ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Enriching our community through access to information and opportunities in a welcoming and inspiring environment.

Inspire. Include. Innovate. Ishpeming

Library Board Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023
7:00pm-8:00pm (ET)
Margaret Dundon Reading Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2023 meeting

4. Public Participation *(limited to 5 minutes)*

5. Librarian's Report
   a. Circulation
   b. Calendar of events
   c. Budget Report
   d. Book Bills
   e. Friends of the Library
   f. Sustainable Shelves
   g. Beanstack

6. Committee Reports

7. Communications
   a. Summer Reading Program donations
      i. Michigan Pizza Hut - 200 free personal pan pizza certificates
      ii. River Rock Lanes - 2 free games of bowling for every child who completes Summer Reading

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business
   a. MI Right To Read presentation
   b. Consider Requested 2024 Library Budget

10. Public Participation *(limited to 5 minutes)*

11. Date of next meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

12. Adjournment

Ishpeming Carnegie Library Board Meeting
June 15, 2023 Minutes

Paul Olson, President called meeting to order at 7pm. Present: Elyse Bertucci, Darren Boldt, and Paul Olson. Absent and excused was Brooke Routhier. Also present: Jesse Shirtz, Library Director.

Minutes: a motion was made by Elyse Bertucci and seconded by Darren Boldt to approve the May 18, 2023. Motion carried.

Public Presentation: Kaylee Reno was introduced to the board. She has been appointed by the City Council to fill Stacey Nardi's vacancy and will take her oath of office as soon as possible.

Librarian Report: The door counter has not been replaced but the Children's room counter is still functional. Staff tracks patrons on the main floor. The Director presented April & May 2023 Circulation reports, May 2023 Township Statistics, Calendar of Events, Books Bills. The monthly and YTD Budget Reports were not available due to the resignation of the Finance Director. Financial reports will be presented at the August meeting. Increase in registrations and library card due to outreach at the Senior Center and Bell Hospital and library tour by Aspen Ridge second grade class. The Summer Reading Program had 248 children and 100 adults registered; reading can be tracked by using the traditional paper logs or by using Beanstack. This summer, 61 library programs are planned; an increase from the 38 offered last summer. The Director has not yet heard from the Tousigant's when they plan to meet with her and tour the library. The City Council has approved replacing both air conditioning units (7-8 years old) that failed at the start of warm weather.

Communications: Donations to the Summer Reading Program were presented.

Unfinished Business: A motion was made by Darren Boldt and seconded by Elyse Bertucci to approve the Reference Service Policy Review with minor changes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Elyse Bertucci and seconded by Darren Boldt to approve the Gifts and Bequests Policy Motion carried

New Business: A motion was made by Elyse Bertucci and seconded by Darren Boldt to nominate the following officers for 2023-2024 term: Paul Olson, President; Elyse Bertucci, Vice President; and Brooke Routhier, Secretary. Motion carried. Annual Donation Request Letter was presented. Discussion about changing the heading of request to Special Library Fund and if information about donating online could be included. The Director will check with the City to determine how online donations could be tracked and in what account they would be posted. A motion was made by Paul Olson and seconded by Elyse Bertucci to approve the Annual Donation Request Letter. Motion carried.

Public Participation: None.

July’s regular meeting is canceled.

Next Board meeting is August 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

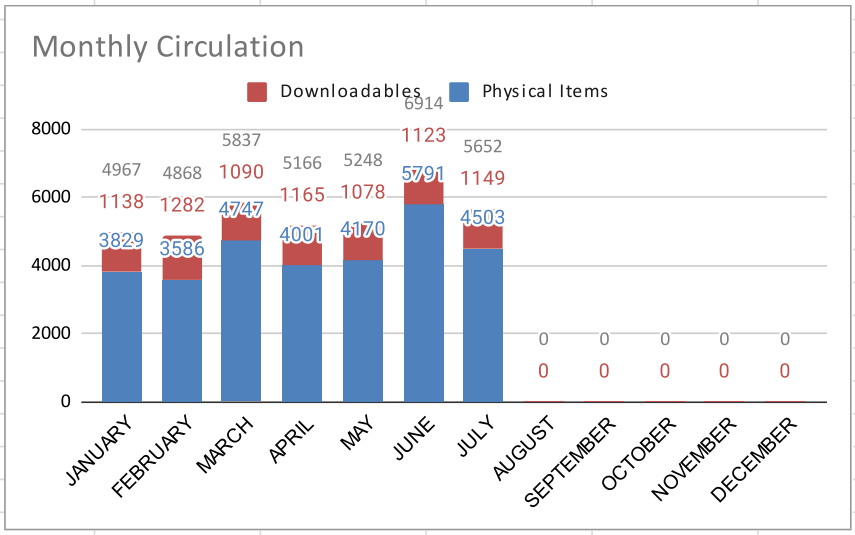
A motion was made by Darren Boldt and seconded by Elyse Bertucci to adjourn at 7:47 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Elyse Bertucci

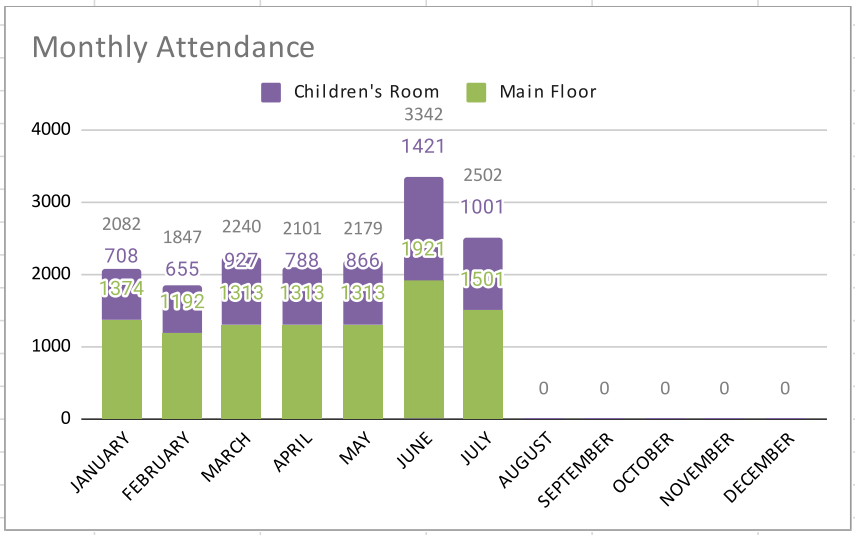
Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

