

Libraries Under Attack

How Funders Can Help Defy Bans and Discrimination

Smarter giving. Greater good.

philanthropy
NETWORK
GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Thurs, June 29, 2023
10:00-11:15 AM
via Zoom

AGENDA

10:00- Welcome, Introductions and Context for Funding Public Libraries through Community Health and Inclusion Grants (Diana)

10:15- Library Funding Myths and What WVPL Does to Meet Diverse Needs (Anne)

10:30- A Library Caught in the Crossfire of the Culture Wars- IVPL's Story (Margie)

10:45-11:15- Discussion, Ideas for Getting Involved

Please post Comments/Questions in Chat for live discussion between presentations.

Speakers:

Anne M. Frank, Director- Wissahickon Valley Public Library (Blue Bell and Ambler, PA)

Margie Stern, Director- Indian Valley Public Library (Telford, PA)

Diana Loukedis Doherty, Executive Director- VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn (Lansdale, PA)

Mission

The mission of the VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn is to support the organizations that build stronger and healthier communities in Greater North Penn.

Values

In everything we do, the VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn values:

ALL PEOPLE: We act with integrity, respect and human compassion for one another and all residents of the North Penn community.

ALL PARTNERS: We engage diverse perspectives to foster collaboration and innovative solutions.

OUR REGION: Together, we strive for an inclusive North Penn community where everyone has equitable access to health care, basic needs, and healthier outcomes for all.

Our foundation emphasizes responsiveness, transparency and flexibility in our relationships with applicants and grantees. We approach philanthropy from a basis of respect for, and trust in, our community partners.



Promoting a Healthier Community
**VNA FOUNDATION
OF GREATER NORTH PENN**



VNA Foundation- Types of Grants:

- **General Operating** (some multi-year): For those orgs primarily serving greater North Penn
- **Flexible Program** (some multi-year): For use across any programs offered in greater North Penn
- **Inclusion** (most multi-year): Aimed at increasing access to health and human services for people of color, immigrants and refugees, and English Language Learners in the greater North Penn region.



We're a Health and Human Service Funder. So How Do Libraries Fit in?

- Hub for health access (materials, screenings/vaccines, lectures, information- free of charge)
- Safe and free community space for children, adults and seniors during the day regardless of housing, economic or employment status (combating loneliness)
- Welcoming of all backgrounds & abilities (promoting inclusion)
- Wifi and computer access (help with jobseeking, applications for benefits)

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VNA Foundation Evolution on Giving to Libraries:

Grants to Libraries as early as 2014, but steadily increased our awareness of libraries as key community partners and moved from specific program grants to multi-year, General Operating support.



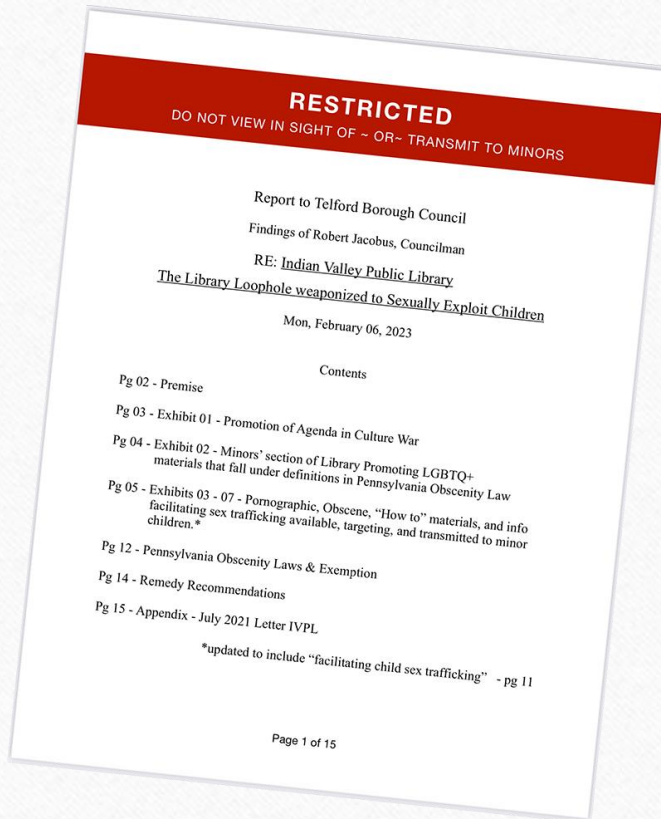
TODAY:

- **Ongoing General Operating since 2020** for all four public libraries serving our greater North Penn region: Wissahickon Valley Public Library, Indian Valley Public Library, Lansdale Library and North Wales Area Library
- **Inclusion Grants in 2022-2024** to WVPL, LL and NWAL to conduct **Diversity Audits** of collections and purchase new materials reflecting the cultural, language and orientation diversity of community served. Some also are expanding speaker series, facilitating community dialogues, participating in Racial Equity Learning Community programs.

