

# LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY

## FEBRUARY 3RD, 2026



## FUND - PROTECT - EMPOWER NEW YORK LIBRARIES

Thank you for joining us for Library Advocacy Day 2026! On Tuesday, February 3rd we will stand together in Albany and raise our voices on behalf of libraries. Your willingness to be present and share your stories and your ideas will help our legislators understand why it is necessary to make significant increases to library funding and legislation. Libraries are the vital hub of every community we serve!

### IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL FIND:



A map of the concourse



The schedule of appointments with our delegation



WLS & NYLA budget & legislative priorities



Photos of your district delegates



QR code for more info on NYLA's Advocacy page and more

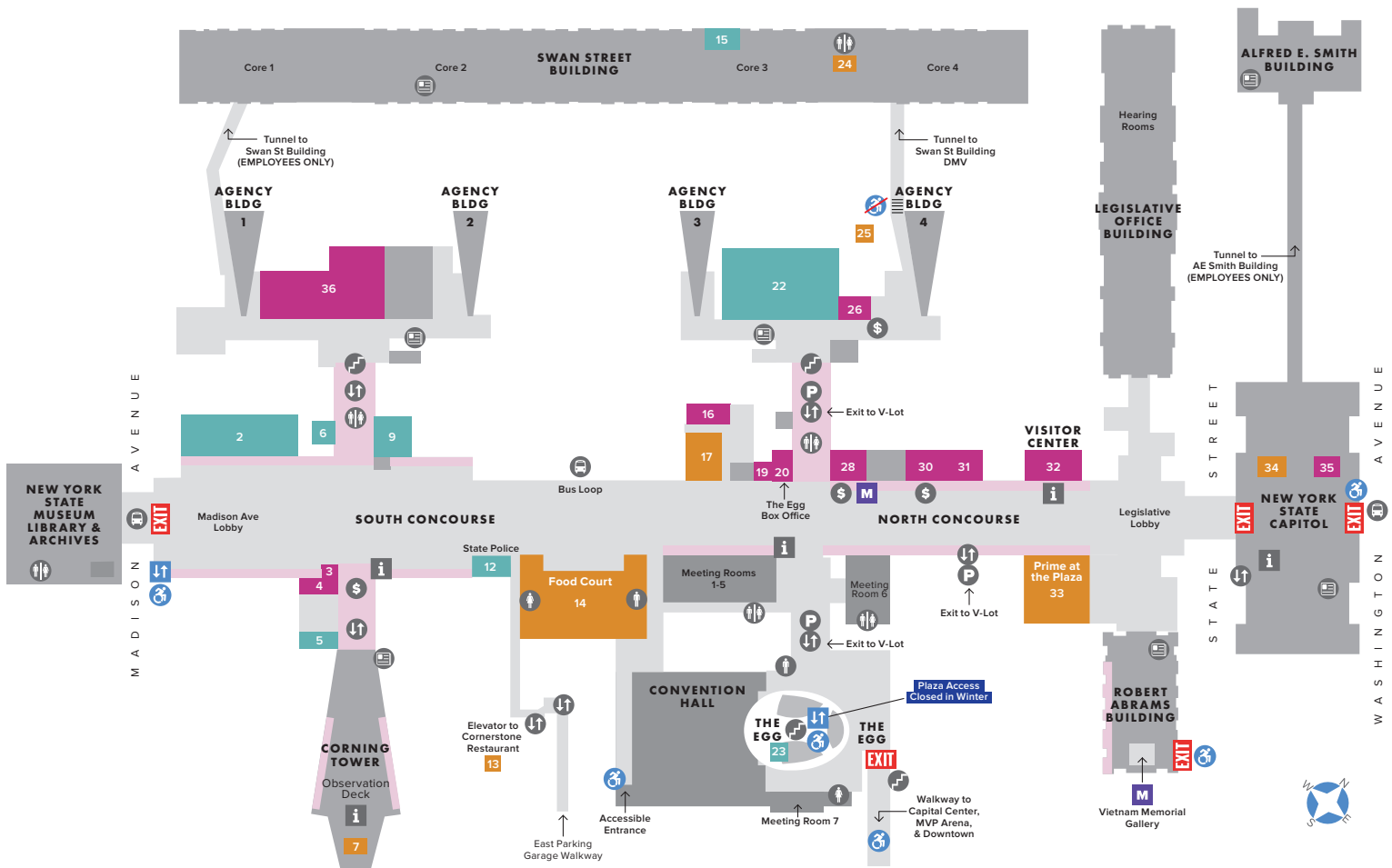


Have questions, we've got you covered!  
A representative from WLS will be present at every appointment.

