



SHOW UP FOR YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES

May 14, 2025

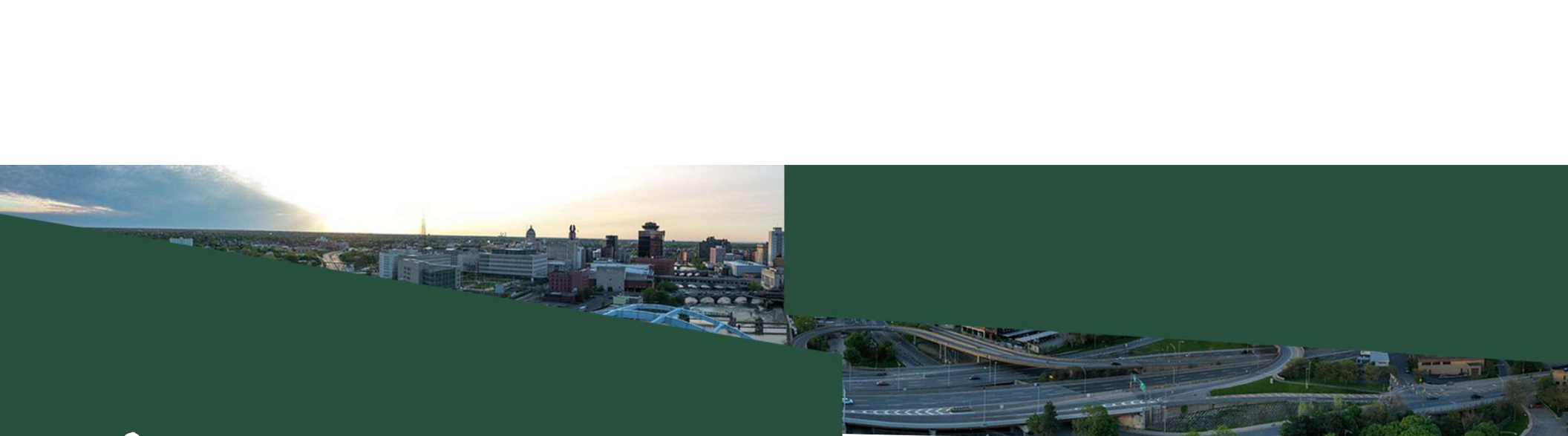
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- Welcome (Emily Clasper)
 - Library Funding (Katy Hasselwander)
 - NYLA + ALA Policy Agenda (Emily Clasper)
 - Legislative Process + Advocacy
(Allan Richards + Linda Donahue)
 - Get involved locally
(Sally Millick + Donna Benjamin)

TABLE OF CONTENTS



LIBRARY FUNDING STREAMS: HOW LIBRARIES ARE FUNDED

Katy Hasselwander



Library Funding



Thinking small: your **local neighborhood branch and town libraries** are funded through local government property tax revenue.

Zooming out: **Monroe County Library System (All Town and City Public Libraries)** provides essential services to its members libraries including IT infrastructure, shipping & delivery, and cataloging to your local libraries. MCLS is funded through the New York State Department of Education, Monroe County, and the members of the system.

Even bigger picture: An Executive Order issued earlier this year calls for the elimination of the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**, a federal agency. This puts the New York State Library at risk, which receives over \$8M in funding from IMLS. In turn, the NYS Library promotes library services, family literacy, and administers state & federal funds to more than 7,000 libraries across the state.

LIBRARY POLICY AGENDA NYLA + ALA PRIORITIES

Emily Clasper



NYLA POLICY AGENDA

Open Shelves Act

Ensures public libraries will continue to provide access to ideas, old and new, and respect the ability of library patrons to make decisions about what content they wish to borrow.

- [Senate S1100](#)
- [Assembly A3119](#)

Freedom To Read Act

Legislation that aims to protect and preserve access to information in libraries and school libraries, ensuring that individuals can access a wide range of materials, including those that may be controversial or address diverse perspectives.