Monthly Report

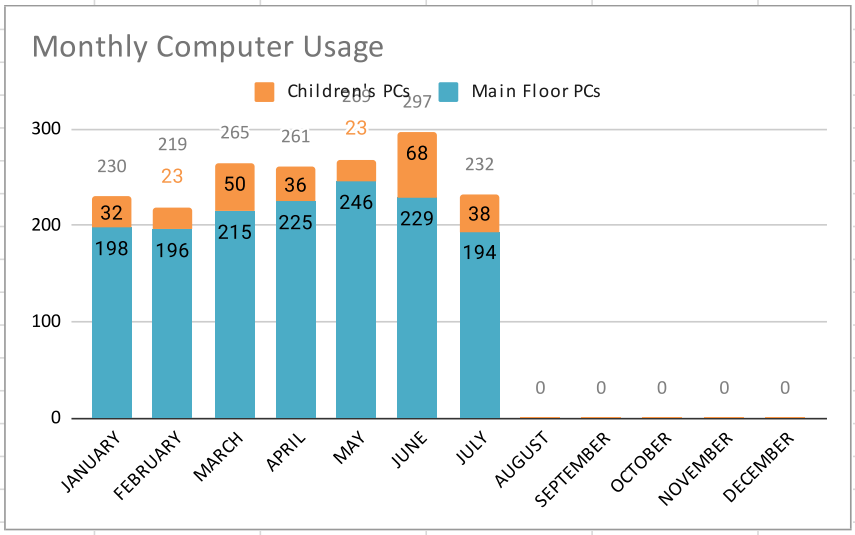
August 2023



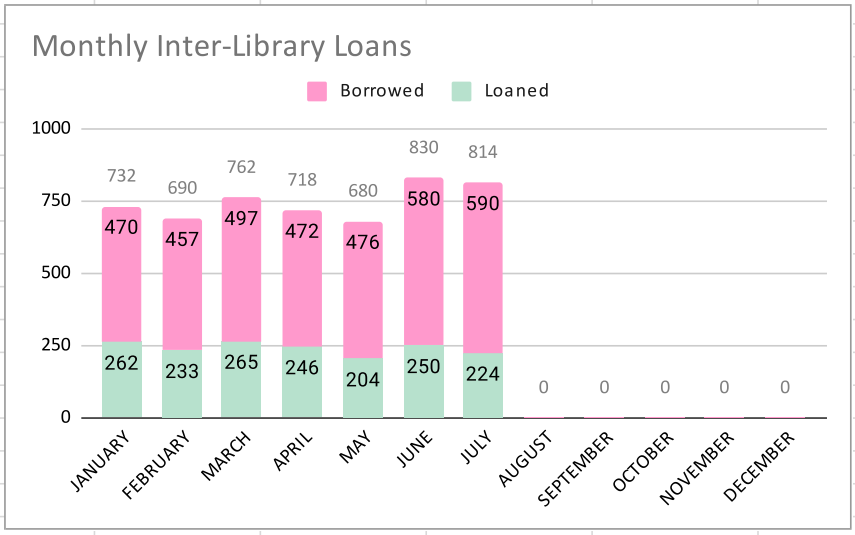
YTD Circulation:
38652



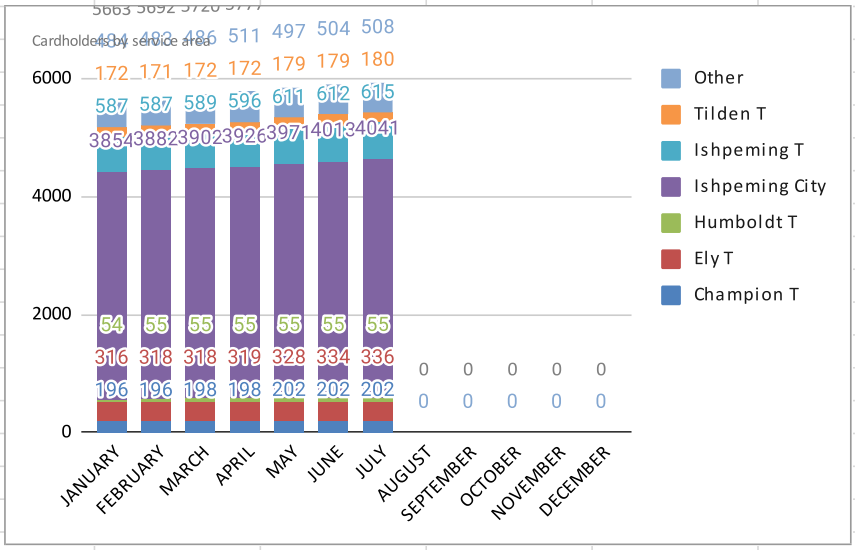
YTD Attendance:
16293

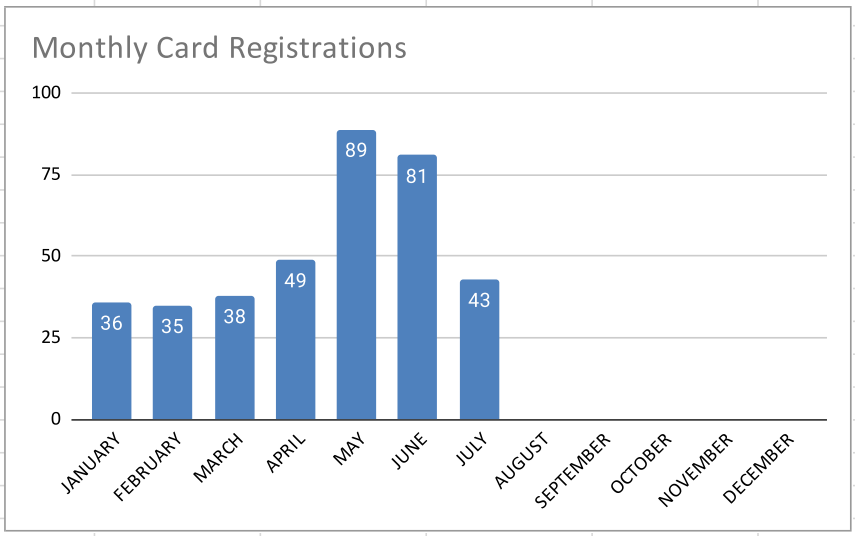


YTD Computer Use:
1773

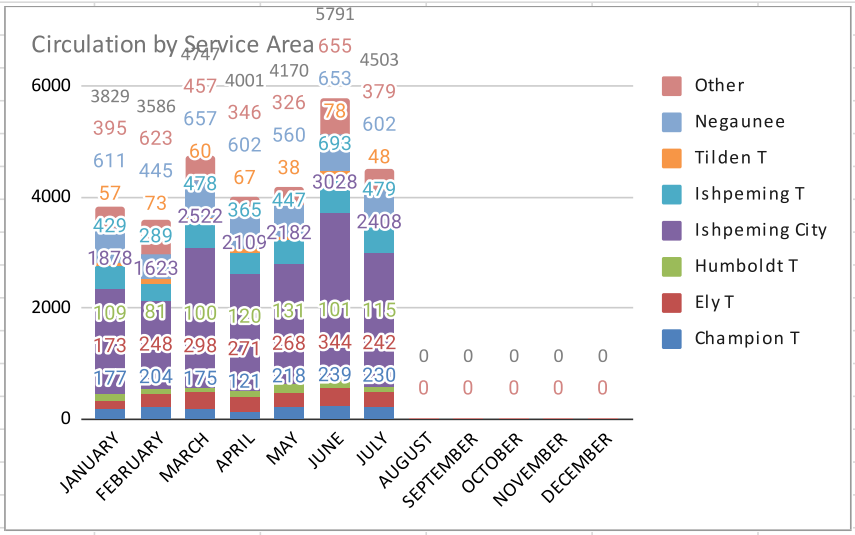


YTD ILLs:
5226





YTD new cards:
371



YTD Circulation:	
Other:	3181
Negaunee:	4130
Tilden Township:	421
Ishpeming Township:	3180
Ishpeming City:	15750
Humboldt Township:	757
Ely Township:	1844
Champion Township:	1364

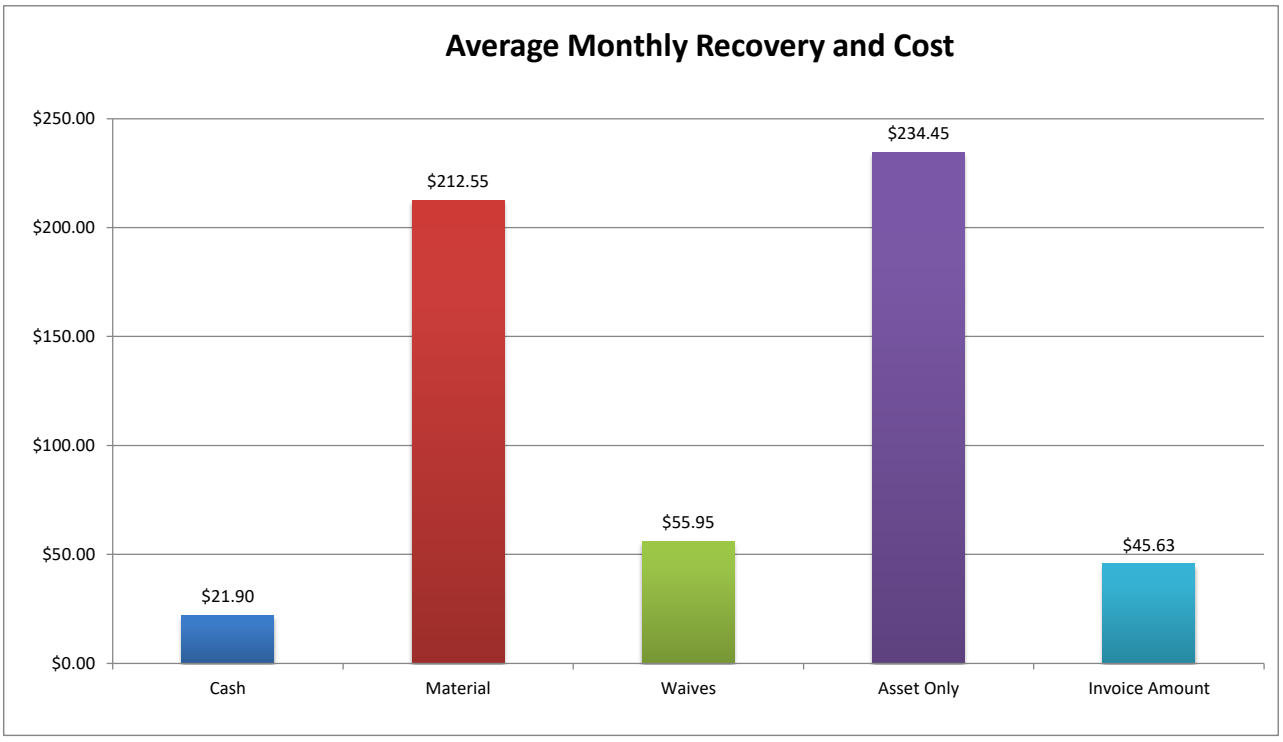
UNIQUE

Monthly Recovery Statistics: Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

8/2022 Through 7/2023

Month	Cash	Material	Waives	Total	Assets Only	Invoice Amount
July-23	$0.00	$160.93	$29.20	$190.13	**$160.93**	$46.60
June-23	$4.00	$151.95	$78.60	$234.55	**$155.95**	$46.60
May-23	$20.00	$25.00	$0.00	$45.00	**$45.00**	$34.95
April-23	$0.00	$301.69	$35.00	$336.69	**$301.69**	$46.60
March-23	$28.00	$233.93	$113.80	$375.73	**$261.93**	$0.00
February-23	$35.00	$233.76	$163.50	$432.26	**$268.76**	$69.90
January-23	$23.80	$161.84	$0.00	$185.64	**$185.64**	$58.25
December-22	$0.00	$139.98	$46.00	$185.98	**$139.98**	$46.60
November-22	$30.00	$194.99	$53.00	$277.99	**$224.99**	$34.95
October-22	$0.00	$236.85	$0.00	$236.85	**$236.85**	$69.90
September-22	$72.00	$484.78	$30.00	$586.78	**$556.78**	$46.60
August-22	$50.00	$224.88	$122.28	$397.16	**$274.88**	$46.60

