



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Director Report
 - 2022 Monthly Stats
 - 2023 Monthly Stats
- B. Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn
- C. Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Discussion of LAB Goals for 2024
 - LAB Strategic Plan & Goals Approved February 21, 2023
- [B.](#) Homer Public Library Strategic Plan 2025-2030
 - Public Library Current Strategic Plan

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) Items of Interest - News from Around the Country Related to Libraries
- [B.](#) Proposed Legislation from Around the Country
- [C.](#) LAB Annual Calendar 2024
- [D.](#) City of Homer Newsletter January 2024
- [E.](#) Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-Motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Adopted January 8, 2024 Effective January 9, 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-10, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Clark Fair at 5:30 p.m. on December 19, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS MCKINNEY, FAIR, ASSELIN-MARTIN, CARSSOW AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS BAILY, KUSZMAUL, FINN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair Fair requested a motion and second to approve the agenda.

CARSSOW/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2023

ASSELIN-MARTIN/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

The Clerk provided a brief explanation that the preference is for Boardmembers to call or email the spelling or grammatical corrections to her instead of calling them out in the meeting in response to questions from the Board.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Director's Report for December 2023
1. 2023 Statistics

2. 2022 Statistics

Library Director Berry reviewed his reports in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- No further developments regarding the letter received from the Attorney General. He did participate in a joint editorial submitted by a group of library directors to the Anchorage Daily News and Fairbanks News Miner which was published. He noted that he did not draft the letter but was responsible for some editing of the document.
- Excellent turnout for the Mary Lou Burton Travelogue on November 30th
- Upgrades to the Library WiFi are finished
- Minor Building Improvements are completed
 - o New Tables in the Young Adults Section
- Friends of the Homer Library endorsed the date for the Soiree
- Giving Tree has been doing great
- The Library will be open until 1:00 p.m. on December 23rd and 30th, closed December 24th & 25th and December 31st and January 1st for the Holidays
- The author for the Cold Millions will not be able to come to Homer so the schedule is be amended to focus on local authors. He will attend the Zoom event with John Straley.

Library Director Berry responded to questions regarding:

- Giving Tree progress
- Editorial publishing date and responses to that editorial

B. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Acting Chair Fair noted that Boardmember Kuszmaul was not in attendance and opened the floor to reports or questions regarding fundraising.

There were none.

D. Legislative Update

Acting Chair Fair noted that Boardmember Finn was not in attendance and inquired if other Boardmembers had a topics to report.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin noted that Representative Vance was hosting an Open House Wednesday, December 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan Review & Update

Memorandum from Library Director as backup.
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Acting Chair Fair introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed his memorandum for the Board and stated that the staff will be working on a draft in 2024 and he would like the assistance of the Board with specific areas of the document. He then reviewed the existing document, going through the Priorities table noting the status of the items listed if the priorities needed to be removed and or updated. He explained his goal of refining the Library's role in the community as in the past it has been everything to everybody. He stated his expectations of performing more collaborative partnering with local entities, and continuing with successful programming. Library Director Berry facilitated questions regarding what he will expect from the Board, programming that is offered and what expected changes there will be within the document and data obtained from surveys.

Boardmembers suggested better advertisement of services and amenities provided by the Library since they were not aware of some of the programs and services being offered by the Library and how to find them.

Boardmembers Carssow and Asselin-Martin along with Student Boardmember McDonough will work on drafting a survey to be available at the March meeting for review.

B. Library Advisory Board Goals & Strategic Plan

Acting Chair Fair introduced the item and deferred to Library director Berry.

Library Director Berry noted that annually the Board reviews and updates if desired their Strategic Plan & Goals. He stated that he wanted to have the Board review and familiarize themselves with the document but since several of their members are not present they can bring it back to another meeting for discussion. He added that amendments can be made as desired by the Board or if the document is still current then it can stand as is.

The Board agreed by consensus that they would bring this back for the March agenda when everyone was present.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City of Homer Newsletter for December 2023
- B. Resolution 23-124, 2024 Council & Advisory Bodies Regular Meeting Schedules
- C. LAB Annual Calendar
2023 Annual Calendar
2024 Annual Calendar

Boardmember Asselin-Martin volunteered for the April Report to Council. It was noted that Boardmember Carssow was scheduled to provide the report to City Council at their January 8th meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry reminded the Board about Ordinance 23-49 that will be coming back before City Council on the January 8th regular meeting that establishes departments if any members are interested in commenting as members of the public.

Deputy City Clerk Krause thanked the Board for a fun meeting that was way shorter than her last meeting of the Planning Commission. She then shared a message that she received from her daughter's closest friend who had submitted a piece of her daughter's artwork for an exhibition. It was accepted and will be a memorial exhibit in her honor. The exhibit takes place in a museum in Florida.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Carssow wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year she was looking forward to 2024 and the survey.

Boardmember McKinney wished everyone Happy Holidays but he will be taking a trip and won't be in attendance for the January meeting.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin commented that Acting Chair Fair runs a tight ship and that Boardmember Finn could take some notes. She then commented that's for you Kate cause I know you will listen to this meeting and read the minutes. Happy Solstice everyone.

Student Boardmember McDonough commented that she has enjoyed these last two meetings and is looking forward to all the survey business next year.

Acting Chair Fair wished everyone Happy Holidays and expressed he was glad to survive his temporary chairmanship. He then stated that he will be absent from the January meeting as his daughter will be visiting from Texas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Acting Chair Fair adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

December 31, 2023

General Notes

December was relatively quiet in the library. Staff are working on a new visual design for library cards.

Staff Notes

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 3
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 4
- Council: 0
- Department Heads: 1
- Other: IT and Sister City stuff, SLED databases discussions, vendors for library cards and databases

Facility

The lock on the back door was replaced. New chairs and lighting were added in the teen section.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB discussed its goals for the coming year and the process of assembling the 2025-2030 Library Strategic Plan, which will include doing some public surveys. My major focus for the Strategic Plan is on making the library financially, administratively and physically sustainable as an institution. That means some revisions to fundraising, staff organization and the building itself. The LAB also suggested new ways of publicizing library services and collections.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

We've revived the old digital picture frame that displays Homer patrons with their library cards from 2011, and it's out on the table by the front desk. Starting in January, we will have a monthly

writing circle with Richard Chiappone. The key dates for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning have been set: March 22 is the deadline for nominations, April 3 is the decision on the winners and the event is on April 20. The Giving Tree was up all through December but will be coming down shortly.

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: LARP

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Conversations with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

Special Events

- **Dec: Revisions to the teen area, including new seating, tables and lighting.**
- Dec. 6, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Victoria Aveyard on world building.
- Dec. 12, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Stephanie Land on motherhood, hunger and higher education.

- Jan. 5, 10:30-11:00: Storytime Craft makes suet balls.
- Jan. 9, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- Jan. 10, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by Rebecca Serle about multigenerational love stories.
- Jan. 11, 4:00-6:30: Arts Group meeting.
- **Jan. 13, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone.**
- Jan. 13, 1:00-3:00: Group Landings Condo Association.
- Jan. 16, 1:00-3:00: Homer Hockey Association.
- **Jan. 19, 6:00: Big Read Kickoff at Alice’s Champagne Palace, including a Pier One workshop and live performance.**
- **Jan. 20, 10:00-12:00: Plant Swap (tentative).**
- Jan. 23, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*.
- **Jan. 23, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the Spokane riots.**
- **Jan. 24, 9:00: Big Read Coffee Table on KBBI discusses themes from *The Cold Millions*.**
- **Jan. 25, 6:00: Big Read Historical Homer—Clark Fair talks about his ongoing weekly column with the *Homer News*.**
- **Jan. 27, 10:00-12:00: Plant Swap (tentative)**
- Jan. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Dr. Robert Lustig on medicine and processed foods.
- **Jan. 30, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the history of unions.**
- **Feb. 1, 6:30: Big Read Zoom with authors Jess Walter and John Straley, exploring their books *The Cold Millions* and *The Big Both Ways*. Hosted at the library.**
- **Feb. 2, 5:30: Big Read Conversation about finding home and the local housing crisis. HCOA hosts the conversation and features an exhibit all through February.**
- **Feb. 4, 12:00: Big Read explores Alaskan cultures in a new high school curriculum, hosted at the Bunnell Arts Center.**
- **Feb. 6, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses indigenous perspectives.**
- **Feb. 8, 1:00: Big Read book discussion at the Senior Center, followed by sharing stories about homesteading.**
- Feb. 8, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with Tessa Bailey on writing romantic comedies.

- **Feb. 9, 6:30: Big Read Free Speech Panel, featuring Michael Armstrong, Jeff Meyer, Megan Edge and others.**
- **Feb. 13, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses leading women.**
- **Feb. 15, 2:00: Big Read Book Circle invites elders and long-time locals to the Ninilchik Community Library to talk about *The Cold Millions* and share stories from early Ninilchik.**
- Feb. 20, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Jason Mott on Black America.
- Feb. 28, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.
- **Apr. 20: Celebration of Lifelong Learning.**
- **May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.**

Equipment

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

Laptop computers	Overhead projector
Wireless hotspots	16 mm movie projector
iPads	Projector screen
Radon detector	Various kinds of sports equipment
Voltmeters	HappyLight® light therapy boxes
Metal detectors	Sewing machines
Digital projector	Blu-ray player
Carousel slide projectors and extra carousels	Portable phonograph/cassette player

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR ON-SITE USE

Photocopier/scanner	ADA-compliant public computer
Internet-capable flat screen TV	Book magnifier
Moveable flat screen TV on a rolling cart	Public phone
DVD/CD player	Vinyl record player/Bluetooth headphones
Headphones	Blu-ray player
Videoconference equipment	
Videophone	
Microform reader	

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 11-Jan-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	12,015	13,136	11,843	11,313	10,441	10,467	136,470
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620	10,614	9,583	8,849	8,267	8163	108,374
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122	117	101	92	73	86	1,145
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242	2,367	2,141	2,329	2,033	2176	26,385
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41	31	38	18	25	39	22	499
*Kanopy streaming video	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	29	20	67
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18	22	11	20	32	28	302
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16	19	22	13	27	15	232
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905	8,794	12,042	9,628	6,919	6570	91487
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160	261	222	161	174	156	2127
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203	342	363	302	296	235	3178
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28	22	28	30	23	20	258
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222	169	286	284	228	132	2071
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	3,678	2,399	2,035	1,827	1,700	27,828
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348	2,548	1,488	1,242	1,176	1039	17728
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035	1,130	911	793	651	661	10100
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980	4,931	4,618	4,437	4,300	3604	52,526
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	997	1,154	1,285	1,250	1,324	1,003	294	13309
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	990	914	1184	665	768	658	983	810	930	748	116	9896
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213	80	170	215	137	59	1494
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9	0	5	31	3	12	110
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	78	149	143	84	90	81	787
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196	73	122	64	25	26	1022
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	21
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6	7	12	21	10	6	117
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32	39	34	21	23	22	320
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34	28	31	20	18	26	327
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46	50	48	47	72	58	611
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182	183	179	146	288	309	2413
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272	285	108	295	147	239	2889
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9	17	1	4	7	9	152
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35	43	10	27	20	33	449
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68	0	163	252	19	59	1152
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272	157	270	229	329	252	3761
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68	0	0	9	1	0	150
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0	4	1	79	116	0	436
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	9
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1075.00	517.20	1570.00	566.00	908.00	455.00	1378.00	9,570.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants								7000.00	8058.00				15,058.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	8,570.00	8,624.00	908.00	455.00	1,378.00	\$24,628.20

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 10-Jan-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	14,008	14,064	13,681	157,634
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991	10,976	10,352	123,471
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106	120	122	1,337
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754	2,771	2,938	31,325
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13	32	29	346
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144	165	240	1,155
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14	14	18	200
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13	25	9	217
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109	7,800	7,427	125,675
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216	212	158	2,610
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414	372	302	4,583
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25	21	21	309
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166	187	151	2,614
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	1,527	2,069	1,913	25,595
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447	1,112	995	13,825
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080	957	918	11,770
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789	3,026	2,601	39,333
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	1,149	1,485	324	12,854
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	872	878	201	9,056
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41	109	37	1,411
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28	12	11	476
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159	344	49	1,252
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49	142	26	659
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	2	4	31
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9	15	11	133
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34	25	23	368
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32	22	17	326
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	2	0	19
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	1	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72	61	66	736
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163	215	202	2,466
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213	127	185	2,555
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12	19	17	141
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19	7	38	382
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53	67	136	461
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141	110	52	2,471
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1	3	0	249
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	10,315.37
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	\$10,315.37

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS
Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.48.050.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

General	Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service.
Administrative	Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.
Policy	Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council.
Planning	Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components.
Fiscal	Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.
Networking	Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries.

