

**NJLA Executive Board
ALA Councilor
September 2023**



Library Card Sign-up Month

A Library Card is ELEMENTAL!

Get in Your Element this September—sign up for a library card! From borrowing books, ebooks, and museum passes to getting homework help, learning new skills, or attending story time, a library card helps you do more of what you enjoy. Get a library card and dive into a new hobby. Use your library card to tinker in a maker space and spark your creativity. A library card is your most important school supply—it's elemental, really—and everyone should have one!

ALA and AASL Respond to Houston Independent School District's Decision to Eliminate 28 School Libraries and Respective School Librarians in Houston

A letter to the superintendent and school board members of the Houston Independent School District and the Texas Education Commissioner in response to their decision to eliminate school librarians and convert 28 school libraries to detention centers, predominantly in Houston's underserved communities.

FTRF, AASL Join Amicus Brief in Support of Publishers, Booksellers and Authors Challenging Texas School Book Censorship Law

halt enforcement of the Texas law HB 900 on the grounds that it violates the First Amendment rights of booksellers, publishers, authors and students.

Registration open for YALSA 2023 Young Adult Services Symposium- St. Louis, MO

Core Launches New Preservation Section

The new section will address and improve all aspects of library preservation in all types of libraries. In the coming year, the Preservation Section Leadership Team will launch two new interest groups, Digital Preservation and Library Binding.



POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

Upcoming: September 19 is National Voter Registration Day. Your library can participate.

ALA is a Premier Partner of NVRD.

<https://twitter.com/LibraryPolicy/status/1692616793989304354>

Post-Conference Debrief with ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office.

<https://publiclibrariesonline.org/2023/07/post-conference-debrief-with-alas-public-policy-and-advocacy-office/>

Highlights from the Rally for the Right to Read at 2023 ALA Annual Conference:

<https://twitter.com/UABookBans/status/1679960763367055360>

Ninth Circuit Affirms the Server Test in Hunley v. Instagram. ALA was part of an amicus brief led by EFF. Our counsel Jonathan Band explains in this article:

<https://www.project-disco.org/intellectual-property/ninth-circuit-affirms-the-server-test-in-hunley-v-instagram/>

Unite Against Book Bans (UABB) campaign recent partner posts:

People for the American Way: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/grandparents-for-truth-mobilizes-against-book-banning-and-censorship/>

American Federation of Teachers: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/reading-opens-the-world/>

Authors Guild: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/freedom-to-read-write/>

National Coalition Against Censorship: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/some-good-news-for-a-change/>

ALA, ATALM applaud FCC Report and Order to support Tribal, small and rural library E-rate applicants

<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2023/07/ala-atalm-applaud-fcc-report-and-order-support-tribal-small-and-rural-library>

<https://twitter.com/LibraryPolicy/status/1682139417299894272>

ALA joined Coalition Letter (led by New America Foundation) to FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel Urging Final Rules for 6 GHz that Avoids Creating a "Wi-Fi Digital Divide".

<https://twitter.com/AlanSinouye/status/1688895635968135168>

and ALA joined an earlier letter on unlicensed spectrum:

<https://twitter.com/MCalabreseNAF/status/1687174891571965952>



2024 **LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience (LLX)**,
taking place in Baltimore, Maryland, on January 19–22,
2024.

ALA via the Library Copyright Alliance submitted comments for the 2024 AGOA Eligibility Review for South Africa Post-Hearing.

<https://twitter.com/AlanSInouye/status/1689416999317684226>

"Public libraries are the latest front in culture war battle over books" in the Washington Post features Lisa Varga, Exec Dir of Virginia Library Association and member of the ALA Policy Corps.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/07/25/library-books-bans-lgbtq-virginia/>

<https://twitter.com/AlanSInouye/status/1683971898181394433>

Freedom to Read Foundation and AASL joined an amicus brief against HB900--which has been blocked by a federal judge (preliminary injunction):

<https://twitter.com/AlanSInouye/status/1692359434427613508>

Former President Barack Obama asks you to join the United Against Book Bans campaign

<https://twitter.com/BarackObama/status/1680928209183932418>

ALA endorses three nominees for the FCC and urges swift confirmation

<https://twitter.com/AlanSInouye/status/1679241165340549123>



The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 is "Let Freedom Read." When we ban books, we're closing off readers to people, places, and perspectives. But when we stand up for stories, we unleash the power that lies inside every book. We liberate the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen. Let freedom read!