Total	$262.80	$2,550.58	$671.38	$3,484.76	**$2,813.38**	$547.55
Average	$21.90	$212.55	$55.95	$290.40	**$234.45**	$45.63
					Total ROI: $6:1	



ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Written Report for the August 17, 2023 Meeting

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director

Summer Reading 2023

Summer Reading ran from June 13 through August 5. We are hard at work tallying attendance, minutes read, and overall participation and will have a report prepared for our September meeting. We can categorically say that we blew our goal of 150,000 minutes read collectively out of the water. We've counted 248,966 minutes so far! That's 4,149+ hours of reading.

Friends of the Library

The Friends have achieved 501(c)3 status as of 7/18/2023. Donors may now deduct contributions made to the group under IRC Section 170.

Adult Outreach

Nicole has scheduled monthly visits to the Senior Center and will begin holding a once monthly book club there beginning in September with *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys. She is coordinating with several of our served townships to be present in their township halls during September to be available to sign people up for cards, answer questions about library resources, etc. as part of Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Tousignant Donation

No update.

Policy Manual

Policy Manual revision will resume at September's meeting.

Library Repairs

Door counter: Traf Sys has finished the repair and are sending the device back. They were able to recover data from the unit, so the amounts included on the report are placeholders until it is received.

Air conditioning: Both units have been replaced and are working great!

Sustainable Shelves

Sustainable Shelves (the company we send our weeded books to) changed their model: They will no longer accept items for recycling, though they will continue to re-sell our items and provide us with credit for Baker & Taylor. We will recycle items ourselves.

ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MI Right To Read

In August the Michigan Library Association launched a six-month campaign to encourage residents to join Mi Right to Read, a website that offers updates on book battles in libraries and recommends action, such as posting on social media, writing letters to local media and attending school and library board meetings.
https://www.mirighttoread.com

Upcoming Events

moved from monthly report
August 1-31: *M.T. Anderson's Hometown Lore* Beanstack Reading Challenge
August 17 at 7:00: Library Board Meeting
August 18 at 3:00: Teen Book Club for *Gallant* by V. E. Schwab
August 19 at 12:00: Writing Hour
August 22 at 2:00: Adult Horror Book Club for *The Children on the Hill* by Jennifer McMahon
August 23 at 6:00: Adult Horror Book Club for *The Children on the Hill* by Jennifer McMahon
August 24 at 11:00: "All Together Now" Storytime at National Mine Park
August 24 at 6:00: Great Lakes Great Books Club for *Answers in the Pages* by David Levithan
August 25 at 2:00: Teen Angst and You: A Teen Writing Workshop
September 5 at 11:00: Tot Tuesday Storytime
September 7 at 11:00: Book Club at the Senior Center
September 7 at 4:00: Cooking a Book with Amy Sklansky
September 9 at 12:00: Author Visit: Skyla Arndt with Q&A and Book Signing!
September 9 at 2:00: Adult Fantasy Book Club for *Stone Blind* by Natalie Haynes
September 12 at 11:00: Tot Tuesday Storytime
September 12 at 2:00: Adult Book Club for *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese
September 13 at 6:00: Adult Book Club for *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese
September 14 at 2:00: Crochet Club
September 14 at 6:00: Great Lakes Great Books Club for *To the Front!* by Claudia Friddell
September 14 at 7:00: Friends of the Library Meeting
September 15 at 10:00: Homeschool Hangout
September 16 at 11:00: Graphic Novel Book Club for *Growing Pangs* by Kathryn Ormsbee
September 19 at 11:00: Tot Tuesday Storytime
September 20 at 6:00: Adult Horror Book Club for *Slewfoot* by Brom
September 21 at 7:00: Library Board Meeting

ISHPEMING CARNEGIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Enriching our community through access to information and opportunities in a welcoming and inspiring environment.

Inspire. Include. Innovate. Ishpeming

Statistical Report - Nicole Johnson, Librarian

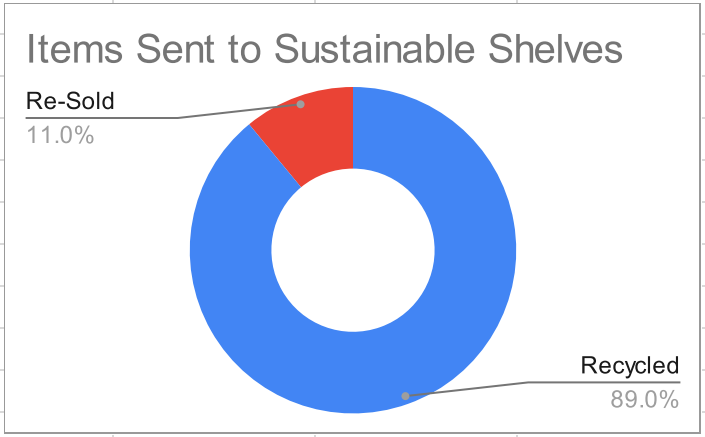
June 2023

- We circulated 6,914 items (including ebooks & eaudiobooks) in the month of June—the highest month ever recorded, which is absolutely amazing!! In June 2022, we circulated 5,849 items, which means we circulated 1,065 more items than this time last year. Woohoo!
- We had 81 new people register for library cards, which is still trending high for us.
- Collections that have the highest percentage of circulation:
    - NEWJAUDIO (VOX books) - 159.09%
    - NEWFIC - 119.61%
    - NEWJGRAPH - 105.17%
    - NEWJEASYPIC (picture books) - 87.04%
    - NEWJREADER - 75.34%
    - NEWLP - 70.93%
    - JGRAPHIC - 63.07% (graphic novels have sure been circulating a ton 🙂)

