American Library Association (ALA)
Committee on Legislation
Legislative Agenda for 2020

Strategic, year-round, and relationship-focused advocacy is central to ALA’s mission and essential to the future of America’s libraries. ALA’s Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members and library supporters to advocate on the following library priorities in 2020. ALA will monitor these and other federal issues that may affect libraries and respond with the support of our members and library advocates nationwide.

**Funding**

*Equitable federal funding* for library services is essential to ensuring that every community in America has strong libraries. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key funding issues in 2019:

- **Dedicated library programs:** Continued funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy program (IAL), the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine and the Federal Depository Library Program.

- **Library-eligible programs:** Continued and new federal program opportunities for which libraries are eligible recipients, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

- **IMLS Director:** Prompt confirmation of Crosby Kemper III, who has been nominated to serve as Director of IMLS and lead the agency’s important work to support the nation’s libraries. *COMPLETED January 2020*

**Equitable Access to High-Speed Internet**

Modern library services depend on high-speed internet. ALA supports policies to ensure that libraries in all parts of the country can serve their users with fast and affordable broadband and online services. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key connectivity issues in 2020:

- **E-rate:** Continued funding for the E-rate program, reduced complexity in applying for E-rate and increased support for applicants from the Universal Service Administrative Company.

- **Tribal broadband:** Expanded opportunities for tribal libraries to receive support for high-speed Internet, such as by expanded eligibility for E-rate.

- **Net neutrality:** Restoration of net neutrality protections.

**Copyright, Licensing, and Competition**

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible copyright policy to enable vital library services. ALA supports a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright that protect library services. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices in order to
provide access to digital content such as e-books. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key copyright, licensing, and competition issues in 2020:

- **E-books and digital content**: Federal and state scrutiny of unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries’ ability to meet their users’ reading and information needs.

- **Copyright Office**: Preserving the Librarian of the Congress’ authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office, and continued modernization of the Library’s and Office’s information infrastructure.

**Government Information and Services**
Libraries provide access to government information and services in communities across the country. ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key government information issues in 2020:

- **2020 Census**: Ensuring adequate information, outreach, and support to libraries as they help their communities achieve a complete count in the 2020 Census.

- **Federal Depository Library Program**: Modernizing the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

**Emerging Policy Issues**
Many policy issues affect the broad range of services that libraries provide to their communities. We call on ALA members to join us in exploring opportunities to support libraries through improved public policy related to these issues:

- **STEM and coding**: Develop new opportunities for libraries to engage their communities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and coding.

- **Jobs and workforce development**: Recognize and support workforce development services in libraries, including in reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

- **Small business development**: Expand opportunities for libraries to support entrepreneurs and small businesses, especially from underserved communities.

- **Library infrastructure and sustainability**: Modernize America’s library facilities to better serve their communities, save energy and resources, and improve sustainability.

**Conclusion**
The sustained engagement of ALA members and America’s library supporters is essential to advancing positive policy outcomes on these key issues. We urge all ALA members to sign up as ALA advocates at ala.org/takeaction, to respond to action alerts and advocacy opportunities, to build relationships with
their elected officials and community leaders, and to communicate the impact that libraries have in our communities.