



# 2023 Public Policy Agenda

Our mission is to lead, educate, and advocate to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.

ILF boasts **2,000+** personal, institutional, library trustee, and contributing members from all **92** Indiana counties.

## The 2023 ILF Public Policy Agenda:

### 1. Advance collection development policy legislative language.

- To protect community interests while respecting the first amendment, the ILF supports legislation to codify collection development policies that outline processes for removal and replacement of library materials.
- All library users have the First Amendment right to borrow, read, view, and listen to library resources. Each family has the right to determine which library resources are acceptable for its children and must extend the same right to other parents.
- Libraries do not disseminate harmful material to minors and prosecuting librarians is not a proactive way to prevent children from accessing material that their parents and guardians prefer them not to read. Instead of reactive attempts to remove libraries from the defense to prosecution, the ILF encourages community involvement in local policies and criteria for collection development. Policies are approved by the library or school governing board, which is made up of community representatives.

### 2. Support State investment in literacy initiatives and position Indiana’s libraries as leaders in literacy.

- Indiana’s 2022 IREAD-3 results indicate that nearly 1 in 5 Indiana third graders lack the fundamental vocabulary and phonics skills required to become a reader.
- As the State plans significant investments in literacy, libraries and librarians should be a critical partner in working toward long-term solutions for all Hoosiers.

### 3. Protect budget line items that support critical library initiatives, including I-Light, Local Library Connectivity Grants, and broadband access initiatives.

- Now more than ever, libraries are civic hubs where Hoosiers come to learn, work, and play. Affordable, high-speed broadband access is crucial to the mission and operation of every library in the State.
- E-Rate dollars and READI funding allow libraries to support education, employment, and entrepreneurship in Indiana communities.

### 4. Monitor changes to local income tax distributions, property taxes, and policy solutions to address Assessed Valuation growth

- Changes to local income tax distributions and policy mechanisms to control AV growth can negatively impact public libraries and their core revenue base.

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