July 2023

- We circulated 5,652 items (including ebooks & eaudiobooks) in the month of July—430 more items than July 2022.
- We had 43 new people register for library cards.
- Collections that have the highest percentage of circulation:
    - NEWFIC - 105.62%
    - NEWJAUDIO (VOX books) - 100%
    - NEWLP - 93.83%
    - NEWJGRAPH - 74.52%
    - NEWJEASYPIC (picture books) - 69.68%

Sustainable Shelves				
List Date	**Total # books**	**# recycled**	**# re-sold**	**$ credit earned**
4/7/2021	15	15	0	$0.50
6/16/2021	91	80	11	$18.80
7/12/2021	175	152	23	$32.84
8/5/2021	133	109	24	$26.93
10/8/2021	111	97	14	$17.52
11/9/2021	141	132	9	$16.95
1/13/2022	178	156	22	$19.37
2/10/2022	379	360	19	$24.98
3/10/2022	521	489	32	$40.08
4/11/2022	432	424	8	$22.58
5/5/2022	281	262	19	$34.98
6/9/2022	520	503	17	$28.14
8/3/2022	118	106	12	$2.72
10/6/2022	180	156	24	$10.63
3/9/2023	211	96	115	$52.40
4/5/2023	161	115	46	$15.20
5/11/2023	113	98	15	$9.94
7/17/2023	384	339	45	$17.91
TOTAL:	**4144**	**3689**	**455**	**$392.47**



Beanstack - August 2023

Beanstack Monthly Registration & Participation Totals

Month	New Accounts	New Readers	Completed Activities	Completed Activity Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes
July 2023	1	1	99	76	1,887	132,246
June 2023	102	102	97	86	2,391	92,356
May 2023	5	5	11	5	2,138	24,449
April 2023	13	13	27	15	2,115	22,647
March 2023	6	6	12	9	2,336	16,205
February 2023	7	7	50	18	2,048	16,827
January 2023	12	12	81	52	1,504	22,114
December 2022	0	0	4	4	613	13,215
November 2022	1	1	14	10	652	8,581
October 2022	4	4	10	6	865	15,217
September 2022	7	7	4	4	890	16,531
August 2022	35	35	14	29	930	45,499
July 2022	10	10	285	55	1,191	37,816
TOTAL:	**203**	**203**	**708**	**369**	**19,560**	**463,703**

1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Local Area Participation Totals (since January 2023)

Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions	Total Earned Badges	Logged Books	Logged Minutes*
City of Ishpeming	23	3	2,140	6,471	0
Champion Township	1	0	24	220	0
Ely Township	6	0	101	885	0
Humboldt Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	8	0	371	2,267	0
Tilden Township	2	0	32	292	0
Negaunee	8	0	148	336	0
Other	1	0	2	10	0
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	**49**	**3**	**2,818**	**10,481**	**0**

*This challenge only counted books read, not minutes.

June 2023: Pride 365

Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions	Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	9	1	1,400	0	4,190
Champion Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ely Township	3	0	129	0	204
Humboldt Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden Township	0	0	0	0	0
Negaunee	1	0	58	0	345

Other	0	0	0	0	0
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	**13**	**1**	**1,587**	**0**	**4,739**

*This challenge only counted minutes read, not books.

June 2023: Immigration Stories

Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions	Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	15	1	3,867	0	17,068
Champion Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ely Township	1	0	121	0	204
Humboldt Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden Township	0	0	0	0	0
Negaunee	1	0	58	0	345
Other	0	0	0	0	0
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	**17**	**1**	**4,046**	**0**	**17,617**

*This challenge only counted minutes read, not books.

July 2023: A Carnival of Reading

Local Area	Total Readers Enrolled (Challenge)	Total Completions	Total Earned Badges	Logged Books*	Logged Minutes
City of Ishpeming	14	10	3,970	0	19,620
Champion Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ely Township	3	3	497	0	14,036
Humboldt Township	0	0	0	0	0
Ishpeming Township	5	3	222	0	5,332
Tilden Township	0	0	0	0	0
Negaunee	3	1	140	0	1,589
Other	0	0	0	0	0
No Local Area	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	**25**	**17**	**4,829**	**0**	**40,577**

*This challenge only counted minutes read, not books.

THE FREEDOM TO READ

WHO DECIDES WHAT YOU CAN READ?

WHAT IS MI RIGHT TO READ?

- Initiative of the Michigan Library Association (MLA)
  - Advocacy, education and engagement on behalf of all Michigan libraries
  - Lead by MLA's Intellectual Freedom Task Force
- Intellectual freedom is core value of librarianship
- Right to read is a First Amendment right
- Education and access to information are foundational to democracy

HOW ARE LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTED?

LIBRARY POLICIES

- No library has room for every book
- **Collection Development policies** provide guidance and state goals for collection
- **Request for Reconsideration procedures** allow users to request removal of an item
- Policies are approved by the governing board

WHAT IS A BOARD?

- School and library policies are generally set by a governing board
  - The board has the legal responsibility for library operations
  - Day-to-day library functions are delegated to staff
- A board is made up of community members who may be appointed or elected, depending on the type of organization
- Often board members must reside in the organization's service area

RESPONSIBILITIES

- A library board:
  - Appoints and manages the director or administrator
  - Adopts written policies and rules that govern operation and use of the library
  - Studies community needs and approve a strategic plan
  - Approves the budget, examines expenditures, and amends the budget as needed
  - Participates in continuing education and provides orientation for new trustees
  - Adopts a collection development policy
  - Addresses formal patron comments and complaints
  - Advocates for the library in the community
- The director/administrator:
  - Hires and evaluates library staff
  - Proposes policies and carries out approved policies
  - Manages day-to-day operations of the library
  - Delegates library functions to staff members
  - Prepares and submits a budget request and maintains complete and accurate financial records
  - Participates in continuing education and encourages staff to do the same
  - Selects and orders books and other library materials or delegates this task to staff members
  - Advocates for the library in the community

COMMON CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Demonstrated and anticipated needs of library users
  - Local interest
- Reputation, authority, and literary skills of the author
- Timeliness of topic
- Positive reviews in reputable professional journals such as *School Library Journal*
- Existing holdings in subject area
- Budget and physical space
- Availability through interlibrary loan

CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS

- Representation of a diversity of views and expression is a major goal of library collections
- Materials are not restricted due to frankness of language or content
- Parents and legal guardians are responsible for what their children are reading
- Materials may be routinely removed due to physical damage, outdated content, and lack of checkouts, not controversy

FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- Protects against government attempts to suppress speech and publishing
- Courts have held that the "right to receive information" is essential to freedom of speech
- Unprotected speech includes obscenity, child pornography, defamatory speech, false advertising, true threats, and fighting words

CENSORSHIP AT THE LIBRARY

WHAT IS CENSORSHIP?