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library has a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers**DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF**Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of library-related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

Homer Public Library

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Executive Summary

Homer Public Library serves a population of roughly 13,000, providing access to information, promoting literacy and facilitating lifelong learning. The library moved into a new building in 2006, but library usage has increased significantly since then. In order to keep up with the shifting demands of library patrons the library has adopted four main priorities for future planning: improving operational efficiency, expanding the library's role as a community hub, promoting lifelong learning, and providing access to materials in a range of formats.

Our Mission: What We Do

The mission statement was approved by the Library Advisory Board on April 5, 2016, and the entire Homer City Council on June 27, 2016. It appears on the library's website:

The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.¹

About the Library

Interest in a public library services in Homer began in the 1940s when the Homer Women's club set up a library in an old school building. By 1950 a simple 600-square-foot cabin was built to house the library. In 1978, the library became a department of the City of Homer, and the following year was replaced by a 3,500 square foot building on Pioneer Avenue.² In 2002 the Library Advisory Board, Friends of Homer Library, City of Homer and many volunteers collaborated to begin the Capital Campaign for the New Library, which raised \$8.1 million over the course of several years.³

Homer Public Library moved into its current 17,000-square-foot facility in 2006. The facilities include 5 study rooms and a public meeting room, as well as 26 public-use computers and a collection of roughly 45,000 items.⁴ Library services include reference and circulation, interlibrary loan, access to a variety of electronic databases and free wifi available throughout the building. The library's service area includes roughly 13,000 people and extends from Ninilchik in the north to the southern shore of Kachemak Bay, and from Cook Inlet in the west to Kachemak Selo in the east.

As a part of the Homer City government, the library is managed by a director in consultation with the Library Advisory Board (LAB), an eight-member body that suggests and molds policy. The LAB advocates for the library before the city council as well as assisting with fundraising and some library programs. The director answers to the city manager and through him or her to the elected city council and the mayor. The city council sets the budget for the entire city and has lawmaking powers.

For FY 2019 the library's total budget was \$925,502, of which \$712,346 went to personnel costs and the remainder to materials and service expenses.⁵ The director works with the city manager to define a budget request, which is then amended or approved by the city council in November of each year.

The library offers numerous public programs to support the mission, including many for youth and families. From storytimes and STEM programs to book clubs and author visits, library staff bring families together to support literacy and learning. The Friends of Homer Library (FHL) play a major role in community outreach. FHL manages the library bookmobile, the StoryWalk® outside the building, the *Reading Between the Lines* weekly radio program, a public newsletter and various periodic activities. In conjunction with the children's librarian, FHL staff and volunteers sponsor a large number of events for the Summer Reading and Learning Program. Various community groups make use of the library facilities on a regular basis, including the Knitting Circle, the Ham Radio Club, the Live-Action Roleplaying (LARP) community and the Writers Refuge, among others.

The library has always been heavily used. After the library moved into its then-new building in 1979, usage tripled in ten years.⁶ From 2011 to 2018 the library averaged 128,312 annual visits.⁷ According to *Library Journal*, during 2018 the library had a per-capita circulation rate of 28.01 and per-capita visitation of 25.89.⁸ The library and library staff have won awards on several occasions:

- 2007: Honor Award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of the modern design and use of local materials.⁹
- 2011-14 and 2016-18: Annually awarded Star Library status from *Library Journal*.^{10,11}
- 2017: Children's Librarian Claudia Haines served on the selection committee for the Caldecott Medal.¹²

The *Homer Comprehensive Plan* was published in 2018 and addresses library services in Chapter 6, Objective G. This plan discusses library objectives at some length:

Objective G: LIBRARY– Maintain Homer's first-class library facility and continuously build on the high-quality library services to meet current and projected needs.

Current Status

In the ten years since the new Homer Public Library opened in 2006, use of the facility and library services has increased dramatically. Between 2008 and 2015, circulation of library materials grew by 43%, rising to 142,178 items. The number of people using the library's study rooms rose 19%, while use of the meeting room increased 35%. Attendance at children's story times grew by 63%. Fortunately, the library enjoys wide community support, as reflected in the fact that volunteer hours rose as well, by 48%. Since the closure of Homer's Boys and Girls Club in 2013, the library has seen a significant increase in the number of children using the library after school. Tourists and transient workers use the library heavily during the summer months. Winter, traditionally a slower time at the library, has also seen increased activity in recent years, on par with the summer months.

The library building is approximately 17,000 square feet and houses about 45,800 titles with a capacity for up to 47,000. The library offers 26 public computers with internet

access, wireless internet, and cabled connections in study rooms and carrels. The library employs six full-time and three part-time staff. The Friends of Homer Library and numerous other volunteers support library operations.

Resources to support the library come from the City's general fund, the majority of which is from sales and property tax revenue, a small annual grant from the State of Alaska, and extensive local support from the Friends of Homer Library. The Friends of Homer Library is a nonprofit organization which provides resources for many library programs as well as occasional one-time equipment purchases not provided for in the city budget.

When economies tighten, library use increases because individuals are less able to afford to purchase internet connections, computers, books, and DVDs. More people use library computers to seek employment, higher education, and training. Especially during difficult economic times, the public library plays a crucial role in equalizing access to information, government, jobs, and educational resources.

The facility currently accommodates the existing level of usage with moderate conflicting demands for space or services; however, if current trends continue, the ability to provide the access to information, materials, programming, and workspace requested by the community will be challenged. The 2018 library budget for the City of Homer is \$891,814, approximately 7.1%, of the City's overall budget.

Short-term Priorities

Technology: The use of computers and other digital devices to access information and reading material continues to expand. The library's public computers and wireless network are used extensively (49,406 sessions in 2015). The current public-use computers, as well as the video conference equipment, are near the end of their useful life span. A depreciation/replacement reserve fund is crucial to replace this essential equipment as it ages.

Staff: On-going training is essential to keep current on new technologies as they arise in order to implement best practices regarding technology, as well as to assist the public of all ages.

Implementation Strategies

- Keep current with the demands of new technology

Mid and Long-term Priorities

The library building was intended to provide capacity to serve projected demand for 20 years. With significant increases in library use and demand for services at the ten-year mark, meeting the demand at 20 years may be challenging. Should the demand at the library continue to increase beyond projection, it will be necessary to evaluate options for providing services into the future.

Implementation Strategies

- Consider the strategies to address the demand for library services¹³

In 2016 the library conducted a qualitative survey of patrons regarding what they most liked about the library. Common sentiments included the size and variety of the collection; the helpfulness of the staff; and the ease of accessing electronic materials.¹⁴ In 2018 the library undertook a survey of the local business community to assess how often businesses used the library's resources. This survey showed mixed results: about half the businesses in town had used the library or some professional organization as an information source, but only 14% of respondents cited "information services" as a major need. Far more respondents expressed interest in face-to-face interactions such as classes and networking.¹⁵

About Homer

According to 2017 estimates by the Census Bureau, the city of Homer has 5,697 residents with a median household income of \$59,185. About 94.7% of the population holds a high-school degree or higher. About four-fifths of households (80.6%) have access to a broadband internet connection.¹⁶ The population is 86.19% white and 6.39% American Indian or Alaska Native, with no other single race representing more than 2% of the total.¹⁷ (Note that these statistics apply specifically to the City of Homer.)

The community is served by eight public schools and one small campus of Kenai Peninsula College.¹⁸ The school libraries vary in size.

Homer's economy includes a range of industries. According to the *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*, "educational services, health care and social assistance are responsible for more than 26% of jobs in Homer...additionally, arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services provide another 13% of local jobs."¹⁹ Commercial fishing also makes up an important component of the community's tax base.

Priorities

PRIORITY	SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES	MEDIUM-TERM ACTIVITIES	LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES
Improve the efficiency of the library by harnessing technology and streamlining procedures	- Automate library processes where possible - Update library card registration process	Cross-train staff in multiple capacities and update technology skills	Consider joining the Alaska Library Network as a full member
Expand the library's capacity to serve as a community hub	- Partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students - Continue working with FHL to develop	- Increase resources and services for the business and entrepreneurial community - Consider hosting a job fair or career day for students and employers - Host open debate forums	- Install a gate between the meeting room and the main floor, allowing the meeting room to be open when the library is closed - Expand the library's meeting space/add additional meeting rooms

	programs based on community need		• Enhance the library's ability to serve as a disaster response center
Promote lifelong learning	• Offer more activities and resources to support information competency • Continue working with FHL on the Celebration of Lifelong Learning	• Partner with community organizations to promote public safety (Red Cross, Coast Guard, Police) • Workshops on financial literacy • Workshops on health	• Invest in resources for all age groups • Partner with library systems in Anchor Point and Seldovia to promote literacy and access to programs
Provide access to materials in a range of formats	• Promote databases	• Reorganize and simplify website • Consider building subcollections of physical goods based on community interest and need, such as tools or seeds	• Digitize archival materials, starting with the Top Drawer Collection • Acquire new databases and expand existing ones

References

-
- ¹ Homer Public Library. "Library Mission Statement." City of Homer, 27 Jun. 2016. Web. 17 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/library-mission-statement>.
- ² Homer Public Library. "About the Library." *Homer Public Library*. City of Homer, 2015. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/about-library>.
- ³ Homer Public Library. "HPL History Outline." 2010. Print.
- ⁴ Homer Public Library. "About the Library."
- ⁵ City of Homer. *2019 Adopted Budget*. City of Homer, 12 Dec. 2018. Web. 10 Jun. 2019. https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/finance/page/43831/2019_adopted_budget.pdf.
- ⁶ O'Meara, Jan. "A Warm Place to Read—Or to Dream." *Homer News* 8 Mar. 1990. Print. 2B-3B.
- ⁷ Homer Public Library. "Statistics." 2018. Print.
- ⁸ Lance, Keith Curry. "2018 Star Libraries By the Numbers." *Library Journal* 30 Oct. 2018. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=lx181101StarsByNumbers#400K900K>.
- ⁹ Weller, Chris. "The Most Beautiful Library in Every State." *Insider*. Insider, Inc., 29 Jul. 2016. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.insider.com/most-beautiful-library-in-all-50-states-2016-7>.
- ¹⁰ Lance, Keith Curry. "Every Star Library Ever Named." *Library Journal* 4 Dec. 2017. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=every-star-library-ever-named-2017>.
- ¹¹ Lance, Keith Curry. "2018 Star Libraries By the Numbers."
- ¹² Armstrong, Michael. "Homer Children will Play Part in Picking Top Book Illustrator." *Homer News* 8 Dec. 2016. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.homernews.com/life/homer-children-will-play-part-in-picking-top-book-illustrator>.
- ¹³ City of Homer. *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*. City of Homer, 2018. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/2018-homer-comprehensive-plan>.
- ¹⁴ Homer Public Library. "What Do You Value About HPL?" 2016. Print.
- ¹⁵ City of Homer. "Homer Public Library Survey for Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Nonprofits." *Minutes of the Library Advisory Board*. City of Homer, 6 Nov. 2018. Print.
- ¹⁶ Census Bureau. "Homer City, Alaska." *Census.gov*. Census Bureau, 2017. Web. 21 May 2019. www.census.gov.
- ¹⁷ State of Alaska. "Homer." *Alaska Community Database Online*. State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs, 2019. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/>.
- ¹⁸ *Alaska Community Database Online*.
- ¹⁹ *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*.

Thank You to America's Librarians for Protecting Our Freedom to Read

I wrote a letter thanking librarians across the country for everything they're doing to protect our freedom to read.

July 17, 2023



Barack Obama



Graphic credit: Ryan MacEachern / Penguin.co.uk

To the dedicated and hardworking librarians of America:

In any democracy, the free exchange of ideas is an important part of making sure that citizens are informed, engaged and feel like their perspectives matter.

It's so important, in fact, that here in America, the First Amendment of our Constitution states that freedom begins with our capacity to share and access ideas — even, and maybe especially, the ones we disagree with.

More often than not, someone decides to write those ideas down in a book.

Books have always shaped how I experience the world. Writers like Mark Twain and Toni Morrison, Walt Whitman and James Baldwin taught me something essential about our country's character. Reading about people whose lives were very different from mine showed me how to step into someone else's shoes. And the simple act of writing helped me develop my own identity — all of which would prove vital as a citizen, as a community organizer, and as president.

Today, some of the books that shaped my life — and the lives of so many others — are being challenged by people who disagree with certain ideas or perspectives. It's no coincidence that these "banned books" are often written by or feature people of color, indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community — though there have also been unfortunate instances in which books by conservative authors or books containing "triggering" words or scenes have been targets for removal. Either way, the impulse seems to be to silence, rather than engage, rebut, learn from or seek to understand views that don't fit our own.

I believe such an approach is profoundly misguided, and contrary to what has made this country great. [As I've said before](#), not only is it important for young people from all walks of life to see themselves represented in the pages of books, but it's also important for all of us to engage with different ideas and points of view.