# WELCOME TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

empirestateplaza.ny.gov @twitter facebook

## CONCOURSE LEVEL



### Map Key

- i** Information
- \$** ATM
- Exit** Exit to Plaza
- Up/Down** Elevator
- Up/Down** Elevator to Plaza Level **♿** Accessible
- P** Parking (use elevators)
- Bus** CDTA Bus Stop
- Store** Newsstand Convenience Store
- M** Memorials  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial  
Vietnam Memorial Gallery
- Art** Empire State Plaza Art Collection

### Food

- 7** B-Rads Executive Bistro  
ID or Visitor Pass required
- 13** Cornerstone at the Plaza  
Plaza Level
- 14** Food Court  
Au Bon Pain | Auntie Anne's | Bombers  
Honest Weight | Kuma Ani | McDonald's  
PBD Kitchen | Pho Yum
- 17** Logan's Deli and Market
- 24** Swan Street Cafeteria  
WV Plaza
- 25** B-Rad's Express  
Plaza Level
- 33** Prime at the Plaza Café
- 34** Dunkin' Donuts

### Services

- 3** Just Jewelry Repair
- 4** Post Office
- 16** American Red Cross
- 19** Patsy's Barber Shop
- 20** The Egg Box Office
- 26** Emblem Health Family Dental
- 28** KeyBank
- 30** SEFCU
- 31** SUNY Administration
- 32** Visitor Center & Gift Shop
- 35** Post Office
- 36** Retro Fitness

### State Offices

- 2** Media Services Room #146
- 5** Conference Room #125
- 6** Parking Management  
Room #144
- 9** Plaza Operations Room #130
- 12** NY State Police Room #115-1
- 15** Department of Motor Vehicles
- 22** Convention & Cultural Events,  
Curatorial Services Room #120
- 23** Convention Center Office



## 2026 LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY SCHEDULE

| WLS REP                         | TIME     | DELEGATE (DISTRICT)             | ROOM    | LIBRARIES REPRESENTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pat Brigham                     | 10:00 AM | Senator Fernandez (34th)        | LOB 814 | New Rochelle, Pelham                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| *MHLS<br>Laura Crisci           | 10:00 AM | Senator Harckham (40th)         | LOB 310 | Bedford Hills, Bedford Village, Briarcliff Manor, Chappaqua, Croton, Hendrick Hudson (Montrose), Lewisboro, Ruth Keeler (North Salem), Ossining, Field (Peekskill), Pound Ridge, Somers, John C. Hart (Yorktown). * Combined Meeting w/MHLS                                  |
| Jennifer Daddio                 | 10:30 AM | Assemblymember Burdick (93rd)   | LOB 417 | Bedford Hills, Bedford Village, Chappaqua, Harrison, Katonah, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Castle, Ruth Keeler (North Salem), Pound Ridge, Purchase, White Plains                                                                                                           |
| Terry Kirchner                  | 10:30 AM | Assemblymember Sayegh (90th)    | LOB 331 | Yonkers: Crestwood, Yonkers: Will                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Robert Cartolano                | 11:00 AM | Senator Mayer (37th)            | LOB 509 | Bronxville, Eastchester, Harrison, Katonah, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Huguenot (New Rochelle), North Castle, Port Chester-Rye Brook, Purchase, Rye, Scarsdale, Tuckahoe, White Plains, Yonkers: Crestwood, Yonkers: Will                                                        |
| Terry Kirchner                  | 11:00 AM | Senator Bailey (36th)           | LOB 609 | Mount Vernon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| *MHLS<br>Laura Crisci           | 11:00 AM | Assemblymember Slater (94th)    | LOB 433 | Somers * Combined Meeting w/MHLS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Robert Cartolano                | 11:30 AM | Senator Stewart-Cousins (35th)  | CAP 332 | Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington, Mount Pleasant, Warner (Tarrytown), Yonkers: Riverfront (can only accomodate 10). (Francisco Miranda, Robert Cartolano, Rosemarie Gatzek, Carolyn Gallagher, Michelle Blanyar, Marina Payne, Reed Payne, Pat Brigham) |
|                                 | Noon     | NYLA RALLY                      |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Robert Cartolano                | 1:00 PM  | Assemblymember Paulin (88th)    | LOB 822 | Bronxville, Eastchester, Huguenot (New Rochelle), Pelham, Scarsdale, Tuckahoe                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Pat Brigham                     | 1:30 PM  | Assemblymember Shimsky (92nd)   | LOB 827 | Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington, Mount Pleasant, Warner (Tarrytown)                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Terry Kirchner                  | 1:30 PM  | Assemblymember Otis (91st)      | LOB 739 | Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Port Chester-Rye Brook, Rye                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| *MHLS<br>Rebekkah Smith Aldrich | 2:00 PM  | Assemblymember Levenberg (95th) | LOB 325 | Briarcliff Manor, Croton, Hendrick Hudson (Montrose), Ossining, Field (Peekskill), John C. Hart (Yorktown) * Combined Meeting w/MHLS                                                                                                                                         |
| Terry Kirchner                  | 2:00 PM  | Assemblymember Pretlow (89th)   | LOB 923 | Mount Vernon, Yonkers: Riverfront                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