- Limiting access to information
- Can happen:
  - During the selection process
  - Through removal from the collection
  - By restricting access to materials within the collection
- Choosing not to purchase, choosing to remove, or choosing to restrict access to a title because of personal opposition to the content or the belief it is inflammatory is censoring that title.

HOW ARE BOOKS BANNED?

- Formal challenges
  - Procedure set by library policy
  - Increasingly performative, organized at a national level
  - Targeted lists of books circulated
  - Coaching and advising provided
- "Shadow banning" or "soft censorship"
  - ALA estimates 90% of book challenges go unreported

FORMS OF CENSORSHIP

- Relocating
  - Moving an item from its current location to a different one
  - Putting an item in an inappropriate area makes it less accessible to the intended audience
  - Fundamentally removes privacy
  - Example: a children's book is moved to the adult nonfiction; a book is kept behind a desk and must be requested

- Removing
  - An item is completely removed from the library
  - The message is that this material and its themes are dangerous and should not be accessible to the public
  - Example: a young adult book is removed from the collection because of a patron's interpretation of its message

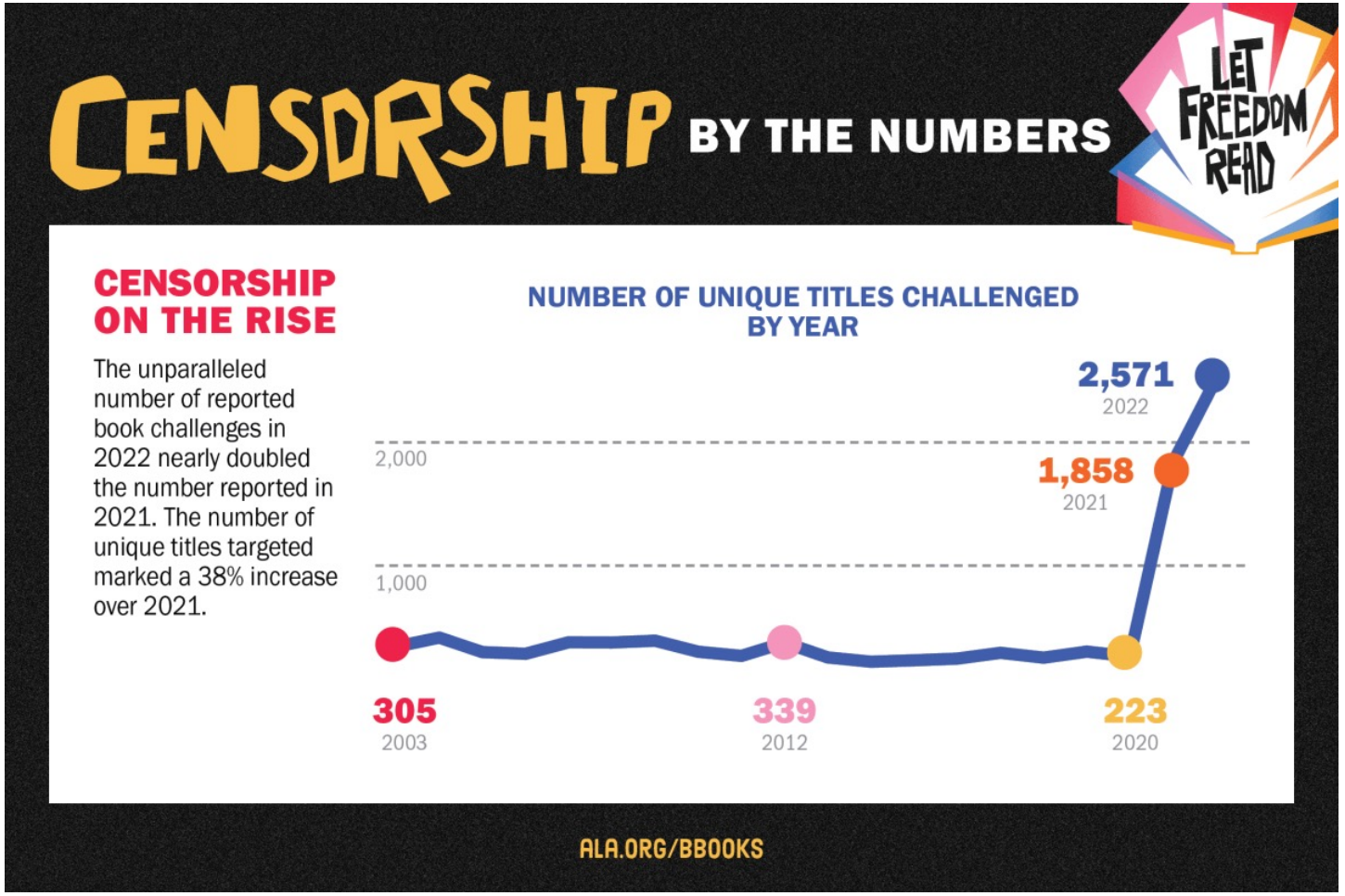
"SOFT" CENSORSHIP

- The library side
  - Restricting circulation to specific groups of patrons
  - Moving or removing items that have not received a formal challenge or before the reconsideration process is complete
  - Placing an item in the collection in a way that makes it more difficult to find
  - Not promoting or displaying a book due to potential controversy
- The patron side
  - Hiding an item in the collection, such as behind a shelf or in the wrong section
  - Checking out items specifically to restrict others' access
  - Deliberately damaging an item
  - Stealing