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In 2023, VNA Foundation increased all 4 library General Operating Grants by 30% in response to funding threats related to culture wars...



Courage - Day One

Some things just can't wait. "Telford Tough" was born after our borough leadership *pledged* to fully fund the library even after it was revealed they were making obscene materials available to kids that include *sex tutorials and app guides that could easily lead to child sex trafficking*.

The "Library Loophole" in our obscenity laws protects them, but if you show this stuff to other people's kids, you would be jailed. Read more at the LibraryLoophole.com for the details.

Kaitlin Derstine called for an age-restriction on explicit books to ensure that they can only be checked out by adults.

She additionally condemned the library for offering books on gender reassignment surgery and Black Lives Matter. "It seems like there's a political agenda in the children's section. Every three books that my child picks up is typically about transitioning kids right now." –Reporter, March 22, 2023

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National Funders including the Knight Foundation are investing in the Library Support Network, aimed at helping public libraries develop funding bases that can offset the effects of cuts...

From *Inside Philanthropy* “As Government Budgets Pull Back, a Look at Philanthropy’s Role in Funding Public Libraries,” June 7, 2023

[Seattle Public Library Foundation CEO Joanna] Ward said the **Library Support Network’s goals include creating a national case for increasing support for public libraries and finding ways to make it easier for philanthropists to invest.** Sharing will be particularly helpful for **local libraries that lack dedicated fundraisers**, where the small-town librarians often wear many hats. The response was robust for an initiative to share digital tools for a library giving day, attracting 500 signups. Network members can also benefit from **strategies on weathering the culture wars that threaten funding.** Again, **small and rural libraries are the most vulnerable.** “We want to help them **establish donors and ambassadors that can support them the next time there’s a bill not going their way**, and create a local and a national voice,” Ward said.

Join the Library Support Network

Supportspl.org/lsn

If you are a public library fundraiser at any stage in your professional development, by joining the Library Support Network Community, you’ll gain access to a network of public library fundraising professionals who share best practices, ideas, and resources. To join, [click here](#) and answer a few simple questions to receive access.

Support the Library Support Network Community

The Library Support Network Community is a two-year pilot that depends on the generosity of several libraries and support organizations in the US and Canada who are investing in professional development and the building of our sector. Your donation will help us keep the community strong and accessible.



Exciting news! The [Knight Foundation](#) has awarded us a challenge match of \$155,000. That means your contribution helps us earn this match and is effectively doubled!



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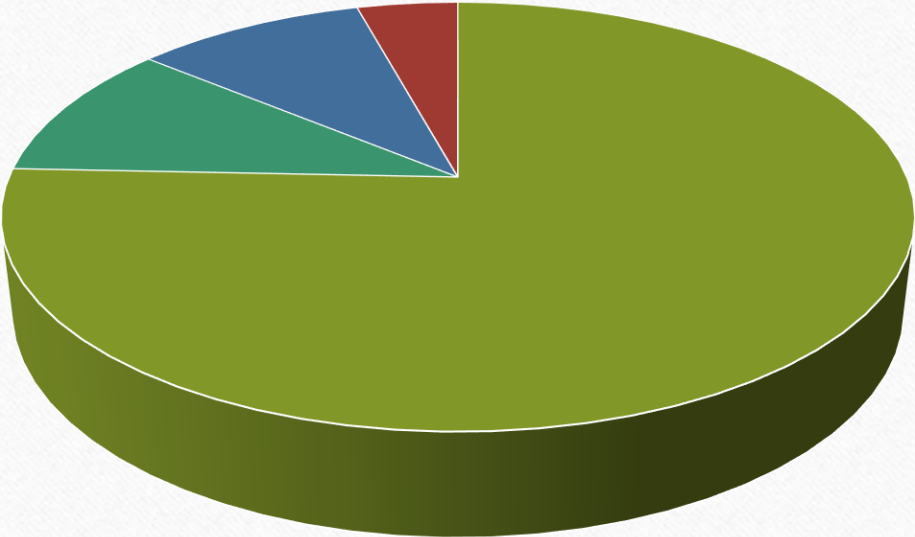
Debunking Library Funding Myths