## WESTCHESTER DISTRICT DELEGATES

*Be sure to take pictures! Send to WhatsApp group*



Assemblymember Slater  
(District 94)



Assemblymember Shimsky  
(District 92)



Assemblymember Otis  
(District 91)



Assemblyman J. Gary  
Pretlow (District 89)



Assemblyman Nader J.  
Sayegh (District 90)



Assemblywoman Dana  
Levenberg (District 95)



Assemblywoman Amy  
Paulin (District 88)



Assemblymember Chris  
Burdick (District 93)



Senator Nathalia Fernandez  
(District 34)



Senator Jamaal Bailey  
(District 36)



Senator Harckham  
(District 40)



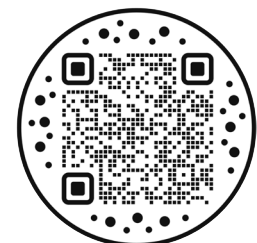
Senator Shelley Mayer  
(District 37)



NY Assemblymember  
search



Senator Stewart-Cousins  
(District 35)



NY Senator  
search



## WLS & NYLA LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

### NYLA's FY 2027 State Budget Requests

#### Library Operating Aid: \$181.3M

Also known as State Aid for Libraries, is statutory funding that supports core services such as eBooks, interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, and shared systems through regional library networks.

Despite modest increases in recent years, this aid has been underfunded by over \$207 million since FY 1992, with more than \$155 million of that gap occurring since FY 2009. Rising operating costs make increased funding essential to sustain services across public, school, and academic libraries.

*FY 2027 Governor Hochul Executive Budget Proposal (Jan 2026): \$104.67M - \$1.655M cut from FY 2026 Enacted Budget*

#### Library Construction Aid: \$175M

Library Construction Aid supports public library construction, renovation, and facility upgrades, including broadband, emergency generators, and security systems. Despite an estimated \$1.75 billion in deferred needs statewide, annual funding has never exceeded \$44 million.

With more than half of New York's libraries over 60 years old, increased investment is essential to keep libraries safe, accessible, and modern for future generations.

*FY 2027 Governor Hochul Executive Budget Proposal (Jan 2026): \$34M - \$10M cut from FY 2026 Enacted Budget*

#### Library Materials Aid: \$6.25/pupil

Library Materials Aid (LMA) supplements local funding for school library programs and is reimbursed to districts at a statutory rate of \$6.25 per student, a figure unchanged since 2007.

An increase is needed to reflect inflation and rising material costs. In FY 2027, NYLA supports building on prior momentum, as both the Assembly and Senate proposed raising the rate to at least \$11.33 in recent One House budgets. New York cannot continue to underinvest in students' access to library materials.

*FY 2027 Governor Hochul Executive Budget Proposal (Jan 2026): Flat to FY 2026 Enacted Budget*

#### NOVELny: \$3.1M

NOVELny is a New York State Library-facilitated collection of databases providing free access to journals, newspapers, and reference resources for all New Yorkers. It is widely embedded in school curricula and relied on by public and academic libraries.

After securing \$3 million in FY 2025 and FY 2026, NYLA is seeking \$3.1 million in FY 2027 to sustain access and cover rising costs, ensuring equitable access to trusted information statewide.

