procedures, and core services through an equity lens and make needed improvements	Continued work of the RAILS Climate Team to identify and implement internal best practices and initiatives for staff Continued to provide editing tools on the RAILS website to monitor compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Followed Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) when designing, formatting, and posting content to RAILS social media platforms. Paid careful attention to color contrast; avoided excessive flashings, strobing, and decorative fonts; used shortened URLs and CamelCase hashtags; included alternative text on all graphics and accurately captioned all videos with high-contrast text
Work with RAILS members of all types to identify and implement ways to diversify library governing bodies and staff to increase representation and better reflect the communities they serve	Continued to work with RAILS Board Policy Committee to examine RAILS Board election policies and procedures to attract a more diverse board • Further enhanced board candidate application form to encourage diverse applicants • Continued offering video candidate statements so that candidates could have the opportunity to share more about their experience and perspective

Objectives	Planned Activities
	- Created RAILS election guide which helps explain the process of running and voting in the RAILS election - Encouraged members to vote with EDIA principles in mind. Sent information on board election to all RAILS library agency directors via delivery service or U.S. mail to encourage more multitype library voting

Strategic Plan Goal Three: *RAILS assists member libraries in preparing for the future.*

Objectives	Planned Activities
Leveraging RAILS' power and influence in the Illinois library community, work collaboratively for additional funding for all types of libraries to ensure that libraries have the staffing, technology, and infrastructure needed to offer essential and cutting-edge services to their communities	Published member-facing annual report. This document gave a high-level overview of RAILS' 2025 accomplishments. It was distributed virtually to all libraries Provided CE/consulting to help libraries with fundraising, advocacy, and preparing for the future, including: "Using Storytelling for Advocacy: A Guide for School Librarians" "Understanding Personal Property Replacement Tax" "LACONI Recharge and RAILS Presents: I Found a Grant. Now What?" "From Startups to Libraries: Experimentation as a Catalyst for Change" "Reimagining Library Spaces on a Budget" "Social Media and Your Job: Rights, Risks, and Responsibilities" "Developing AI Policies & Principles with Dr. Brandy McNeil" Continued to schedule regular meetings with AISLE, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), IHLS, ILA, and ISBE reps to discuss collaborative projects to help school libraries deal with funding challenges. (See also information about RAILS' SLATE project below) Publicized FY 2026 ISL grant opportunities, including the Live and Learn Construction Grant, Public Library Per Capita & Equalization Grant, and the School District Library Grant Program. Encouraged members to apply RAILS Executive Director participated in the 2026 American Library Association (ALA) National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. Publicized a wide variety of additional grant and scholarship opportunities from AISLE, ALA, ILA, and other library-related organizations

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Participated in a wide variety of efforts to help advocate for continued/increased funding for all types of libraries, including: • ILA Legislative Meetups, both attending and collating/contributing stories from the My Library Is... website blog demonstrating the value of libraries • Responding to ALA calls to actions • Continuing to work with ILA Public Policy Committee, ILA Advocacy Committee, and ISLAC to discuss and promote legislation of importance to libraries Publicized opportunities for staff from member libraries to advocate for continued/increased funding for libraries as appropriate, including: • Encouraging members to attend ILA Legislative Meetups • Encouraging members to respond to ALA calls to action • Encouraging library staff to use talking points and other resources on the My Library Is... website Worked with AISLE, CARLI, IHLS, and ILA to develop joint statement on changes to federal funding for libraries Awarded 2026 American Marketing Association Chicago Chapter Palmer Marketing Award for work on helping libraries advocate for IMLS funding Kept RAILS members informed of other important legislative developments affecting libraries via regular articles in the <i>RAILS E-News</i> and other communications Worked with RAILS Board Advocacy Committee to educate the board about issues affecting RAILS and libraries that required their advocacy efforts
Help member libraries of all types and sizes demonstrate their value to their different stakeholders	My Library Is... (MLI) Initiative Offered My Library Is... Grants to all types of libraries. These grants give libraries a chance to receiving funding for projects that help the library tell its story. Awarded \$104,874.34 in grants to 26 projects Offered CE to help members promote their value, including: • "Getting the Most out of Canva Pro" • "Building a Strong Library Volunteer Program" • "Partnerships for the People and Their Libraries" • "Meeting People Where They Are: Human-Centered Service In Today's Libraries"

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Developed new series of blog posts on how libraries developed their logos called Library Logo Breakdown Developed new series of blog posts on stories related to RAILS delivery drivers called Delivery Diaries Continued to offer IHLS the opportunity to participate in the MLI initiative Began to make plans to wind down the MLI initiative. RAILS remains committed to the MLI initiative theme of helping libraries tell their story
Professional development and member engagement efforts are future-focused, crossing library types and specific to individual library type needs	Provided CE/consulting on general resource sharing issues identified in the administrative rules, including interlibrary loan, the ILLNET Interlibrary Loan Code, nonresident service, the RAILS Resource Sharing Policy, etc. Provided information and training resources related to these topics on the RAILS website Provided CE/consulting on library advocacy, management and practice, and other core service areas identified in the administrative rules as referenced in this document Provided CE/consulting to help libraries meet per capita grant requirements and standards for their type of library Continued to gather member input on CE needs from all sizes and types of RAILS libraries and implemented training to meet those needs Identified/monitored issues, trends, and challenges affecting libraries of all types and sizes and provided CE/consulting opportunities to help libraries respond to these issues and challenges, including: - Continued working with AISLE, CARLI, IHLS, and ILA on the Unite Against Book Bans Regional Response Team to help libraries dealing with materials challenges In 2025, the Unite Against Book Bans Regional Response Team was awarded the ILA Intellectual Freedom Award for their work to connect, equip, and mobilize the public to advocate for the right to read Offered tech related webinars including: "Teaching Tech Skills Without a Computer Lab" "Generative AI in Libraries: Ethical Dilemmas and Opportunities" "RAILS Learning Lab: Training Patrons to Be Digitally Resilient" "Generative AI and the Library Collection"

Objectives	Planned Activities
	• "Developing AI Policies & Principles with Dr. Brandy McNeil" • "Medium- & Long-Term Risks of AI" • "High-Risk AI: AGI, Extreme-Risk Communication & Workshop Delivery" • "Creating a Learning Culture Around Technology in Libraries" • "Teaching Patrons Digital Resilience" Continued to develop Library Pulse pages on the RAILS website to help members respond to current issues, challenges, and trends Worked with legal partners at Ancel Glink to provide guidance and support for libraries receiving large-scale FOIA requests Continued to offer CE Event Grants to help libraries, networking groups, and library consortia plan/offer training events of interest to library staff. Awarded total of 12 grants with a total funded of \$21,150 in FY 2026 Continued to offer professional development hours via the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Worked with statewide partners to further develop Directors University, the statewide training initiative for new public library directors. Publicized widely Launched DU on Demand. These are on-demand videos that teach foundational skills for Illinois public library directors. These videos can be accessed at any time and include a wide variety of topics such as facilities, succession planning, safety & security, and creating stronger relationships with your board Launched RAILS Catalyst, a modern leadership development program that helps libraries' current and future leaders to drive progress, manage change with empathy, and solve problems that move their communities forward. 48 people participated in the program which spanned eight months In partnership with IHLS and ILA, once again offered Directors University Advanced (formerly Directors University 2.0). This is the continuation of the successful Directors University wherein directors dive deeper into topics. 26 RAILS library directors participated Launched RAILS Academy, a new online learning platform designed to support the professional development of staff at RAILS member libraries. Powered by Niche Academy, RAILS Academy provides free, on-demand access to hundreds of tutorials on topics ranging from the

Objectives	Planned Activities
	ethics of artificial intelligence to youth readers’ advisory, customer service, intellectual freedom, and technology Continued partnership with HR Source to provide CE and discounted membership. Publicized widely Continued partnership with Ancel Glink to offer statewide FOIA/OMA hotline. Publicized widely Trustee Training Continued partnership with United for Libraries to provide statewide, online, on-demand trustee training through their “Short Takes for Trustee” series. Publicized training widely Offered "Trustee Training: Robert's Rules of Order" Consulted with/attended library board meetings as appropriate to help boards meet legal requirements and to develop leadership skills Continued to promote the iLead trustee learning portal that is available statewide. Promoted training events connected to this platform

Strategic Plan Goal Four: *RAILS leads alongside member libraries to develop and strengthen the Illinois library community and expand services to all.*

Objectives	Planned Activities
RAILS will continue to strengthen collaborative relationships with partner library organizations, including the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, the Chicago Public Library, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, the Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries, the Illinois Heartland Library System, the Illinois Library Association, and the Illinois State Library.	L2 (Library Directory and Learning Calendar) Continued to provide statewide leadership for L2 • Hosted, maintained, and routinely updated the L2 software • Developed additional features and improvements in response to user feedback, including refinements to administrative functions, improvements to the calendar and directory, automated email reminders, and preparatory work required for a major version update to the Drupal software • Provided ongoing user help and support, including hosting and maintaining a support ticket system used by RAILS and IHLS • Continued to contract with Aten Design Group for L2 support and development • Asked ISL to continue to provide additional grant funding to support L2 • Provided a robust API and custom Drupal modules that allow IHLS and LLSAPs to pull library and event data from L2 into their own websites

Objectives	Planned Activities
	- Continued to support annual certification for all member agencies of Illinois library systems through L2 (see also next section) - Continued to ensure the accuracy and currency of directory data from external sources such as IPLAR and ISBE - Launched new initiative to help remind library staff to update their L2 information. The initiative included a contest, downloadable documents such as handouts and posters Continued working with statewide L2 Governing Group (L2G2) on development priorities, long-term goals for L2, implementation of major new projects, and quality assurance testing for new features. Continued to implement a structured process for the ongoing creation, review, and maintenance of L2 user documentation, in collaboration with L2G2 members and additional staff from RAILS and IHLS Continued to participate in the Intercept open source software (which the L2 platform uses) community, including contributing our customizations back to the source software for broader use whenever possible Certification Worked with ISL, IHLS, and other partners to improve and enhance the annual certification process Worked with RAILS members to ensure that they completed the certification process Other Collaborative Initiatives RAILS' Executive Director is a voting member the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) RAILS' Executive Director meets regularly with ISL Director to discuss ongoing and upcoming issues for RAILS and RAILS member libraries RAILS' Executive Director continued regular meetings with the Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library to discuss collaboration possibilities The RAILS Board of Directors voted to adopt Free Speech Needs Free Libraries: A Joint Statement of CARLI, Orbis Cascade Alliance, and PALCI RAILS' Executive Director met regularly with IHLS Executive Director and CARLI Senior Director to discuss statewide electronic resources

Objectives	Planned Activities
	project, ILDS contract, ICOLC conference collaborations, and other possibilities for collaboration RAILS' Executive Director serves on the Advisory Board for Dominican University's School of Information Studies Worked together with the Illinois Heartland Library System to host Libraries + Education: Creating Community Through Collaboration. Two online sessions were held where superintendents, district administrators, and school board members could learn more about partnering with the state's regional library systems to foster education and impact student achievement Additional continuing education collaborations with the Illinois Heartland Library System included workshops on Document Accessibility Essentials, Narcan Administration, and a three-part leadership series Collaborated with the Library Administrators Council of Northern Illinois (LACONI) included continuing education events on grant management and using AI. CE & Consulting Specialist Margae Schmidt is the LACONI Technology Section Chair and LACONI Governing Board Secretary Continued to schedule regular meetings with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, and ISL to discuss collaborative projects related to school libraries as referenced above Director of Consulting & Continuing Education Kate Niehoff attends monthly COSLA CE meetings to discuss library professional development initiatives with state library continuing education coordinators from across the country With AISLE, IHLS, ILA, and ISL hosted the 2025 Illinois School Library Workers Symposium, a one-day online event for school library workers with no formal library education. This event continues to grow and attract more participation from libraries. In FY 2026, over 190 attendees participated in 15 sessions RAILS' Director of Marketing & Communications served on the Special Libraries Association (SLA) national board. Although SLA is in the process of merging with the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T), the board continued to meet in FY 2026 CE & Consulting Specialist Diana Rusch is Chair of ALA's Online Learning Roundtable, and a member of the ILA Reporter Committee

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Continued to serve as sponsor for library-related conferences as possible, including conferences aimed at libraries of all types and different staff levels Collaborated with AISLE, IHLS, and ILA to host an exhibit booth at the 2025 Illinois Association of School Boards conference in Chicago. This offers RAILS an opportunity to talk to school superintendents, administrators, and trustees Hosted Libraries Count data pre-conference as a part of ILA 2025 in collaboration with ILA. The event offered hands-on workshop style sessions for participants to gain in-depth knowledge of data best practices in a variety of areas including data management, artificial intelligence, data cleaning, analysis, and visualization In collaboration with the Illinois State Library, Illinois Library Association, and Illinois Heartland Library System, coordinated and delivered Directors University and Directors University Advanced. RAILS Executive Director serves as Ex Officio on the Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee RAILS Executive Director serves as treasurer for the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) RAILS joined the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) as an affiliate member RAILS joined the Schools, Health, and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) coalition, and subsequently worked with the Oak Park Public Library to arrange a visit and tour for SHLB and RAILS staff RAILS Executive Director served as an advisor for the Libraries as Partners IMLS grant for Emergency Management in libraries (University of Illinois Fire Service Institute) RAILS Director of Technology Services served on Public Library Association's Digital Literacy Advisory Group as well as several units of ALA's Core division (Strategic Plan Task Force member, Core Forum Conference Planning Committee member, and Technology Section Past-Chair) RAILS Director of Technology Services continued to lead our collaboration with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's (UIUC) iSchool and its Digital Equity Action Research (DEAR) Lab, investigating the digital navigator capacity of Illinois libraries. Co-presented about

Objectives	Planned Activities
	our collaboration at UIUC's Public Engagement Summit with Dr. Colin Rhinesmith and iSchool graduate students In collaboration with Cook County Digital Equity, launched the Cook County Digital Navigator Network program with funding from the Cook County Equity Fund. The program intends to create stronger connections among public libraries and County government and support libraries' capacity to meet their communities' needs for equitable access to technology equipment, internet, digital skills, and one-on-one assistance. Led by RAILS Director of Technology Services, we established a Guiding Team of library staff, held four listening sessions across Cook County, designed branded materials for program communications, and developed and launched a mini-pilot grant offering that distributed \$62,000 to 24 libraries. The project team is currently planning for expanded activities in FY 2027 RAILS Director of Technology Services serves as Chair of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Broadband Advisory Council, in the seat representing Illinois libraries RAILS joined GMIS Illinois, an association of local government information technology professionals dedicated to sharing and learning from each other
RAILS will continually seek to understand member perceptions of inequities in system services to better support academic, school, and specialized libraries, as well as public libraries of all sizes.	School Library Data Project Continued to work with statewide partners to gather data on Illinois school libraries to get a better picture of school library needs in Illinois and how we might collaboratively address those needs Began working with library partners outside of Illinois to share and discuss SLATE and school library data collection efforts in other states Continued to develop the SLATE School Library Census to gather data about library staff, library collections, and library finances and encourage participation from more libraries Conducted a survey of RAILS community college members to better understand their needs, outreach, and service model
Continuously evaluate RAILS programs and services to ensure that they are having an impact and are helping to create the	Continued to maintain the RAILS Resource Sharing Map, a powerful tool designed to help libraries explore, analyze, and advocate for libraries across Illinois. Built on the advanced ArcGIS software platform, this updated map is now publicly available and offers more features and flexibility than ever before

Objectives	Planned Activities
best possible future for all member libraries	Launched a popular new “Anatomy of a Public Library” demographic data analysis and peer library comparison dashboard developed by the RAILS Data Intern Continued to solicit member feedback via RAILS communication tools, surveys, and member encounters. Implemented changes/additions to RAILS programs/services based on member input as appropriate Monitor usage data in dashboards to assess performance of programs and services such as Continuing Education, Explore More Illinois, eRead, and the RAILS website among others Updated RAILS grant rubrics as necessary to ensure goals are being met related to performance, and diversity and equity measures (See other sections of this document for plans to gather and respond to member feedback on specific RAILS programs/services)
Collaborate with the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Heartland Library System, and other partners to develop a plan and timeline for achieving universal service	Continued to work with the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee to find and implement solutions to challenges related to the unserved in Illinois Worked with Resource Sharing Committee to increase awareness within the library community of the significant number of unserved residents in Illinois. The group worked on advocacy and support for shared electronic resources and development of Find More Illinois Publicized requirement for library boards to vote annually on participation in the nonresident program and for members to update their participation information via L2. Publicized the names of participating/nonparticipating libraries and share with the Illinois State Library per our statutory requirement

Other Administrative Activities

The following section details FY 2025 activities to meet statutory priorities for Illinois library systems not included in the sections above.