It's also important to understand that the world is watching. If America — a nation built on freedom of expression — allows certain voices and ideas to be silenced, why should other countries go out of their way to protect them? Ironically, it is Christian and other religious texts — the sacred texts that some calling for book bannings in this country claim to want to defend — that have often been the first target of censorship and book banning efforts in authoritarian countries.

Nobody understands that more than you, our nation's librarians. In a very real sense, you're on the front lines — fighting every day to make the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas available to everyone. Your dedication and professional expertise allow us to freely read and consider information and ideas, and decide for ourselves which ones we agree with.

That's why I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the work you do every day — work that is helping us understand each other and embrace our shared humanity.

And it's not just about books. You also provide spaces where people can come together, share ideas, participate in community programs, and access essential civic and educational resources. Together, you help people become informed and active citizens, capable of making this country what they want it to be.

And you do it all in a harsh political climate where, all too often, you're attacked by people who either cannot or will not understand the vital — and uniquely American — role you play in the life of our nation.

So whether you just started working at a school or public library, or you've been there your entire career, Michelle and I want to thank you for your unwavering commitment to the freedom to read. All of us owe you a debt of gratitude for making sure readers across the country have access to a wide range of books, and all the ideas they contain.

Finally, to every citizen reading this, I hope you'll join me in reminding anyone who will listen — and even some people you think might not — that the free, robust exchange of ideas has always been at the heart of American democracy. Together, we can make that true for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Barack

In last year's Referenda Roundup, *American Libraries* noted the growing trend of organized groups of voters fighting library levies due to those groups' opposition to libraries carrying materials by and about LGBTQ people. The primary and general election cycles—as well as 2023's special elections—demonstrate that politically driven opponents continue to threaten the library's existence, especially in smaller, rural areas.

Overall, library measures across the US continue to pass at a high rate. However, in many communities, the discourse over what materials can be held in certain sections of their libraries has escalated to people introducing ballot measures seeking to defund, shut down, or weaken the library's authority. Tried and true campaign messaging, like touting a library's return on investment, has been supplanted by issues of free speech and censorship. Razor-thin margins determined the future of many libraries this past year.

One constant is the support from Friends groups, foundations, volunteers, and advocates at the core of successful campaigns. Many libraries are also seeking the support of strategists and legal counsel to navigate these unprecedented times.

DAYTON, WASHINGTON

Defunding measure has day in court instead of the polls

An effort to dissolve Columbia County (Wash.) Rural Library District (CCRLD) was decided in court rather than at the ballot box, because of a lawsuit filed by the local political action committee Neighbors United for Progress (NUP). Columbia County Superior Court Commissioner Julie Karl blocked the proposed dissolution measure after finding evidence of fraud in the petitioning process and unconstitutionality in the dissolution process (bit.ly/columbia-ballot).

The single-location library is in the city of Dayton, Washington, but it provides services to the entire county of about 4,000 people. In recent years,

CCRLD has faced book challenges, particularly against those with LGBTQ+ content, as well as challenges against its value as a tax-funded entity (bit.ly/CCRLD-referendum).

Jessica Ruffcorn, a resident of the library district and mother of two, started a petition to place the dissolution measure on the upcoming ballot. By state law, Ruffcorn needed signatures from 10% of voters from the county's unincorporated areas to put the measure on the ballot. This meant Dayton residents were not included in the signature collection and would not have been allowed to vote in the referendum.

After NUP Chair Elsie Severe enlisted help from an attorney, two issues with the proposed measure quickly came to light. First, the measure had been misrepresented. Five petitioners came forward (anonymously out of fear of retaliation) and stated they thought the petition was for moving or removing

challenged library books, not dissolving the library entirely.

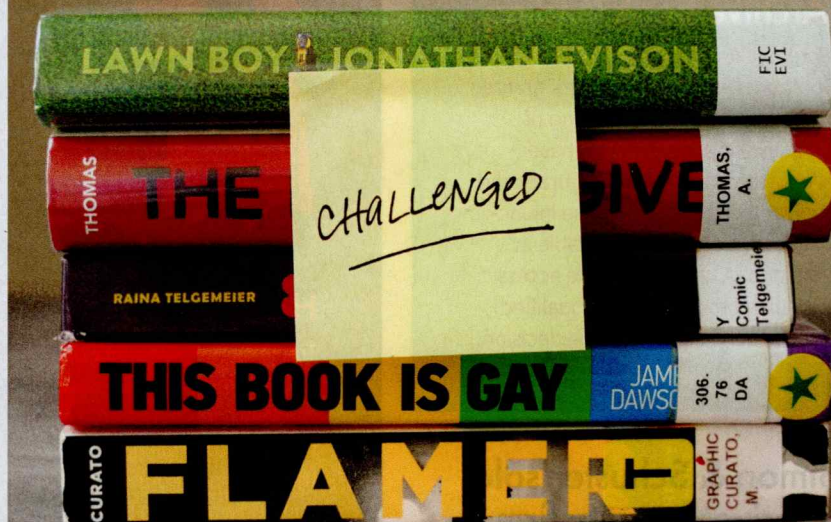
Second, while Ruffcorn ultimately collected more signatures for the petition to compensate for those ruled invalid, Severe's lawyer also argued the measure itself would be unconstitutional. Under the current voting model, only voters in the unincorporated part of the county would be allowed to vote on the measure, even though CCRLD also serves—and is physically located in—Dayton, where three-quarters of county residents live and pay taxes to support the library. In her ruling, Karl sided with NUP, saying, "We did away with taxation without representation a long time ago."

Severe and Lorna Barth, president of Friends of the Dayton Memorial Library, credit their partnership and combined resources for the victory. Barth notes that in addition to Severe's intellect and drive, the optics of one young mother countering the narrative led by another young mother are important. Severe agrees, adding that similar campaigns need to gear their messaging toward conservative viewpoints. "It's never easy to counter their narrative," Severe says. "They say, 'We're saving our children.' And as a mother, I said, 'Enough is enough. You won't tell me how to raise my children.'"

Barth suspects the fight over books was a red herring. "It really was a hope to dissolve [CCRLD] and put the library back into the control of the city where it could be run by volunteers and staff chosen by the city council," she says, adding that she thinks the city council does not have the budget, staff, or plans to adequately take care of the library.

The Washington State Legislature is currently considering raising voter petition thresholds for rural library measures to 25% or greater. The deputy secretary of state is also seeking to include public libraries in existing nondiscrimination legislation to make it easier for groups like NUP to challenge discriminatory actions like the removal of books (bit.ly/WATHreshold).

RIISING CHALLENGES, BANS



Another record year for book challenges

Preliminary data from the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) through August 31 showed a 20% increase in reported book challenges for 2023—surpassing the record set in 2022. The data also showed an increase in challenges that targeted multiple titles, with libraries in 11 states receiving challenges that included 100 or more books. These challenges targeted 1,915 different titles, most of which are books written by or about people of color or LGBTQIA+ people.

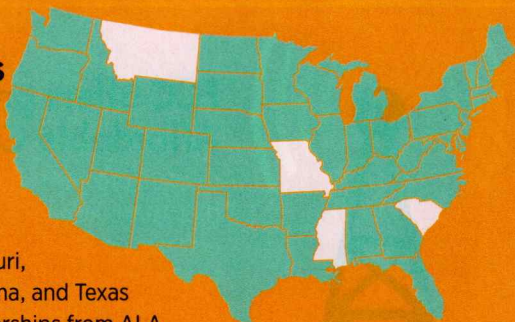


Illinois passes law designed to deter book bans

On June 12, Illinois Gov. J. B. Pritzker signed into law a bill that would withhold state funds for libraries that remove books for partisan reasons or refuse to adopt ALA's Library Bill of Rights or similar language. The law, which goes into effect January 1, 2024, is considered the first of its kind in the nation, although California passed a similar bill covering schools in September.

State libraries cut ties with ALA

Amid the national fight over book bans, state libraries in Missouri, Montana, South Carolina, and Texas withdrew their memberships from ALA. Conservative lawmakers in several other states have called for the same. Some states cited ALA's stance on book challenges and bans, while others took issue with a 2022 tweet made by ALA President Emily Drabinski.

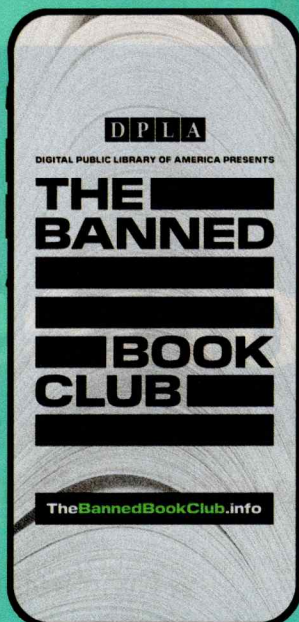


Freedom to Read Statement turns 70

On June 25, ALA celebrated the 70th anniversary of its Freedom to Read Statement by calling on publishers, authors, libraries, and others in the book community to join a list of signatories in affirming their commitment to this guiding document. Hundreds signed on to the statement, which begins:

“The freedom to read is essential to our democracy.”

Photo: OntheRun Photo/Adobe Stock (books)



Libraries launch book ban workarounds

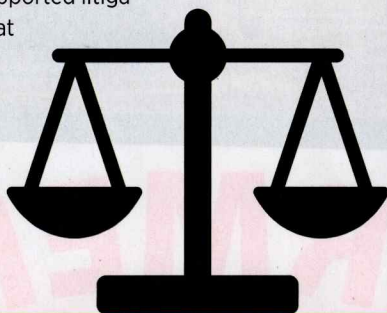
To help circumvent book bans, several libraries made digital titles available beyond their service areas. In 2023, a few joined Books Unbanned, an initiative launched the prior year at Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library. The program allows young adults nationwide to borrow ebooks from participating libraries. The Digital Public Library of America debuted its Banned Book Club geotargeted app (left), allowing users to borrow titles banned in their area. And ALA joined the “Books for All” campaign from New York Public Library to offer free digital access to Teen Banned Book Club picks.

Bomb threats in libraries across the country

A rash of bomb threats against public and school libraries intensified this year, forcing some libraries and schools to temporarily close their doors. These threats included facilities in California, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma, among others. In many cases, these threats appear to be linked to book challenges and objections to programming and displays that reflect the experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people.

Intellectual freedom enters the courtroom

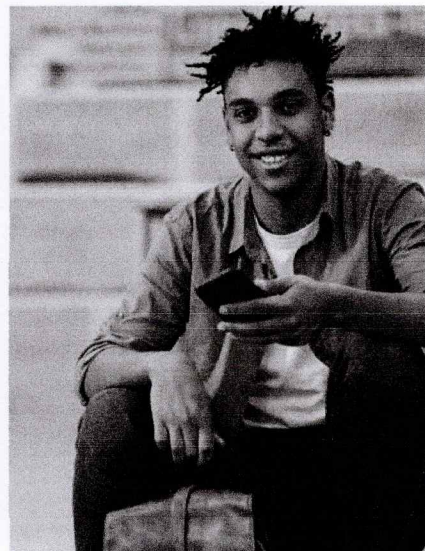
Many libraries, booksellers, and publishers—as well as ALA’s Freedom to Read Foundation and other advocates—joined lawsuits against book bans, alleging they violate First Amendment rights. They supported litigation efforts in Arkansas, Florida, and Texas that aimed to restrict or remove access to books. One notable decision was in Llano County, Texas, in which several community members sued the local government over book removals and won in district court. A county commission vote to close the library following the ruling was unsuccessful.



Obama writes open letter to librarians

On July 17, former President Barack Obama published an open letter to US librarians in an era of increasingly frequent book challenges and sometimes politically motivated, highly personal attacks against those who resist them. The letter, which addressed librarians, read in part:

“In a very real sense, you’re on the front lines—fighting every day to make the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas available to everyone.”



Kathi Inman Berens, Ph.D. and Rachel Noorda, Ph.D.

Portland State University

Gen Z and Millennials

How They Use Public Libraries and Identify Through Media Use

Executive Summary

Gen Z and millennials have some surprising attitudes and behaviors regarding media consumption and library use.

Generational categories like Gen Z and millennials (aged 13–40 in 2022)¹ are an important way to understand book engagement and library use because “an individual’s age is one of the most common predictors of differences in attitudes and behaviors.”²

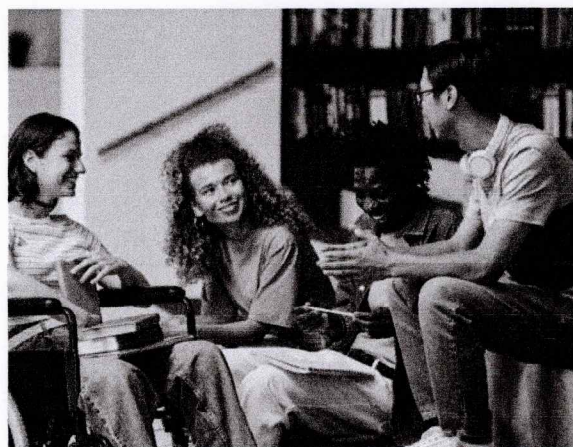
Mobile computing is a key aspect of daily life for Gen Z and millennials. 92% check social media every day; 25% check social media multiple times per hour. The high instance of reading on mobile devices among these groups, particularly of social media and other “walled garden” apps, is a profound shift

from previous generations. This report will explain some implications of that development. It will aid librarians and other stakeholders in examining how libraries currently serve Gen Z and millennials, and how to continue serving them as they age. At times this report considers Gen Z and millennials together; at others, it drills down into generationally-specific behaviors when those behaviors differ sufficiently to warrant attention or explanation.