CENSORSHIP IS ON THE RISE

More censorship attempts documented by the American Library Association in 2021 than any year since tracking began

ALA estimates 80-90% of challenges go unreported



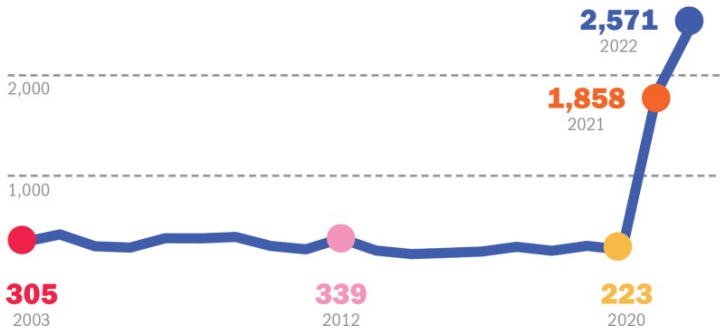
CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

LET FREEDOM READ

CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR



WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

In 2022, nearly 51% of the demands to censor books targeted books, programs, displays, and other materials in school libraries and schools; 48% of book challenges targeted materials in public libraries.

48% Public libraries

41% School libraries

10% Schools

1% Higher education libraries and other institutions

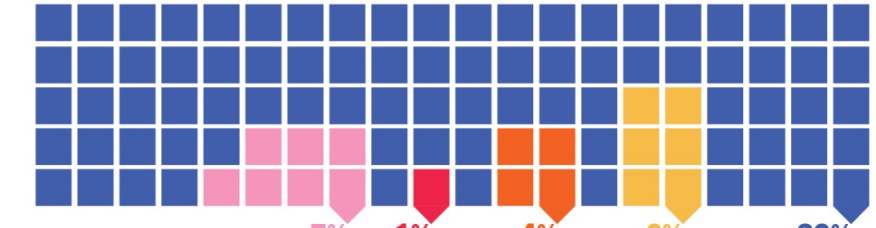
Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

LET FREEDOM READ

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 1,269 challenges in 2022. Here's the breakdown:



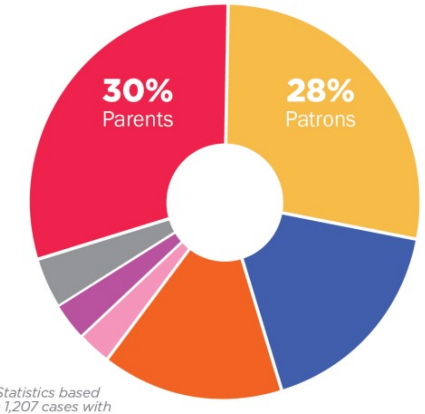
7% Other
(Includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, artwork, social media, music, pamphlets, student publications, and reading lists)

1% Films

4% Programs and meeting rooms

6% Displays and exhibits

82% Books, graphic novels, and textbooks



Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

In 2022, 90% of reported challenge attempts targeted multiple titles, the work of a well-organized movement that distributes book lists used to initiate mass challenges that can empty the shelves of a library.

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?

17% Political/religious groups

15% Board/administration

3% Librarians/teachers

3% Elected officials

4% Other
(Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

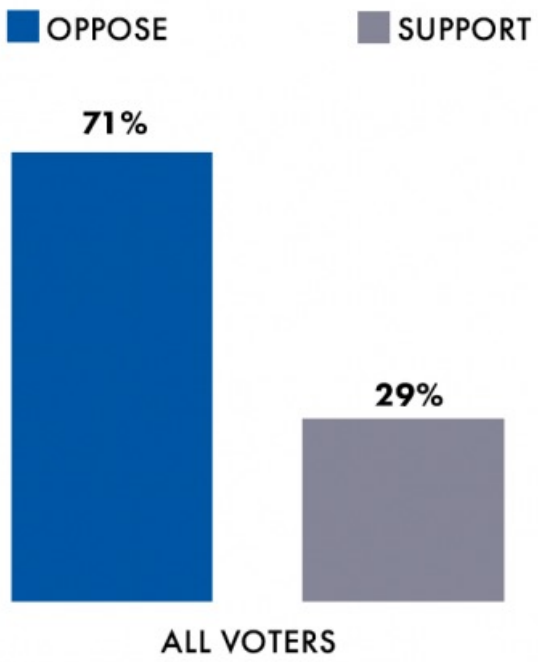
BANNING BOOKS IS BAD FOR COMMUNITIES

- Prevents individuals, especially young people, from accessing critical information
- Takes away opportunities for young people to see themselves reflected in literature
- Lost opportunities to build mutual understanding
- Freedom to read is a Constitutional right

MOST AMERICANS OPPOSE BOOK BANNING

- 71% of voters oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries
- 67% of voters oppose efforts to remove books from school libraries

Full poll results and key findings available via the American Library Association. (Link)