Objectives	Planned Activities
Engage and communicate with members and potential members from all types of libraries throughout the RAILS area to ensure they are aware of system programs/ services of benefit to them and to better understand, anticipate, and meet their needs	Member Recruitment Engaged with libraries of all types that expressed an interest in RAILS membership Visited potential members to ensure they meet membership criteria Worked with RAILS Board on new member recommendations for approval by ISL General Member Communication/Engagement Promoted available programs/services via RAILS communication tools and member encounters, including: • RAILS website • Weekly <i>RAILS E-News</i> • Visiting as many members as possible, either virtually or in person • Producing new RAILS services/program brochure to distribute to all interested member library staff and public library trustees • Scheduling RAILS member updates • Using available type of library mailing lists and lists for different types of libraries and different levels of staff to communicate about specific programs/services of interest • Attending RAILS networking group meetings as appropriate • Sending all new RAILS library directors a welcome communication to acquaint them with system programs/services, and offering to schedule “New Director Welcome” online discussions to provide more in-depth information • Continuing to feature “RAILS Minute” videos with the RAILS Executive Director highlighting the latest system news • Offering one-on-one online meetings for school library staff who were new to their district, new to RAILS, or for anyone who wanted a refresher on system services • Giving an update on RAILS programs/services at Health Science Librarians of Illinois Conference (HSLI) • Continued hosting <i>Can’t Shelve This</i> podcast to help support school libraries and talk about the opportunities and challenges they face • Continued to offer the RAILS online store to engage staff from member libraries in a fun way

Objectives	Planned Activities
	In 2025, RAILS Digital Marketing & Communications Specialist received a Best of Marketing Honorable Mention from the Library Marketing & Communications Group for work on the <i>Can't Shelve This</i> podcast Exhibited at library conferences geared at different types of libraries and different levels of staff • Approximately 620 visitors to RAILS exhibit booth at October ILA conference • Approximately 99 visitors to RAILS exhibit booth at October AISLE conference • Approximately 626 visitors to RAILS exhibit table at May Reaching Forward North conference • Approximately 961 visitors to the RAILS exhibit booth at the June ALA Annual Conference
Engage and communicate with the RAILS Board of Directors to ensure that they are aware of RAILS programs and services, that they can serve as ambassadors for RAILS, and that their service on the board is as rewarding as possible	Communicated regularly with the board through board mailing list and other means Kept board informed about important issues for RAILS and for libraries of all types. Provided monthly talking points for communicating with members about select RAILS programs/services Planned/implemented orientation session at Burr Ridge service center for all new RAILS Board members. Invited existing board members to attend for a refresher Scheduled board meetings in different parts of the RAILS area as possible so the board could learn about different areas of the system Visited newly seated Board members at their home libraries, offering the chance to view unique aspects of their spaces in person and meet local library staff. Continued to promote and encourage diversity on the RAILS Board as referenced above Supported board conference/meeting attendance as appropriate
Recruit RAILS staff as needed to meet roles specified in administrative rules and to support strategic plan goals and objectives. Actively seek a diverse staff in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual	Encouraged/supported professional development for staff, including: • Provided all staff with access to Udemy for online courses on a wide range of topics • Created and delivered monthly safety training sessions for all RAILS staff during regular staff meetings • Held CPR/AED training for staff across service centers

Objectives	Planned Activities
orientation, gender identify, and other factors.	Encouraged RAILS staff to attend conferences and participate in RAILS continuing education events Continued to hold monthly staff meetings to keep all staff informed of the latest RAILS developments and to help staff at different service centers engage with each other Continued work of RAILS Staff Engagement committee to develop collaborative activities for all staff Designed and held a full-day, all-staff In-Service Day that contained department meetings, learning workshops, and team-building activities Continued to prioritize EDIA-related staff activities and initiatives as referenced above
Maintain robust technology infrastructure needed to carry out all RAILS programs/services	Replaced multifunction copiers and printers in RAILS facilities Replaced laptops for RAILS staff. Refurbished the decommissioned laptops in best condition and deployed them to the mobile computer lab carts in RAILS facilities, which are used regularly by LLSAP staff for member training sessions Purchased new storage servers, implemented new virtualization software, and performed migration to new servers Following successful submission of the year's bid for E-Rate services, performed migration of internet services and IP addresses for the Burr Ridge Service Center Reviewed and reduced other telecommunications costs by auditing Verizon accounts, correcting cost centers, cancelling unused lines and services Installed a new keyless entry system at the Rockford Service Center Identified training and procedural needs for RAILS-wide implementation of our Ethical AI Policy and adoption of Microsoft's Copilot AI product. Completed initial testing and rollout of Microsoft Copilot licenses for staff, and developed a plan for expanded rollout in FY2027 Planned and implemented expanded use of a password management platform for IT and Finance staff

Objectives	Planned Activities
	Implemented a free open-source software option for creating organization charts and building layout diagrams, reducing costs by \$750 a year Worked with colleagues at Northern Illinois University to test and deploy the Zoom video conference unit in their space for the April board meeting Researched and procured a hearing loop system for the Deirdre Brennan Meeting Room, to allow attendees with hearing aids or cochlear implants to hear presentations wirelessly through their devices Continued to maintain and develop features for the RAILS HR and Delivery web apps. Rewrote much of the Delivery iPad app's code to accommodate changes required by Apple's operating system updates

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Reaching Across Illinois
Library System
Burr Ridge, Illinois

Annual Financial Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

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2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Directors
Reaching Across Illinois Library System
Burr Ridge, Illinois

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2026, and the related notes to the financial statements which collectively comprise RAILS's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of RAILS, as of June 30, 2026, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of RAILS and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Change in Accounting Principle

As described in Note 10 to the financial statements, RAILS adopted the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, for the year ended June 30, 2026. The implementation of this guidance resulted in changes to certain information presented in the required supplementary information. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about RAILS's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of RAILS's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about RAILS's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise RAILS's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements.

The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 17, 2026 on our consideration of RAILS's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of RAILS's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering RAILS's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sikich CPA LLC

Naperville, Illinois
September 17, 2026

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Members of the Board of Directors
Reaching Across Illinois Library System
Burr Ridge, Illinois

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2026, and the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise RAILS’s basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 17, 2026.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered RAILS’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of RAILS’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of RAILS’s internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of RAILS’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether RAILS's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of RAILS's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering RAILS's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Sikich CPA LLC

Naperville, Illinois
September 17, 2026

**GENERAL PURPOSE EXTERNAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Reaching Across Illinois Library System

Management's Discussion and Analysis

June 30, 2026

As the management of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), we offer readers of RAILS's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of RAILS for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. RAILS formed on July 1, 2011, as a merger of five previously existing library systems, and these activities represent RAILS's fifteenth year of operations. Comparative data to RAILS's prior year of operations, ended June 30, 2025, is presented. This analysis is intended to be an easily readable overview of the current year's activities and operations and should be read in combination with the basic financial statements and notes to the financial statements that follow.

USING THE FINANCIAL SECTION OF THIS ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

RAILS's financial statements present two types of statements, each with a different snapshot of its finances. The financial statements' focus is on RAILS as a whole (government-wide) and on the major individual funds. Both perspectives (government-wide and major funds) allow the user to address relevant questions, broaden a basis for comparison (year to year or government to government) and enhance RAILS's accountability and transparency.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of RAILS's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all RAILS's assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of RAILS is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how RAILS's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., earned but unused staff leave as well as information technology subscription arrangements and lease obligations that have been entered into but not yet paid).

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

Both government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of RAILS that are principally supported by operating grants, project grants, and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges. The primary governmental activities of RAILS are: 1) administration specifically related to serving public, school, academic and special libraries; 2) delivery; 3) Local Library System Automation Program (LLSAP) support grants; 4) RAILS deals and discounts program; 5) the eRead Illinois program; 6) the Find More Illinois program; 7) the L2 ongoing development and enhancement project grant; 8) the world language cataloging services program grant; and 9) the Cook County digital navigator network grant. LLSAPs are shared online catalog provider entities, and they currently include Cooperative Computer Services (CCS), Pinnacle Library Cooperative, PrairieCat, Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC), Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA), and System Wide Automated Network (SWAN). RAILS helps to support these LLSAPs through annual grants. These entities provide library users with access to a wider variety of materials and help make automation affordable for libraries of all types and sizes. For the fiscal years 2026 and 2025, RAILS reported no business-type activities.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that are used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. RAILS, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of RAILS can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

RAILS maintains three individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the general fund, special revenue fund, and capital projects fund, all of which are considered major funds. LLSAP support and delivery data are shown in the supplementary information as subsets of the general fund.

RAILS adopts an annual budget for its general, special revenue, and capital projects funds in conjunction with its annual APC grant application. Original and final budgetary comparison statements are shown both in the supplementary information as well as the combining and individual fund financial schedules to demonstrate compliance with the budgets. RAILS adopted the original and final budget on June 20, 2025.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

Proprietary Funds

RAILS recorded no activities within its proprietary fund. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. Such funds were used by the legacy systems that merged to form RAILS to primarily account for LLSAP activities, which now are legal entities separate from RAILS. RAILS provides financial and administrative support to the LLSAPs. In fiscal year 2026, financial support was provided to the six LLSAPs as direct quarterly payments from RAILS.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning RAILS's progress in funding its obligation to provide pension benefits to its employees.

Financial Highlights

- Assets/deferred outflows exceeded liabilities/deferred inflows by \$37,171,090 (net position) as of June 30, 2026. The total net position for RAILS increased \$1,991,511 from June 30, 2025, primarily from the increase in RAILS's actuarially determined net pension asset and the growth of RAILS's cash balance due to sustained high interest rates. These increases were partially offset by the growth of long-term liabilities due to the extension of RAILS's lease of the East Peoria facility, the increase in requests for advance billings to members for deals and discounts, and an increased number of vendor invoices and reimbursements that arrived at year-end.
- Of the net position amount, \$10,736,059 is restricted, which represents the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) net pension asset. The amount restricted for pension items increased \$4,881,187 from the prior year amount. The investment in capital assets, net of any debt used to acquire those assets, is \$2,132,928, which decreased \$89,277 from the prior year. The remaining balance of \$24,302,103 is unrestricted and available to fund future operations. This unrestricted balance decreased \$2,800,399 from the prior year.
- Total governmental funds reported an end of the year fund balance of \$27,205,839, an increase of \$487,992 from the prior year-end fund balance. Cash and investments were \$27,546,956, an increase of \$570,980 from the prior year-end balance. The cash and investment balances by fund were \$25,227,897 for the general fund, \$69,188 for the special revenue fund, and \$2,249,871 for the capital projects fund.
- Governmental funds reported a combined total of \$17,345,780 in revenues and \$17,400,133 in expenditures. Area and Per Capita (APC) grant revenues, RAILS's primary source of revenues, were \$11,871,714, the entire amount awarded for fiscal year 2026.
- Payment timing from the State of Illinois for the APC grant remained prompt during fiscal year 2026. The entire amount of the fiscal year 2026 award was received before the end of the fiscal year for the sixth consecutive year.
- During fiscal year 2026, RAILS was awarded grants for the ongoing development and enhancement of the statewide L2 platform (\$125,859) and the continuation of the statewide world language cataloging services program (\$123,834).

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

- Shortly before the end of fiscal year 2025, RAILS was awarded a grant for the creation of a digital navigator network among suburban Cook County member libraries (\$850,000). This grant work commenced in fiscal year 2026 and will continue through fiscal year 2027.
- Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the activity for the L2 development and enhancement, world language cataloging services, and Cook County digital navigator network grants are being recorded in the special revenue fund.
- As of January 1, 2026, the nine RAILS staff members who had run RSA's operations transitioned to being employees of RSA.
- In the first half of fiscal year 2026, RAILS transitioned the eRead Illinois program from Baker and Taylor's Boundless platform to Lyris's The Palace Project platform.
- In November 2025, the RAILS Board of Directors approved a \$1,850,000 transfer of funds from the general fund to the capital projects fund to fund future capital expenditures.
- RAILS completed the tenth year of its contract for statewide delivery between academic libraries.

Financial Analysis of RAILS as a Whole

Government-Wide Financial Statements

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of RAILS's financial position. Prior year data (RAILS's fourteenth year of operations, fiscal year 2025) is shown. The following table reflects the condensed statement of net position as of June 30, 2026 in comparison to the prior year:

Condensed Statement of Net Position

	2026	2025
Current and other assets	\$ 28,701,035	\$ 27,887,378
Net pension assets, IMRF	10,736,059	5,854,872
Capital assets	3,287,790	3,176,633
Deferred outflows, IMRF	615,133	1,365,137
Total assets & def. outflows	43,340,017	38,284,020
Current liabilities	1,474,149	1,169,531
Long-term liabilities	1,603,065	1,459,779
Deferred inflows, IMRF	3,091,713	475,131
Total liabilities	6,168,927	3,104,441
Net investment in capital assets	2,132,928	2,222,205
Restricted – IMRF pension	10,736,059	5,854,872
Unrestricted	24,302,103	27,102,502
Total net position	\$ 37,171,090	\$ 35,179,579

The governmental activities end-of-year total net position was \$37,171,090. Current and other assets primarily consisted of cash and investments (\$27,546,956). Current liabilities consisted primarily of amounts due to other governments (\$548,268), accounts payable and accrued liabilities (\$356,252), and accrued payroll (\$306,596). Long-term liabilities consisted of the liabilities for compensated absences, leases payable, and subscription arrangements.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

Current and other assets increased \$813,657 from the prior year-end amount. This was due primarily to the sustained high interest rates which added to RAILS's cash and accrued investment income balances.

There were significant variations from the prior year-end amounts in the items related to the IMRF pension (net pension assets, IMRF; deferred outflows, IMRF; and deferred inflows, IMRF). A net pension asset of \$10,736,059 was recorded as of June 30, 2026, compared to a net pension asset of \$5,854,872 as of June 30, 2025. A deferred inflow of \$3,091,713 was recorded as of June 30, 2026, compared to the prior year deferred inflow of \$475,131, and a deferred outflow of \$615,133 as of June 30, 2026, decreased from the prior year deferred outflow of \$1,365,137. These changes were the result of IMRF's investment performance as well as change in RAILS's plan membership demographics.

The capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and amortization increased by \$111,157 due to the purchase of three delivery vehicles, the purchase of one staff vehicle, the extension of RAIL's lease for the East Peoria facility, baseboard heater replacement at the Burr Ridge facility, new servers for the migration away from VMware, replacements for a workstation and the postage machine at the Burr Ridge facility, the addition of a warehouse fan for the expanded sorting area at the Bolingbrook facility, and the addition of a hearing loop to increase accessibility in the main conference room at the Burr Ridge facility. These increases were partially offset by disposals of twelve vehicles and the disposal of an outdated network rack system. In addition, depreciation and amortization expense of \$776,853 was recorded during fiscal year 2026.

Current liabilities increased \$304,618 due to increased requests for advance member billing for several deals and discounts as well as an increased number of vendor invoices and reimbursement requests that were received at year-end. The American Library Association annual conference occurs at year-end, and several vendor expenses primarily from RAILS's delivery outsourcing contractor as well as the consultant for the Cook County digital navigator network grant were received later than anticipated.

Long-term liabilities increased \$143,286 due to the extension of the lease for the East Peoria facility that houses our delivery hub staff and RSA staff.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

The following table summarizes the government-wide statement of activities for the years ended June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2025:

Statement of Activities

	2026	2025
REVENUES		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for Services	\$ 3,958,919	\$ 3,993,492
Operating Grants	12,241,170	12,078,427
Total Program Revenues:	16,200,089	16,071,919
Investment income	1,123,334	1,294,552
Miscellaneous	22,357	169,158
Total Revenues	17,345,780	17,535,629
EXPENSES		
Administration	3,847,574	6,409,850
Delivery	5,648,736	5,509,201
LLSAP support	2,067,946	2,351,623
Deals and discounts	2,530,550	2,369,985
eRead Illinois	718,843	597,784
Find more Illinois	112,289	114,733
L2 development and enhancement	77,259	104,283
World language cataloging services	111,371	102,430
Cook County digital navigator network	180,826	-
Interest	58,875	54,016
Total Expenses	15,354,269	17,613,905
Change in Net Position	1,991,511	(78,276)
Net Position, July 1, as Reported	35,179,579	35,516,371
Change in accounting principle	-	(258,516)
Net Position, July 1, as Restated	35,179,579	35,257,855
Net Position, June 30	\$ 37,171,090	\$ 35,179,579

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

RAILS's total revenues for fiscal year 2026 were \$17,345,780, a decrease of \$189,849, or 1.1%, from the prior year, primarily due to a decrease in investment income of \$171,218 due to three .25% interest rate cuts during the first half of fiscal year 2026. Despite these cuts, interest rates continue to run high, yielding a significant amount of investment income during fiscal year 2026. In addition, during fiscal year 2025, RAILS had a large number of capital asset disposals that resulted in one-time gains of \$156,210. Due to the January 1, 2026, transition of RSA staff to direct employment with RSA, personnel expenses were reduced. These costs were deducted from the LLSAP support grants, and this shift resulted in a payment from RAILS in fiscal year 2026 instead of a payment to RAILS (\$226,397 in fiscal year 2025). This was partially offset by increases in deals and discount program participation from the prior year (\$160,565) as well as the fiscal year 2026 addition of the Cook County digital navigator network grant activity (\$180,826). The annual 4% increase in the contract for the statewide academic delivery services (\$21,380) also partially offsets these decreases. The world language cataloging services program grew in fiscal year 2026 due to increased usage (\$8,941), but the L2 development and enhancement work was temporarily put on hold during the annual library certification process due to the disruption that the work would have caused. Due to this unplanned delay, the expenditure-based revenue was lower than the prior fiscal year (\$27,024).

RAILS's fiscal year 2026 expenses totaled \$15,354,269, a decrease of \$2,259,636 from fiscal year 2025 expenses, primarily from decreased administration expenses (\$2,562,276) resulting from the annual IMRF actuarial valuation of RAILS's net pension asset. The LLSAP support expenses decreased primarily due to decreases in accrued but unused leave for the RSA staff. These decreases are partially offset by the addition of the Cook County digital navigator network grant activity in fiscal year 2026. This grant was awarded late in fiscal year 2025, but expenses were not incurred until fiscal year 2026 (\$180,826). These decreases are also partially offset by the growth in the deals and discounts program participation (\$160,565) as well as increases in delivery expenses (\$139,535) from annual cost of living increases, increased fuel costs, and increased facility costs. eRead Illinois expenses increased due to the fiscal year 2026 migration from Baker and Taylor's Boundless platform to Lyris's The Palace Project platform due to Baker and Taylor's closure. This migration resulted in an annual platform fee of \$105,000.