Based on a nationally representative survey sample conducted by the authors,³ this report

discusses the following attitudes and behaviors Gen Z and millennials have regarding libraries:

- 54% of Gen Z and millennials visited a physical library within a twelve-month period.
- Libraries attract even Gen Z and millennials who **don't identify as readers**. 23% of Gen Z and millennials had visited a physical library in a twelve-month period AND did not identify as readers.
- Subscription-only and/or mobile-exclusive content provided in apps such as Webtoon (webcomics), Radish (romance e-novels) and Audible (audiobooks) is particularly popular with Gen Z and millennials: 12% of Gen Z & 8% of millennials subscribe to webcomics and 30% of Gen Z & 38% of millennials subscribe to Audible. But subscription content, such Audible-exclusive titles, is mostly unavailable for libraries to license.⁴
- 52% of Gen Z and millennial physical library patrons said they borrowed from library **digital collections**.
- Black (58%) and Latinx (57%) physical library patrons use digital collections more than the general survey population (52%).
- Long wait times for digital books disadvantage Black, Indigenous, and People of Color more than the general population. 47% of Black Gen Z and millennials overall (not just physical library patrons) have used digital collections, compared to 37% of the general population.
- 75% of Gen Z and millennial physical library patrons believe a library wait of one week or less is "long."



54% of Gen Z and millennials visited a physical library within a twelve-month period.

- Teen lounges in libraries are safe, comfortable spaces that support:
 - relaxation
 - mental and social well-being
 - learning untethered from school and educational mandates
- Given a choice, 59% of Gen Z and millennials would choose the graphic/manga version of a story rather than a text-only book.
 - Preference for a graphic/manga version instead of text-only book is higher in Black (69%) and Latinx (73%) communities.

Overall, social media use, crossmedia identities (readers, gamers, makers, fans and more), and subscription engagement characterize Gen Z and millennials in contrast to other generations.

This report is organized into five parts:

- 1. Gen Z library use and non-use.**
- 2. How Gen Z and millennials use media and discover books.**
- 3. Gen Z and millennials' identity categories** such as readers, gamers, makers, and fans.
- 4. Challenges** libraries face in growing Gen Z and millennials' engagement.
- 5. Recommendations** for how libraries can connect with Gen Z and millennials.

EveryLibrary is monitoring state legislation during the 2024 session that would limit Americans' freedom to read and think for themselves. Of most concern are proposed laws that would allow for criminal prosecution of librarians, educators, higher ed. faculty, and museum professionals.

In 2024, we are paying the most attention to state legislative initiatives in eight categories:

1. bills that would criminalize libraries, education, and museums (and/or the employees therein) by removing long-standing defense from prosecution exemptions under obscenity laws and/or expose librarians to civil penalties;
2. bills that change obscenity and "harmful to minors" definitions that preempt established First Amendment rights;
3. bills that would establish book rating systems, leading to segregation or expulsion of materials by topic or viewpoint;
4. bills that mandate restrictive library policies, esp. prescribing collection development or materials challenge policies;
5. bills that would limit access to school library databases;
6. bills that create onerous parental control/notification requirements that lead to segregated materials or limit free speech;
7. bills that limit or outlaw the teaching of "divisive concepts";
8. bills that lead to defunding or closure of libraries

On a positive note, we are also tracking "right to read" bills that offer protections to libraries/

We do more than monitor bills. EveryLibrary is an active and engaged partner with over 75 grassroots groups, many state library associations, and other coalition partners, helping them create and field effective legislative advocacy strategies. We provide partners with free access to a suite of digital advocacy tools including our [Action.EveryLibrary.Org](#) site, [FightForTheFirst.org](#), and [SaveSchoolLibrarians.org](#). If you would like to talk about how EveryLibrary can assist your state library association or advocacy group, please contact our team today.

2024 Legislation of Concern

This page is based on a dynamic search of legislation and is being continually updated.

GA HB338 - Student Technology Protection Act; enact (Crossed Over)

AN ACT To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for the inclusion of methods for the promotion of the safe and appropriate use of technology and...

01/08/2024: Senate Recommended

GA SB154 - Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools; provide (In Committee)

AN ACT To amend Part 3 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sale or distribution of harmful materials to minors, so as to provide that the provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be...

02/14/2023: Senate Read and Referred

IL HB4247 - ONLINE AGE VERIFICATION-MINORS (Introduced)

Creates the Online Age Verification for Material Harmful to Minors Act. Requires any commercial entity that knowingly or intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on the Internet from a website that contains a substantial...

11/29/2023: Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Jed Davis

IN HB1221 - Material that is obscene or harmful to minors. (In Committee)

Material that is obscene or harmful to minors. Defines terms and amends the education and criminal laws related to material that is obscene or harmful to minors.

01/09/2024: First reading: referred to Committee on Education

IN SB0032 - Tax and fiscal control over libraries. (In Committee)

Tax and fiscal control over libraries. Eliminates the authority of public libraries to impose an ad valorem property tax as a "taxing unit". Requires a public library to prepare and submit an annual budget in the same manner as other departments...

01/09/2024: Senator Byrne added as second author

KS SB100 - Removing an affirmative defense for public, private and parochial schools from the crime of promotion to minors of material harmful to minors. (In Committee)

Removing an affirmative defense for public, private and parochial schools from the crime of promotion to minors of material harmful to minors.

02/08/2023: Senate Referred to Committee on Judiciary

KY HB191 - AN ACT relating to materials, programs, or events alleged to be harmful to minors. (In Committee)

Amend KRS 158.192 to require the local board of education to allow parents and guardians an opportunity to orally recite passages from materials, programs, or events subject to appeal; require immediate removal of the material, program, or event...

01/08/2024: to Committee on Committees (H)

MD HB25 - Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers (In Committee)

AN ACT concerning Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers FOR the purpose of prohibiting sexually explicit materials in public elementary, middle, and secondary school libraries and media centers;...

01/10/2024: First Reading Ways and Means

MN HF2683 - School liability provisions modified, and civil cause of action created. (In Committee)

A bill for an act relating to education; modifying certain school liability provisions; creating a civil cause of action; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 617.291, subdivision 2; 617.295; 617.296, by adding a subdivision.

03/08/2023: Introduction and first reading, referred to Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

MN SF2174 - Certain material prohibition in school libraries (In Committee)

A bill for an act relating to education; prohibiting certain material in school libraries; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 134.31, by adding a subdivision.

02/27/2023: Referred to Education Policy

MN SF2434 - Obscenity laws exemption for public schools and postsecondary institutions removal (In Committee)

A bill for an act relating to education; removing exemptions from obscenity laws for public schools and postsecondary institutions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 617.291, subdivision 2; 617.295. 03/02/2023; Referred to Education Policy

MN SF2435 - Certain school liability provision modification (In Committee)

A bill for an act relating to education; modifying certain school liability provisions; creating a civil cause of action; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 617.291, subdivision 2; 617.295; 617.296, by adding a subdivision. 03/02/2023; Referred to Education Policy

MO HB1574 - Prohibits the state librarian from disbursing funds to libraries that offer obscene materials to children (Introduced)

Prohibits the state librarian from disbursing funds to libraries that offer obscene materials to children 01/04/2024; Read Second Time (H)

MO SB770 - Establishes provisions regarding elementary and secondary education (In Committee)

Establishes provisions regarding elementary and secondary education 01/09/2024; Second Read and Referred S Education and Workforce Development Committee

NE LB374 - Adopt the Parentsâ€™ Bill of Rights and Academic Transparency Act (In Committee)

Adopt the Parentsâ€™ Bill of Rights and Academic Transparency Act 01/03/2024; Title printed. Carryover bill

NE LB441 - Change provisions relating to obscenity (In Committee)

Change provisions relating to obscenity 01/03/2024; Murman name added

NE LB635 - Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission (In Committee)

Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission 01/03/2024; Title printed. Carryover bill

NH HB1419 - Relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools. (In Committee)

Relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools. 01/18/2024; Education Public Hearing (09:30:00 1/18/2024 Legislative Office Building 205-207)

NH SB523 - Relative to the regulation of public school library materials. (In Committee)

Relative to the regulation of public school library materials. 12/14/2023; To Be Introduced 01/03/2024 and Referred to Education; Senate Journal 1

OH HB245 - Prohibits certain adult cabaret performances (Introduced)

To amend sections 2907.39 and 4301.25 of the Revised Code to prohibit adult cabaret performances in locations other than adult cabarets. 11/15/2023; House Criminal Justice Williams, 1st Hearing, Sponsor Testimony (15:15:00 11/15/2023 Room 121)

OK HB1811 - Schools; prohibiting schools from maintaining certain books or materials; emergency. (In Committee)

Schools; prohibiting schools from maintaining certain books or materials; emergency. 02/07/2023; Second Reading referred to Common Education

OK HB2186 - Crimes and punishments; adult cabaret and drag performance; making certain acts unlawful; codification; emergency. (In Committee)

Crimes and punishments; adult cabaret and drag performance; making certain acts unlawful; codification; emergency.

03/22/2023: House Floor 1 Amendment to Amendment by WEST - 1 Amendment to Amendment by WEST

OK SB95 - Schools; prohibiting school districts and charter schools from providing certain material to students without written consent. Effective date. Emergency. (In Committee)

Schools; prohibiting school districts and charter schools from providing certain material to students without written consent. Effective date. Emergency.

02/07/2023: Second Reading referred to Education

OK SB521 - Libraries; clarifying application of certain digital or online library database resource provisions to institutions of higher education. Effective date. Emergency. (Crossed Over)

Libraries; clarifying application of certain digital or online library database resource provisions to institutions of higher education. Effective date. Emergency.

04/10/2023: CR; Do Pass Higher Education and Career Tech Committee

OK SB937 - Schools; creating the School Establishment Clause Act (SECA); prohibiting creation, enforcement, or endorsement of certain policies. Effective date. Emergency. (In Committee)

Schools; creating the School Establishment Clause Act (SECA); prohibiting creation, enforcement, or endorsement of certain policies. Effective date. Emergency.

02/07/2023: Second Reading referred to Education

OK SB1208 - Schools; requiring school districts and charter schools to submit certain list of library materials; providing process for reporting violations; providing penalties. Effective date. Emergency. (Introduced)

Schools; requiring school districts and charter schools to submit certain list of library materials; providing process for reporting violations; providing penalties. Effective date. Emergency.

02/05/2024: Authored by Senator Hamilton

OK SB1221 - Child pornography; modifying terms. Effective date. (Introduced)

Child pornography; modifying terms. Effective date.

02/05/2024: Authored by Senator Weaver

OK SB1221 - Child pornography; modifying definition. Effective date. (Introduced)

Child pornography; modifying definition. Effective date.

02/05/2024: Authored by Senator Rader

PA HB209 - In public indecency, further providing for the offense of obscene and other sexual materials and performances. (In Committee)

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in public indecency, further providing for the offense of obscene and other sexual materials and performances.

03/08/2023: Referred to JUDICIARY

SC H3304 - Transparency and Integrity in Education Act (In Committee)

A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by enacting the "South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act"; BY ADDING ARTICLE 5 TO CHAPTER 29, TITLE 59 SO AS TO EXPRESS RELATED INTENTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO PROVIDE...

01/10/2023: Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

SC H3616 - Defense of Children's Innocence Act (In Committee)

A bill TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS by enacting THE "DEFENSE OF CHILDREN'S INNOCENCE ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 6-1-200 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ANY BUSINESS WHERE DRAG SHOWS ARE HELD IS DEEMED TO BE A SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS FOR ALL...

01/09/2024: Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Kilmartin, Haddon, Burns, Chumley

SC H3826 - Protection of Minors from Pornography and Obscenities Act (In Committee)

A bill TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS by enacting THE "PROTECTION OF MINORS FROM PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITIES ACT" BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-375, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE ARTICLE REGARDING OBSCENITY LAWS, SO AS TO AMEND...