- Anne M. Frank, Director
- Wissahickon Valley Public Library
- afrank@wvpl.org
- www.wvpl.org

Libraries are not well funded through state taxes

WVPL Funding



■ Local Tax ■ State Tax ■ Operation ■ Fundraising

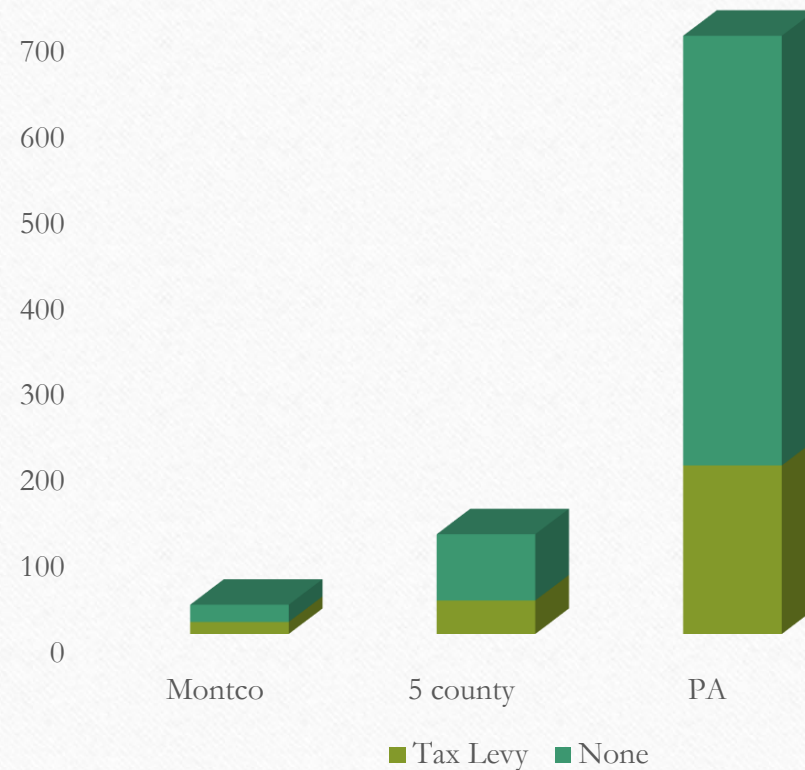
In Fact...

- State funding for libraries is lower than it was in 2008.
- WVPL's State Aid
 - 2008 \$157,908
 - 2009 \$125,076
 - 2023 \$147,338