Financial Analysis of RAILS's Government Fund Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, the governmental funds had a combined fund balance of \$27,205,839, of which \$24,955,968 was within the general fund, which is the main operating fund of RAILS, and \$2,249,871 was within the capital projects fund which are funds that have been assigned by the RAILS Board of Directors for future capital purchases.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

The following table reflects the condensed balance sheet as of June 30, 2026, in comparison to the prior year:

Condensed Balance Sheet

	General		Special Revenue		Capital Projects	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Cash and investments	\$25,227,897	\$26,228,559	\$69,188	\$-	\$2,249,871	\$747,417
Receivables – net of allowances	573,774	643,024	54,045	-	-	-
Due from other funds	54,045	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	505,213	268,378	-	-	-	-
Total assets	26,360,929	27,139,961	123,233	-	2,249,871	747,417
Accounts payable	350,029	238,410	6,223	-	-	-
Other payables	19,999	45,959	61,802	-	-	-
Accrued payroll	305,433	310,484	1,163	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	181,232	25,850	-	-	-	-
Due to other governments	548,268	548,828	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	54,045	-	-	-
Total liabilities	1,404,961	1,169,531	123,233	-	-	-
Nonspendable – Prepaid items	505,213	268,378	-	-	-	-
Assigned – Capital projects	-	-	-	-	2,249,871	747,417
Assigned – Subsequent year's budget	297,466	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	24,153,289	25,702,052	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	24,955,968	25,970,430	-	-	2,249,871	747,417
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$26,360,929	\$ 27,139,961	\$123,233	\$-	\$2,249,871	\$747,417

The general fund cash balance as of June 30, 2026, of \$25,227,897 decreased \$1,000,662 from fiscal year 2025 due primarily to the \$1,850,000 transfer from the general fund to the capital projects to fund future capital expenditures. This is partially offset by the fiscal year 2026 excess of revenues over expenditures in the general fund of \$293,193. Prepaid items and unearned revenue increased from the prior year primarily due to an increase in member library requests for early deals and discounts invoicing.

Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the activity for the L2 development and enhancement, world language cataloging services, and Cook County digital navigator network grants are being recorded in the special revenue fund. For the year ending June 30, 2026, this fund had \$61,063 that represented amounts due to the Illinois State Library for L2 and world language cataloging services grant funds that were not able to be used during the grant period. The due to other funds account represents amounts advanced from the general fund for Cook County digital navigator network grant expenditures that were awaiting reimbursement from Cook County at the end of fiscal year 2026.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

The capital projects fund received a \$1,850,000 transfer from the general fund during fiscal year 2026, which increased the cash and investment balance \$1,502,454 from June 30, 2025.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

The following table reflects the condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for the governmental funds for the year ended June 30, 2026, in comparison to the prior year:

Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

	General		Special Revenue		Capital Projects	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Total revenues	\$16,976,324	\$17,535,629	\$369,456	\$-	\$ -	\$ -
Total expenditures	16,683,131	16,245,197	369,456	-	347,546	791,864
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	293,193	1,290,432	-	-	(347,546)	(791,864)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,307,655)	444,074	-	-	1,850,000	-
Net change in fund balances	(1,014,462)	1,734,506	-	-	1,502,454	(791,864)
Fund balances, July 1	25,970,430	24,235,924	-	-	747,417	1,539,281
Fund balances, June 30	\$24,955,968	\$25,970,430	-	-	\$2,249,871	\$ 747,417

General fund revenues decreased \$559,305 primarily from the L2 and world language cataloging services grant activity moving from the general fund to the special revenue fund in fiscal year 2026. This decrease is also due to a decrease in fees for services and materials primarily due to the RSA staff transition mentioned previously as well as a decrease in investment income due to interest rate cuts during the first portion of fiscal year 2026.

General fund expenditures increased \$437,934 from fiscal year 2025 due primarily to staff cost of living adjustments, scheduled lease increases, contractual increases, increased fuel costs, and increased insurance costs.

Special revenue fund grants are expenditure based, with the total revenues of \$369,456 equaling total expenditures.

Capital projects expenditures decreased \$444,318 from fiscal year 2025 primarily due to fewer vehicle replacement purchases. Replacement of RAILS's fleet vehicles has been a priority since the vehicle shortages that occurred during and immediately following the pandemic.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

Capital Assets and Long-Term Financing Activity

As of June 30, 2026, RAILS had net capital assets of \$3,287,790 which was \$111,157 above the prior year amounts. Of this amount, \$1,193,202 was land and buildings and improvements, \$869,564 was leased property, \$862,992 was vehicles, \$247,217 was subscription arrangements, and \$114,815 was furniture, fixtures, computers and equipment. There were several capital expenditures made in fiscal year 2026 as well as the extension of the East Peoria facility lease. The total long-term financing activity related to the lease and subscription assets is \$1,154,862. Of this amount, \$341,503 is due within one year.

Economic Factors

RAILS is one of two multi-type regional library systems in the State. Its membership includes academic, public, school and special libraries over the northern, western, and a portion of central section of Illinois. RAILS serves approximately 1,250 public, private, university, and school library members, representing more than 4,000 library facilities in a 27,000 square mile area, and delivers approximately 7.9 million items between member libraries each year. The funding of RAILS's operations is primarily through the Illinois State Area and Per Capita grant. The Illinois State Library (ISL) awards and administers the Area and Per Capita grant under the Secretary of State's office. The ISL receives a portion of its funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Grants to States program. The severe budgetary impasses during fiscal years 2016 and 2017, with the result that the State of Illinois did not adopt fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets, resulted in greatly reduced funding and significant fund balance decreases for RAILS in those years. For fiscal years 2018 through 2020, funding appropriations were restored to levels comparable to fiscal year 2015, but due to a large backlog of State liabilities and the additional stress to State revenues due to the pandemic, the timing of payments from the State of Illinois became increasingly delayed. In fiscal years 2021 through 2026 funding significantly improved to the extent that RAILS received its entire awarded fiscal year funding within the years to which it pertained. Due to both an increase in Area and Per Capita funding in the Illinois Secretary of State's budget as well as the results of the 2020 census, RAILS received a significant increase in the Area and Per Capita grant funding in fiscal year 2023. Inflation has increased costs during fiscal year 2026, resulting in the RAILS Board of Directors approving the RAILS fiscal year 2027 budget with a planned \$297,466 deficit. This deficit is shown as assigned for subsequent year's budget in the fiscal year 2026 governmental funds balance sheet. The last year that RAILS planned for a deficit budget was fiscal year 2022.

CONTACTING RAILS's FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, members, customers, funders, and creditors with a general overview of RAILS's finances and to demonstrate RAILS's accountability for the money it receives. Questions concerning this report or requests for additional financial information should be directed to Sharon Swanson, Finance Director, Reaching Across Illinois Library System, 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

June 30, 2026

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and investments	\$ 27,546,956
Receivables - net of allowances	
Accounts	426,312
Accrued interest	118,922
Intergovernmental	54,045
Other	49,587
Prepaid items	505,213
Net pension asset	10,736,059
Capital assets not being depreciated	107,000
Capital assets, tangible and intangible (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization)	<u>3,180,790</u>
Total assets	<u>42,724,884</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension items - IMRF	<u>615,133</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>615,133</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>43,340,017</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	356,252
Other payables	81,801
Accrued payroll	306,596
Unearned revenue	181,232
Due to other governments	548,268
Long-term liabilities	
Due within one year	431,144
Due in more than one year	<u>1,171,921</u>
Total liabilities	<u>3,077,214</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension items - IMRF	<u>3,091,713</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>3,091,713</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>6,168,927</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	2,132,928
Restricted	
Retirement	10,736,059
Unrestricted	<u>24,302,103</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 37,171,090</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS		Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Change in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
PRIMARY GOVERNMENT	Expenses				Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities					
Culture and recreation					
Administration	\$ 3,847,574	\$ 25,122	\$ 11,871,714	\$ -	\$ 8,049,262
Delivery	5,648,736	779,447	-	-	(4,869,289)
LLSAP support	2,067,946	-	-	-	(2,067,946)
Deals and discounts	2,530,550	2,530,550	-	-	-
eRead Illinois	718,843	481,850	-	-	(236,993)
Find more Illinois	112,289	141,950	-	-	29,661
L2 development and enhancement	77,259	-	77,259	-	-
World language cataloging services	111,371	-	111,371	-	-
Cook County digital navigator network	180,826	-	180,826	-	-
Interest	58,875	-	-	-	(58,875)
Total governmental activities	15,354,269	3,958,919	12,241,170	-	845,820
TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT	\$ 15,354,269	\$ 3,958,919	\$ 12,241,170	\$ -	845,820
General Revenues					
Investment income					1,123,334
Miscellaneous					22,357
Total					1,145,691
CHANGE IN NET POSITION					1,991,511
NET POSITION, JULY 1					35,179,579
NET POSITION, JUNE 30					\$ 37,171,090

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2026

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and investments	\$ 25,227,897	\$ 69,188	\$ 2,249,871	\$ 27,546,956
Receivables - net of allowances				
Accounts	426,312	-	-	426,312
Accrued interest	118,922	-	-	118,922
Intergovernmental	-	54,045	-	54,045
Other	28,540	-	-	28,540
Due from other funds	54,045	-	-	54,045
Prepaid items	505,213	-	-	505,213
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 26,360,929	\$ 123,233	\$ 2,249,871	\$ 28,734,033
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 350,029	\$ 6,223	\$ -	\$ 356,252
Other payables	19,999	61,802	-	81,801
Accrued payroll	305,433	1,163	-	306,596
Unearned revenue	181,232	-	-	181,232
Due to other governments	548,268	-	-	548,268
Due to other funds	-	54,045	-	54,045
Total liabilities	1,404,961	123,233	-	1,528,194
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable				
Prepaid items	505,213	-	-	505,213
Assigned				
Capital projects	-	-	2,249,871	2,249,871
Subsequent year's budget	297,466	-	-	297,466
Unassigned	24,153,289	-	-	24,153,289
Total fund balances	24,955,968	-	2,249,871	27,205,839
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 26,360,929	\$ 123,233	\$ 2,249,871	\$ 28,734,033

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS**

**RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

June 30, 2026

FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	\$ 27,205,839
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds	3,287,790
Insurance settlement receivables for capital assets were not available and, therefore, are not reported in the funds	21,047
A net pension asset is not considered to represent a financial resource and, therefore, is not reported in the funds	10,736,059
Differences between expected and actual experiences, assumption changes, net differences between projected and actual earnings and contributions subsequent to the measurement date for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund are recognized as deferred outflows and inflows of resources on the statement of net position	(2,476,580)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds	
Compensated absences payable	(448,203)
Leases payable	(888,515)
SBITA payable	(266,347)
NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>\$ 37,171,090</u></u>

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 11,871,714	\$ 369,456	\$ -	\$ 12,241,170
Fees for services and materials	1,428,369	-	-	1,428,369
Reimbursements	2,530,550	-	-	2,530,550
Investment income	1,123,334	-	-	1,123,334
Miscellaneous	22,357	-	-	22,357
Total revenues	16,976,324	369,456	-	17,345,780
EXPENDITURES				
Culture and recreation	15,758,601	369,456	-	16,128,057
Capital outlay	542,345	-	347,546	889,891
Debt service				
Principal	323,310	-	-	323,310
Interest	58,875	-	-	58,875
Total expenditures	16,683,131	369,456	347,546	17,400,133
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	293,193	-	(347,546)	(54,353)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	1,850,000	1,850,000
Transfers (out)	(1,850,000)	-	-	(1,850,000)
Issuance of leases	542,345	-	-	542,345
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,307,655)	-	1,850,000	542,345
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(1,014,462)	-	1,502,454	487,992
FUND BALANCES, JULY 1	25,970,430	-	747,417	26,717,847
FUND BALANCES, JUNE 30	\$ 24,955,968	\$ -	\$ 2,249,871	\$ 27,205,839

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES - TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	\$ 487,992
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures; however, they are capitalized and depreciated or amortized in the statement of activities	889,891
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Some expenses in the statement of activities (e.g., depreciation and amortization) do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds	
Depreciation and amortization	(776,853)

The gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets is reported only in the statement of activities	(1,881)
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The change in long term receivables related to capital assets is reported only in the statement of activities	21,047
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The change in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund net pension liability (asset) and deferred outflows/inflows of resources is not a source or use of a financial resource	1,514,601
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The issuance of long-term debt and related costs are shown on the fund financial statements as other financing sources (uses) and current expenditures, but are recorded as long-term liabilities on the government-wide statements	
Leases payable	(542,345)

The repayment of the principal portion of long-term debt is reported as an expenditure when due in governmental funds but as a reduction of principal outstanding on the statement of activities	
Leases payable	265,114
SBITA payable	76,797

The change in compensated absences is shown as an expense on the statement of activities	57,148
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CHANGE IN NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 1,991,511</u>
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See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2026

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) is governed by a Board of Directors, rules and regulations for library systems and the regulations of the State Librarian related to state aid. The financial statements of RAILS have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as applied to government units (hereinafter referred to as generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and reporting principles. The more significant of the accounting policies are described below.

a. Reporting Entity

RAILS is a regional library system governed by an elected fifteen-member Board of Directors and established by the Illinois Library System Act (75 ILCS 10/). These financial statements present RAILS's reporting entity as required by GAAP. RAILS is considered to be a primary government since its board is separately elected and RAILS is fiscally independent.

Based on the criteria of GASB Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus - an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34*, RAILS does not have any component units.

b. Fund Accounting

RAILS uses funds to report on its financial position and the changes in its financial position. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

RAILS's funds are classified into the following categories: governmental.

Governmental funds are used to account for all or most of an entity's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of committed, restricted or assigned monies (special revenue funds), the funds committed, restricted or assigned for the acquisition or construction of general capital assets (capital projects funds) and the funds committed, restricted or assigned for servicing of general long-term debt (debt service funds). The General Fund is used to account for all activities of RAILS not accounted for in some other fund. RAILS does not report any debt service funds.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the activities of RAILS. The effect of material interfund activity has been eliminated from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by grants and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. RAILS does not report any business-type activities.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function, segment or program are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment and (2) grants and standard revenues that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

RAILS reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is RAILS's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of RAILS, except those accounted for in another fund.

The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for resources restricted for non-operational grant programs. RAILS has elected to report this fund as major.

The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for resources assigned for capital improvements at RAILS. RAILS has elected to report this fund as major.

d. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

d. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (Continued)

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. RAILS considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a fund liability is incurred. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Charges for services and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and are recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by RAILS.

RAILS reports deferred/unavailable revenue and unearned revenue on its financial statements. Deferred/unavailable revenues arise when a potential revenue does not meet both the measurable and available or year intended to finance criteria for recognition in the current period. Unearned revenues arise when resources are received by RAILS before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when RAILS has a legal claim to the resources, the deferred inflow for deferred or unavailable revenue or the liability for unearned revenue is removed from the financial statements and revenue is recognized.

e. Investments

Investments with maturities greater than one year at time of purchase, if any, are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Non-negotiable certificates of deposit, if any, are reported at cost.

RAILS categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GAAP. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; and Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**f. Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by RAILS as assets with an initial, individual cost in excess of \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value or service capacity of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Assets	Years
Buildings and improvements	2-50
Furniture, fixtures, equipment and computers	5-10
Vehicles	5-8
Intangibles	2-9

Intangible assets represent RAILS's right-to-use a leased asset and RAILS's right-to-use subscription-based information technology. These intangible assets, as defined by GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases* and No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, are for leased contracts of nonfinancial assets including equipment and for subscription contracts of nonfinancial assets including software, respectively.

g. Compensated Absences

In the event of termination, an employee is reimbursed for earned vacation days. No more than five vacation days may be carried over from the prior year without the Executive Director's approval. No more than 90 sick leave days may be accrued for employee use and 240 sick leave days may be utilized for service credit with the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) upon retirement.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g. Compensated Absences (Continued)

In accordance with GASB No. Statement 101, *Compensated Absences*, vested or accumulated vacation, paid leave and sick leave that is due to employees who have retired or terminated by the end of the year is reported as an expenditure and a fund liability of the governmental fund that will pay it. Vested or accumulated vacation, paid leave and sick leave of governmental activities is recorded as an expense and liability of those funds as the benefits accrue to employees. The entire balance of vacation leave is recognized as a liability at year end. A liability is recognized for the portion of accumulating sick and paid leave benefits that are estimated to be more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means.

h. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount, as applicable. Bond issuance costs are reported as expenses in the current period.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as expenditures.

i. Fund Balance/Net Position

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report nonspendable fund balance for amounts that are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Restrictions of fund balance are reported for amounts constrained by legal restrictions from outside parties for use for a specific purpose, or externally imposed by outside entities. Committed fund balance is constrained by formal actions of RAILS's Board of Directors, which is considered RAILS's highest level of decision-making authority. Formal actions include ordinances approved by RAILS's Board of Directors. Assigned fund balance represent amounts constrained by RAILS's intent to use them for a specific purpose.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

i. Fund Balance/Net Position (Continued)

The authority to assign fund balance has been delegated to RAILS's Finance Director through the approved fund balance policy of RAILS. Any residual fund balance in the General Fund is reported as unassigned. Any deficit fund balances in governmental funds are also reported as unassigned.

RAILS's flow of funds assumptions prescribes that the funds with the highest level of constraint are expended first. If restricted or unrestricted funds are available for spending, the restricted funds are spent first. Additionally, if different levels of unrestricted funds are available for spending, RAILS considers committed funds to be expended first, followed by assigned and then unassigned funds.

In the government-wide financial statements, restricted net position is legally restricted by outside parties for a specific purpose. None of the net position is restricted as a result of enabling legislation adopted by RAILS. Net investment in capital assets is the book value of capital assets less outstanding principal balances of debt and non-debt capital-related liabilities that were issued to construct the capital assets.

j. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

k. Interfund Transactions

Interfund services are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures/expenses initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed.

All other interfund transactions, except interfund services and reimbursements, are reported as transfers.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

l. Interfund Receivables/Payables

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either “due to/from other funds” (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or “advances to/from other funds”(i.e., the noncurrent portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as “due to/from other funds.”

m. Prepaid Expenses/Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods, and are recorded as prepaid expenses/items using the consumption method. Such amounts are offset by nonspendable fund balance for prepaid items in the fund financial statements.

n. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

RAILS maintains a cash and investment pool that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type’s portion of this pool is displayed on the financial statements as “cash and investments.”

RAILS’s investment policy authorizes RAILS to make deposits/invest in insured commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, insured credit union shares, money market mutual funds with portfolios of securities issued or guaranteed by the United States Government or agreements to repurchase these obligations, repurchase agreements, short-term commercial paper rated within the three highest classifications by at least two standard rating services, The Illinois Funds and Illinois Public Reserves Investment Management Trust.

