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American Library Association (ALA)
Committee on Legislation
Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2026

Federal policymakers must uphold the programs and policies that enable libraries to meet their communities' needs for information, learning, skills, and opportunity. We will remain steadfast in defending libraries, library workers, and the freedom to read against political threats.

ALA's Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members and library supporters to advocate on the following library priorities in 2026. ALA will monitor and engage on these and other federal issues to protect and advance libraries of all types.

To meet this moment, it is essential that ALA members and library supporters continue to Show Up For Our Libraries. Please join in supporting ALA's advocacy by signing up for advocacy alerts, joining ALA or renewing your membership, donating to ALA, and using ALA's advocacy resources to build effective relationships with decisionmakers.

Funding and Support

Preserving federal funding for library services is essential to ensuring that every community in America has strong libraries. Key issues for 2026:

Dedicated library programs: Protect key federal agencies and programs, including:

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services, including the Library Services and Technology Act, and in reauthorizing the Museum and Library Services Act;
- The Department of Education, including Innovative Approaches to Literacy and support for school libraries;
- Support for library facilities that are modern, accessible, resilient, and efficient; and
- National library programs, including the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, and the Federal Depository Library Program.

Library-eligible programs: Sustain agencies and programs that support libraries' 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.

Federal leadership: Ensure that any nominee to lead the Library of Congress or the Institute of Museum and Library Services is well-qualified and will uphold the agency's crucial work.

Library Workers and Institutions

ALA defends libraries and librarianship against threats including censorship or deprofessionalization. Key issues for 2026 include:

Pathways to library careers: Protect pathways to the profession, including Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Broadband and Digital Opportunity

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 2026:

E-Rate: Safeguard the Universal Service Fund and the E-Rate program. Advocate for a sustainable, predictable, and long-term funding solution. Preserve E-Rate as a flexible program for meeting libraries' local technology needs.

Internet access and digital opportunity: Preserve and expand resources for libraries to support internet access and digital opportunity.

Content access and liability: Protect individual freedom and secure open networks. Preserve liability protections for libraries, including Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

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 2026:

E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs. Preserve libraries' rights under copyright limitations and exceptions.

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

Government Information and Services

ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and services. Key issues for 2026:

Federal Depository Library Program: Advance the Federal Depository Library Program and update its statutory authorities.

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