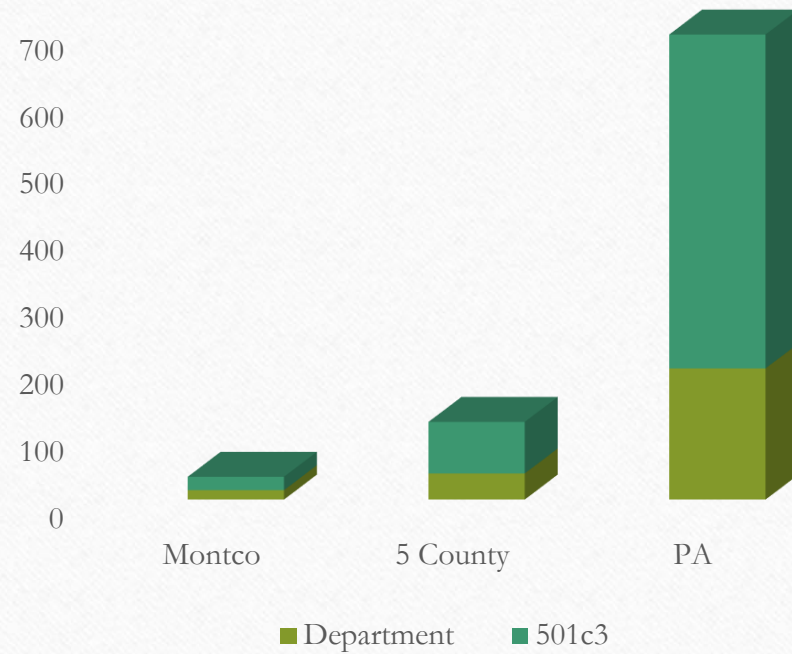
Not all libraries have a local tax levy

- In Montco 70%
- In 5 County Region 51%
- In all of PA 39%



Township Department vs 501c3

- Montco 43%
- 5 county 54%
- PA 39%





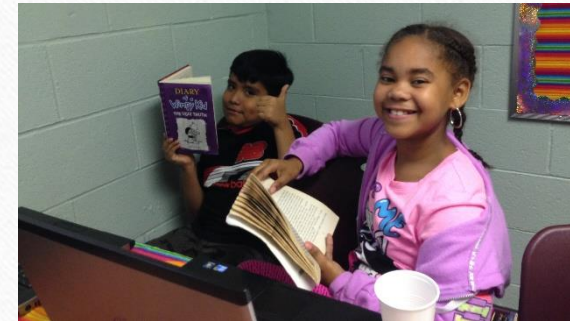
Libraries do not have access to many public grants



- Keystone grant for Public Library Facilities (capital improvements)
- It is hard for libraries to compete with health and human organizations for state grant funding
- The only federal funding for libraries is for programming

Libraries are not treated like public schools

- Libraries are technically in the Department of Education, but libraries do not receive increases in funding like public schools.
 - Only free pre-school education
 - Provide education programs and materials for students
 - Provide space for tutors
 - One of the few organizations that serve people from birth-death





Libraries are health and human service organizations



- Libraries are not considered to be health and human organizations by many private foundations, even though they partner to provide:

Health screenings

Exercise classes

Educational programs

Blood drives

Job search assistance

Sheltering the homeless

Tax assistance

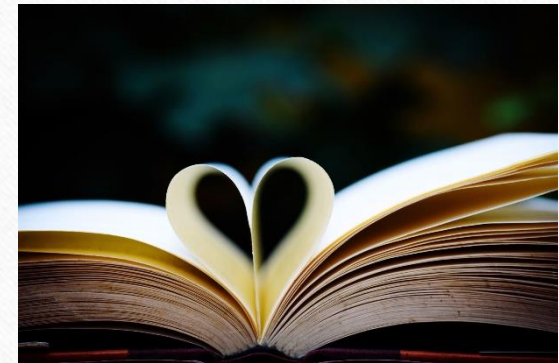
Food & clothing collections



Libraries rely on grants to make improvements

WVPL used grants from the VNA Foundation to:

- Create a strategic plan
- Conduct a feasibility study
- Learn to create an equity plan
- Conduct a diversity audit of the collection and purchase materials
- Update health related materials



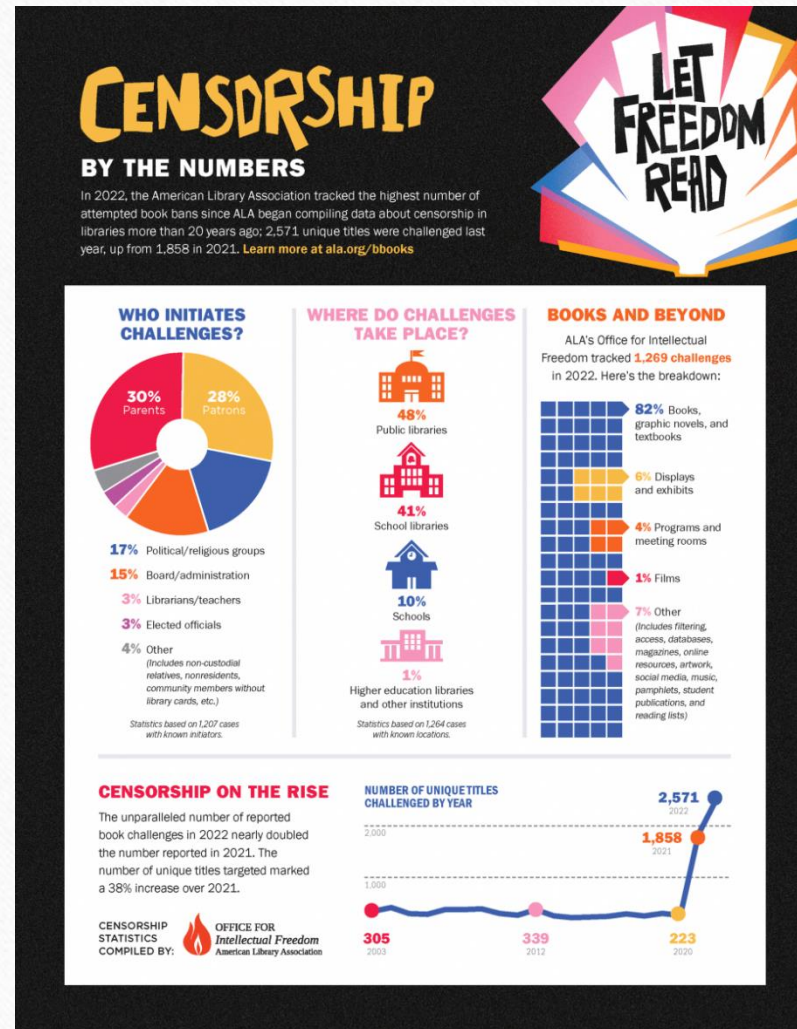
Indian Valley Public Library
100 E. Church Ave.
Telford, PA 18969