The Illinois Public Treasurers’ Investment Pool, known as The Illinois Funds, operates as a qualified external investment pool in accordance with the criteria established in GASB Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*, and thus, reports all investments at amortized cost rather than fair value.

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

The investment in The Illinois Funds by participants is also reported at amortized cost. The Illinois Funds does not have any limitations or restrictions on participant withdrawals. The Illinois Treasurer's Office issues a separate financial report for The Illinois Funds which may be obtained by contacting the Administrative Office at Illinois Business Center, 400 West Monroe Street, Suite 401, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

Illinois Public Reserves Investment Management Trust (IPRIME) is an investment opportunity and cash management service for Illinois municipal treasurers acting on behalf of counties, townships, cities, towns, villages, special road districts, public water supply districts, fire protection districts, drainage districts, levee districts, sewer districts, housing authorities and all other political corporations or subdivisions of the State of Illinois. Participation in IPRIME is voluntary. IPRIME is not registered with the SEC as an investment company. Investments in IPRIME are valued at the share price, the price for which the investment could be sold.

a. Deposits with Financial Institutions

It is the policy of RAILS to invest its funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow demands of RAILS and conforming to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds, using the "prudent person" standard for managing the overall portfolio. The primary objective of the policy is safety of principal, liquidity, yield and maintaining the public trust.

Custodial credit risk for deposits with financial institutions is the risk that in the event of bank failure, RAILS's deposits may not be returned to it. RAILS's investment policy requires pledging of collateral held by a third-party custodian in RAILS's name and documented by a safekeeping agreement. At June 30, 2026, the entire bank balance of deposits was covered by a combination of FDIC insurance and collateral.

b. Investments

The following table presents the investments and maturities of RAILS debt securities as of June 30, 2026:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Investment Maturities (in Years)			
		Less than 1	1-5	6-10	Greater than 10
Negotiable certificates of deposits	\$ 4,019,981	\$ 1,889,311	\$ 2,130,670	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Treasury bonds	24,883	24,883	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 4,044,864	\$ 1,914,194	\$ 2,130,670	\$ -	\$ -

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

b. Investments (Continued)

The U.S. Treasury bonds are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs) while the negotiable certificates of deposit are valued using quoted matrix pricing models based on various market and industry inputs (Level 2 inputs).

In accordance with its investment policy, RAILS limits its exposure to interest rate risk, the risk that the fair value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in interest rates, by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity. RAILS's investment policy does not specifically limit the maximum maturity length of investments.

RAILS limits its exposure to credit risk, the risk that the issuer of a debt security will not pay its par value upon maturity, by primarily investing in The Illinois Funds, insured certificates of deposit and collateralized money market funds. RAILS's investment in The Illinois Funds and IPRIME are rated AA+mmf by Fitch and AA+mm by Standard & Poor's, respectively. The certificates of deposits are not rated while the U.S. Treasury bonds are rated AAA.

Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to the investment, RAILS will not be able to recover the value of its investments that are in the possession of an outside party. To limit its exposure, RAILS's investment policy requires all security transactions that are exposed to custodial credit risk to be processed on a delivery versus payment (DVP) basis with the underlying investments held by a third party acting as RAILS's agent separate from where the investment was purchased. At year-end, RAILS's investments in The Illinois Funds and IPRIME are not subject to custodial credit risk.

Concentration of credit risk is the risk that RAILS has too high a percentage of their investments invested in one type of investment. RAILS's investment policy requires diversification of investments to avoid unreasonable risk but has no set percentage limits. At year-end, RAILS does not have any investments over 5% of the total cash and investment portfolio (other than investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government and investments in mutual funds, external investment pools and other pooled investments).

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2026, was as follows:

	Balances July 1	Increases	Decreases	Balances June 30
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES				
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 107,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,000
Total capital assets not being depreciated	107,000	-	-	107,000
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized				
Buildings and improvements	3,407,849	51,407	1,881	3,457,375
Furniture, fixtures, equipment and computers	303,165	63,374	10,366	356,173
Vehicles	1,873,657	232,765	348,236	1,758,186
Lease assets				
Buildings	955,676	542,345	-	1,498,021
Subscription assets	439,521	-	-	439,521
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	6,979,868	889,891	360,483	7,509,276
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization				
Buildings and improvements	2,246,987	124,186	-	2,371,173
Furniture, fixtures, equipment and computers	218,501	33,223	10,366	241,358
Vehicles	977,298	266,132	348,236	895,194
Lease assets				
Buildings	357,561	270,896	-	628,457
Subscription assets	109,888	82,416	-	192,304
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	3,910,235	776,853	358,602	4,328,486
Total capital assets being depreciated and amortized, net	3,069,633	113,038	1,881	3,180,790
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES CAPITAL ASSETS, NET	\$ 3,176,633	\$ 113,038	\$ 1,881	\$ 3,287,790

Depreciation and amortization expense of \$776,853 was charged to the Culture and Recreation function of the primary government.

4. LONG-TERM DEBT

a. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

During the fiscal year, the following changes occurred in long-term debt:

Issue	Balances July 1	Issuances	Retirements	Balances June 30	Current Portion
Compensated absences*	\$ 505,351	\$ -	\$ 57,148	\$ 448,203	\$ 89,641
Leases payable	611,284	542,345	265,114	888,515	259,000
SBITAs payable	343,144	-	76,797	266,347	82,503
TOTAL	\$ 1,459,779	\$ 542,345	\$ 399,059	\$ 1,603,065	\$ 431,144

*The amount displayed as additions or reductions represents the net change in the liability.

4. LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)**b. Leases Payable**

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, RAILS's lease activity is as follows:

RAILS has entered into multiple lease agreements for the right-to-use buildings and facilities. Monthly payments for these agreements range from \$3,263 to \$11,274 through 2034. These lease agreements have interest rates ranging from 6.69% to 7.23%. Total intangible right-to-use assets acquired under these agreements are \$1,498,021 and the lease liability at fiscal year-end for these agreements is \$888,515. Total principal paid for the year on these agreements was \$265,114.

Obligations of governmental activities under leases payable, typically paid from the General Fund, including future interest payments at June 30, 2026, were as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Leases Payable	
	Principal	Interest
2027	\$ 259,000	\$ 52,460
2028	168,278	35,725
2029	86,290	27,906
2030	65,079	23,013
2031	69,567	18,525
2032-2034	240,301	25,425
TOTAL	\$ 888,515	\$ 183,054

c. Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements Payable

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (SBITA), RAILS's SBITA activity is as follows:

RAILS has entered into a SBITA arrangement for the right-to-use software. Quarterly payments for this arrangement are \$24,889 through June 30, 2029. This subscription arrangement has an interest rate of 7.23%. Total intangible right-to-use assets acquired under this arrangement are \$439,521 and the SBITA liability at fiscal year-end for this arrangement is \$266,347. Total principal paid for the year on this arrangement was \$76,797.

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****4. LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)****c. Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements Payable (Continued)**

Obligations of governmental activities under SBITA payable, typically paid from the General Fund, including future interest payments at June 30, 2026, were as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	SBITA	
	Principal	Interest
2027	\$ 82,503	\$ 17,053
2028	88,632	10,924
2029	95,212	4,341
TOTAL	\$ 266,347	\$ 32,318

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

RAILS is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; natural disasters; and injuries to RAILS's employees. RAILS purchased its insurance policies through its membership in two library insurance cooperatives. Risks covered included certain types of liabilities and bonds. Premiums have been displayed as expenditures/expenses in appropriate funds. There were no significant changes in insurance coverages from the prior year and settlements did not exceed insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**a. Grants**

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time although RAILS expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

b. Litigation

From time to time, RAILS was named a defendant in various matters. Although the outcome of these matters are not presently determinable, in the opinion of RAILS's attorney the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial statements of RAILS.

7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTSIllinois Municipal Retirement Fund

RAILS's defined benefit pension plan, The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), provides retirement, disability, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. IMRF is an agent multiple-employer pension plan that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for local governments and school districts in Illinois. The Illinois Pension Code establishes the benefit provisions of the plan that can only be amended by the Illinois General Assembly. IMRF issues a publicly available report that includes financial statements and supplementary information for the plan as a whole but not by individual employer. That report may be obtained by writing to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, 800 Commerce Drive, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 or at www.imrf.org.

Plan Administration

All employees hired in positions that meet or exceed the prescribed annual hourly standard must be enrolled in IMRF as participating members.

The plan is accounted for on the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Employer and employee contributions are recognized when earned in the year that the contributions are required, benefits and refunds are recognized as an expense and liability when due and payable.

Plan Membership

At December 31, 2025, IMRF membership consisted of:

Inactive employees or their beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	430
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	156
Active employees	<u>103</u>
TOTAL	<u>689</u>

7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTS (Continued)Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (Continued)*Benefits Provided*

IMRF provides two tiers of pension benefits. Employees hired prior to January 1, 2011, are eligible for Tier 1 benefits. For Tier 1 employees, pension benefits vest after eight years of service. Participating members who retire at age 55 (reduced benefits) or after age 60 (full benefits) with eight years of credited service are entitled to an annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, in an amount equal to 1 2/3% of their final rate of earnings, for each year of credited service up to 15 years, and 2% for each year thereafter. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2011 are eligible for Tier 2 benefits. For Tier 2 employees, pension benefits vest after ten years of service. Participating members who retire at age 62 (reduced benefits) or after age 67 (full benefits) with ten years of credited service are entitled to an annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, in an amount equal to 1 2/3% of their final rate of earnings, for each year of credited service up to 15 years, and 2% for each year thereafter. IMRF also provides death and disability benefits. These benefit provisions and all other requirements are established by state statute.

Contributions

Participating members are required to contribute 4.50% of their annual covered salary to IMRF. RAILS is required to contribute the remaining amounts necessary to fund IMRF as specified by statute. The employer contribution rate for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026 was 0.80%.

Actuarial Assumptions

RAILS's net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2025 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation performed as of the same date using the following actuarial methods and assumptions.

Actuarial valuation date	December 31, 2025
Actuarial cost method	Entry-age normal
Assumptions	
Inflation	2.25%
Salary increases	2.85% to 13.75%
Interest rate	7.25%
Asset valuation method	Fair value

7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTS (Continued)Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (Continued)*Actuarial Assumptions (Continued)*

For non-disabled retirees, the Pub-2010, Amount-Weighted, below-median income, General, Retiree, Male (adjusted 108.0%) and Female (adjusted 106.4%) tables and future mortality improvements projected using scale MP-2021. For disabled retirees, the Pub-2010, Amount-Weighted, below-median income, General, Disabled Retiree, Male and Female (both unadjusted) tables and future mortality improvements projected using scale MP-2021. For active members, the Pub-2010, Amount-Weighted, below-median income, General, Employee, Male and Female (both unadjusted) tables and future mortality improvements projected using scale MP-2021.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability at December 31, 2025, was 7.25%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that RAILS contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members.

Long-Term Expected Rate of Return

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense, and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return to the target asset allocation percentage and adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Portfolio Target Percentage	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	32.50%	7.35%
International equity	18.00%	7.45%
Fixed income	24.00%	4.75%
Real estate	10.50%	6.25%
Alternative investments	14.00%	3.90% to 8.50%
Cash equivalents	1.00%	3.00%
TOTAL	100.00%	

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTS (Continued)

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (Continued)*Changes in the Net Pension Liability (Asset)*

	(a) Total Pension Liability	(b) Plan Fiduciary Net Position	(a) - (b) Net Pension Liability (Asset)
BALANCES AT JANUARY 1, 2025	\$ 46,961,657	\$ 52,816,529	\$ (5,854,872)
Changes for the period			
Service cost	506,757	-	506,757
Interest	3,282,957	-	3,282,957
Difference between expected and actual experience	2,074,809	-	2,074,809
Changes in assumptions	-	-	-
Employer contributions	-	48,055	(48,055)
Employee contributions	-	273,690	(273,690)
Net investment income	-	8,528,480	(8,528,480)
Benefit payments and refunds	(3,865,751)	(3,865,751)	-
Other (net transfer)	-	1,895,485	(1,895,485)
Net changes	1,998,772	6,879,959	(4,881,187)
BALANCES AT DECEMBER 31, 2025	\$ 48,960,429	\$ 59,696,488	\$ (10,736,059)

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTS (Continued)Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (Continued)*Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources*

For the year ended June 30, 2026, RAILS recognized pension expense/(income) of (\$1,467,465). At June 30, 2026, RAILS reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to IMRF from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 592,803	\$ -
Changes in assumption	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	3,091,713
Employer contributions after the measurement date	22,330	-
TOTAL	<u>\$ 615,133</u>	<u>\$ 3,091,713</u>

\$22,330 reported as deferred outflows of pensions result from RAILS's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/increase of the net pension liability/asset in the year ending June 30, 2027. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to IMRF will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	
2027	\$ 1,505,532
2028	(1,743,286)
2029	(1,309,347)
2030	(951,809)
2031	-
Thereafter	-
TOTAL	<u>\$ (2,498,910)</u>

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****7. RETIREMENT FUND COMMITMENTS (Continued)**Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (Continued)*Discount Rate Sensitivity*

The following is a sensitivity analysis of the net pension liability (asset) to changes in the discount rate. The table below presents the pension liability (asset) of RAILS calculated using the discount rate of 7.25% as well as what RAILS's net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (6.25%) or 1 percentage point higher (8.25%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.25%)	Current Discount Rate (7.25%)	1% Increase (8.25%)
Net pension liability (asset)	\$ (6,355,607)	\$ (10,736,059)	\$ (14,312,220)

8. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

RAILS has evaluated its potential other post-employment benefits liability. Former employees who choose to retain their rights to health insurance through RAILS are required to pay 100% of the current premium. Based upon a review of census data and plan provisions, as well as minimal utilization rates, it has been determined that any liability is immaterial to the financial statements in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Post-Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. Additionally, RAILS provides no explicit benefit. Therefore, RAILS has not recorded a liability as of June 30, 2026.

9. INTERFUND DISCLOSURES**a. Due From/To Other Funds**

Due from/to other funds at June 30, 2026 consisted of the following:

	Interfund Receivable	Interfund Payable
General Fund	\$ 54,045	\$ -
Special Revenue Fund	-	54,045
TOTAL	\$ 54,045	\$ 54,045

The purpose of the due from/to other funds are cash flow loans to fund grant operations prior to the receipt of grant funds. Repayment is expected within one year.

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****9. INTERFUND DISCLOSURES (Continued)**

b. Interfund Transfers

	Transfer In	Transfer Out
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,850,000
Capital Projects Fund	1,850,000	-
TOTAL	\$ 1,850,000	\$ 1,850,000

\$1,850,000 transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to fund future capital improvements. These transfers will not be repaid.

10. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, RAILS implemented GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*. The implementation of this guidance impacted the presentation of management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) as well as the required supplementary information for budget vs. actual presentations. The new guidance provides additional guidance for the analysis of governmental activities and each major fund, as well as mandating that budgetary comparisons previously reported in the MD&A are now to be reported in the required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements. Additionally, the required supplementary information for budgetary comparisons now includes variance columns comparing the original budget vs. the final budget as well as the final budget vs. the actual amounts. The results of these changes in the reporting model did not otherwise impact the financial statements, footnotes or supplementary information of RAILS.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL GENERAL FUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental			
Area and per capita	\$ 11,871,714	\$ 11,871,714	\$ -
Fees for services and materials	1,453,347	1,428,369	(24,978)
Reimbursements	2,806,750	2,530,550	(276,200)
Investment income	877,000	1,123,334	246,334
Miscellaneous	20,344	22,357	2,013
Total revenues	17,029,155	16,976,324	(52,831)
EXPENDITURES			
Culture and recreation			
Personnel	7,863,964	7,642,181	(221,783)
Library materials	3,403,975	3,117,374	(286,601)
Buildings and grounds	312,926	296,156	(16,770)
Vehicles	563,903	559,581	(4,322)
Travel and continuing education	391,151	259,745	(131,406)
Public relations	28,900	14,052	(14,848)
Commercial insurance	55,984	52,865	(3,119)
Supplies, postage and printing	337,274	276,056	(61,218)
Telephone and telecommunications	77,705	70,319	(7,386)
Equipment rental, repair and maintenance	129,499	124,067	(5,432)
Professional services	272,064	217,998	(54,066)
Contractual services	3,068,697	3,101,980	33,283
Professional association membership dues	12,339	13,773	1,434
Miscellaneous	14,950	12,454	(2,496)
Capital outlay	-	542,345	542,345
Debt service			
Principal	382,711	323,310	(59,401)
Interest	-	58,875	58,875
Total expenditures	16,916,042	16,683,131	(232,911)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	113,113	293,193	180,080
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers (out)	-	(1,850,000)	(1,850,000)
Issuance of leases	-	542,345	542,345
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	(1,307,655)	(1,307,655)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 113,113</u>	<u>(1,014,462)</u>	<u>\$ (1,127,575)</u>
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1		<u>25,970,430</u>	
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30		<u><u>\$ 24,955,968</u></u>	

(See independent auditor's report.)

