

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **May 16, 2025**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA Election Results

The results of the ALA 2025 elections were announced on April 7th. Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was elected 2025-2026 president-elect.

McCauley, who was a Spectrum Scholar, is a current member of Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures; the Public Library Association; and the Association of College and Research Libraries. She is also a current member of the Rainbow Round Table, Sustainability Round Table, Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and the International Relations Round Table. She is also a member of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of ALA, REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, and the American Indian Library Association, and the Freedom to Read Foundation. She is also a member of the Massachusetts Library Association and the New England Library Association.

She has held several leadership positions, including At-Large Councilor, ALA Council, Executive Board member, and Fiscal and Audit Committee. She also was PLA president (2022-23) and a PLA board member.

McCauley holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions, Simmons University; an MLIS from University of Pittsburgh; a BA in Theater from Ohio Wesleyan University; Leadership Certificate Program, Northeastern University; Library Leadership for New Managers Program, Association of Research Libraries (ARL). [Full election results can be found here.](#)

State of American Libraries Report

During National Library Week April 7-11, ALA released the annual State of American Libraries Report, including the top 10 challenged books of 2024. New data reported to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) shows that the majority of book censorship attempts are now originating from organized movements. Pressure groups and government entities that include elected officials, board members and administrators initiated 72% of demands to censor books in school and public libraries. Parents only accounted for 16% of demands to censor books, while 5% of challenges were brought by individual library users. The 120 titles most frequently targeted for censorship during 2024 are all identified on partisan book rating sites which provide tools for activists to demand the censorship of library books. This is a significant shift from past years when parents were a much more significant segment of individuals challenging library materials.

Overall challenges were down from 2023, with 5,813 books challenged in 2024 compared to 9,021 in 2023, and 821 censorship attempts in 2024 compared to 1,247 in 2023. However this is still the third highest number of challenges since ALA started tracking in 1990. I have also heard some speculation that the decrease may have been due to many of the activists pushing book challenges being more focused on the election in 2024. [The full report can be found here.](#)

ALA sues to challenge gutting of IMLS

Following the shutdown of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) pursuant to an executive order issued on March 14th, ALA has been active in opposing the administration's efforts to eliminate the agency. In addition to efforts to increase public awareness of the value of IMLS and advocate with legislators to [preserve IMLS funding in the next budget](#), ALA is also taking direct action to counter the dismantling of IMLS.

ALA has joined forces with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest union representing museum and library workers, in a lawsuit that challenges the administration's gutting of IMLS. The legal actions were filed on behalf of ALA and AFSCME by Democracy Forward and co-counsel Gair Gallo Eberhard LLP, asking the court to immediately block the dismantling of IMLS as directed by the executive order on March 14. The full press release can be found [here](#).

On May 1st the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a temporary restraining order to block the dismantling of IMLS. The temporary restraining order was issued days before the mass layoff of nearly all IMLS employees was set to take effect on May 4. Then on May 6th a federal judge issued a [preliminary injunction](#) to halt the dismantling of IMLS and several other agencies, in response to a separate lawsuit brought by the attorneys general of 21 states. While there is still a long way to go, these early results are encouraging.