Margie Stern, Director
mstern@ivpl.org



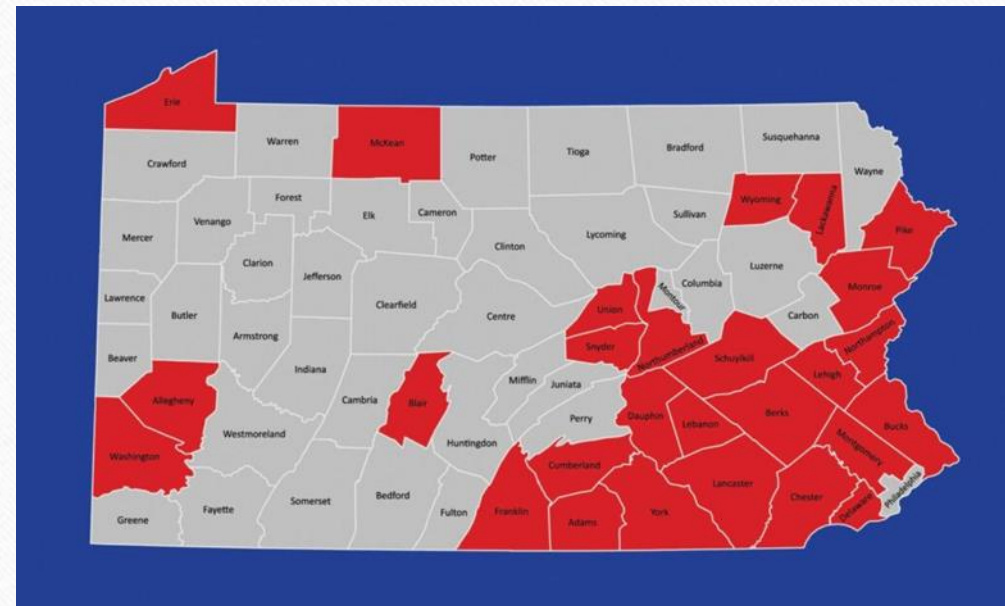
ALA: The State of America's Libraries 2023

- 38% increase from 2021
- 2,571 unique titles
- Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color
- 48% public libraries
- 90% multiple people
- 40% sought to remove or restrict over 100 books all at once



Moms for Liberty

- 200 county chapters nationwide in 35 states
- PA chapters in at least 27 counties
- Pennsylvania ranks third in the nation in the number of school library book bans



RESTRICTED
DO NOT VIEW IN SIGHT OF ~ OR~ TRANSMIT TO MINORS

Report to Telford Borough Council
Findings of Robert Jacobus, Councilman
RE: Indian Valley Public Library
The Library Loophole weaponized to Sexually Exploit Children

Mon, February 06, 2023

Contents

- Pg 02 - Premise
 - Pg 03 - Exhibit 01 - Promotion of Agenda in Culture War
 - Pg 04 - Exhibit 02 - Minors' section of Library Promoting LGBTQ+ materials that fall under definitions in Pennsylvania Obscenity Law
 - Pg 05 - Exhibits 03 - 07 - Pornographic, Obscene, "How to" materials, and info facilitating sex trafficking available, targeting, and transmitted to minor children.*
 - Pg 12 - Pennsylvania Obscenity Laws & Exemption
 - Pg 14 - Remedy Recommendations
 - Pg 15 - Appendix - July 2021 Letter IVPL
- *updated to include "facilitating child sex trafficking" - pg 11