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Variance Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental			
Other state grants	\$ 249,693	\$ 188,630	\$ (61,063)
Other grants	850,000	180,826	(669,174)
Total revenues	1,099,693	369,456	(730,237)
EXPENDITURES			
Culture and recreation			
Personnel	27,647	24,470	(3,177)
Library materials	200	61	(139)
Professional services	142,000	104,351	(37,649)
Contractual services	929,846	240,574	(689,272)
Total expenditures	1,099,693	369,456	(730,237)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ -	-	\$ -
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1		-	
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30		\$ -	

(See independent auditor's report.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND

Last Ten Fiscal Years

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 177,366	\$ 162,310	\$ 109,760	\$ 41,880	\$ 47,962	\$ 46,674	\$ 49,075	\$ 48,412	\$ 48,875	\$ 47,367
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	177,366	162,310	109,760	41,880	53,567	46,674	49,075	48,412	48,875	47,367
CONTRIBUTION DEFICIENCY (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,605)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered payroll	\$ 5,073,742	\$ 4,642,288	\$ 3,926,003	\$ 4,359,147	\$ 4,504,961	\$ 4,578,199	\$ 5,081,736	\$ 5,272,492	\$ 5,837,449	\$ 5,949,056
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	3.50%	3.50%	2.80%	0.96%	1.19%	1.02%	0.97%	0.92%	0.84%	0.80%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

The information presented was determined as part of the actuarial valuations as of January 1 of the prior fiscal year. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation presented is as follows: the actuarial cost method was entry-age normal; the amortization method was level percent of pay, closed and the amortization period was 18 years; the asset valuation method was five-year smoothed fair value; and the significant actuarial assumptions were an investment rate of return at 7.25% annually, projected salary increases assumption of 2.85% to 13.75% compounded annually and postretirement benefit increases of 2.75% compounded annually.

(See independent auditor's report.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE EMPLOYER'S NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND

Last Ten Calendar Years

MEASUREMENT DATE DECEMBER 31,	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL PENSION LIABILITY										
Service cost	\$ 431,916	\$ 511,460	\$ 443,531	\$ 376,336	\$ 421,830	\$ 406,835	\$ 418,297	\$ 430,382	\$ 470,899	\$ 506,757
Interest	3,473,417	3,541,938	3,450,789	3,309,164	3,361,241	3,332,055	3,358,481	3,340,073	3,393,604	3,282,957
Differences between expected and actual experience	460,084	14,305	(1,437,105)	883,692	139,636	438,479	(186,602)	773,412	(1,631,449)	2,074,809
Changes of assumptions	-	(1,664,080)	959,742	-	(479,110)	-	-	(66,871)	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,477,540)	(3,505,605)	(3,664,354)	(3,836,132)	(3,911,127)	(3,766,226)	(3,870,967)	(3,829,267)	(3,688,546)	(3,865,751)
Net change in total pension liability	887,877	(1,101,982)	(247,397)	733,060	(467,530)	411,143	(280,791)	647,729	(1,455,492)	1,998,772
Total pension liability - beginning	47,835,040	48,722,917	47,620,935	47,373,538	48,106,598	47,639,068	48,050,211	47,769,420	48,417,149	46,961,657
TOTAL PENSION LIABILITY - ENDING	\$ 48,722,917	\$ 47,620,935	\$ 47,373,538	\$ 48,106,598	\$ 47,639,068	\$ 48,050,211	\$ 47,769,420	\$ 48,417,149	\$ 46,961,657	\$ 48,960,429
PLAN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION										
Contributions - employer	\$ 207,692	\$ 117,429	\$ 197,073	\$ 37,448	\$ 44,769	\$ 54,774	\$ 46,516	\$ 50,601	\$ 49,695	\$ 48,055
Contributions - member	205,937	244,158	203,517	191,281	208,802	204,873	277,131	237,193	254,348	273,690
Net investment income	3,351,477	9,294,244	(3,636,504)	9,434,630	7,954,650	10,182,568	(8,862,313)	5,700,838	5,435,070	8,528,480
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,477,540)	(3,505,605)	(3,664,354)	(3,836,132)	(3,911,127)	(3,766,226)	(3,870,967)	(3,829,267)	(3,688,546)	(3,865,751)
Other	247,764	(1,731,692)	(103,443)	241,763	(12,855)	(712,445)	(846,095)	1,200,904	(2,469,940)	1,895,485
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	535,330	4,418,534	(7,003,711)	6,068,990	4,284,239	5,963,544	(13,255,728)	3,360,269	(419,373)	6,879,959
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	48,864,435	49,399,765	53,818,299	46,814,588	52,883,578	57,167,817	63,131,361	49,875,633	53,235,902	52,816,529
PLAN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - ENDING	\$ 49,399,765	\$ 53,818,299	\$ 46,814,588	\$ 52,883,578	\$ 57,167,817	\$ 63,131,361	\$ 49,875,633	\$ 53,235,902	\$ 52,816,529	\$ 59,696,488
EMPLOYER'S NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET)	\$ (676,848)	\$ (6,197,364)	\$ 558,950	\$ (4,776,980)	\$ (9,528,749)	\$ (15,081,150)	\$ (2,106,213)	\$ (4,818,753)	\$ (5,854,872)	\$ (10,736,059)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

MEASUREMENT DATE DECEMBER 31,	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	101.39%	113.01%	98.82%	109.93%	120.00%	131.39%	104.41%	109.95%	112.47%	121.93%
Covered payroll	\$ 4,505,259	\$ 4,933,970	\$ 4,202,001	\$ 4,115,125	\$ 4,432,558	\$ 4,552,716	\$ 4,845,571	\$ 5,270,971	\$ 5,647,155	\$ 6,107,147
Employer's net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of covered payroll	(15.02%)	(125.61%)	13.30%	(116.08%)	(214.97%)	(331.26%)	(43.47%)	(91.42%)	(103.68%)	(175.79%)

Assumption Changes:

In 2023, changes in assumptions were made related to mortality rates and other demographics.

In 2020, changes in assumptions were made related to price inflation, salary increases, retirement age and mortality rates.

In 2018, changes in assumptions were made related to the discount rate.

In 2017, changes in assumptions were made related to price inflation, salary increases, retirement age and mortality rates.

In 2016, changes in assumptions were made related to the discount rate.

(See independent auditor's report.)

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS**

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

June 30, 2026

BUDGET/APPROPRIATION

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with GAAP. Annual budgets are adopted (at the fund level) for all governmental funds. All annual budgets lapse at fiscal year-end.

RAILS follows the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. The Finance Director and Executive Director prepare and submit to the Board of Directors, as part of the annual area and per capita grant application, a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level.
2. The proposed operating budget is adopted by the Board of Directors at a public meeting.
3. Any amendments to the budget must be adopted by the Board of Directors at a public meeting.
4. Budgeted amounts presented in the financial statements are those as originally adopted by the Board of Directors.

**GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGETARY VARIANCE
EXPLANATION**

The general fund's total revenues of \$16,976,324 are \$52,831 below the budgeted amount, primarily due to the transition to the new eRead Illinois platform which put a temporary hold on new deals and discounts during the initial transition period. Some deals and discounts also experienced less growth than anticipated including the Brainfuse online tutoring and study suite, the Communico customer engagement platform, the JSTOR academic journals, and several others. These were partially offset by growth in the EBSCO database participation that supplements and enhances the State's core EBSCO database package. Total reimbursement revenues are \$276,200 below budget.

During fiscal year 2026, the growth of the Find More Illinois and eRead Illinois programs was slightly less than anticipated (\$24,200).

Investment income is \$246,334 above budget due to fewer than anticipated interest rate cuts over the course of fiscal year 2026. RAILS had budgeted an average interest rate of 3.50%.

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

**GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGETARY VARIANCE
EXPLANATION (Continued)**

Total general fund expenditures of \$16,683,131 are below the final budget by \$232,911 due primarily to below budget library materials (\$286,601), personnel (\$221,783), travel and continuing education (\$131,406), supplies, postage and printing (\$61,218), and professional services (\$54,066), partially offset by capital outlays for leases and other capital asset purchases (\$542,345).

Library materials expenditures were below budget due to the transition to the new eRead Illinois platform, causing a pause in eRead Illinois content purchases. The reimbursement revenues from deals and discounts program activity are offset by library materials expenditures. The less than anticipated growth in several of these deals caused these offsetting expenditures to be below what had been budgeted.

Personnel expenditures were under what had been anticipated during the year primarily due to several delivery positions that experienced openings during the fiscal year as well as one position that supported RSA operations remaining vacant until the RSA staff were hired directly by RSA. As a result of this turnover, workers' compensation insurance, taxes, and health insurance premiums were less than what had been anticipated in the budget. In addition, workers' compensation premiums were anticipated to increase 7% for calendar year 2026, but the actual increase was closer to 3%. Similarly, the health, dental and life insurance premiums were budgeted with blended increases based on staff elections that changed after the budget was finalized.

Travel and continuing education expenditures rose from fiscal year 2025 but remained under budgeted primarily due to scheduling conflicts for staff during the fiscal year which affected both in-state and out-of-state travel expenditures. Due to RAILS exhibiting, sponsoring, and/or presenting at conferences, registration fees are often reduced or eliminated for staff members. Additionally, booth and sponsorship costs for some conferences were less than anticipated.

Supplies, postage and printing expenditures were below budget primarily due to the postponed migration of the RAILS websites to cloud hosting. Additionally, the amount of ad hoc IT equipment purchases was less than what the budget had anticipated, and the organization-wide laptop and desktop replacement was nearly \$10,000 under what RAILS had anticipated. Several small office furniture replacements were budgeted to happen in fiscal year 2026, but these were more minimal than anticipated. These below budget expenditures were partially offset by the unbudgeted replacement of a portion of the oldest delivery bins as well as an unbudgeted third order of delivery labels.

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

**GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGETARY VARIANCE
EXPLANATION (Continued)**

Professional services expenditures were below budget primarily due to several consulting projects that will continue into fiscal year 2027 or were able to be completed by in-house staff. Additionally, RAILS had a less than anticipated need for legal services related to the ongoing organization-wide policy review.

Capital outlays were above budget primarily due to the expenditures that were recorded for the extended lease of the East Peoria facility. There were also several capital expenditures made in fiscal year 2026 that included vehicles, computers, building improvements, furniture, and equipment.

Special revenue fund expenditures were below budget primarily due to the timeline of the Cook County digital navigator network grant work. When the grant was awarded by Cook County, the initial grant term was anticipated to end in November 2025. This timeline was extended to November 2026 as a part of the grant agreement that was signed after the budget was finalized. This extended timeline allowed for additional planning and program building but also resulted in a \$669,174 difference between budgeted and actual revenues and offsetting expenditures.

Additionally, the L2 development and enhancement work was temporarily put on held during the annual library certification process due to anticipated disruptions that the planned enhancements would have caused. This resulted in under budget revenues and expenditures of \$48,600.

The world language cataloging services program uses a vendor for languages that cannot be cataloged by RAILS staff. The backlog of work at this vendor due to qualified cataloger shortages as well as a short-term vacancy in the RAILS Cataloging Services Assistant position resulted in under budget revenues and expenditures of \$12,463.

COMBINING AND INDIVIDUAL FUND FINANCIAL SCHEDULES

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL GENERAL FUND - BY SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Administration		LLSAP		Delivery		Total	
	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual
REVENUES								
Intergovernmental								
Area and per capita	\$ 11,871,714	\$ 11,871,714	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,871,714	\$ 11,871,714
Fees for services and materials	673,640	648,922	-	-	779,707	779,447	1,453,347	1,428,369
Reimbursements	2,806,750	2,530,550	-	-	-	-	2,806,750	2,530,550
Investment income	877,000	1,123,334	-	-	-	-	877,000	1,123,334
Miscellaneous	20,344	22,357	-	-	-	-	20,344	22,357
Total revenues	16,249,448	16,196,877	-	-	779,707	779,447	17,029,155	16,976,324
EXPENDITURES								
Culture and recreation								
Personnel	3,955,964	3,959,870	458,075	442,149	3,449,925	3,240,162	7,863,964	7,642,181
Library materials	3,403,975	3,117,374	-	-	-	-	3,403,975	3,117,374
Buildings and grounds	184,332	150,747	10,172	12,043	118,422	133,366	312,926	296,156
Vehicles	20,843	19,479	4,133	6,759	538,927	533,343	563,903	559,581
Travel and continuing education	378,560	253,988	2,558	1,778	10,033	3,979	391,151	259,745
Public relations	28,900	14,052	-	-	-	-	28,900	14,052
Commercial insurance	17,209	16,721	3,664	3,217	35,111	32,927	55,984	52,865
Supplies, postage and printing	267,801	172,265	8,693	376	60,780	103,415	337,274	276,056
Telephone and telecommunications	31,700	26,532	6,840	6,112	39,165	37,675	77,705	70,319
Equipment rental, repair and maintenance	122,883	117,136	2,016	2,020	4,600	4,911	129,499	124,067
Professional services	262,064	201,298	-	-	10,000	16,700	272,064	217,998
Contractual services	551,220	520,720	1,605,195	1,620,973	912,282	960,287	3,068,697	3,101,980
Professional association membership dues	12,339	13,773	-	-	-	-	12,339	13,773
Miscellaneous	13,500	11,723	-	-	1,450	731	14,950	12,454
Capital outlay	-	-	-	187,868	-	354,477	-	542,345
Debt service								
Principal	-	-	34,000	28,799	348,711	294,511	382,711	323,310
Interest	-	22,759	-	1,571	-	34,545	-	58,875
Total expenditures	9,251,290	8,618,437	2,135,346	2,313,665	5,529,406	5,751,029	16,916,042	16,683,131

(This schedule is continued on the following page.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (Continued) GENERAL FUND - BY SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Administration		LLSAP		Delivery		Total	
	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Original and Final Budget	Actual
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 6,998,158	\$ 7,578,440	\$ (2,135,346)	\$ (2,313,665)	\$ (4,749,699)	\$ (4,971,582)	\$ 113,113	\$ 293,193
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
Transfers (out)	-	(1,850,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,850,000)
Issuance of leases	-	-	-	187,868	-	354,477	-	542,345
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	(1,850,000)	-	187,868	-	354,477	-	(1,307,655)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ 6,998,158	\$ 5,728,440	\$ (2,135,346)	\$ (2,125,797)	\$ (4,749,699)	\$ (4,617,105)	\$ 113,113	(1,014,462)
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1								25,970,430
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30								<u>\$ 24,955,968</u>

(See independent auditor's report.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION		
Personnel		
Library professionals	\$ 1,320,681	\$ 1,345,615
Other professionals	1,443,600	1,473,111
Support services	462,116	429,905
Social security taxes	245,949	234,375
Unemployment insurance	13,962	16,379
Workers' compensation	2,764	2,009
Retirement benefits	25,142	25,565
Health, dental and life insurance	399,450	398,446
Other fringe benefits	27,800	19,063
Recruiting	14,500	15,402
Total personnel	3,955,964	3,959,870
Library materials		
Print materials	1,300	904
E-Resources	3,402,675	3,116,470
Total library materials	3,403,975	3,117,374
Buildings and grounds		
Utilities	107,760	72,769
Property insurance	9,576	9,490
Repairs and maintenance	29,175	25,563
Custodial/janitorial service and supplies	27,550	31,030
Other buildings and grounds	10,271	11,895
Total buildings and grounds	184,332	150,747
Vehicles		
Fuel	2,100	1,519
Repairs and maintenance	4,000	792
Vehicle insurance	14,743	17,168
Total vehicles	20,843	19,479
Travel and continuing education		
In-state travel	74,245	28,915
Out-of-state travel	51,950	28,135
Board member travel	9,400	11,837
Registration and meeting fees	109,165	76,441
Conferences and continuing education meetings	133,800	108,660
Total travel and continuing education	378,560	253,988
Public relations	28,900	14,052

(This schedule is continued on the following page.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (Continued) ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION (Continued)		
Commercial insurance		
Liability insurance	\$ 17,209	\$ 16,721
Total commercial insurance	17,209	16,721
Supplies, postage and printing		
Computers, software and supplies	192,700	125,302
General office supplies and equipment	60,406	34,862
Postage	14,695	12,101
Total supplies, postage and equipment	267,801	172,265
Telephone and telecommunications	31,700	26,532
Equipment rental, repair and maintenance		
Equipment rental	6,800	5,270
Equipment repair and maintenance agreements	116,083	111,866
Total equipment rental, repair and maintenance	122,883	117,136
Professional services		
Legal	50,000	43,461
Accounting	22,000	21,848
Consulting	147,200	91,731
Payroll service fees	42,864	44,258
Total professional services	262,064	201,298
Contractual services		
Information service costs	42,066	37,868
Contract agreements with systems, member libraries and other co-ops	118,654	115,873
Other contractual services	390,500	366,979
Total contractual services	551,220	520,720
Professional association membership dues	12,339	13,773
Miscellaneous	13,500	11,723
Total culture and recreation	9,251,290	8,595,678
DEBT SERVICE		
Interest	-	22,759
Total debt service	-	22,759
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,251,290	\$ 8,618,437

(See independent auditor's report.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL LLSAP - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION		
Personnel		
Library professionals	\$ 183,408	\$ 186,283
Other professionals	162,187	149,692
Support services	28,179	28,611
Social security taxes	28,592	26,911
Unemployment insurance	3,480	1,021
Workers' compensation	320	195
Retirement benefits	2,953	2,880
Health, dental and life insurance	48,956	46,556
Total personnel	458,075	442,149
Buildings and grounds		
Utilities	3,120	4,310
Property insurance	1,615	1,565
Repairs and maintenance	1,351	1,213
Custodial/janitorial service and supplies	3,582	4,491
Other buildings and grounds	504	464
Total buildings and grounds	10,172	12,043
Vehicles		
Fuel	250	582
Repairs and maintenance	200	2,619
Vehicle insurance	3,683	3,558
Total vehicles	4,133	6,759
Travel and continuing education		
In-state travel	1,858	630
Registration and meeting fees	700	1,148
Total travel and continuing education	2,558	1,778
Commercial insurance		
Liability insurance	3,664	3,217
Total commercial insurance	3,664	3,217
Supplies, postage and printing		
Computers, software and supplies	7,946	-
General office supplies and equipment	697	334
Postage	50	42
Total supplies, postage and equipment	8,693	376
Telephone and telecommunications	6,840	6,112

(This schedule is continued on the following page.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (Continued) LLSAP - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION (Continued)		
Equipment rental, repair and maintenance		
Equipment rental	\$ -	\$ 2,020
Equipment repair and maintenance agreements	2,016	-
Total equipment rental, repair and maintenance	2,016	2,020
Contractual services		
Contract agreements with systems, member libraries and other co-ops	1,605,195	1,620,973
Total contractual services	1,605,195	1,620,973
Total culture and recreation	2,101,346	2,095,427
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Leased property	-	187,868
Total capital outlay	-	187,868
DEBT SERVICE		
Principal payments	34,000	28,799
Interest	-	1,571
Total debt service	34,000	30,370
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,135,346	\$ 2,313,665

(See independent auditor's report.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL DELIVERY - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION		
Personnel		
Other professionals	\$ 423,104	\$ 420,183
Support services	2,009,712	1,934,816
Social security taxes	186,118	166,092
Unemployment insurance	19,140	24,522
Workers' compensation	154,341	74,701
Retirement benefits	18,830	18,922
Health, dental and life insurance	593,680	533,535
Temporary help	45,000	67,391
Total personnel	3,449,925	3,240,162
Buildings and grounds		
Utilities	31,050	35,259
Property insurance	19,663	19,113
Repairs and maintenance	23,700	25,071
Custodial/janitorial service and supplies	36,138	46,051
Other buildings and grounds	7,871	7,872
Total buildings and grounds	118,422	133,366
Vehicles		
Fuel	267,817	255,498
Repairs and maintenance	90,000	99,654
Vehicle insurance	173,110	173,995
Other vehicle expenditures	8,000	4,196
Total vehicles	538,927	533,343
Travel and continuing education		
In-state travel	7,233	278
Registration and meeting fees	2,800	3,701
Total travel and continuing education	10,033	3,979
Commercial insurance		
Liability insurance	35,111	32,927
Total commercial insurance	35,111	32,927
Supplies, postage and printing		
Computers, software and supplies	1,480	83
General office supplies and equipment	5,800	4,162
Postage	800	305
Delivery supplies	52,700	98,865
Total supplies, postage and equipment	60,780	103,415
Telephone and telecommunications	39,165	37,675

(This schedule is continued on the following page.)