*FY 2027 Governor Hochul Executive Budget Proposal (Jan 2026): Stable funding at FY 2026 Level*

### CULTURAL EDUCATION FUNDING: \$12M (New Dedicated Funds for FY2027)

Immediate action is needed to stabilize funding for the New York State Office of Cultural Education, including the State Library, Archives, Museum, Summer School for the Arts, and Public Broadcasting Program. \*NYLA supports the \$12M appropriation proposed by the NYS Board of Regents in its FY 2027 priorities.

## 2026 Policy Priorities

### Modernization of Civil Service

Libraries cannot reflect and fulfill the needs of their communities with the stagnancy of civil service requirements as they currently stand.

Working with the Civil Service Committee, legislative partners and allies at external organizations, we are seeking amendments to processes and protocols within Civil Service for the field of librarianship.

### Intellectual Freedom (Key Bill: Open Shelves Act)

S.1100-A (May) / A.3119-B (Kelles)

Libraries across our state face rapidly expanding efforts to censor materials and programming they deem objectionable based on subjective personal sensibilities and partisan ideologies. We require legislation that empowers library professionals to exercise their expertise and ensure public access to materials, services, and programs that represent their interests.

NYLA supports and helped craft the Open Shelves Act (S.1100-A/A.3119-B). In its present form, the Open Shelves Act would include in the state's Standards of Library Service a requirement that libraries adopt policies and procedures that ensure library staff are able to curate and develop collections, services, and programming in a manner consistent with the values and protections established under the Human Rights Law under Article Fifteen of the Executive Law and the Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution.

### eBooks Licensing Reform

A.3589 (Carroll)

Attempts to keep up with increasing user demand for eBooks have been throttled by an industry-specific pricing model that precludes libraries from accessing materials on terms equal to those afforded to the general public.

Rather than allowing libraries to purchase eBooks on equal terms with individual consumers, they are largely restricted to limited licenses

that cost exponentially more than print materials or even private purchases of the same e-content. These temporary licenses typically expire after fixed periods of time or once a particular number of circulations is reached, whichever occurs first. As such, libraries must continuously re-license materials to maintain access. This situation strains already limited budgets, prevents the development of stable collections of eBooks and eAudiobooks, and prices many libraries out of satisfying patron demand for those materials.

If enacted, A.3589 would require that any contract between libraries and publishers who offer electronic books (eBooks and eAudiobooks) be governed by the laws of New York State under its authority to regulate intrastate commerce. Additionally, it would establish a list of provisions prohibited from inclusion in said contracts, thereby affording library patrons across our state equitable access to the content they seek.

### Media Literacy in New York State

Media Literacy education is an instructional discipline that teaches students how to apply critical thinking, reading, and reflection skills as they engage with our ever-evolving information and media landscape.

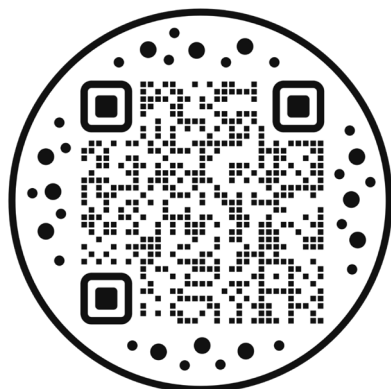
In New York's school libraries, Certified Library Media Specialists have utilized their unique credentials as experts in both education and information science to lead the way in development and delivery of media literacy education. As information technology advances and use of artificial intelligence continues to alter the digital landscape, Media Literacy instruction and the expertise of our school librarians will only grow in importance.

As such, NYLA is working to develop and pursue legislation that expands Media Literacy education in New York schools and solidify the role of Certified Library Media Specialists as leaders in the discipline.

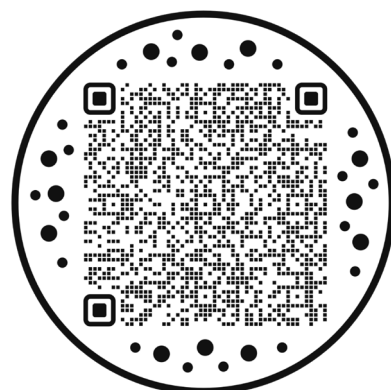


## MORE INFORMATION!

# Notes



NYLA's Advocacy Page



NYLA prep session  
powerpoint



Join the WhatsApp group for  
communication, room  
changes, photo collection and  
meetup spots with WLS

ie. positives of funding vs negatives of underfund-  
ing and what that may look like for your library