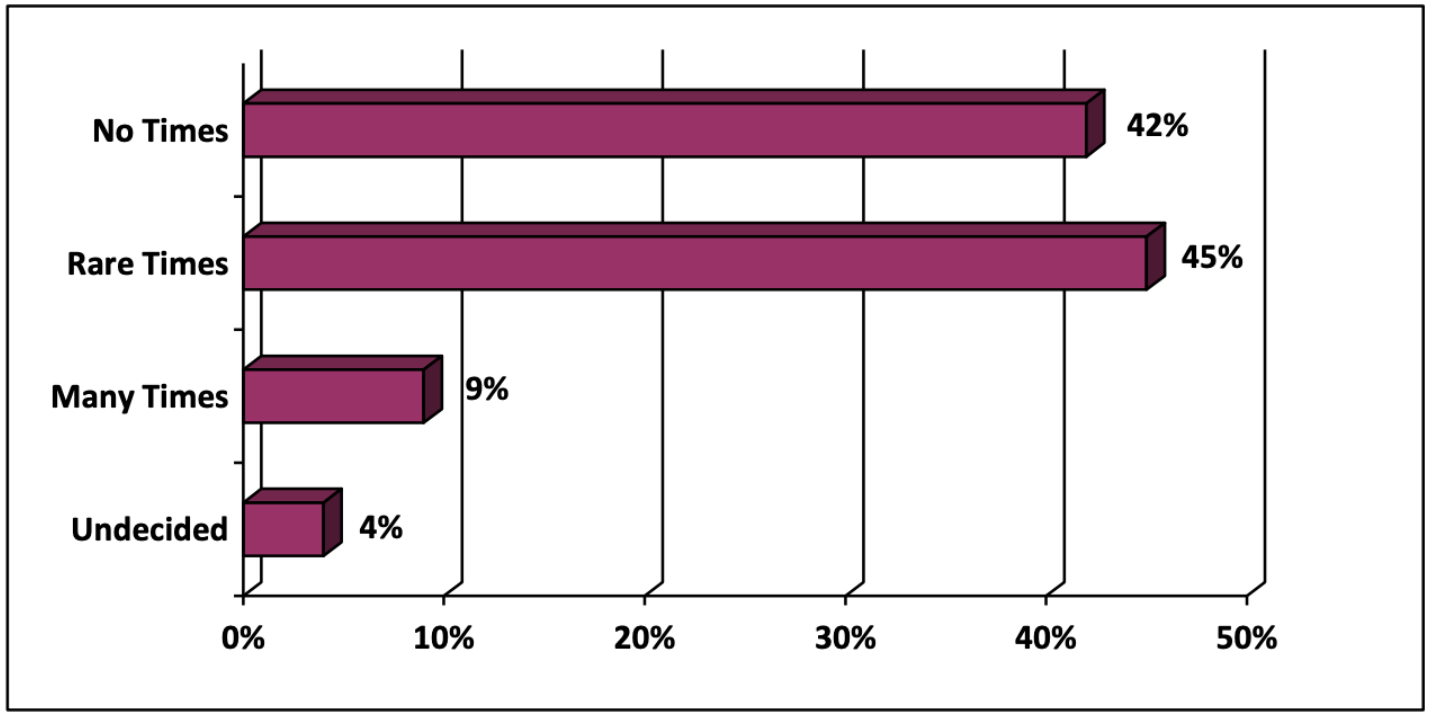
	Oppose	Support
Democrats	75%	25%
Independents	58%	42%
Republicans	70%	30%

MOST MICHIGANDERS OPPOSE BOOK BANNING

- 87% of Michigan voters said there are no times or rare times when books should be banned, including:
  - 97% of Democrats
  - 93% of Independents
  - 76% of Republicans

Poll commissioned by the Michigan Library Association and conducted by EPIC-MRA. (Link)

When should books be banned?

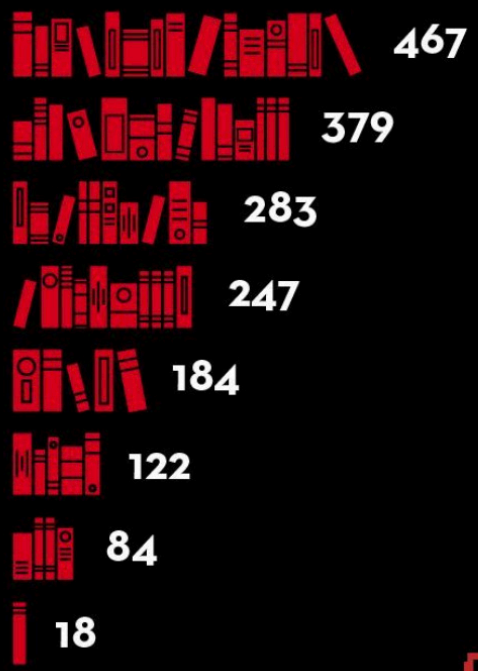


IMPACT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS

- Less content is purchased when "controversial" topics are avoided
- Goes against the purpose of collection development, which is to produce a well-rounded collection that is meant to be used
- Providing a resource to someone who needs it is always the goal

Which stories have been banned?

*Many of these categories overlap



Based on PEN America's Index of Book Bans, which documents decisions to ban books in school libraries and classrooms in the United States from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

PEN AMERICA

HOW ARE CHALLENGES HANDLED?

- A Request for Reconsideration or similar form and accompanying procedure should be approved by the library or school board
- Reconsideration Committee formed to review challenged material
  - Includes librarians, administration, educators, board members, or other stakeholders
- Challenged materials should remain accessible during reconsideration process
- Appeal procedure is included in policy

THANK YOU

Contact MI Right to Read at https://www.mirighttoread.com/contact-us

Learn more and join the coalition at https://www.mirighttoread.com/take-action

Preparing for challenges to Intellectual Freedom

POLICY

- [ ] Make sure your library has a Collection Development Policy that details the material selection process, includes information on the steps for requesting the reevaluation of materials, and reaffirms the library's commitment to the freedom to read.
- [ ] Your library should also have a Request For Reevaluation of Materials Form that gives patrons an opportunity to formally request the removal of an item or resource.

PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE

- [ ] Your library or school board needs to be prepared to run a meeting that keeps governance on track. Make sure the board chair has a deep understanding of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, Robert's Rules of Order, and up-to-date bylaws that dictate how meetings are run. The board should be well versed in running a meeting, even in the presence of disruptive attendees.
- [ ] Your Library Director or School Librarian should take the proactive steps to educate their board and other stakeholders on the library's commitment to a broad selection of reading materials for everyone. Explain the importance of a good collection development policy, the need for trained and professional librarians to oversee this process, and the legal precedent for retaining materials that some may find objectionable.
- [ ] Your governing board may also need an overview of their role and responsibilities, and the delegation of duties to library staff, especially concerning collection development and the material reevaluation process.

LOCAL & COALITION SUPPORT

- [ ] Your local Friends group or other volunteers should work to Identify intellectual freedom advocates in your community, and prepare them to respond when a politically motivated material challenge surfaces.
- [ ] Visit the Mi Right to Read website to request direct support from the Michigan Library Association and your Library Cooperative. Make sure to join the Mi Right to Read coalition to stay up to date on information, resources and other support you can use to defend intellectual freedom.

MI RIGHT TO READ

Mi Right to Read is a grassroots coalition of concerned Michigan residents organized by the Michigan Library Association. Join the coalition and find additional supporting resources at **www.mirighttoread.com**