2.1 FY2026 System Audit

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (Continued) DELIVERY - GENERAL FUND SUBFUND

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
CULTURE AND RECREATION (Continued)		
Equipment rental, repair and maintenance		
Equipment rental	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,166
Equipment repair and maintenance agreements	700	745
Total equipment rental, repair and maintenance	4,600	4,911
Professional services		
Consulting	10,000	16,700
Total professional services	10,000	16,700
Contractual services		
Other contractual services	912,282	960,287
Total contractual services	912,282	960,287
Miscellaneous	1,450	731
Total culture and recreation	5,180,695	5,067,496
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
Leased property	-	354,477
Total capital outlay	-	354,477
DEBT SERVICE		
Principal payments	348,711	294,511
Interest	-	34,545
Total debt service	348,711	329,056
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,529,406	\$ 5,751,029

(See independent auditor's report.)

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

	Original and Final Budget	Actual
REVENUES		
None	\$ -	\$ -
Total revenues	-	-
EXPENDITURES		
Capital outlay		
Buildings and improvements	467,000	51,407
Furniture, fixtures, equipment and computers	35,000	63,374
Vehicles	197,000	232,765
Total expenditures	699,000	347,546
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(699,000)	(347,546)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)		
Transfers in	-	1,850,000
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	1,850,000
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ (699,000)</u>	1,502,454
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1		<u>747,417</u>
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30		<u><u>\$ 2,249,871</u></u>

(See independent auditor's report.)

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2.2 System Member Fees and Revenue

Reimbursement Revenue

EBSCO Electronic Databases	\$	863,491
Gale Databases	\$	20,625
RDA Tool Kit	\$	8,690
Web Dewey	\$	3,578
Smart Horizons Career Online	\$	11,655
Communico	\$	388,598
Platinum Community Engagement Package	\$	24,334
Gale Small Business Builder	\$	249,569
Swank Movie License	\$	175,814
READsquared	\$	11,365
Press Reader	\$	218,301
OrangeBoy Savannah	\$	3,328
Book Browse	\$	12,056
LOTE Online for Kids	\$	64,868
Brainfuse	\$	115,380
Creative Bug	\$	93,760
Hiveclass	\$	5,137
JSTOR	\$	34,097
Gale: Excel Adult High School	\$	67,850
ComicsPlus	\$	55,370
Media Source	\$	4,258
Fiero Code	\$	51,266
Chicago Tribune	\$	33,660
Blinkist	\$	9,750
Playgarden	\$	3,750

Total System Member Reimbursement Revenue \$ 2,530,550

Fees for Services and Materials

HR Source Membership Fees	\$	25,122
Find More Illinois	\$	141,950
ILDS-Delivery Service	\$	762,749
Branch - Delivery Service	\$	16,698
eRead Illinois Membership Subscriptions	\$	481,850

Total System Member Fees for Services \$ 1,428,369

Total System Member Fees and Revenue \$ 3,958,919

RAILS FY2026 Annual Report | September 30, 2026

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2.3 System Non-Member Fees and Revenue

Other State Grant Revenue

L2 Maintenance and Development Grant	\$	77,259	
World Language Cataloging Services Grant	\$	111,371	
			\$ 188,630

Other State Grant Revenue

Cook County Digital Navigator Network Grant	\$	180,826	
			\$ 180,826

Investment Income

Illinois Funds - Money Market	\$	258	
PTMA - CitiBank	\$	22,587	
PTMA - CDs	\$	111,761	
Hinsdale Bank & Trust - Money Market	\$	988,728	
Interest on Sworsky Donation - Bonds	\$	-	
			\$ 1,123,334

Rental Income

Coal Valley Lamar - Sign Rental	\$	1,000	
			\$ 1,000

Other Income

Illinois Library Law Books	\$	350	
Prior Year Liability Adjustment	\$	133	
Can't Shelve This Podcast Award	\$	100	
Threadless System Error	\$	3	
ComEd Deposit Interest	\$	16	
Credit Card Cash Back Redemption	\$	1,100	
			\$ 1,702

Gain/(Losses) on Disposition of Capital Assets

Disposition of Vehicles	\$	40,703	
			\$ 40,703

Net Pension Income

IMRF Annual Actuarial Adjustment	\$	1,514,601	
			\$ 1,514,601

Total System Non-Member Fees and Revenue			\$ 3,050,796
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2.4 Capital Expenditures in Excess of \$5,000

Burr Ridge SendPro Postage Meter	\$	11,317
Burr Ridge Hearing Loop	\$	8,014
Burr Ridge Network Server	\$	11,684
Burr Ridge Network Server	\$	11,684
Burr Ridge Network Server	\$	11,684
Burr Ridge Executive Assistant Workstation	\$	8,991
Bolingbrook Warehouse Fan	\$	12,446
Burr Ridge Baseboard Heater Replacement	\$	38,961
Bolingbrook 2024 Ford F-450 Box Truck	\$	77,703
Burr Ridge 2025 Chrysler Pacifica Van	\$	43,798
Rockford 2026 Ford Transit Van	\$	55,632
Rockford 2026 Ford Transit Van	\$	55,632
Total Capital Expenditures in Excess of \$5,000	\$	<u><u>347,546</u></u>

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2.5 Loans

RAILS did not have any loans in FY2026	\$	-
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2.6 Treasurer's Surety Bond



2200 Renaissance Blvd. Ste. 400
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2755
Ph. (610) 832-8240

PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND

Bond Number: 404269109

Know all men by these presents: That we, Amanda Kowalcze
26357 S 80th Ave, Monee, IL 60449 as Principal(s) and
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is authorized to transact
surety business in IL, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto
Reaching Across Illinois Library System
in the penal sum of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100
Dollars (\$ 1,200,000.00),
lawful money of the United States of America, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves,
our heirs, legal representatives, successor and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

WHEREAS, the above bounden Principal has been duly elected or appointed to the office of _____
Treasurer

for a term beginning July 26, 2025 and ending _____ (if no ending
date is listed, the appointment is for an indefinite term);

Now, therefore, the condition of this Obligation is such that if the Principal shall well, truly and faithfully execute
and perform the official duties of said office during said term, according to all laws now in force or which may be
enacted subsequent to the execution of this bond, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise it shall remain in full
force and effect.

This Bond may be cancelled by the Surety effective upon the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date of written
notice of such cancellation to the Principal and Oblige named herein at their last known address, provided no
such cancellation shall affect or abridge the liability of the Principal or the Surety to the Oblige for losses occurring
during the term covered by this bond prior to the effective date of cancellation.

DATED as of this 30th day of July, 2025.

Sharon Lerman
Witness:

Amanda Kowalcze
(Principal)

By: [Signature]

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
(Surety)

By: William T. Krumm [Signature]
Attorney-in-Fac



This bond replaces 999350198 for
Catherine Yanikoski originally effective 7/6/24



POWER OF ATTORNEY

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company
West American Insurance Company

KNOWN ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of New Hampshire, that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, and West American Insurance Company is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana (herein collectively called the "Companies"), pursuant to and by authority herein set forth, does hereby name, constitute and appoint William T. Krumm all of the city of Rolling Meadows state of IL its true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred to sign, execute and acknowledge the following surety bonds, undertakings, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and all other surety obligations related thereto, the execution of which shall be binding upon the Companies as if it had been duly signed and executed by its own officers:

Principal Name: Amanda Kowalcze
Obligee Name: Reaching Across Illinois Library System
Surety Bond Number: 404269109

Bond Amount: See Bond Form

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Power of Attorney has been subscribed by an authorized officer or official of the Companies and the corporate seals of the Companies have been affixed thereto this 30th day of July, 2025.



Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company
West American Insurance Company

By: Nathan J. Zangerle
Nathan J. Zangerle, Assistant Secretary

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA ss
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

On this 30th day of July, 2025, before me personally appeared Nathan J. Zangerle, who acknowledged himself to be the Assistant Secretary of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, The Ohio Casualty Company, and West American Insurance Company, and that he, as such, being authorized so to do, execute the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing on behalf of the corporations by himself as a duly authorized officer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal at Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, on the day and year first above written.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public
Montgomery County
My commission expires March 28, 2029
Commission number 1126044
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

By: Teresa Pastella
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public

This Power of Attorney is made and executed pursuant to and by authority of the following By-laws and Authorizations of The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and West American Insurance Company which resolutions are now in full force and effect reading as follows:

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS: Section 12. Power of Attorney.

Any officer or other official of the Corporation authorized for that purpose in writing by the Chairman or the President, and subject to such limitation as the Chairman or the President may prescribe, shall appoint such attorneys-in-fact, as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Corporation to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations. Such attorneys-in-fact, subject to the limitations set forth in their respective powers of attorney, shall have full power to bind the Corporation by their signature and execution of any such instruments and to attach thereto the seal of the Corporation. When so executed, such instruments shall be as binding as if signed by the President and attested to by the Secretary. Any power or authority granted to any representative or attorney-in-fact under the provisions of this article may be revoked at any time by the Board, the Chairman, the President or by the officer or officers granting such power or authority.

ARTICLE XIII - Execution of Contracts: Section 5. Surety Bonds and Undertakings.

Any officer of the Company authorized for that purpose in writing by the chairman or the president, and subject to such limitations as the chairman or the president may prescribe, shall appoint such attorneys-in-fact, as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations. Such attorneys-in-fact, subject to the limitations set forth in their respective powers of attorney, shall have full power to bind the Company by their signature and execution of any such instruments and to attach thereto the seal of the Company. When so executed such instruments shall be as binding as if signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

Certificate of Designation - The President of the Company, acting pursuant to the Bylaws of the Company, authorizes Nathan J. Zangerle, Assistant Secretary to appoint such attorneys-in-fact as may be necessary to act on behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations.

Authorization - By unanimous consent of the Company's Board of Directors, the Company consents that facsimile or mechanically reproduced signature of any assistant secretary of the Company, wherever appearing upon a certified copy of any power of attorney issued by the Company in connection with surety bonds, shall be valid and binding upon the Company with the same force and effect as though manually affixed.

I, Renee C. Llewellyn, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary, of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, and West American Insurance Company do hereby certify that this power of attorney executed by said Companies is in full force and effect and has not been revoked.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seals of said Companies this 30th day of July, 2025.



By: Renee C. Llewellyn
Renee C. Llewellyn, Assistant Secretary

Not valid for mortgage, note, loan, letter of credit, currency rate, interest rate or residual value guarantees.

For bond and/or Power of Attorney (POA) verification inquiries, please call 610-832-8240 or email HOSUR@libertymutual.com.

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3.0 Membership

3.1 Changes in System Membership RAILS

a. New Members Added

- SAE Institute
- Shirland CCSD 134
- LEARN John & Kathy Schreiber Campus
- Hill Correctional Center
- Washington Central School District 51
- Lake Forest Academy
- LaHarpe Community School District
- North Park Elementary School
- Japanese American Service Committee
- St. Mary Nativity (Joliet, IL)
- Ridgeland School District 122

b. Members Suspended

- Saint Patrick High School
- Lemont-Bromberek CSD#113A

c. Members Withdrawn

- Arentfoxx Schiff LLP
- Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah
- Crete-Monee Unit School District #201-U
- Deere & Company Administrative Center
- EcoLab
- Gas Technology Institute
- Hartsburg Emden CUSD #21
- Hines Veterans Administration Hospital
- IC Catholic Prep
- National Archives and Records Admin.
- Saint Augustine College
- Saint Catherine Laboure
- Saint Mary's School
- Saint Petronille Catholic School
- Saint Walter School
- Stephan Company
- The Center
- The Heartland Institute
- Trinity Christian College
- Trinity International University
- Williamsfield CUSE #210

3.2 Number of System Members

Library Type	Agencies	Locations
Academic	109	150
Public	413	486
School	543	2821
Special	120	126
Total	1185	3583

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3.3 Continuing Education (CE)/Training

Category	Events Held	Total Attendance	Total Contact Hours
AI	7	786	938
Palace Project (eRead Illinois)	12	720	720
Cataloging	4	337	1890
Customer Service	3	410	410
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	6	564	733
Funding & Fundraising	1	121	121
Grant Writing	1	22	22
Human Resources	3	586	757
Library Programming	3	164	188.5
LLSAP (RSA)	113	251	248.25
Management & Leadership	16	1364	2087.25
Other	2	210	210
Marketing	12	1088	1371.5
Technology	5	290	314
Trustee Development	1	76	76
Youth Services	1	94	141
Totals*	190	5719	8556.5

RAILS Academy Tutorials	Views	Completions
538	17, 288	1118

* Lower total number of Events Held and Attendance are attributed to RSA CE events no longer being included after RSA became independent in January 2026.

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3.4 Member Site Visits

Site visits

Type	In-person
Academic	3
Public	8
School	7
Special	5
Total	23

Online networking events

RAILS Online Roundtables are one-hour online networking events that allow participants to discuss a topic related to libraries. These events are open to all libraries.

Topic	Date	Registered	Attended
RAILS Networking Group Conveners Club	08/12/25	37	23
Academic & School Library Virtual Mixer	08/14/25	38	13
Illinois School Library Workers Symposium	09/17/25	227	194
RAILS Showcase: Resource Sharing Map	09/24/25	116	69
Cook County Digital Navigator Network Guiding Team Virtual Office Hours	10/13/25	9	8
RAILS Online Roundtable: Libraries Supporting Reentry	10/23/25	37	21
Civic Empowerment Networking Group Kick-off Meeting	10/29/25	66	38
RAILS My Library Is... Grant Information Session	11/03/25	70	37
RAILS Online Roundtable: Makerspaces & Digital Scholarship	11/20/25	76	26
My Library Is... Grant Virtual Cowork Time	12/09/25	8	5
My Library Is... Grant Virtual Cowork Time	01/14/26	13	12
RAILS Online Roundtable: Human Library	04/06/26	46	18

RAILS Conveners Club	05/06/26	33	25
RAILS Online Roundtable: Library Demographics	06/09/26	83	40
	Total	859	529

In-Person Member Meetups

Topic	Date	Registered	Attended
RAILS Member Meetup: Schewe Library at Illinois College	07/08/2025	1	7
<u>RAILS Member Event: Churchill School</u>	07/28/25	7	8
<u>RAILS Member Meetup: Black Hawk College Quad Cities Campus</u>	02/03/26	13	13
<u>RAILS Member Event: Ela Public Library Forge Makerspace Visit</u>	04/27/26	50	25
RAILS Member Meetup: Fountaindale Public Library	05/01/26	14	15
	Total	85	68

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3.5 Nonresident Participation

The URL for the list of participating and nonparticipating public libraries as required in 23 ILAC 3050.30(c) of the Administrative Rules for FY2026 for RAILS is:

<https://railslibraries.org/libraries/nonres-cards>

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4.0 System Staff

4.a System Staff

Employee_Name	Position	Department	Workweek Hours	Hourly	Salary
ALCARAZ, DAN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	80	19.03	0
ANDERSON, AARON C	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17	0
AURAND, LINDSEY MARIE	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.85	0
BAIN, ERIC DAVID	Technology Special Projects Coordinator	Resource Sharing	75	0	3354.77
BEHM, ANNA L	E-Content Specialist	Resource Sharing	75	0	3095.75
BINEGAR, DUANE C	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
BOSS DROUGHNS, IRIS ANN	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17	0
BOSTROM, DANIEL PETER	Director, Marketing & Communications	Communications	75	0	4326
BOYD, ANDREW W	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	80	21.83	0
BURNSIDE, RICKY LEE	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	80	21.83	0
CHONG, DANIEL	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
CUMMINGS, ROBERT	Delivery Services Manager	Delivery	75	0	3076.93
CZAUZ, RAFAL P	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
DALY, SAMANTHA M	Director, Human Resources	Human Resource	75	0	4087.51
DERUCKI, JANETTE LYNN	Data Analyst	Data Analysis	75	0	2735.65
DIXON, WAYNE C	Application Developer	Information Technology	75	0	3434.33
DOERRIES, PETER	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
ELDER, JAMIE	Human Resources Generalist	Human Resource	75	0	2307.7
ERICKSON, DOUGLAS ROBERT	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
EVERSON, YOLANDA	Data Analysis Intern	Data Analysis	30	20	0
FILAPEK, JOSEPH CHARLES	Associate Executive Director	General Administrative	75	0	5494.67