02/08/2023: Scrivener's error corrected

SC H3827 - SC Integrity in Education Act (In Committee)

	A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-29-12 SO AS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS IN STATE-FUNDED PLACES OF LEARNING WITH AN EDUCATION FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY, EQUIP THEM TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY AND CRITICALLY,... <i>01/26/2023: Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works</i>
	SC H4654 - Public school libraries (In Committee) A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-31-5 SO AS TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-31-15 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION STANDARDS THAT PROHIBIT THE ACQUISITION... <i>01/09/2024: Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works</i>
	SC H4701 - READER Act (In Committee) A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "RESTRICTING EXPLICIT AND ADULT-DESIGNATED EDUCATION RESOURCES (READER) ACT"; BY ADDING SECTION 59-31-5 SO AS TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-31-15 SO AS TO PROVIDE... <i>01/09/2024: Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works</i>
	SC H4707 - School board review of curriculum (In Committee) A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-1-430 SO AS TO ESTABLISH STATEWIDE POLICIES CONCERNING SEX IDENTIFICATION AND PERSONAL PRONOUN USAGES IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TO PROVIDE RELATED RIGHTS OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES,... <i>01/09/2024: Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works</i>
	SC S0424 - SC Integrity in Education Act (In Committee) A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-29-12 SO AS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS IN STATE-FUNDED PLACES OF LEARNING WITH AN EDUCATION FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY, EQUIP THEM TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY AND CRITICALLY,... <i>01/15/2024: Referred to Committee on Education</i>
33	SC S0424 - Protection of Minors from Pornography and Obscenities Act (In Committee) A bill to AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY enacting THE "PROTECTION OF MINORS FROM PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITIES ACT" BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-375, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE ARTICLE REGARDING OBSCENITY LAWS, SO AS TO AMEND... <i>02/08/2023: Referred to Committee on Judiciary</i>
	TN HB1090 - AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9 and Title 49, relative to obscenity. (In Committee) As introduced, removes the educational justification of a person possessing obscene material if the person is at a school building, bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by... <i>03/21/2023: Taken off notice for cal in s/c Criminal Justice Subcommittee of Criminal Justice Committee</i>
	TN HB1661 - AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 1 and Title 10, Chapter 3, relative to accessing or viewing obscene library materials by minors. (Introduced) As introduced, enacts the "Restricted Access by Minors to Obscene Library Materials Act." - Amends TCA Title 10, Chapter 1 and Title 10, Chapter 3. <i>01/09/2024: Intro., P1C.</i>
	TN SB1061 - AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9 and Title 49, relative to obscenity. (Introduced) As introduced, removes the educational justification of a person possessing obscene material if the person is at a school building, bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by... <i>03/22/2023: Assigned to General Subcommittee of Senate Judiciary Committee</i>
	US HR5303 - NOT in Our Schools Act of 2023 No Obscene Teaching in Our Schools Act of 2023 (In Committee) A BILL To prohibit the disbursement of Federal funds to schools that violate any State law relating to materials that are harmful to minors, and for other purposes. <i>08/29/2023: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently...</i>
	UT HB0029 - Sensitive Material Review Amendments (Introduced)

Sensitive Material Review Amendments

01/10/2024: House/ received bill from Legislative Research in Clerk of the House

VA SB154 - Advance Health Care Planning Registry; amendment of regulations. (In Committee)

Advance Health Care Planning Registry; amendment of regulations. Amends the list of documents that may be submitted to the Advance Health Care Directive Registry to include any other document that supports advance health care planning. The bill...

01/05/2024: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

WA HB2244 - Improving retirement security for Washingtonians by establishing Washington saves, an automatic enrollment individual retirement savings account program, and updating the Washington retirement marketplace statute. (In Committee)

Improving retirement security for Washingtonians by establishing Washington saves, an automatic enrollment individual retirement savings account program, and updating the Washington retirement marketplace statute.

01/09/2024: First reading, referred to Consumer Protection & Business.

WA SB6069 - Improving retirement security for Washingtonians by establishing Washington saves, an automatic enrollment individual retirement savings account program, and updating the Washington retirement marketplace statute. (In Committee)

Improving retirement security for Washingtonians by establishing Washington saves, an automatic enrollment individual retirement savings account program, and updating the Washington retirement marketplace statute.

01/09/2024: First reading, referred to Ways & Means

WI AB15 - Pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools. (FE) (In Committee)

An Act to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 43.75 and 118.073 of the statutes; Relating to: pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools. (FE)

02/21/2023: Fiscal estimate received

WI A Protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials. (In Committee)

An Act to repeal 944.21 (8) (b) 1. and 944.21 (8) (b) 2. of the statutes; Relating to: protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials.

12/12/2023: Representative Michalski added as a coauthor

WI AB309 - Prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material. (In Committee)

An Act to amend 43.70 (3) of the statutes; Relating to: prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material.

07/11/2023: Representative Gundrum added as a coauthor

WI SB10 - Pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools. (FE) (In Committee)

An Act to amend 119.04 (1); and to create 43.75 and 118.073 of the statutes; Relating to: pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools. (FE)

02/21/2023: Fiscal estimate received

WI SB304 - Prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material. (In Committee)

An Act to amend 43.70 (3) of the statutes; Relating to: prohibiting the use of common school fund income distributions for the purchase of obscene material.

05/24/2023: Read first time and referred to Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families

WI SB305 - Protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials. (In Committee)

An Act to repeal 944.21 (8) (b) 1. and 944.21 (8) (b) 2. of the statutes; Relating to: protection from prosecution for employees of libraries and educational institutions possessing obscene materials.

12/12/2023: Representative Michalski added as a cosponsor

WI SB597 - Parental notification related to school library materials. (FE) (In Committee)

An Act to amend 43.30 (1m) and 119.04 (1); and to create 120.12 (29) of the statutes; Relating to: parental notification related to school library materials. (FE)

11/28/2023: Public hearing held

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m.	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/26 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board's Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning
MARCH	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/26 6:00 p.m.	• Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/22 6:00 p.m.	• Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/28 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/26 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP Draft Recommendations
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/23 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/28 6:00 p.m.	• Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/25 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/17 5:30 p.m.	1/13/2025 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Board's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE V | JANUARY 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Happy New Year
From Homer City Hall

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

This year, the City of Homer celebrated the Holiday Season at the Elk's Lodge. We enjoyed the time together, relaxing and catching up over a delicious dinner catered by The Tickled Pear. Adding excitement to the evening, we had a prize drawing, with lucky winners leaving with smiles and surprises. Rob and Ralph showcased their stylish sneakers, adding an extra touch of flair to the holiday festivities. We are thankful for our team and look forward to what's to come in the New Year!



City Manager Rob Dumouchel
and Ralph Skorski



Officer Tyler
Jeffres and
Erica Jeffres



Cheryl and Mike Illg



Ashley Baldus and
Sarah Cunningham

- Holiday Celebration
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Homer Public Library
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Hazard Mitigation – Risk Assessment
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](https://www.instagram.com/cityofhomerak)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](https://www.instagram.com/homerparksandrec)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/homerpubliclibrary)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolic](https://www.instagram.com/homerpolic)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](https://www.instagram.com/HomerVolFireDept)

**Subscribe to the Monthly
Newsletter**

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

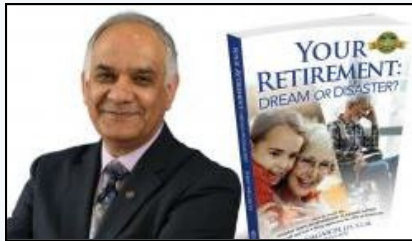
January 10 at 4 pm

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with **Rebecca Serle**



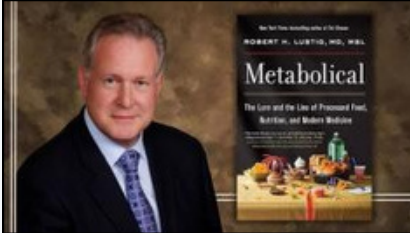
January 23 at 10 am

Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice
Rajiv Nagaich



January 30 at 10 am

The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with **Dr. Robert Lustig**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

January 9: Shelly Erickson

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

Community Resource Connect

A one-day event with help for those facing financial instability, homelessness, or at risk of being houseless.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 • 11AM-3PM

Community Resource Connect - Located at SPARC

Anyone in need of resources is invited to this **FREE** one-day event! All are welcome. FREE emergency gear, backpacks, comfort packs, food-to-go, sleeping bags, menstrual kits, winter gear, and more.

Get connected with over 20 local vendors offering resources related to food, employment info, health care and mental health, health screenings, and more.

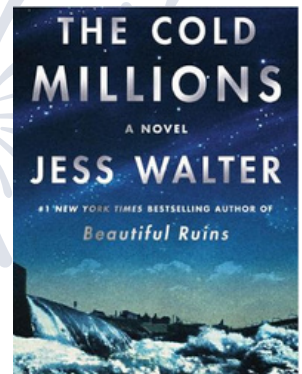
[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Big Read

Kick-Off Event for the NEA Big Read 2024!

Where: Alice's Champagne Palace
When: January 19th, 6pm

[Click here for more details!](#)



Community Recreation

Do you want to stay active and connect with others in the community during the winter months!? There are a lot of options available through our Community Recreation programs. Short on gear? The Homer Public Library has a sports gear lending program. Find more info [here!](#)

- Soccer
- Youth Tumbling Classes
- Pickleball
- Cuong Nhu and Karate Program
- Basketball
- Community Inlet Winds Band
- Volleyball
- Volunteer Opportunities

[Click here to explore all that Community Recreation has to offer!](#)

LIBRARY

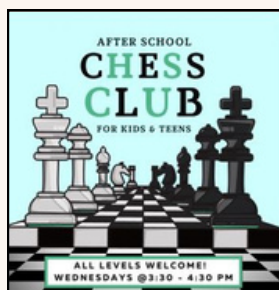
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

Stop Motion Animation with Legos!

Searching for a creative after-school activity for your child? Join us weekly at the Homer Public Library for engaging and educational activities designed for elementary-aged kids every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 pm.

Next Event: Thursday, January 11, 3:30pm to 4:30pm

January/February: Intro to Stop Motion Animation! In this series, you'll create a scene, then animate it using Legos. Learn to use Stop Motion Studio on the library's iPads. Please email Cinda if you have any questions: cnofziger@ci.homer.ak.us



After School Chess Club for Kids & Teens

Meet your friends at the library to play chess! Improve your strategy, learn from mentors, and have fun. All skill levels welcome!

Ages 5 and up
Homer Public Library
Every Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Next Event: Wednesday, January 3, 3:30 - 4:30pm

COMMUNITY RECREATION

COMMUNITY INLET WINDS BAND 2024



The Inlet Winds Community Band is restarting this spring. Don't forget to **sign up by February 6th!**

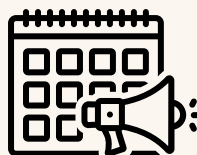
Who can be involved: Inlet Winds is geared for two groups of people.

- Adults with previous experience playing in band (to at least a high school level) who know how to read music. It's ok if you are a little rusty- We'll get into shape together!
- Advanced high school students by invitation or with director approval.

FOR MORE INFO

Sign up through the link below
by **February 6, 2023!**

[Community Inlet Winds Band 2024](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

Spring Concert

Saturday April 13 7:00 PM

Homer High School Mariner Theatre

CITY HALL

HOMER, THE BABY OPOSSUM, ARRIVES AT OREGON ZOO

Last month, a baby opossum named Homer arrived at the Portland Zoo in Oregon, safe and sound. Homer has been on quite the adventure in his short life!

Earlier this year, Homer’s mom, an opossum known as Grubby, stowed away in a cargo container bound for Homer, AK. When the container was being unloaded, Grubby made a run for it and escaped the crew who tried to trap her. She was able to evade wildlife officials for a couple of months. During that time, she gave birth to at least 5 babies (joeys), whom residents affectionately referred to as ‘grublets.’

Finally, in May, Grubby and her joeys were captured and re-homed to the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage. Homer and his siblings will be sent to different zoos, and Grubby will remain at the Alaska Zoo.



DID YOU KNOW?

Opossums are considered invasive in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest as they are a threat to native species.

Homer is adjusting to his new home and the caring staff. As he acclimates, he will soon have the opportunity to meet visitors. This interaction aims to educate and connect children with an animal they may not encounter in their daily lives, creating a deeper appreciation for wildlife.



Lori Pond delivering donations to Homer High



Zach Pettit delivering donations to Homer High



Renee Krause and Lori Pond wrap gifts

SHARE THE SPIRIT

City Hall spread some holiday cheer this year through the Share the Spirit Adopt-A-Family program! We were honored to make a family's wishes come true by providing them with food, warm clothing, toys, and essentials.

You can also bring joy to our community through similar programs and by supporting local charities, helping build a more compassionate and connected community not just during the festive season but throughout the upcoming year!



City Hall Christmas Tree



HOMER HIGH GOVERNMENT CLASS VISITS CITY HALL

The Homer High School Government Class visited City Hall on Tuesday, December 12th for a guided tour, followed by a Q&A session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson. The students had an hour to explore the inner workings of local government, gaining insights into the daily operations of City Hall.