- [Senate S1099](#)
- [Assembly A7777](#)



NYLA POLICY AGENDA

E-Book Legislation

Protects library access to electronic literary materials by prohibiting restrictive provisions in contracts between libraries and publishers.

- Senate – NEEDED
- [Assembly A3589](#)

Cultural Education Fee

A request of the Governor to add \$5 to increase fees for real estate transaction in NYS. The current fee is \$15 and a \$5 raise is expected to generate about \$7M.



ALA POLICY AGENDA

Continue Funding for IMLS + Overturn Executive Order

On March 14, an executive order was issued to eliminate Institute of Museum and Library Services. If this order is allowed to stand, it will hurt millions of Americans who rely on libraries.

Library funding uses a tiny percentage of the annual federal budget, and IMLS makes a real difference for Americans every day. Libraries provide classes for jobseekers, services for people with disabilities, library delivery for older Americans, and so much more.



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AFFECTING CHANGE

Linda Donahue +
Allan Richards





- Introduction
- Government Structure
- How a Bill becomes a law
- Participation in YOUR government
- Being a “change agent”

TABLE OF CONTENTS



BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT

- Executive (The Governor)
 - Budget
 - State agencies
 - Executive Orders
- Legislature (State Senate and Assembly “The People’s House”)
 - Reviews Executive Budget, negotiates and passes budget bills that authorizes spending
 - Authorization bills versus Article VII bills
- Judiciary (Court System)
 - Interpretations of laws – apply facts to laws
 - Court of Appeals



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

- Start with an idea
 - Anyone can suggest new ways to make New York a better place to live
- **Contact** your local lawmakers with your idea
 - Identify your representatives:
<https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-voter>
 - Call, e-mail or write your local or state elected officials
 - Attend a City or Town Council Meeting



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW:

LEGISLATURE

- Bill must pass both Assembly & Senate
- Once it passes one house it is delivered to the other house
- If a bill passes both houses, it is delivered to the Governor

GOVERNOR

- Governor's Role:
 - Sign bill into law
 - Veto (reject) the bill
 - Or take no action for 10 days, then bill automatically becomes law
- Legislature can override a veto with 2/3rds vote from BOTH Assembly and Senate.



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- Introduce the Bill & Find Sponsorship
 - Sponsor: the legislator who will represent the bill in its journey to becoming a law
 - One house bill; same-as bill; uni-bill
- Committees:
 - Substantive committee
 - Codes committee
 - Ways and means committee
 - Rules committee
 - “Reported by committee” vs. “held for consideration” – majority vote
 - Agenda and Rule 99



IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

- Change cannot be made alone – government requires partners & support from the people on the ground
- Constituents are partners in the governmental process
- State elected officials meet with activists and advocacy groups on a wide-range of issues
- Work closely with local officials in Monroe County, City Hall, and Towns
- Fortunate to have a strong Greater Rochester Majority Delegation



PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT: BEING A CHANGE AGENT

- Elections and voting
- Bringing ideas to your elected representatives
- Commenting on budget and/or pending legislation
 - Meetings (greatest impact)
 - Telephone calls
 - Letters
 - Emails
 - Signing petitions
 - Unique individual emails make a bigger impact than petitions alone.



GETTING READY FOR AN ISSUES MEETING

- Prepare a one-pager and go with a small, informed & passionate group;
- Confirm the meeting details, relevant bill numbers & attendees with staff via email several days prior to the meeting;
- Know where you are going & arrive together 5 minutes early;
- Before you enter, have contact information prepared to leave with the Legislator or staffer;
- Decide who says what after individual introductions, the issue introduction and individual organizational take on the (each) issue.



- Meeting with librarians and staff at Frederick Douglass Community Library about supporting our libraries.

MEETING ABOUT AN ISSUE

- Share real life stories of how you are impacted by the issue. Constituent experience is important when legislators decide to sponsor a bill.
- Make the ask of the legislator, be direct
 - Support or continue to support legislation
 - Become a sponsor
 - Advocate for bill to get through committee process; passed by Assembly and/or Senate
- Be prepared for questions
 - (Is there opposition? What organizations support the bill? etc.)
- Write a thank you letter.