4.0 System Staff

4.a System Staff

FINK, FRANK	Driver (Part Time)	Delivery	50	21.83	0
FRANCISCOVICH, TYLER	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	78	21.83	0
FURRY, NATHAN	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	20	0
GARCIA, ANDREW	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
GEMMELL, GWEN	Administrative Assistant	General Administrative	75	23.8	0
GEORGE, NINCY	Cataloging Services Manager	Information Technology	75	0	3193.1
GOEBEL, KRYSTLE MARIE	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
GOODE, JOSHUA	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17	0
GRABOWSKI, ALICE	Special Projects Coordinator	General Administrative	75	30	0
GREEN, KOURTNEY SHANE	Human Resources Assistant	Human Resource	75	25.71	0
GRONSKI, OLA	Digital Marketing and Communications Specialist	Communications	75	0	2604.77
HALL, GRIFFIN M	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	20	0
HALTER, GRANT ALEXANDER	Data Analysis Manager	Data Analysis	75	0	3531.08
HARRIS, MONICA R	Executive Director	General Administrative	75	0	7698.91
HATCH, MARK	Director, Delivery and Facility Services	Delivery	75	0	4679.68
HATTAN, ANTHONY	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
HEATH, LEILA A	Director, Library Resources and Programs	Resource Sharing	75	0	4397.99
HEBEL, RYAN	Senior Support Specialist	Information Technology	80	27.78	0
HILL, DAVID	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	80	17	0
HIRNER, LIANA	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
ILIEV, GALIN P	Network Administrator	Information Technology	75	0	3171.39
JAMES, JEREMY	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
KANZAKI, TELE	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0

4.0 System Staff

4.a System Staff

KHOURY, ANGEL J	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	76	19.03	0
LIND, MITCHELL	Driver (Part Time)	Delivery	45	17	0
MARQUEZ, GATES	Special Projects Librarian	Resource Sharing	75	0	2500
MARTINOWSKI, ROBERT	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	76	21.83	0
MCCARTHY, MIKE	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
MCKAMEY, JEFF	Delivery Services Manager	Delivery	75	0	2795.61
MEKEEL, DAN	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	20.8	0
MENDOZA, ELENA	Staff Accountant	Finance & Accounting	75	0	2963.63
MIETUS, CHRISTIAN	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
MILLER, BARB	Consortial Services Supervisor	Resource Sharing	75	0	3013.77
MOFFET, TRISTAN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17	0
MORGAN, ROBERT JOSEPH	Delivery Services Manager	Delivery	75	0	2795.61
MORRIS, JASMINE	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	21.25	0
MUNTZ, TRE	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
MURRAY, MARY KATE	Special Projects Coordinator	General Administrative	75	27.09	0
NEMETH, LAURA	Staff Accountant	Finance & Accounting	75	0	2798.52
NIEHOFF, KATE A	Director of Consulting and Continuing Education	Consulting/Continuing Educatio	75	0	3872.8
PALMISANO, STACY ANN	Executive Assistant	General Administrative	75	38.56	0
PERALES, TONY	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
PERKINS, JACOB	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
PERRY, KIM	Accounting Specialist	Finance & Accounting	75	24.9	0
PHILLIPS, BEN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	76	21.83	0
POINDEXTER, AUSTIN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	18.25	0

4.0 System Staff

4.a System Staff

RANDALL, TOM	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	80	21.83	0
RODRIGUEZ, JOHN CHRISTOPHER	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	18.21	0
ROSALES, MIGUEL CARLOS	Driver (Part Time)	Delivery	72	21.83	0
RUIZ, RICKY	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	20	0
RUSCH, DIANE M	Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist	Consulting/Continuing Educatio	75	0	2740.22
SAVIO, KAREN	Accounting Specialist	Finance & Accounting	75	26.62	0
SCHMIDT, JUSTIN	System Administrator	Information Technology	75	0	3078.34
SCHMIDT, MARGAE ANN	Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist	Consulting/Continuing Educatio	75	0	2676.85
SCHNELLE, ALAN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	22.89	0
SCOTT, CHARLES ADAM	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
SHORT, BRANDEN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	18.21	0
SILVA, JESSICA L	Member Engagement Specialist	Communications	75	0	2842.81
SLAUGHTER, ANNE	Director, Technology Services	Information Technology	75	0	4909.38
SMITH, BRIAN L.	Applications and Web Developer	Communications	75	0	3948.52
SMITH, COLLIN	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
SMITH, WESLEY C.	Information Technology Manager	Information Technology	75	0	4418.45
SPENCER, BROCK A	Delivery Facility Associate	Delivery	75	27.89	0
SPRINGER, KORTNI P	Library Resource Specialist	Resource Sharing	75	0	2307.69
STONE, WILLIAM E	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
SWANSON, SHARON	Director, Finance	Finance & Accounting	75	0	4112.61
TALLMAN, JOHN	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	18.25	0
THOMANN, MAGGIE	Library Resource Specialist	Resource Sharing	75	0	2560
WARFIELD, DEMOND	Delivery Services Manager	Delivery	75	0	3021.54

4.0 System Staff

4.a System Staff

WEISS, JERRY	Driver (Full Time)	Delivery	75	17.68	0
WELLSPRING, ANDI	Driver/Floater (Full-time)	Delivery	75	20	0
WILLIAMS, HOLLY	Sorter (Full Time)	Delivery	75	21.83	0
ZIMMERMANN, NICOLE MARIE	Marketing and Public Relations Specialist	Communications	75	0	2748.5

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4.0 System Staff

b. Staffing-Vacant Positions

Administrative Assistant

c. Staffing-Position Eliminations

None

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5.1 Board Meetings

Reaching Across Illinois Library System

FY2026 Board Meetings

2025				
Date	Day	Time	Main Location	Events/Notes
July 25	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	New board members seated
August 22	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
September 26	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
October 24	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
November 21	Friday	1:00 pm	Galesburg PL	
2026				
Date	Day	Time	Main Location	Events/Notes
January 23	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
February 27	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
March 27	Friday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	
April 24	Friday	1:00 pm	NIU Library	
May 22	Friday	10:00 am	RAILS Burr Ridge	Elections held May 6-22, 2026
June 18	Thursday	1:00 pm	RAILS Burr Ridge	

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5.2 List of System Board Members

The FY2026 RAILS Board of Directors' service began July 1, 2025, and will expire as listed below. Elections are held in May, with the new Board being seated in July. All Board members are OMA compliant. The FOIA officer has completed training. All email addresses end in @board.railslibraries.org.

Full Name	Term	Home Address	Email
Monica Caldicott	July 2023-June 2026	5417 Gerry Lane, Crystal Lake, IL 60014	monica.caldicott@
Jean Carroll Secretary	July 2023-June 2026	706 Courtland Circle, Western Springs, IL 60558	jean.carroll@
Jennifer Cutshall Ethics Officer	July 2024-June 2027	1637 Terrace Rd Homewood, IL 60430	jennifer.cutshall@
Megan Gove	July 2025-June 2028	1530 Ridgeline Rd, Rockton, IL 61072	megan.gove@
Gwen Gregory President	July 2023-June 2026	124 Manor Drive, DeKalb, IL 60598	gwen.gregory@
Ron Holohan	July 2025-June 2027	1504 W. Woodside Drive, Dunlap, IL 61525	ron.holohan@
Jennifer Hovanec OMA Officer	July 2023-June 2026	544 N. Harvard Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181	jennifer.hovanec@
Amanda Kowalcze Treasurer	July 2024-June 2027	26357 S. 80th Avenue, Monee, IL, 60449	amanda.kowalcze@
Roberta Parks	July 2025-June 2028	401 SW Water Street Unit 802, Peoria, IL 61602	roberta.parks@
Emily Porter	July 2024-June 2027	705 James Ave. Rockford, IL 61107	emily.porter@
Carolyn Sennett	July 2025-June 2027 (Filled Anupam's Seat)	1500 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091	carolyn.sennett@
Alex Vancina FOIA Officer	July 2023-June 2026	1906 Heatherway Ln #6, New Lenox, IL 60451	alex.vancina@
Karen Voitik	July 2024-June 2027	415 Savoy Dr Shorewood, IL 60404	karen.voitik@
Yolande Wiburn (Resigned 2/2026) Open seat added to FY2027 election	July 2025-June 2028	310 S Michigan Ave, 705, Chicago, IL 60604	yolande.wilburn@
Catherine Yanikoski Vice President	July 2025-June 2028	P.O. Box 9397, Aurora, IL 60598	catherine.yanikoski@

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5.3 Assessment that the Board Meets the Policy Requirements in 23 ILAC 3030.255

Section 3030.255 Board of Directors Policies

Requirements from 23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.255, are italicized.

a) Policies and bylaws adopted by the library system boards for the governance of library systems shall be filed with the Illinois State Library. Policies should cover, at a minimum, the following areas of system operations:

- 1) Fiscal accountability;*
- 2) Personnel;*
- 3) Core services as specified in Section 3030.215;*
- 4) Technology, including plans for updating technological equipment and software and security measures to safeguard electronic financial information, employee data and other records.*

RAILS complies. These areas are addressed in various documents, including the RAILS fiscal accountability policy, employee handbook, and plan of service. Bylaws and other major governing and operational documents are available at <https://railslibraries.org/policies/fiscal-accountability>.

b) All library system policies and bylaws shall be in accordance with State law and subject to approval by the State Librarian.

RAILS complies.

c) No later than 60 days after these rules become effective, the library system shall adopt, post on its web site and submit to the Illinois State Library a copy of policies that regulate activities of the library system in a manner no less restrictive than as follows:

- 1) Contracts and Purchasing*
 - A) Purchases of \$25,000 or More*
 - i) All contracts for supplies, materials or work involving an expenditure of \$25,000 or more, other than professional services, shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, after advertisement at least once in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within the area of the library system, not less than 14 days before the bid date.*
 - ii) All competitive bids for contracts involving an expenditure of \$25,000 or more must be sealed by the bidder and must be opened by a board member or employee of the library system at a public bid opening at which the contents of the bids must be announced. Each bidder must receive at least 3 days notice of the time and place of the bid opening.*
 - iii) The library system board of directors may reject any and all bids and re-advertise. The system shall not be required to accept a bid that does not meet the library system's established terms of delivery, quality and serviceability.*
 - iv) When the emergency expenditure is approved by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members of the library system board of directors, a contract can be let without advertising for bids. When possible, emergency purchases shall be made on the basis of three informal competitive quotations.*
 - B) Purchases of More Than \$5,000 but Less Than \$25,000. Any purchase by a library system for services, materials, equipment or supplies, other than professional services, with a value greater than \$5,000 but less than \$25,000 shall be made, whenever feasible, on the basis of three or more informal competitive quotations.*
 - C) Governmental Agencies. The requirement to advertise for bids does not apply to contracts for goods or services procured from another governmental agency.*

D) *Professional Services. Contracts that, by their nature, are not adapted to award by competitive bidding, such as contracts for the services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill when the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part, contracts for utility services such as water, light or heat, contracts for the use, purchase, delivery, movement or installation of data processing equipment, software or services, telecommunications and interconnect equipment, software or services, contracts for duplicating machines and supplies, contracts for goods or services procured from another governmental agency, purchases of equipment previously owned by some entity other than the district itself, and contracts for the purchase of magazines, books, periodicals, pamphlets and reports are not subject to competitive bidding.*

These requirements are covered by the RAILS fiscal accountability policy, which was revised and approved by the RAILS board on May 26, 2023, and approved by the Illinois State Library, and is available at <https://railslibraries.org/policies>

2) *Conflict of Interest. No library system employee, nor the spouse or minor child of a system employee, may be in any manner financially interested directly in his or her own name or indirectly in the name of any other person, association, trust or corporation in any purchase or lease contract entered into by the system. This provision shall not apply if the purchase or lease contract is with a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation or cooperative association in which the interested employee, the employee's spouse, or the employee's minor child has less than a 7.5 percent share of the total distributable income. Any purchase or lease contract entered into by the system with an employee, his or her spouse, or minor child before the start of the employee's employment with the system in which the employee, his or her spouse, or minor child has a pecuniary interest is voidable if it cannot be completed within 365 days after the employee is employed.*

Conflict of interest is addressed in section VI.H of the RAILS fiscal accountability policy, available at <https://railslibraries.org/policies/fiscal-accountability>

3) *Travel Expenditures. It is the policy of the system to reimburse full and part-time employees and members of the library system board of directors for reasonable authorized expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. The library system board of directors shall develop a policy for the control of travel sufficient to prevent obligation of funds exceeding budget limitations and to hold travel to the minimum required for the efficient and economical conduct of the library system's business. The policy for the control of travel established by the library system board of directors shall include a description of the library system's travel approval process, allowable transportation expenses, non-reimbursable expenses, and rates of reimbursement for mileage, including automobile, air and train; per diem/meals; and lodging. Travel reimbursements shall follow federal travel regulations (FTR) promulgated by the U.S. General Services Administration (41 CFR 300-304).*

Travel expenditures are addressed in the RAILS fiscal accountability policy and the employee travel policy. Both are available at <https://railslibraries.org/policies>

4) *Secondary Employment. The board shall approve and regularly review a policy on secondary employment for system employees. No library system employee may accept employment that may cause a conflict of interest or infringe on official work time with the library system.*

The RAILS employee handbook includes the policy on outside (secondary) employment. This policy is also posted as a separate document at <https://railslibraries.org/policies>

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5.4 Assessment that the Board meets the Finances and Records responsibilities in 23 ILAC 3030.260

The following presents the requirements contained in 23 ILAC 3030.260 (in italics) and RAILS compliance with these:

- a) *The fiscal year for the library system shall begin July 1 and end on June 30.* RAILS's fiscal year conforms.
- b) *The board of directors of the library system shall:*
 - 1) *Maintain all financial records at the library system administrative headquarters.* RAILS maintains such records at its Burr Ridge administrative headquarters.
 - 2) *Review monthly financial reports.* RAILS presents monthly financial reports to its Board as an agenda item at every board meeting.
 - 3) *Conduct an annual audit of the records of the library system for the preceding fiscal year by an independent certified public accountant and make copies of the audit available to the State Librarian on or before September 30 following the end of the fiscal year. Audits shall be conducted in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards, 2011 Revisions," if applicable, published by the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability, 441 G Street N, Washington DC 20548. The material incorporated by reference includes no later amendments or editions.* RAILS has the required audit performed annually by an independent certified public accountant, currently Sikich CPA LLC, and includes the audit report as part of the annual report filed with the State Librarian by September 30. The annual single audit is finalized and provided to the State Librarian when following the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issuing the final compliance supplement.
 - 4) *Account for all funds of the library system by expenditure, encumbrance or reserves as of June 30 of each year.* RAILS accounting system has been developed to account for all funds in this manner, the results as of and for June 30 are presented in RAILS's annual financial report.
 - 5) *Adopt, prior to July 1 of each year, an annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year in a form prescribed by the Illinois State Library. The annual budget shall be submitted to the State Librarian as part of the annual application cited in Section 3030.265.* RAILS's Board of Directors approved the annual budget at its meeting on June 20, 2025 and submitted the budget as part of the annual grant application dated June 20, 2025.
 - 6) *Maintain an inventory of all equipment purchased.* This inventory is maintained by the RAILS Information Technology department. Capital expenditures of over \$5,000 are recorded in the fixed assets module of RAILS's accounting system.

- 7) *Organize all accounts for the library system on the basis of funds (governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds). The adopted budget and revenue-expenditure reports of the library system shall be created on this same basis of account/fund structure. RAILS's accounting chart of accounts is set up by fund, and the budget and revenue-expenditure reports are constructed based on this structure.*
- 8) *Approve and submit financial reports to the State Librarian twice a year. A six-month cumulative revenue-expenditure report is due to the Illinois State Library on February 15 of each year for the period of July 1 through December 31. The annual audit of the library system shall be filed with the State Librarian on or before September 30 following the end of the fiscal year. RAILS filed the six-month cumulative revenue-expenditure report on February 5, 2026 and will file its FY2026 annual audit of the library system on or before September 30. The single audit is finalized by RAILS's auditors, accepted by RAILS's board, and filed after the OMB issues the final compliance supplement.*

Based on the above assessment, the RAILS's Board meets the Finances and Records responsibilities in 23 ILAC 3030.260.

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6.0 Bylaws

Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)

Bylaws

Revision Control

These bylaws were adopted by the individual System Boards (Alliance Library System, DuPage Library System, Metropolitan Library System, North Suburban Library System, Prairie Area Library System) as Appendix B of the Intergovernmental Agreement in February 2011.

- RAILS Bylaws – APPROVED by System Boards February 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – ADOPTED by the Merger Transition Board on March 10, 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – RATIFIED by RAILS Board on July 1, 2011
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS BOARD October 21, 2011 (Article 6, Section D)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board December 19, 2011 (Article 4, Section B; Article 5, Section N)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board February 22, 2013 (Article 5E; Article 5K; Article 5O)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 5C and E)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 5, Section N)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 22, 2015 (Article 6, Section A)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board June 19, 2015 (Article 1; Article 5B, C & D; Article 8)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board July 24, 2015 (Article 6; Section D)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board October 30, 2015 (Article 6; Section B)
- RAILS Bylaws – REVISION APPROVED by RAILS Board May 28, 2021 (Article 2; Article 5C, Article 6A)

Article 1 Name and Definitions

- The name of the organization shall be Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) hereinafter known as the System.
- A “Member,” or “the Membership,” refers to the library organizations that have chosen to join, been approved, and receive services from the System.
- “Directors” are individuals serving on the System Board of Directors.
- “Eligible electors” are individuals who are eligible to register to vote within the territory of the System. Each Member library will designate an individual who will cast the organization’s vote in the election of Directors to the System Board.

Article 2 Purpose

RAILS is a multi-type regional library system that fosters collaboration and resource sharing among libraries to empower them to better serve their clientele or library users.

Article 3 Authority

The System derives its authority from the Library Systems Act (75 ILCS 10/1 et seq.). This statute states that it is the policy of the State of Illinois in promoting public education, and in serving all levels of the educational process, to encourage the improvement of free public libraries and the cooperation among all types of libraries in the sharing of library resources.

