

**American Library Association (ALA)
Committee on Legislation
Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2024**

Policymakers must ensure libraries are equipped to safely meet their communities' needs for technology access, education and learning, economic recovery and development, research, health and well-being, and civic engagement. Policies should support the contributions of libraries of all types, with emphasis on meeting the needs of underserved groups. Advancing access to information, sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion underpin and permeate our legislative advocacy. We will remain steadfast in our defense of intellectual freedom and library users' freedom to read.

ALA's Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members and library supporters to advocate on the following library priorities in 2024. ALA will monitor and engage on these and other [federal issues](#) that affect libraries and will join with partners and coalitions to promote strong and equitable libraries. We urge ALA members and library supporters to [sign up as advocates](#) and use [ALA's advocacy resources](#) to build effective relationships with decisionmakers. We will work to advance these agenda items before Congress and the Administration.

Funding and Support

[Equitable federal funding](#) for library services is essential to ensuring that every community in America has strong libraries. Key issues for 2024:

Dedicated library programs: Increase and maintain funding for the:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services, including the Library Services and Technology Act, and in the upcoming reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act;
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy program and support for [school libraries](#) through the Department of Education;
- Library facilities, sustainability, and resilience; and
- National library programs, including the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, and the Federal Depository Library Program.

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

- K-12 and early education, including in reauthorizing the Every Student Succeeds Act;
- Higher education, including in reauthorizing the Higher Education Act;
- Economic and workforce development, including in reauthorizing the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#); and
- Other crucial community services, including through the National Endowment for the Humanities, Community Development Block Grants, and other applicable programs.

Library workers: Preserve library workers' eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Promote safe work environments for library workers.

IMLS Director: Timely nomination and confirmation of a qualified candidate to serve as the next Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Digital Inclusion and Skills

To promote digital equity, access to technology, and enable modern library services, libraries in all parts of the country must be able to serve their users with fast and affordable [broadband](#), technology access, and digital skills training. Key issues for 2024:

E-rate: Preserve funding for E-rate, improve libraries' access to the program, and expand eligible uses.

Internet access and digital equity: Preserve and expand resources for libraries to support Internet access and digital equity, such as activities under the Affordable Connectivity Program, Digital Equity Act, and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program.

Content access and liability: Restore [net neutrality](#) protections. Preserve Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act liability protections for libraries.

Copyright, Licensing, and Competition

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible [copyright policy](#) to enable vital library services. ALA supports a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices in order to provide access to digital content such as [e-books](#). Key issues for 2024:

E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs, including by license terms that purport to restrict copyright exceptions.

Copyright Office: Maintain the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

Government Information and Services

Libraries provide access to [government information](#) and services in communities across the country. ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services, which includes voting. Key issues for 2024:

Federal Depository Library Program: Modernize the [Federal Depository Library Program](#).

Public access to research: Ensure public access to publicly-funded research and data.