LET'S ADVOCATE!

- Learn the issues
- Track issues of importance to you. Do you want:
 - budget funding
 - legislation in budget
 - passage of /advocacy for bill
- Connect with your Legislators & staff who represent the districts where you live
- Schedule an introductory meeting with your State Assembly Member and State Senator for no more than 15 minutes (introduce yourself, your interest, and organization in the email/call);
 - Due to scheduling or the topic(s) at hand, the meeting may be with staff, and that's okay staff can be policy experts on issues.
- You've now laid the groundwork for future, issue-related meetings. Remember it's all about relationship building and putting a face on an issue!
- Position yourself as a participant in developing legislation, rules and regulations
 - Join community groups and organizations



What life experience would be valuable to you in advocating for a bill?

YOU ADVOCATED, NOW WHAT?

- Legislators make decisions based on:
 - Constituent letters, calls, and emails
 - Meetings with advocacy groups and organizations
 - Memos of opposition or support received
- Bills may take longer to pass than one legislative session...
 - Let's take a look at S.1099 (May) / A.7777 (Simone) introduced in 2023 (Assembly Only)
 - Enacts the "freedom to read act"; requires the commissioner of education and school library systems to develop policies to ensure that school libraries and library staff are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available.

Why would you support or oppose this legislation?



S.1099 / A.7777

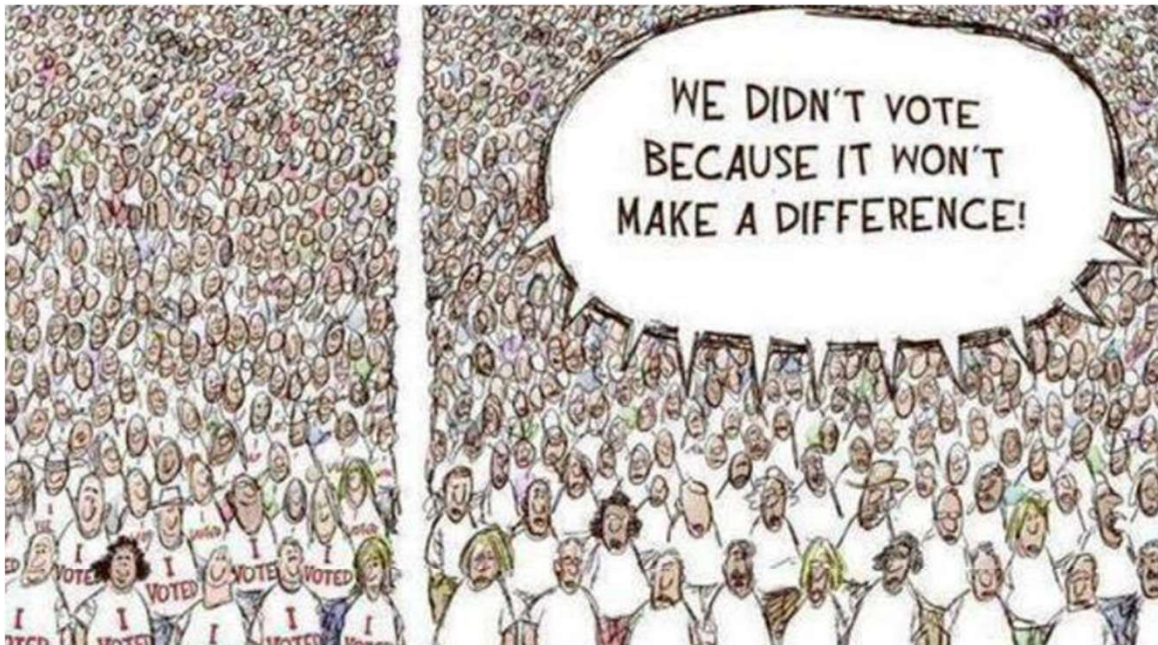
2025-2026

- Introduced by Sens. MAY, COMRIE, HARCKHAM, HINCHEY, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Libraries
- Introduced by M. of A. SIMONE, OTIS, LEVENBERG, LAVINE, McMAHON, CLARK, SLATER, MORINELLO, SHRESTHA, STIRPE, BURDICK, MEEKS, SHIMSKY—read once and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committed on Libraries