6.0 Bylaws

Article 4 Membership in the System

A. **Eligibility**

The statutes and administrative rules of the State of Illinois and the Membership Criteria of the System govern Membership in the System. Any Public, School, Academic or Special library, within the service area, is eligible to apply for Membership. Participating libraries will hereinafter be known as Members. Acceptance is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the System and the State Librarian and implies agreement by the applying library to applicable State statutes and rules and to the System's Bylaws, policies and Plan of Service. Members agree to comply with policies, rules and regulations required for maintaining Membership.

B. **Suspension**

Any Member library may be suspended from Membership if not in compliance with State Statutes, Administrative Rules or System Requirements. Members will remain in good standing as long as they meet System and State Membership criteria. Specific information about Suspension can be found in the Administrative Rules (3030.115).

Article 5 Governance

A. **The Governing Board**

The Governing Board shall be the System Board of Directors composed of fifteen (15) individuals hereinafter referred to as "The System Board."

B. **Number and Qualifications**

While all Directors are expected to represent the entire System, the Board of Directors will be made up of the following types of individuals.

1. Eight (8) seats will be held by Board members of Member Public Libraries.
2. One (1) seat will be held by an individual who is currently employed by a School Library.
3. One (1) seat will be held by an individual employed by an Academic Library.
4. One (1) seat will be held by an individual employed by a Special Library.
5. The remaining four (4) seats will be filled by individuals elected at large and currently employed by or current members of the governing board of libraries of any types: public, academic, school and special, and without regard to type of library.
6. All Directors must be eligible electors in the geographical area of the System.

C. **Nominations**

1. Each year, the President of the System Board will appoint a Nominating Committee that selects and confirms candidates for election to the System Board. The committee shall be comprised of no less than five individuals. Of these individuals, no more than the Chair of the Committee and one other Director shall be appointed to the committee from the sitting Board. All other committee members shall be appointed from general RAILS membership. No Nominating Committee Member may be slated for election to the System Board.
2. The Nominating Committee shall make every effort to recruit a diverse, equitable and inclusive roster of candidates for the RAILS board so that the board will truly represent, as much as

6.0 Bylaws

possible, the diverse membership of RAILS libraries and their communities. The call for nominations will be publicized to the Members of the System and any Member may propose names for the Nominating Committee's consideration

3. Further nomination may be made upon written petitions of ten (10) Member Libraries represented by the type of seat on the System Board to be filled. Such petitions, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee, must be filed with the System Board Secretary, who will convey the nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Timing of such petition will be appropriately publicized.
4. No individual may be a candidate for more than one Board seat in a specific election. No individual may hold two RAILS board seats simultaneously.
5. An individual may not serve on the RAILS board if the individual's election or appointment to the board would result in there being on the board at the same time two individuals who are employed by and/or on the governing board of the same member library. If two candidates from the same member library both receive enough votes to be seated on the board in the same election, the candidate with the lowest number of votes between the two candidates will be disqualified and the candidate with the highest number of votes between the two candidates will be seated on the board.

D. **Election of Directors**

1. The Nominating Committee will determine the design and the timetable for the distribution and return of ballots.
2. Each Member library shall receive one ballot with all the names of the candidates with instructions for casting the ballot. The individual designated by the Member will cast the ballot.
3. When the votes are tallied, the candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes in his/her category is elected to the vacant seat(s). In case of a tie, the seat holder will be decided by a flip of the coin.

E. **Term**

The term of office of Directors shall be three years, but no Director shall serve more than a total of six years unless two years have elapsed since his/her sixth year of service. The terms of office of one-third of the Directors shall expire each year. The term of office begins with the first Board meeting after the start of the fiscal year.

F. **Vacancies**

Should a vacancy occur between elections, The System Board will appoint an individual with the qualifications to fill the specific type of vacant seat as described in Article 5, Section B 1-6.

G. **Disqualifications**

Directors are expected to fulfill the duties required of them by the nature of their office. The System Board by a Majority vote may, with a quorum present, declare a System Board position vacant if a Director fails to attend two (2) unexcused Board meetings during the System year.

6.0 Bylaws

Should a Director no longer be an eligible elector within the geographic area of the system, or leave the local position by virtue of which he/she was eligible, nominated and elected, the seat shall be declared vacant. This shall not apply when the Director changes positions within the local entity or is still otherwise qualified to represent the type of seat for which the Director was elected.

H. **Meetings**

The System Board shall meet a minimum of nine (9) times a year. Directors may attend meetings electronically consistent with established Board policy and the Open Meetings Act. A simple majority of the Directors will constitute a quorum.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or upon the request of three Directors upon five days written notice, for the transaction of such business as may be stated in such notice.

I. **Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors**

The powers and duties of the System Board shall be in accordance with the Illinois Library System Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated there under.

The Board of Directors will conduct an evaluation of the Executive Director annually at an appropriate time.

J. **Officers**

The Officers of the Board shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Officers of the Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. The President will preside at all meetings of the Board; shall appoint any necessary committees; shall sign official documents; and, shall assume such other powers that meet with the consent of the Board.
2. The Vice President will preside at meetings in the absence of the President; shall in the case of the resignation of the President or the inability of the President to perform the duties of the office assume the President's responsibilities until the election of a new President; and, shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
3. The Secretary will keep minutes of all Board meetings; shall sign documents and correspondence in the name of the Board when so directed by the President and/or the Board; and, shall perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
4. The Treasurer will discharge the responsibilities placed upon that office by law, oversee the fiscal affairs and activities of the System; report regularly to the Board of these matters, and perform such other duties as the Board may direct. Before entering the office, the treasurer is required to give a bond in an amount set by the Board in compliance with law, and the cost of such to be paid by the System.

K. **Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee will propose the slate of Officers of the System Board. The election of officers shall be held at the first meeting of the System Board each year. The officers shall be elected for one (1) year, and no officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms in one office. A term of six (6) months or more shall be considered a full term. The term of office begins with the first Board meeting after the start of the fiscal year.

6.0 Bylaws

L. **Vacancies in Officers Roles**

In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President, and the System Board shall elect one of the remaining Directors to the office of Vice-President for the remainder of the term. In the event one of the other offices becomes vacant, the System Board shall elect one of the remaining Directors to fill the remainder of the term.

M. **Committees**

1. Executive Committee

- a. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer together with one additional Director elected by the Board of Directors shall constitute the Executive Committee. The designation of such committee, and the delegation thereto of authority, shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any Member thereof, of any responsibility imposed by law.
- b. The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise the authority of the Board of Directors as specifically and expressly delegated by the action of the Board of Directors.
- c. A majority of the Directors on the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- d. The President of the Board of Directors shall preside at the meetings of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside.

2. Other committees

- a. Committees of the Board will be appointed where there is a need in the areas of Board operations, Board policy, and activities outside the responsibilities of the Executive Director as chief executive and administrative officer. The Board of Directors may establish ad hoc and advisory committees as it sees fit.

N. **Economic Interest**

No member of the RAILS Board of Directors may profit personally, either directly or indirectly, for any business connected with the system.

Each member of the RAILS Board of Directors shall file a Statement of Economic Interest as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act.

Each member of the RAILS Board of Directors shall also file a Conflict of Interest Form *annually or within 60 days of assumption of office*, certifying that the member has no prohibited conflict of interest with RAILS and disclosing any personal or business relationships that reasonably could produce a direct or indirect conflict involving RAILS. The Conflict of Interest Form should be filed with the RAILS Executive Director.

The members of the RAILS Board of Directors shall serve without compensation, but their actual and necessary expenses shall be paid or reimbursed by the system.

O. **Indemnification**

6.0 Bylaws

Members of the RAILS Board of Directors shall be indemnified as described in the RAILS Indemnification Policy.

Article 6 System Executive Director

- A. The Board of Directors shall, by resolution, appoint an Executive Director of the System who shall meet any and all requirements, including having a master's degree from an American Library Association-accredited library education program and at least five years postgraduate employment, including at least two years in library administrative experience, as required by the Board and by Illinois law and regulation. (75 ILCS 10/7).
- B. Responsibilities of the Executive Director:
 - 1. General administration of the System.
 - 2. Provision of professional advice to the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Authority and responsibility for staff recruitment, evaluations, promotions, discipline management and terminations as well as all other personnel matters in accordance with System policies, except that the Executive Director's authority to hire, fix the compensation, and terminate employees is subject to the approval of the RAILS Board of Directors.
 - 4. Implementation of policies, objectives, and plans of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Executive Director shall be responsible directly to the Board of Directors.

Article 7 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the System shall begin with July 1 and end with June 30, following the applicable rules and regulations of the State of Illinois.

Article 8 Amendments

Proposed Bylaw changes can originate from the System Board or from the Membership of the System. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted for consideration by the System Board at a meeting at which notice of the proposed bylaw amendment has been provided or listed on the meeting agenda. A bylaw amendment may not be voted upon until a subsequent meeting of the Board. Changes to the bylaws must be approved by 2/3's vote of the Directors attending the meeting at which they are considered and must be submitted for approval to the Illinois State Library before they shall become effective.

Notwithstanding the above two-step process, the requirement that action on a bylaw amendment be deferred to a second meeting can be waived, and a bylaw amendment approved at the meeting at which it is initiated, if the bylaw amendment (1) is listed on the agenda for action at the first meeting and (2) is approved by all directors attending the first meeting.

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7.1 Summary Appraisal of System Real Estate

RAILS currently owns two properties; one in Burr Ridge, IL at 125 Tower Drive and the second location in Coal Valley, IL. at 220 W. 23rd Avenue. Their appraised values are identified below:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Appraisal Value</i>	<i>Date of last appraisal</i>
Burr Ridge	125 Tower Drive	\$3,660,000	January 12, 2023
Coal Valley	220 W. 23 rd Avenue	\$405,000	March 7, 2023

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7.2 Inventory of Currently Owned Motor Vehicles

Year	Make	Model	License Plate #	Department	Mileage	Will this vehicle be replaced in FY2027
2015	FORD	Taurus SE	U35842	Staff	65,013	No
2016	FORD	Transit	U30202	Delivery	173,222	No
2018	FORD	Transit	U32140	Delivery	266,607	Yes
2018	FORD	Transit	U32623	Delivery	306,553	Yes
2019	FORD	F450 Box truck	U32844	Delivery	287,383	Yes
2019	FORD	Transit	U33925	Delivery	209,951	No
2019	FORD	F450 Box Truck	U32870	Delivery	306,730	Yes
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241614	Delivery	34,102	Yes
2024	FORD	F350 - 12' Box truck	M245070	Delivery	44,103	No
2024	FORD	F350 - 12' Box truck	M254207	Delivery	65,972	No
2024	FORD	F350 - 14' Box truck	M243661	Delivery	33,854	No
2024	FORD	F350 - 14' Box truck	M243662	Delivery	30,123	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246828	Delivery	41,514	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246840	Delivery	28,952	No
2024	FORD	F450 Box truck	M251837	Delivery	45,278	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241648	Delivery	198,881	Yes
2026	FORD	Transit T350	pending	Delivery	new	No
2014	FORD	Fusion	U26470	Staff	59,933	No
2015	FORD	Taurus (silver)	U13511	Staff	76,216	No
2015	FORD	Taurus (white)	U13510	Staff	80,333	No
2016	FORD	Taurus SE	U30230	Staff	49,673	No
2025	CHRYSLER	Pacifica	U39101	Staff	4,463	No
2019	FORD	Transit	U33922	Delivery	301,271	Yes
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241616	Delivery	109,616	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M245446	Delivery	72,754	No
2024	FORD	E350 Box Truck	M249165	Delivery	46,241	No
2019	FORD	Transit 350	U33927	Delivery	296,780	Yes
2019	FORD	Transit 350	U33921	Delivery	314,739	Yes
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241649	Delivery	157,127	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241647	Delivery	110,610	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241782	Delivery	130,723	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246833	Delivery	80,806	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246832	Delivery	68,386	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246838	Delivery	79,019	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246837	Delivery	93,935	No
2018	FORD	Transit 350 Van	U32142	Delivery	272,562	Yes
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M241615	Delivery	94,754	No
2024	FORD	Transit T350	M246831	Delivery	58,452	No
2026	FORD	Transit T350	M252599	Delivery	8,788	No
2026	FORD	Transit T350	M252598	Delivery	24,251	No

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7.3 Summary of fiscal year actual out-of-state travel information

Name of Event or Reason for Travel, Destination	Number of Travelers
Library Marketing and Communications Conference, St. Louis, MO	1
Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference, Albuquerque, NM	1
DefCon, Las Vegas, NV	2
Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference, Austin, TX	1
Public Relations Society of American Icon, Washington, DC	1
ALA Core Forum, Denver, CO	2
American Association of School Librarians, St. Louis, MO	2
Drupal Government Conference, College Park, MD	1
Charleston Library Conference, Charleston, SC	1
International Coalition of Library Consortia, Orlando, FL	2
Public Library Association, Minneapolis, MN	7
ALA National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC	1

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**23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.270 Part B Multitype Library System Annual System Report
FY2026 Delivery Annual Report**

8. Delivery Annual Report

In addition to including delivery goals, objectives, and activities in the Annual Report Narrative (1.1), complete Tables 1, 2 and 3 with information specific to the delivery service only.

Tables 1 and 3 include both system and ILDS delivery.

Table 1: Delivery Operating Expenses

Delivery Expenditures	FY2026 System Delivery	FY2026 ILDS
Delivery Personnel		
Library Professionals		
Other Professionals	\$ 356,506.00	\$ 63,677.00
Support Services	\$ 1,529,701.00	\$ 405,115.00
Social Security Texas (FICA)	\$ 133,308.00	\$ 32,784.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 19,475.00	\$ 5,047.00
Workers' Compensation	\$ 60,165.00	\$ 14,536.00
Retirement Benefits	\$ 15,142.00	\$ 3,780.00
Health, Dental, and Life Insurance	\$ 418,750.00	\$ 114,785.00
Temporary Help	\$ 51,229.00	\$ 16,162.00
Recruiting	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,584,276.00	\$ 655,886.00
Delivery Buildings & Grounds		
Rent	\$ 256,325.00	\$ 72,731.00
Utilities	\$ 29,261.00	\$ 5,998.00
Property Insurance	\$ 16,030.00	\$ 3,083.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 23,084.00	\$ 1,987.00
Janitorial Services & Supplies	\$ 37,227.00	\$ 8,824.00
Other	\$ 6,816.00	\$ 1,056.00
TOTAL	\$ 368,743.00	\$ 93,679.00
Delivery Vehicle Expense		
Fuel	\$ 212,323.00	\$ 43,175.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 83,228.00	\$ 20,622.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$ 141,256.00	\$ 32,739.00
Vehicle Leasing & Rent	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 436,807.00	\$ 96,536.00
Travel & CE for Delivery Staff		
In-State Travel	\$ 278.00	\$ 0.00
Out-of-State Travel	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Registration & Other Fees	\$ 3,701.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,979.00	\$ 0.00

23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.270 Part B Multitype Library System Annual System Report

Delivery Expenditures	Expense Item	FY2026 System Delivery	FY2026 ILDS
Delivery Liability Insurance		\$ 26,774.00	\$ 6,153.00
TOTAL		\$ 26,774.00	\$ 6,153.00

Supplies, Postage & Printing			
Delivery Supplies		\$ 79,113.00	\$ 19,752.00
General Office Supplies & Equipment		\$ 4,055.00	\$ 921.00
Internal Printing/Photocopying		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Postage		\$ 252.00	\$ 53.00
Library Supplies		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Other		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 83,420.00	\$ 20,726.00

Delivery Telephone & Telecomm			
Local/Long Distance – Voice		\$ 31,196.00	\$ 6,479.00
Telecomm – Data & Fax		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 31,196.00	\$ 6,479.00

Delivery Equipment Rental, Repair & Maintenance			
Equipment Rental		\$ 3,571.00	\$ 595.00
Equipment Repair & Maintenance		\$ 694.00	\$ 51.00
Maintenance Agreement		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Computer Hardware Insurance		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 4,265.00	\$ 646.00

Delivery Professional Services			
Legal		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Accounting		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Consulting		\$ 16,700.00	\$ 0.00
Contractual Staff		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 16,700.00	\$ 0.00

Delivery Contractual Services			
Contractual Agreements with commercial carriers		\$ 960,287.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL		\$ 960,287.00	\$ 0.00

TOTAL DELIVERY OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 4,516,447.00	\$ 880,105.00
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23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.270 Part B Multitype Library System Annual System Report

Table 2: Regional Delivery Statistics

Provide a summary of regional delivery services. Chart regional statistics by routes or hubs including the number of items transported, average number of delivery miles traveled per week, and average number of direct delivery stops per week. Do not include ILDS items that were transported. Report statistical data using methods agreed upon through the work of the statewide Delivery Standardization project.

Delivery Route or Hub	Items Transported	Average Miles/Week	Average Stops/Week
Burr Ridge (out sourced)	2,055,438	0	431
Coal Valley	334,100	3,460	194
East Peoria	949,075	7,742	507
Geneva	1,128,988	925	167
Rockford	644,988	3,350	283
Shorewood	1,024,788	2,464	288
Wheeling (out sourced)	2,207,050	0	276
TOTAL	8,344,427	17,941	2,146

Table 3: Delivery Supplemental Statistics as of June 30, 2026

All Agencies	Number receiving system-provided delivery	Number receiving outsourced delivery	Total
Public libraries (agencies)	387	124	511
Academic libraries (agencies)	94	0	94
School libraries (agencies)	70	0	70
Special libraries (agencies)	11	0	11
TOTAL	562	124	686

Community Delivery Partnership (CDP) Agencies	Number participating in CDPs as host	Number participating in CDPs as participant
Public libraries (agencies)	144	11
Academic libraries (agencies)	1	3
School libraries (agencies)	2	209
Special libraries (agencies)	0	11
TOTAL	147	234

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Agency Delivery by Frequency	Number in functional frequency categories. Include all types of delivery
On Demand	100
2 day per week	143
3 day per week	50
4 day per week	5
5 day per week	315
Other - 1 day per week	222
TOTAL	835