Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.: **5.D** MEETING DATE: **Nov. 13, 2026**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report** SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Items that have been shared with Council and/or Membership recently:

- ALA continues to chip away at the structural budget deficit, with the June 2026 YTD deficit at $4.6M, $1.9M more favorable than the $6.5M budgeted deficit, despite revenue being $2.6M below budget.
- Winter Council sessions will be virtual again this year, with the Virtual Membership Information Session January 20, 2:00-3:00 pm CST; Council I January 26, 2:00-3:30 pm CST; Council II January 27, 2:00-4:00 pm CST, and Council III January 28, 2:00-4:00 pm CST
- Council meetings at Annual Conference are changing from three in-person Council meetings to two in-person Council sessions during the conference with one virtual Council meeting prior to Conference.
- National Library Legislative Day 2027 will take place February 24-25, 2027, opening with an afternoon briefing on February 24 that includes education, advocacy training, and networking activities, followed by a day of meetings with federal legislators on February 25. The deadline to register is November 25, subject to available space.
- The Intellectual Freedom Committee has continued work on the new “Liberty and the Library” statement that was shared with membership for feedback last Summer. A new version that includes that feedback has been shared with Council for further review before the statement will be brought to Council for a vote in 2027.

ALA/SHLB economic study on E-Rate

A new economic study released by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, which includes ALA, shows that eliminating E-Rate would have serious negative effects on the U.S. economy. The analysis, conducted by independent economic consulting firm The Brattle Group, estimates that removing roughly $2.6 billion in annual E-Rate support would reduce annual real GDP by about $4.2 billion, or about $1.60 in lost economic activity for every $1 of support removed.

The findings arrive as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers whether E-Rate, which has provided affordable broadband to schools and libraries for nearly 30 years, should be terminated, narrowed or limited to rural areas only. The report findings were submitted to the FCC's E-Rate proceeding ahead of the Oct. 13 comment deadline. Read the full press release here. This report could prove useful in conversations with newly elected congressional representatives.