The Q&A session aimed to provide a firsthand understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders, allowing students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, “Homer High grads are disbursed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication.” The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.



Ryan Foster, City Planner, speaks to students about the city planning process.



Homer High students attend a Q&A session with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson.

2024 ELECTIONS

As we step into the new year, it's never too early to start preparing for the upcoming elections! Stay informed about key dates, such as voter registration deadlines and election days.



Register to vote or update your voter registration!

- Visit the Homer City Clerk’s Office at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue to fill out a registration form, or
- Conveniently register online at <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov>.

For additional details, contact the Clerk’s Office at (907) 235-3130.

In 2024, we gear up for THREE upcoming elections!

 Save the dates:

- Alaska State General Election : **November 5**
- 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough Regular Election: **October 1**
- 2024 City of Homer Regular Election: **October 1**

Polls open at 7 am, close at 8 pm

Important Deadlines

-  Voter registration/update: September 1, 2024
-  Absentee In-Person Voting: Starts September 16, 2024
-  Absentee By-Mail App Deadline (City): September 27, 2024
-  Absentee App Deadline (Borough): September 24, 2024
-  Absentee by Electronic App Transmission Deadline: September 30, 2024

PORT & HARBOR

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO IN SEATTLE

Port Director Bryan Hawkins recently attended the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, sharing a booth with Homer Marine Trades. The expo spotlighted Alaskan coastal communities. The Homer booth stands out because it represents our thriving marine commercial support industry.

During his visit, Bryan joined the Cordova Harbormaster for a day trip to Anacortes, touring the Transpac float manufacturing operation. Witnessing the floats during their various stages of construction, physically interacting with the materials, and acquiring knowledge about the intricate engineering involved in these harbor float systems was truly remarkable and helps us in our planning for future float replacement projects.



Bryan Hawkins and Jen Hakala of the Homer Marine Trades Association working Homer's Pacific Marine Expo booth.

Events like the Pacific Marine Expo highlight local industry strengths, foster community collaboration, and address crucial topics such as vessel maintenance and sustainability. Attending these expos is an important investment in the growth and success of the marine trade sector.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING FOR THE MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA



Bryan Hawkins, Port Director, attended the Marine Exchange of Alaska annual board meeting.

Port Director, Bryan Hawkins, serves as the President of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) and represented AAHPA on the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) board this past month. Both organizations collaborate closely to support maritime transportation in Alaska.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) tracks commercial vessels in Alaskan waters. One of their primary functions is the exchange of vessel information, which serves as a critical resource for vessel owners, fleet managers, families, and state and federal authorities. The Exchange acts as a 24-hour vessel safety and security watch keeper, ensuring the timely availability of accurate and relevant information including vessel tracking, communication services, and weather and ice information.

Attending their annual board meeting offered valuable insights. The collaboration opportunities allowed for the exchange of information and the advancement of Homer's critical projects and priorities.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

STUDY UPDATE



**Join us Monday, January 22 at
City Council's 4 pm Worksession!**

Ronny McPherson and KC Kent of HDR will provide an overview of the Baseline Conditions Report they are completing. The report uses new and existing field data along with existing studies, to model the waves, tides, storm surge and analyze sediment transport in the study area.

Understanding the existing marine and coastal physical processes is one of the important first steps to get done before moving into alternatives development. This information, together with data from the geophysical investigation and environmental review, is instrumental in informing the design process; it allows the project development team to tailor designs to the specific conditions of the proposed site to best meet project objectives. The information also serves as a reference point to compare the relative effectiveness of the alternatives harbor design.

Homer City Council will also discuss the progress of the study and introduce an Ordinance to commit additional match funds at their Regular meeting on January 8, 2024, which begins at 6 pm.

Mark your calendar

6 pm Monday, January 8, 2024



4 pm Monday, January 22, 2024



Cowles Chamber, Homer City Hall
491 E. Pioneer Avenue in Homer



or via [Zoom!](#)



For more information go to: www.homerharborexansion.com



**QUICK
TIP**

PORT & HARBOR BILLING ABBREVIATIONS

What does that stand for? Are you looking at your harbor bill or receipt and can't figure out what the description means? Here's a breakdown of those cryptic abbreviations that will make you a pro in no time. Click this link to see a list of abbreviations and what they mean. [Port & Harbor Billing/Charges Info](#)



FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS



Sammantha Cunningham leading the ETT training class.

During the final week of November, Port & Harbor staff from operations, maintenance, and the fish dock participated in a 40-hour Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) training and certification. The training was led by Homer EMS coordinator Samantha Cunningham and organized by Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden.



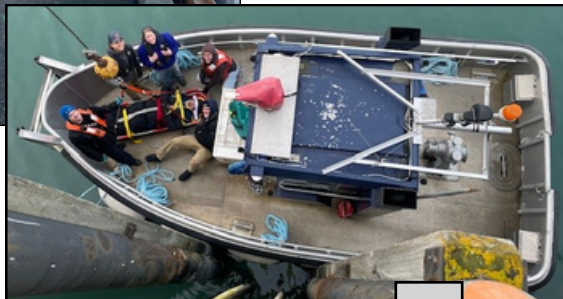
Isaiah Nevak, Kurt Read (as the 'patient'), and Rose Riordan

The ETT course is primarily for professionals requiring advanced medical skills beyond basic first aid and is specifically designed for those without immediate access to professional emergency services. This training equips individuals with essential skills for a rapid response in critical situations.

Successful completion of this training course is mandatory every two years. The training provides our Port & Harbor staff with essential skills to respond effectively to emergencies when necessary.



Del Masterhan and Thomas Gilbert participate in rescue training, which involves loading a stretcher onto a pulley and lowering it down into a boat.



HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RISK ASSESMENT

The City of Homer has thoroughly evaluated natural disaster risks and devised strategies to safeguard lives and property. A hazard impact risk assessment predicts how hazards may affect the community, aiding in prioritizing risk reduction actions.

The 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) specifically assessed risks in Homer, focusing on land, the population center, and critical facilities like emergency services.

With a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved plan in place, the community is eligible for nonemergency disaster assistance, including funding for risk reduction projects outlined in the plan.

As a resident of Homer, we want you to be aware of the potential risks and inform you of the plan in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Risks Assesed

Climate Change

Earthquake

Erosion

Flood

Landslide

Severe Weather

Tsunami

Volcano

Wildfire



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website:

[City of Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

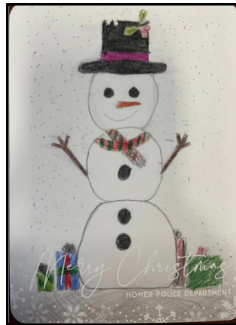
POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST 2023



Homer Police Department with Christmas Card Contest participants, Aubrey and Kyra.

The Homer Police Department (HPD) was thrilled to host a Christmas Card Contest again this year. Young Homer artists had the opportunity to submit vibrant Christmas card designs. The 2023 winner was Kyra (11), who drew a beautiful snowman! The runner up was Aubrey with a festive 'Crismis' scene showing a police officer with K-9 dog next to a Christmas tree. Great job girls!!



Snowman, by Kyra



Crismis, by Aubrey

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

We saw a whole new side to our police officers and staff at HPD this year! They brought out their creative side with a door decorating contest. Winner gets bragging rights!

Our newest hire, Kaitlyn Dawson, won with the Grinch Door that leads into the jail.



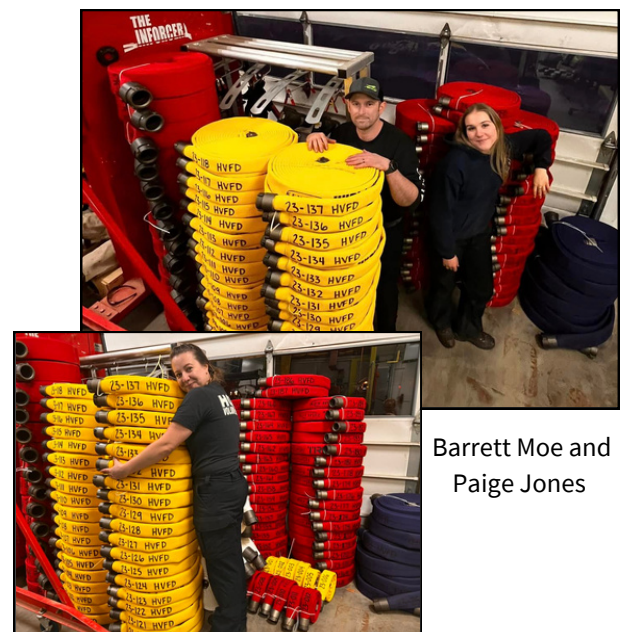
The Grinch Door, by Kaitlyn Dawson

FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEW FIRE HOSES AT HVFD

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) recently acquired upgraded fire hoses. A total of 147 boxes, weighing 5,638 pounds, were unboxed by our awesome crew: Jaclyn Arndt, Paige Jones, Galina Orlova, and Barrett Moe!

This new supply replaced outdated hoses that no longer met National Fire Protection Association safety guidelines. The old hoses were made of extruded nitrile rubber, which would easily ice up in cold weather, making them slippery to handle and heavier. The new style of hoses performs better in cold weather and is easier for firefighters to maneuver. They have a rubber-lined polyester double jacket that does not freeze up and is two pounds lighter than the old hoses, enhancing grip, maneuverability, and reducing the risk of injury and fatigue for our firefighting crews. This significant improvement ensures that HVFD maintains a safer and more efficient fire response.



Barrett Moe and Paige Jones

Galina Orlova



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

The cold weather has arrived, and we all want to stay warm! Remember to take a few simple steps to keep yourself and your family safe while heating up your home. Using heating systems safely is crucial in preventing accidents, fires, and health hazards.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE!

Heating Systems

SAFETY
FIRST

Keep the area around fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters clear, at least 3 feet around.

SAFETY
FIRST

Schedule regular inspections and cleaning of heating unit and replace air filters regularly.

SAFETY
FIRST

Ensure proper ventilation to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide.

SAFETY
FIRST

Never leave a heating unit unattended while in use.

LEARN MORE



[StaySafe.org](https://www.staysafe.org)

[Red Cross Home Heating Safety Tips](#)



Be Prepared

Educate family members, especially children, about fire safety.

Have an escape plan and practice the route.

Keep a working fire extinguisher in an accessible location, and make sure everyone knows how to use it.

Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home and test them monthly.



December Anniversaries

Thanks to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment and service to the City and to the taxpayers of Homer!

Mark Robl	Police	39 Years
Bryan Hawkins	Port	24 Years
Todd Cook	Public Works	14 Years
Sean Perry	Police	9 Years
Mike Zelinski	Public Works	9 Years
Josh Mershon	Port	4 Years
Regina Johanos	Library	3 Years
Jenna Luchaco	Public Works	2 Years
Del Masterhan	Port	2 Years
Matt Dominguez	IT	1 Year

WELCOME



Greg Trail

Welcome aboard, Greg Trail! Greg is a Maintenance Tech I at Public Works who began his journey with us in July. Hailing from Homer and the surrounding area, he brings valuable experience from his previous work in the fishing industry.



Welcome to Wesley Breshears, our Heavy Mechanic at Public Works, who joined us in November. Having relocated to Homer about a year ago to be closer to family, we are thrilled to have him as part of our team.



Wesley Breshears

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVES!

WAY TO GO ANDREW!

Andrew Williamson just got his CDL license! He joined the Public Works crew as a seasonal employee for the operators from May to October 2022. He was rehired in 2023 as a full-time employee, starting out as an apprentice. With his newly acquired CDL license and on-the-job training, he has now become an Equipment Operator. Andrew is a valuable addition to the team, and we are glad to have him on board.



Andrew Williamson

KUDOS TO SNOW PLOW CREWS



Snow Removal- Lead Mike Gilbert and operator- Jenna Luchaco

Kudos to the City crews who have been working hard to keep Homer roads clear and safe this winter season! These dedicated teams work tirelessly to clear the snow and ice, ensuring our safe travels.

Be sure to give them your support and be patient while they work through the snow clearing process, especially during heavy snowfall. They are an essential part of our community, and we are very thankful for them!

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)



“Horses in a Winter Storm”
Watercolor by Diana Tillion
City Hall

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

3	5:30 pm	CANCELLED - Planning Commission Worksession
3	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Special Meeting
9	6:00 pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
16	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
17	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
17	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
18	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Special Meeting
24	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at:
cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City Manager
Erickson/Davis

48

2.57 Department of Community Development

2.58 Boards and Commissions

2.60 Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission

2.64 Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

2.68 *Repealed*

2.70 Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Board

2.72 Planning Commission

2.76 Economic Development Advisory Commission

2.78 *Repealed*

2.80 *Repealed*

2.84 Public Release of Record

2.92 Public Records Management

2.96 *Repealed*

Section 2. Homer City Code Chapter 2.32 Departments and Boards is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 2.32
DEPARTMENTS AND BOARDS¹

Sections:

2.32.010 Departments – Directors.

2.32.020 *Repealed.*

2.32.030 Designation and function of departments.

2.32.040 Departmental administrative fee schedule.

Prior legislation: Ords. 1-100.4 and 73-8.

