

CHECKED IN LIBRARIES

KEEPING PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES IN THE LOOP



AT-A-GLANCE

Pennsylvania's 2026-2027 Budget Passed

On Sunday, July 12, Governor Shapiro signed the 2026-2027 budget. Most of the lines received level funding with a slight decrease for the state library:

- State Library: \$2,739,000 (\$10,000 reduction)
- Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP): \$3,000,000
- Library Access: \$3,071,000
- Public Library Subsidy: \$75,470,000

Additional legislation includes the language to release funds as well as allow the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) to grant waivers for specific standards. At this time, there has not been a timeline released for District Aid distribution, (continued on back)



Spotlight

Advocacy, Lobbying, Electioneering, Oh My!

As November's General Elections near, now is a great time review the actions which nonprofits can and can't do when it comes to promoting library initiatives and agendas with policymakers.

Advocacy is sharing information and stories that highlight the value, needs, and impact of public libraries. Examples include:

- Sending your local municipalities a copy of your library's annual impact report
- Meeting with your legislator to share how legislation positively impacted patrons
- Inviting legislators to your library's open house. (Extend the opportunities to all of your legislators, though, or it could be perceived as electioneering.) (Continued on Back)

Checked In Libraries is a collaborative initiative of several Pennsylvania Library Districts supporting public libraries statewide. Information is current as of the stated date and subject to change without notice. It is not guaranteed for legal applicability. For clarification, contact your district consultant, who may recommend consulting legal counsel. Questions regarding this publication or prior editions may be directed to info@padistrictconsultants.org

Spotlight (Cont'd)

Can a public library advocate for itself or its mission?

Yes, absolutely.

Lobbying is attempting to influence changes or votes that would impact legislation. Examples include:

- Contacting legislators with requests for support or opposition for a specific bill or amendment, such as the PA State Budget or IMLS funding
- Requesting support from those in your personal or professional circles to contact legislators with your specific agenda
- Attending a Library Legislative Day event

Can a public library lobby for legislation that could affect library operations? Yes, to a degree. The IRS utilizes a "substantial" test metrics to determine if an organization is focusing too much of their resources on lobbying. For more information, visit PANO's FAQs shared below and the IRS's "[Measuring Lobbying](#)" pages.

Electioneering is supporting or opposing a specific political party, campaign or candidate. Examples include:

- Having flyers for a particular candidate at the front desk
- Hosting a legislator's partisan event
- Posting an opposition post of a particular candidate on your library's Facebook page
- Promoting a board member who's running for office. The board member cannot claim the library's support either.
- Proving a donation on behalf of the library to a party, campaign, or candidate

Can a public library participating in electioneering? No. 501(c)(3) organizations are prohibited from electioneering.

Resources:

- "The Importance of Understanding the Difference" by Karlyn Spevacek ([Link, 2018](#))
- "Let's Get This Straight: Advocacy vs. Lobbying" by National Council of Nonprofits ([Link, 2023](#))
- "FAQs on Advocacy, Lobbying and Electioneering for PA Libraries" ([PANO](#))
- "Ballot Measures" by American Library Association ([Link](#))
- "Restriction of political campaign intervention by Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations" by IRS ([Link](#))

At-A-Glance (Cont'd)

State Budget

but there are no anticipated delays for independent libraries, federated systems, or County Coordination Aid in the new year.

This legislation also releases Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funds received by OCL to continue grants, statewide projects, advisory services, and other initiatives. LSTA funds are distributed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which has revisited its mission and distribution of funds over the last year and a half. OCL currently has funding earmarked through September 30, 2027.

PA Legislation

No movement has been made on the following bills, but we continue to watch for updates:

- [HB2189](#): Act amending The Minimum Wage Act of 1968
- [HB78](#): Protecting Consumer Information and Privacy
- [HB95/SB806](#): Disclosure of Artificially Intelligent Generated Content
- [HB1663](#): Imagination Library Program
- [SB1103](#): Pennsylvania Right to Read Act
- [HB200](#): The Family Care Act

Federal Legislation:

No movement has been made on the following bills or agency actions, but we continue to watch for updates:

- [2026-10817 \(91 FR 32198\)](#): Uniform Grant Guidance Proposed Rule
- [HR 7661](#): Stop the Sexualization of Children Act
- [HR 2616](#): Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids
- [HR 8705](#): The CHARLIE Act