

ALA Councilor Report for Virginia Library Association, April 2024

I. Meetings Attended by ALA Councilor since last report:

- ALA Executive Board Candidates Forum 2/1/24 – virtual
- ALA Presidential Candidates Forum 2/8/24 – virtual
- Chapter Management Exchange - 3/14/24 - virtual
- ALA Members Town Hall - 3/19/24 - virtual

II. Discussion:

Dear Appropriator Letters for FY 2025 (see attached/included docs)

While Congress continues its work towards wrapping up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget, the American Library Association is preparing for next year's FY 2025 library funding. The federal budget is a year-round process, and the FY 2024 budget has already been extended through continuing resolutions for several months (expiring in March).

Your past engagement has helped secure funding for libraries of all kinds. Domestic funding, including funding for libraries, continues to face threats from calls to cut education funding across the board. We need to stay engaged and ensure Members of Congress see the value of libraries in communities and schools.

Once again, we are asking ALA state chapters to personalize a template letter (see below) urging your members in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House to support federal library funding in FY 2025. Please review the two sample letters below, personalize them and send them to your congressional delegation in the next few weeks. The annual Dear Appropriator letters will begin circulating soon and the time to obtain signatures will be short – we will follow up with you once they begin circulating. To ensure that ALA can follow up with those offices, please provide a copy of your letter to our offices at jtakeshita@alawash.org.

We cannot relax as the competition for scarce federal dollars mounts. Hearing from constituents carries great weight with Members of Congress. Your letters will make a difference.

III. Highlight of ALA News

- Last week was National Library Week and the [State of American Libraries Report](#) was released.
- ALA Elections were held - Ray Pun was [elected ALA President for the 2025 - 2026 term.](#)
- [LibLearnX will not be held in 2026](#), LLX will still be held January 24-27, 2025 in Phoenix as planned.

More ALA News can be found at: <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases>

IV. Upcoming

- ALA Annual Conference will be held June 27–July 2, 2024 in San Diego, CA

–Submitted by Kerri Copus, April 18, 2024