2.32.010 Departments – Directors.

There shall be principal subdivisions of the City government known as departments. Each department shall be headed by the City Manager until such time as the ~~Council~~ **City Manager** shall approve the appointment of a “director” who shall then head the designated department. The director shall be appointed by and be responsible to the City Manager. These departments are the functional units under which all matters of an administrative, organizational or utilitarian nature shall fall and shall be all-inclusive of every City function as defined in this chapter. Each department may be further subdivided into divisions for operational purposes. [Code 1967 § 3-400.1; Code 1981 § 1.40.010].

2.32.020 Boards and commissions.

Repealed by Ord. 18-38(S). [Ord. 92-30(S)(A), 1992. Code 1967 § 3-400.2; Code 1981 § 1.40.020].

2.32.030 Designation and function of departments.

The City departments are designated in this section and their functions set forth:

Chapter 2.36 HCC	Department of Finance
Chapter 2.40 HCC	Department of Port and Harbor
Chapter 2.44 HCC	Department of Administration
<u>Chapter 2.46 HCC</u>	<u>Department of Information Technology</u>
<u>Chapter 2.48 HCC</u>	<u>Department of the Public Library</u>
Chapter 2.52 HCC	Police Department
Chapter 2.53 HCC	Fire Department
Chapter 2.56 HCC	Department of Public Works
<u>Chapter 2.57 HCC</u>	<u>Department of Community Development</u>

[Amended by City in August 2017; Ord. 91-7 § 2, 1991; Ord. 85-35 § 2, 1985. Code 1981 § 1.40.030].

2.32.040 Departmental administrative fee schedule.

Unless established by ordinance or resolution of the City Council, the director of each department of the City shall have the authority, subject to the approval of the City Manager and ratification by the City Council, to promulgate and maintain an administrative fee schedule for services provided by that department. Fees for identical services shall be uniform throughout all departments. A current copy of the departmental administrative fee schedule shall be available for inspection by any person at the front reception area of the department and at the office of the City Clerk. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance or resolution, all fees collected under this schedule shall be forwarded to the Finance Department for deposit into the general fund. [Ord. 92-07(S)(A), 1992. Code 1981 § 1.40.040].

¹ For Alaska Statute provisions authorizing municipalities to establish and prescribe the functions of departments, officers and agencies, see AS 29.35.010.

Section 3. Homer City Code Chapter 2.44 Department of Administration is hereby amended to read as follows:

Bold and underlined added. ~~Deleted language stricken through~~

The Department of Administration is created which shall be headed by the City Manager or his designee. Within this Department will be the City Clerk and such other personnel as may be necessary to provide such services as personnel administration; ~~City-wide planning; zoning and platting; permitting and inspection; services such as parks, recreation, Community Recreation Program, and library programs;~~ administration of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, the ~~Homer Advisory Parks, Art, and Recreation,~~ **& Culture Advisory** Commission, the City of Homer Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board** and the Library Advisory Board; major capital projects administration; ~~economic development~~ and City enhancement programs and such other services or programs as designated by the City Manager or requested by the City Council. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary. [Ord. 10-16 § 1, 2010; Ord. 85-35 § 4, 1985. Code 1981 § 1.43.010].

Section 4. Homer City Code Chapter 2.46 Department of Information Technology is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 2.46
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2.46.010 Department of Information Technology.

The Department of Information Technology is created which shall be headed by the Director of Information Technology, also known as the Chief Technical Officer of the City. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removable by the City Manager. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

Section 5. Homer City Code Chapter 2.48 Public Library is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 2.48

Department of the PUBLIC LIBRARY¹

Sections:

2.48.005 Department of the Library

2.48.010 Library functions.

2.48.020 Library Director – Appointment.

2.48.030 Library Director – Duties.

2.48.040 Board – Creation and membership.

2.48.050 Library Advisory Board – Powers and duties.

2.48.060 Library Advisory Board – Vacancies.

2.48.070 Use of library.

2.48.005 Department of the Library.

[**Bold and underlined added.** Deleted language stricken through]

The Department of the Library is created which shall be headed by the Library Director. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removed by the City Manager. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

2.48.010 Library functions.

The major functions of the library are the operation of the Homer Library, including control and supervision of library use, acquisition of library property and other related matters. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 1, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.010].

2.48.020 Library Director – Appointment.

The head of the Homer Library is the Library Director, who shall be appointed by the City Manager. **The Library Director must hold a master's degree in library or information science, or other relevant credential, as required for library grant eligibility by the State of Alaska** [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 2, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.020].

2.48.030 Library Director – Duties.

The Library Director of the City shall be responsible for and shall have supervision and control of the library and hold responsibilities as denoted in the job description for the position. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 3, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.030].

2.48.040 Board – Creation and membership.

There is created the City of Homer Library Advisory Board, referred to in this chapter as the Board, which shall act in an advisory capacity to the Library Director and the City. The Board shall consist of seven members comprised as follows:

- a. At least five members of the Board shall reside within the corporate limits of the City.
- b. Members shall serve for three years with initial appointments to be made for staggered terms as follows: Two one-year terms; two two-year terms; and three three-year terms.
- c. Members shall serve without compensation. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 98-7, 1998; Ord. 95-5, 1995; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 4, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.040].

2.48.050 Library Advisory Board – Powers and duties.

The Library Advisory Board shall:

- a. Establish operational policies for the library program, and submit same to the City Council for approval. There shall be an annual review of policies and revisions may be recommended by the Board.
- b. Assist the Librarian in preparation and presentation of the annual budget request to the City Council.
- c. Adopt bylaws and regulations for internal operations governing the proper and orderly discharge of its responsibilities.
- d. Make recommendations through the City Manager to the Mayor and City Council concerning the library and its programs.

Bold and underlined added. ~~Deleted language stricken through~~

e. Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Any money donations shall be deposited to the City treasury in a reserve fund designated for public library use. If property, it shall be accepted by deed or other conveyance subject to approval by the City Council. Such property shall be held or disposed of for public library purposes as the Council may direct. The Board may make recommendations for disposition of money or property so received and such recommendations shall be considered and acted upon by the Council. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 5, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.050].

2.48.060 Library Advisory Board – Vacancies.

a. In the event of a vacancy on the Library Advisory Board, the Mayor shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

b. If any Library Board member is absent for three consecutive meetings (unless a majority of the other members have previously granted a leave of absence, not to exceed six months), the seat of that member shall be declared vacant and a new member appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 6, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.060].

2.48.070 Use of library.

All persons shall be extended the use of library privileges subject to observing the rules and regulations established for the use thereof. The Library Director may prohibit any person from using the library who willfully or persistently violates any rule or regulation prescribed for the operation of the library. No person shall fail or refuse to leave the library when ordered to do so by the Library Director or other person in charge. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 7, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.070].

Section 6. Homer City Code Chapter 2.57 Department of Community Development is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 2.57

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2.57.010 Department of Community Development.

The Department of Community Development is created which shall be headed by the Director of Community Development. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removable by the City Manager. Within this Department will be the City Planner and such other personnel as may be necessary to provide services such as city-wide planning; zoning and platting; permitting and inspection; economic development; City enhancement programs and such other services or programs as designated by the City Manager or requested by the City Council; services such as parks, and community recreation. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

Section 7. This Ordinance is of a permanent and general character. and shall be included in the City Code.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA this ____ day of _____, 2023.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

YES:

NO:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

First Reading:

Public Hearing:

Second Reading:

Effective Date:



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

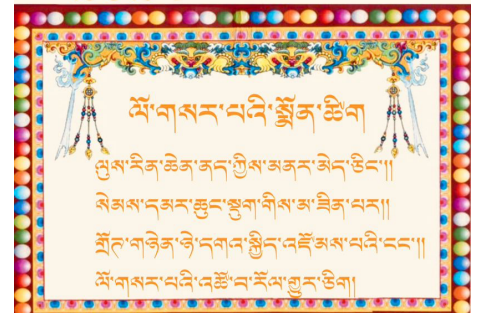
Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II
DATE: JANUARY 16, 2024
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- F. Images, The Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies – Sarnath, India **page 3**
- G. 2023 Impact Report – EveryLibrary **page 5**

The Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies—Sarnath, India



EVERYLIBRARY 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Showing up for Libraries

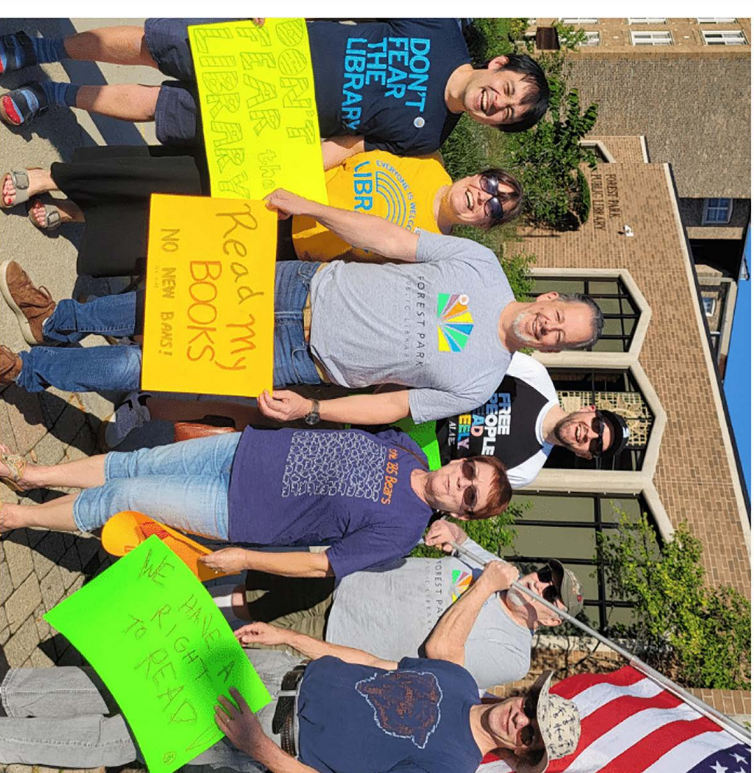


FOCUSED ON DIRECT ACTION FOR LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

Since 2012, EveryLibrary has focused on new opportunities to fund library programs, collections, facilities, and staffing through the ballot box.

In 2017, we launched the Save School Librarians initiative to safeguard against budget cuts and layoffs across K-12.

In 2023, we continued to address the book ban crisis in schools and public libraries with FightForTheFirst.org, the only organizing and activism platform for local Library Alliances to fight back against censorship.



everylibrary
Building Voter Support For Libraries

OUR STRATEGY

*Goal: Better Funding and
Smarter Policies*

Activists

We added 67,000 new activists in 2023 and have built a “national voter file of over 330,000 Americans who believe in and support libraries.”

Social Media

We engage with over 500,000 Americans who follow us on multiple social media channels.

News Media

Our leadership is in the news with expert commentary on issues affecting libraries.

Donors

We have grown by 45% this year with hundreds of new personal and philanthropic donors who empower our pro-bono work and activism.

Social Media

We engage with over 500,000 Americans who follow us on multiple social media channels.

Recurring

As a “people-powered” organization, the average individual donation is \$47.55.

New

Authors and philanthropic funders identify us as an effective organization.



IN 2023, WE HELPED LIBRARIES IN UNIQUE, POWERFUL, AND MEASURABLE WAYS

As the only national political action committee for libraries,
it is what we were built to do.



72

FIGHTING FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT

We launched 72 local library alliances and activated 55,000 people for reading and libraries.

9

WINNING ON ELECTION DAYS

We campaigned in nine towns like Pella, IA and Patmos, MI to safeguard libraries on Election Day.

15

DEFEATING CRIMINALIZATION BILLS

We stood with 15 state library associations to build effective coalitions against bad legislation.

500K

REACHING MORE AMERICANS

We hit an important milestone with 500,000 people on social and 330,000 in our voter file.

212

TELLING THE LIBRARY STORY

We wrote, published, and syndicated over 200 original stories about libraries and librarians on our magazine.

DIRECT ACTIONS FOR LIBRARIES





01.

FIGHT FOR THE FIRST

This is not a hashtag campaign or slogan.

FightForTheFirst.org from is the only digital organizing platform for local library alliances, education coalitions, and statewide efforts that powers direct action.

In 2023, Fight for the First has enabled over 70 local pro-library, anti-censorship campaigns to quickly engage the public, overcome attacks, and restore books about diverse populations to the shelves.



THE PROBLEM

Grassroots advocacy campaigns are run by local folks who care deeply about the issues but have very little experience and no money. Without our support, they are well-intentioned but less effective.

