

## 2018 National Library Legislative Day Summary

### Issues - Asked Members of Congress to:

1. Full fund federal library programs - \$189.3 million in LSTA Funds
2. Reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act
3. Visit a library to see broadband access in action

For Full Details from ALA visit their webpage: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld>

**FY2018 Budget** - all library cuts were restored

However, afraid of possible **Recission** - where specific line items are targeted. Afraid that President will target library funding. Used frequently during the Reagan years.

**FY2019** President Budget eliminated library funding again

### Federal Funding for Libraries

**S2217** - Co-Sponsor Museum and Library Services Act

Expired 2016 - do not allow to sunset

Ensures value - authorized in 2010

Bipartisan legislation to reauthorize IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services).

LSTA provides funding for a variety of projects in NJ including NJ State Library grants, statewide databases, job training, Jersey Connect, NJ Talking Book and Braille Center

**Broadband:** Digital Inclusion, digital empowerment

Critical infrastructure in knowledge economy

Net Neutrality part of Broadband - Libraries champion for an Open Internet

Libraries ensure access for all to broadband and technology

Federal e-rate program is critical for bring public libraries (and schools) up to speed to meet demands for high-bandwidth applications and services

Preserving Open Internet is key to nation's freedom of speech, educational achievement, research & innovation and economic growth.

### Economic Impact of Libraries

Libraries provide \$5 billion in services including private sector jobs

\$1 spent on libraries returns \$5 to local economy

State Libraries are most efficient use of public federal and state funds

### Relationship Building with Lawmakers and Why It's Important

1. What is Lobbying?

Persuade legislators - Making the case for issues

2. How many Social media posts are needed to get lawmaker attention?

- a. Less than 10 comments

- b. Gather more response from reactions to legislators' comments

3. Tweets do matter

4. Communication is important including snail mail and emails. Personalize your letter, email and tweet

5. Top 3 answers from lawmakers on best ways to interact
  - a. Personal story
  - b. Why constituent either supports or opposes the bill? What are their reasons for either support or opposition?
  - c. How many are impacted from the proposed legislation???
6. Best Photo Opportunities for Lawmakers
  - a. Kids
  - b. Animals
  - c. Old People
7. Most effective advocacy factors for Legislative Decision Making
  - a. In-person visit from constituent
  - b. Contact from constituent representative
  - c. Individualized postal letter
  - d. Individualized email message
  - e. Phone Calls
  - f. Attending events in district / state - Invite legislators to events!
8. Tips for Legislative Visits
  - a. Have a game plan - prepare talking points and prepare for answers to questions
  - b. Why libraries care about the issue as well as the importance to the legislator's district
  - c. Be specific - personalize with examples from legislators' district. Provide statistics
  - d. Stay on topic
  - e. Always end with an ask
  - f. Follow-up - thank you letter, invitation, answers to questions
  - g. 5 minutes - intro, 5 minutes - why is this issue important and why should legislator care?, 5 min - seal the deal, create an "ask"
9. Advocacy is a year-long process - need to build relationships
10. Follow-up thank you letter - after 8 PM or Saturday or Sunday since they get so many pieces of communication / emails
11. Send handouts as attachments to emails

9. Resources: [Congressional Management Foundation](#)

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### **Interesting Notes from Training**

1. There will be the largest number of House Republicans retiring in 2018 since 1932.