TELFORD
TOUGH.COM


From LibraryLoophole.com:

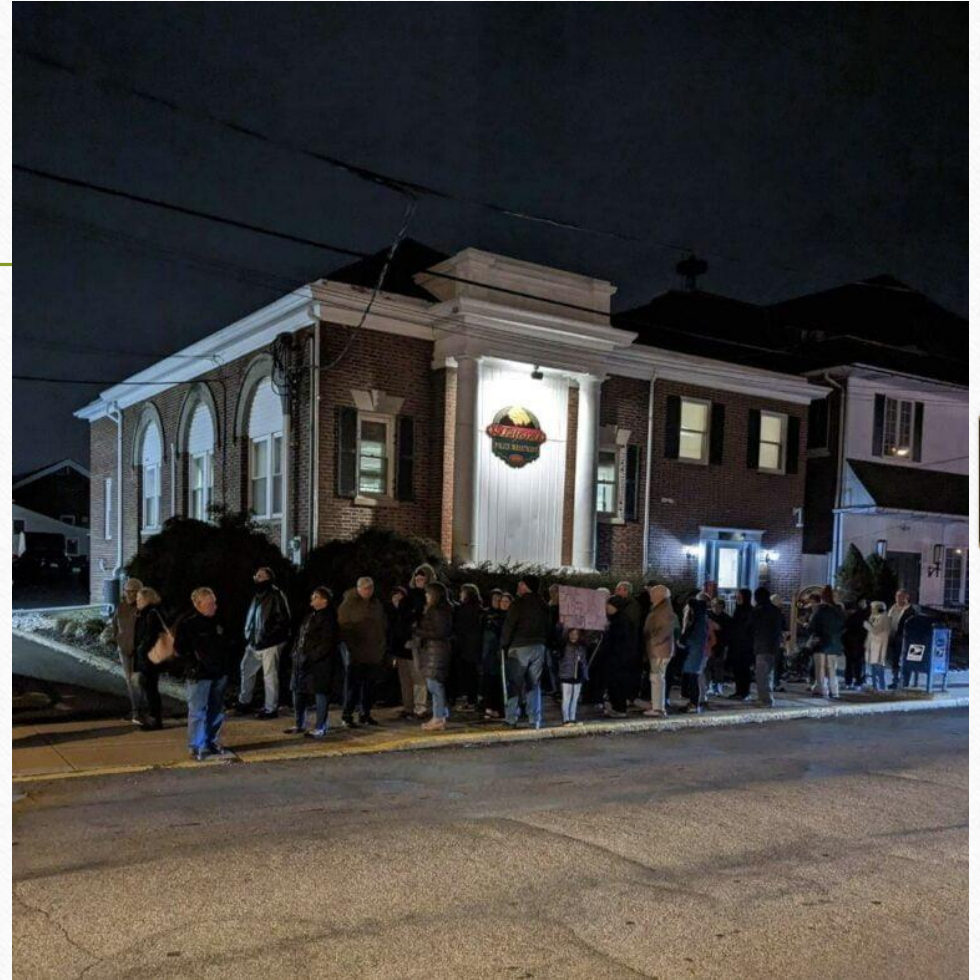
Our library, in a morally bankrupt ideology, believes that keeping porn and predators from minors is a free speech violation – a slippery slope to totalitarianism.

Misdirection

Turning grooming, obscenity, and trafficking into LGBTQIA+ rights...

IVPL-Funding Cuts

	2022	2023	Loss
Souderton	\$94,565	\$87,150	\$7,415
Telford	\$56,853	\$45,000	\$11,852
			 \$19,267



**BECAUSE LIBRARIANS
STAND UP FOR YOUR
RIGHT TO READ.**

**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**
#LibrariesTransform

ALA
American
Library
Association

LIBRARIETRANSFORM.ORG

THANK YOU

PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The American Library Association states, “Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents — and only parents — have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children — and only their children — to library resources.” Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr wrote in *Texas V. Johnson*: “If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.”

Grantmakers can:

- ✓ Make GRANTS to public libraries (most have a 501 c 3 or affiliated “Friends of”)
- ✓ Express SUPPORT for libraries at your local and/or state level, explaining their value to lawmakers and officials at town halls, etc.
- ✓ VOTE as individuals who care about access to relevant, current, culturally-appropriate information for *all* people in your community, to protect public libraries and combat censorship

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