

101st Illinois General Assembly

| 2019 Spring Session |

SUPPORT LIBRARIES THROUGH FUNDED APPROPRIATIONS

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

OPPOSE ADDITIONAL UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

OPPOSE PROPERTY TAX FREEZE

A statewide property tax freeze preempts local control. Local library trustees' primary duty is to manage local revenues and expenditures. A freeze nullifies this most basic responsibility. A freeze is especially harmful when accompanied by unfunded mandates.

PROTECT NET NEUTRALITY

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

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

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INITIATIVES

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

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

Make clear libraries' eligibility for pursuing performance contracting

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

116th U.S. Congress

| First Session |

FUND LIBRARIES

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT STRENGTHENING THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM

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

**ILLINOIS
LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**



**ILLINOIS
LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**



Introducing Students to Creative Technologies at the Joliet Public Library

Through an LSTA-funded Project Next Generation Grant, the Joliet Public Library offers learning and access to cutting-edge technology for students in grades 5-12 at its Ottawa Street Branch Digital Media Studio. Creative learning sessions include development and launch of a streaming channel for video games, virtual reality technology programming, printing a robot kit in 3D, and video interviewing Illinois veterans. With this grant, students with limited access to computers can learn about ground-breaking technology at the library with trained staff as mentors; skills that will be useful in their studies and when they seek to enter the workforce.



The Chicago Collections Consortium

Founded on the premise of digital collaboration and scholarship, Chicago Collections is a consortium of over 40 libraries and museums focused on the preservation and promotion of Chicago's history and culture. The creation of Chicago Collections' EXPLORE portal connects users including students, teachers, researchers and the general public to free open access to member collections' holdings. Chicago Collections' connected learning offerings are made possible by the collective impact of institutions working together. Through curation of digital exhibitions and free public programs, Chicago Collections provides scholarship and discussion on Chicago's history. Chicago Collections' approach recognizes the power of working together and collectively pooling resources and talent to build a stronger community.



Business Incubation at the Champaign Public Library

"A lack of enough information is a top reason for startup failure," according to Champaign Public Library business specialist Stephanie Pitts-Noggle. To address this issue, the library opened Launch at the Library, a co-working space that offers events, research resources, collaboration areas, as well as assistance learning how to analyze competition, assess risk factors, find business contacts, and understand markets. The combination of dedicated space, resources, and expertise makes Launch at the Library, funded in partnership with the city of Champaign and the library's foundation, a valuable asset to would-be entrepreneurs and University of Illinois students, as well as current area businesses.



Legal Assistance at the Freeport Public Library

In partnership with Prairie State Legal Services of Illinois, Freeport Public Library is bringing free legal assistance to library patrons one day per month. Lawyers from nonprofit Prairie State participate by making presentations starting at noon, then offering one-on-one sessions, with the goal of enabling low-income residents avoid evictions and other types of civil legal problems. The organization does not handle criminal cases. The program furthers the library's goal to collaborate with local organizations to expand the library's services. County residents are eligible if their household income is less than 125 percent of the poverty level or are at least 60 years old.



Internet Access at Belleville Public Library

Today, broadband connectivity and connected devices are essential, but far too many lack access to these tools. The Belleville Public Library is helping close that gap, enabling library card holders to check out portable WiFi "hot spots" for 30 days at a time. Borrowing the units is free, and so is the data. "(The bandwidth is) more than adequate for one device," library director Lee Spearman says, but they aren't meant to support streaming TVs or video games. Instead, they are intended to enable tasks from reading the morning paper, to online tax prep, applying for jobs, and doing research for school.

Compassionate Community Teen Photo Exhibit



Eleven Days of Peace and Compassion in Carbondale

Since 2011 the Carbondale Public Library has worked with local organizations to create an annual 11 Days for Compassion, or 11 Days for Peace. On average, 35 programs will take place throughout the community over the course of the 11 Days. Programs bring community members together to network, problem-solve, learn, create art, and build cross-cultural understanding. Over the years 256 programs and exhibits have served thousands of participants through dozens of collaborating partners. The library won the ALA Excellence in Library Programming Award for this work in 2013, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee John Dear used Carbondale as the model for launching the Nonviolent Cities Project. There are now 50 Nonviolent Cities projects across the U.S. and Canada.



Accessibility Hour at the Northbrook Public Library

Planning an outing for the whole family isn't easy for Liz Wang. Aiden, her second-grade son, has autism and needs special tools to feel comfortable and focus. When the library began organizing Accessibility Hour and other sensory-friendly family events, the Wangs immediately noticed that Aiden was participating and enjoying his time. During Accessibility Hour, families with special needs are invited to visit the library one hour before the regular opening to tour the building, check out materials, and participate in sensory-friendly activities.



Living History in Oak Park

Teens engage with people who lived through some of America's most notable historic events and eras, such as the Civil Rights Movement, via this grant-funded project in Oak Park. The project, led by youth for youth, features teens meeting regularly at the library to research a topic of their choosing, not for school or a grade, but purely out of interest. Their research, conducted over six months, culminates in a public presentation to an audience of family, friends, and community members. This past year, the group of ten youths age 13 to 23 met twice a week at the Oak Park Public Library, with their work facilitated by Billy Che Brooks, former deputy minister of education for the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party who later joined the Better Boys Foundation in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. Azrienna Winston, a senior at Oak Park River Forest High School who organized the presentation event, cites the significance of learning about history from someone who was really there, in person. Librarian Jose Cruz notes the benefits to the young people in the opportunity to set their own curriculum, take initiative, and work collaboratively with one another to educate themselves.

Vote for libraries. Fund libraries. www.ila.org



Illinois Library Association