OUR SOLUTION

EveryLibrary's donors prioritize direct action, so we spend between \$250– \$1000 on each *Fight for the First* campaign to advertise calls-to-action to the local community.

We are the only national organization doing this. It is the only way to reach enough people and affect real change.

• • • • •
• • • • •
VOTE NO
TO SAVE OUR LIBRARY
• • • • •

When We Fight, We Win

73 Anti-Censorship campaigns for **64** libraries and schools

172 direct actions like email petitions and rallies

55,324 petitions signed and sent to boards and councils

Over **\$32,000** raised from local donors for local efforts



KNOW THE FACTS.
FIGHT THE LIES.
STAND WITH THE LIBRARY.



SALINE COUNTY LIBRARY ALLIANCE

SALINECOUNTYLIBRARYALLIANCE.COM



Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans



DOUGLAS COUNTY FREEDOM DEFENDERS

ST TAMMANY



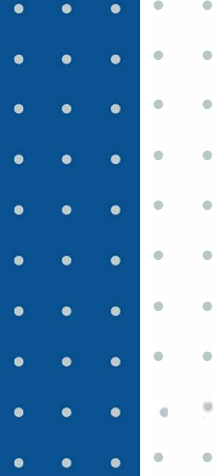
LIBRARY ALLIANCE

Visit <https://FightForTheFirst.org> to see it in action!

02.

ELECTION DAYS FOR LIBRARIES

We helped nine libraries on their 2023 Election Days.
With over 130 pro-bono campaigns behind us,
EveryLibrary is a seasoned partner for libraries.



2023 Election Days

Livingston Parish Library (LA)

Renew the levy or close

Pass – November 18

Patmos Library (MI)

Renew the levy or close

Pass – November 7

Pella Public Library (IA)

Remove library board

Defeated – November 7

Kent District Library (MI)

Renew and reduce levy

Pass – November 7

Ida Rupp Memorial Library (OH)

Renew the levy or close

Pass – November 7

Taney County (MO)

New library district and levy

Pass – August 8

Great Falls Public Library (MT)

Increase mil levy

Pass – June 6

Algoma Township (MI)

Withdraw from Kent District library

Defeated – May 2

Dorothy Hull–Windsor District Library (MI)

New levy

Pass – May 2

Sugar Grove Public Library (IL)

New operating revenue

Pass – April 4

133 ELECTIONS

Since 2012

\$2.8 BILLION

Funding for
Libraries

86%

Win Rate

100%

Pro-bono and
Free

03.

OPPOSING BAD LEGISLATION

*Fifteen states faced bills in 2023 that would have
criminalized public and school librarians.
Our **singular focus** was to support our state
library association partners in opposing these bills.*

2023 LEGISLATIVE FIGHTS

CRIMINALIZING THE PROFESSION

15 states attempted to change obscenity laws to **target** school librarians, educators, and public librarians **with criminal prosecution** for the books in their libraries.



Read the “Opposing Attempts to Criminalize Librarianship” brief.

EveryLibrary **wrote the strategy brief** for state library association partners to successfully oppose these bills. We helped identify and activate new national and statewide **coalition partners** to stand with librarians. Our action.everylibrary.org platform hosted a dozen digital outreach campaigns to **activate the public**.

We helped defeat 12 criminalization bills outright. Idaho’s was **vetoed**. SB81 in Arkansas was **overturned** in court. Our colleagues in Indiana fought hard, but the law passed. The fight for the profession continues in 2024.

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION COALITION CAMPAIGNS OPPOSING CRIMINALIZATION BILLS

EveryLibrary provided our state library association partners with sophisticated digital advocacy tools to engage the public and ongoing advising about testimony preparation and coalition building.

Several of our public-facing coalition campaigns made the difference opposing those bills:

Arkansas Library Association's **"Take Action Against SB81"** campaign.

Idaho Library Association's **"Oppose HO314"** campaign.

Indiana Library Federation's **"StopsSB12.org"** campaign.

Maine Library Association's **"Defeat LD123"** coalition.

Montana Library Association's **"Oppose HB234"** campaign.

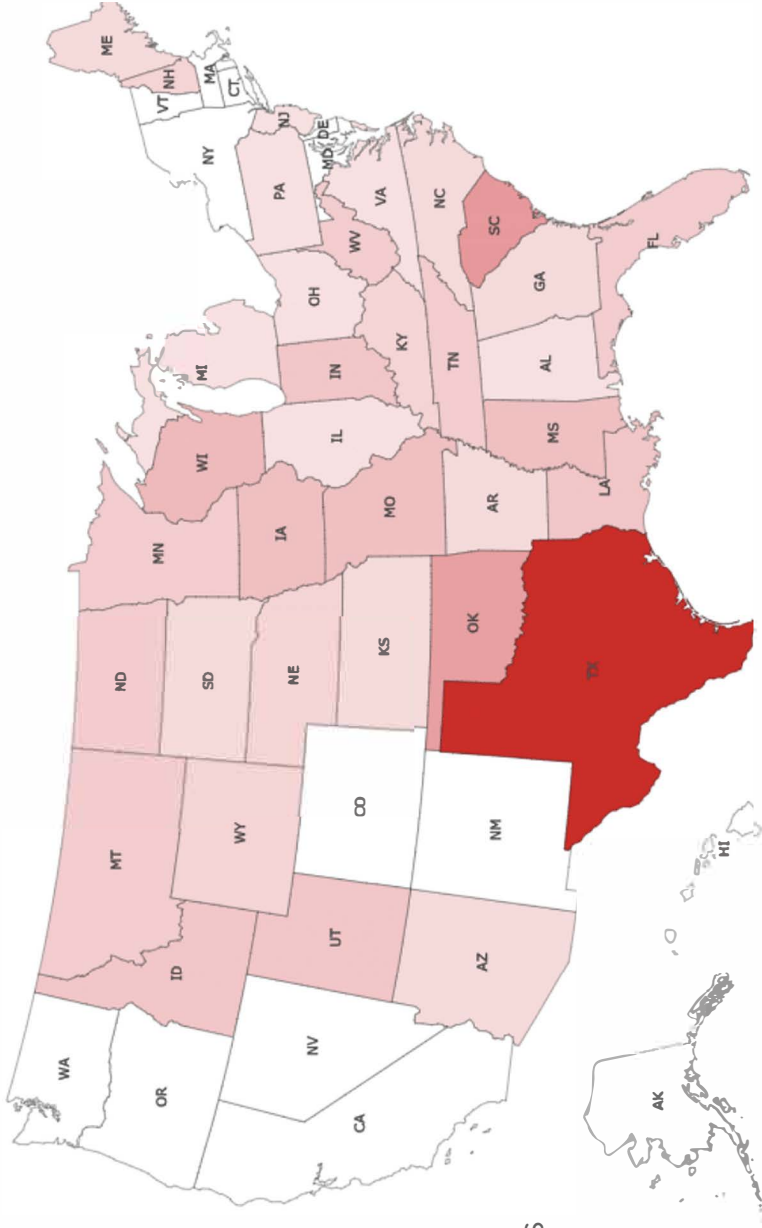
North Dakota Library Association's **"Oppose Three Bills"** campaign.



THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES IS DECIDED IN THE STATES

158 BAD BILLS IN 8 CATEGORIES

1. Limit access to school library databases
2. Establish book rating systems
3. Mandate challenge policies
4. Override collection development
5. Expand parental control
6. Change definitions of “obscene”
7. Limit teaching of “divisive concepts”
8. Criminalize librarians and educators



EveryLibrary's 2023 "Legislation of Concern" Heatmap

04.

TELLING THE LIBRARY STORY

Every week, we write and publish stories about school libraries and public libraries and syndicate them on social media, to editors and reporters, and to online publications.



209 Stories about Libraries

- 31,179 minutes read
- 31,230 views on Medium
- 303 visitors a day on average



10 Million Impressions

We reach beyond the library sector to place stories in parenting, education, and lifestyle publications.



MEDIUM MAGAZINE

All of our articles are published under a Creative Commons license that allows any library to use and adapt them on social media and in their newsletters. medium.com/everylibrary

SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS

INSTAGRAM GREW +178%

FACEBOOK VISITS UP +558%

PAID ADS TO 5.6 MILLION PEOPLE

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS +5.1 MILLION PEOPLE

OVER 97% OF FOLLOWERS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES

According to industry analytics, EveryLibrary **reaches more Americans** than any other library organization.

We share actionable content about the role and importance of libraries in American society with people who want to take action in favor of library legislation, vote for libraries at the ballot box, and become local advocates for their schools and public libraries in their communities.

Follow us on new social media platforms:

- **Threads:** [_everylibrary_](#)
- **Mastadon:** @EveryLibrary@me.dm
- **BlueSky:** [everylibrary.bsky.social](#)

05.

DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



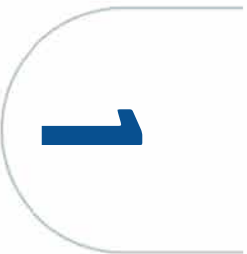
3

Our Three Rules of Engagement

1. *Identify* the legitimate stakeholders
2. Center the *affected people* in our work
3. Amplify their *agenda*

Our donors have **helped us help libraries** win \$1,600 in revenue for every dollar they donate.

Every library is the **only organization** focused on stable tax funding and rational political outcomes for libraries.



1

Our Promise to Donors

Our work is focused on libraries and librarians in measurable and transparent ways.



MEET OUR DONORS

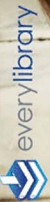
EveryLibrary passed an important milestone in 2023 when we surpassed \$200,000 in small-donor fundraising support!

Our mission is supported by thousands of Americans from all walks of life alongside numerous library vendors, action funds, and impact-oriented philanthropy.

We are especially thankful to author **Julia Quinn** for becoming our first National Ambassador. We want to gratefully acknowledge the **Long Ridge Action Fund** for underwriting key parts of our FightForTheFirst.org build and launch. Without ongoing support from industry leaders **Follett Learning** and **EBSCO**, we would not be effective partners to our state library association partners.

- • • • •
- • • • •
- • • • •





Bridgerton Author Julia Quinn is EveryLibrary's new National Ambassador in the fight against Book Banning!



Learn More at:
everylibrary.org/juliaquinnambassador

OUR 2023 BOARD

Jeannie Allen is the Director of Strategic Planning and Digital Strategy at Kitsap Regional Library.

Lori Bowen Ayre is the Founder and Principal Consultant of The Galecia Group.

Peter Bromberg is Associate Executive Director at EveryLibrary and Principal at Bromberg Consulting.

John Chrastka is Board Chair and Executive Director.

Harmony Faust is Vice President for Marketing at ITHAKA.

Erica Findley is Board Treasurer and the Systems & Metadata Librarian at Multnomah County Library.

Brian D. Hart is Assistant County Manager for Person County, NC.

Gary Kirk is the President of Tech Logic.

Kathleen McEvoy is the Vice President of Communications at EBSCO Information Services.

Patrick “PC” Sweeney is Board Secretary and Digital Director for EveryLibrary.

OUR STAFF

John Chrastka, Executive Director

Patrick Sweeney, Digital Director

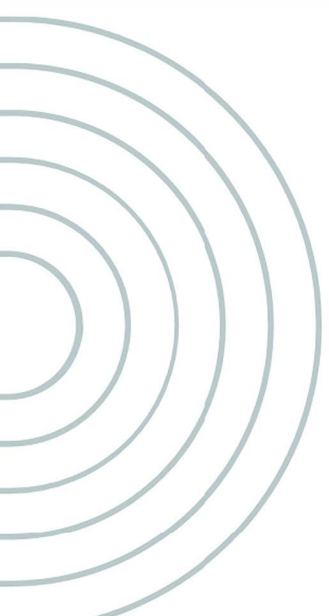
Peter Bromberg, Associate Director

Ashley Stewart, Campaign Strategist

Martha McGehee, Project Manager

Tina Andrews, Editorial Assistant

Sanobar Chagani, Democracy Projects Coordinator



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

EveryLibrary's Key Strategic Initiatives for 2024 focus our attention on supporting libraries in crisis, fighting unconstitutional censorship, activating more Americans as voters and advocates for our issues, and growing the organization's financial health.

We invite you to join us as a donor and activist. Please contact our Executive Director, John Chrastka, or visit everylibrary.org/donate today.

- • • • •
- • • • •
- • • • •





CONNECT WITH EVERYLIBRARY



EveryLibrary.org | action.everylibrary.org
SaveSchoolLibrarians.org | FightForTheFirst.org

P.O. Box 406, Riverside, IL. 60546
312-574-0316
info@everylibrary.org

Follow us on new social media platforms:

Threads: [_everylibrary_](https://www.threads.net/@everylibrary_)

Mastadon: [@EveryLibrary@me.dm](https://mastodon.social/@EveryLibrary)

BlueSky: [everylibrary.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/everylibrary.bsky.social)

FEIN 46-1534149

Published January 2024