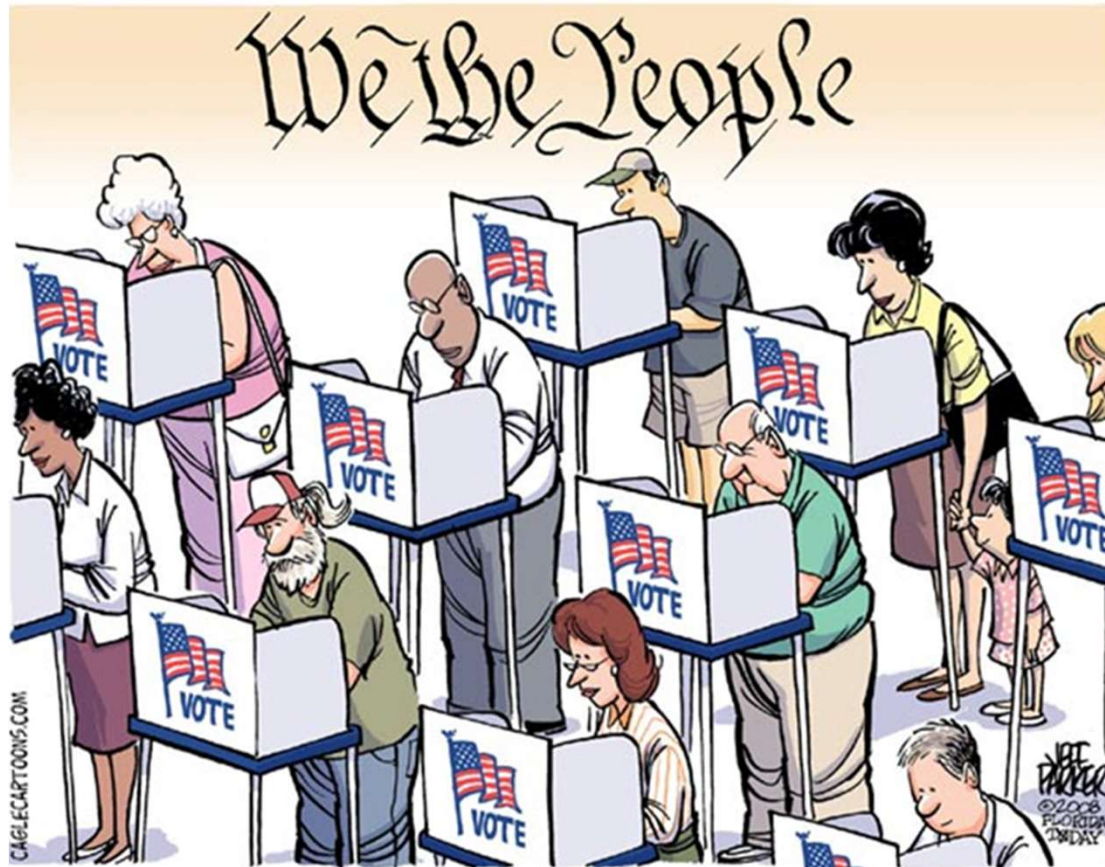


Apr 10, 2025	ADVANCED TO THIRD READING
Apr 09, 2025	2ND REPORT CAL.
Apr 08, 2025	1ST REPORT CAL.649
Jan 08, 2025	REFERRED TO LIBRARIES

REMEMBER TO PARTICIPATE



AND MAKE SURE TO VOTE!



GETTING INVOLVED LOCAL IMPACT

Sally Millick +
Donna Benjamin



GETTING INVOLVED AT HOME



Sally Millick,
FFRPL Board Vice President

- Impact of FFRPL
- How to get involved
- How to bring FFRPL to your community group



Donna Benjamin,
RPL Board President

- Impact of Board Service
- How to get involved in your local library board
- Skills needed for board service





THANK YOU FOR
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LOCAL LIBRARIES

