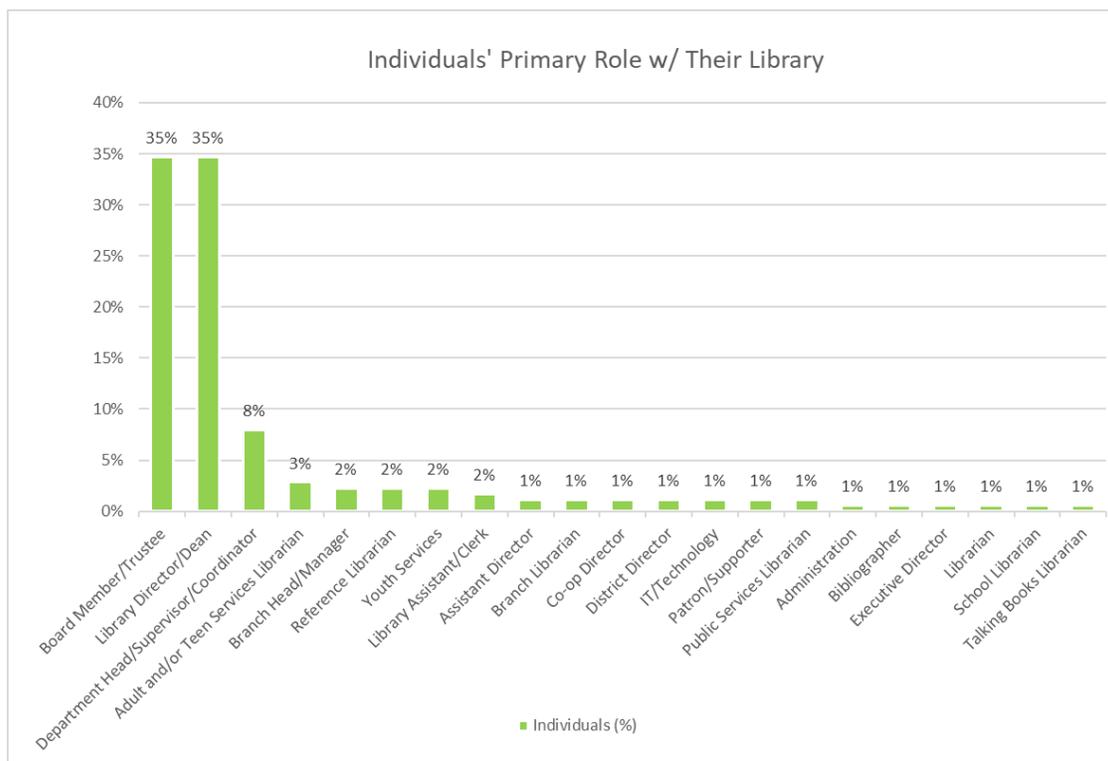
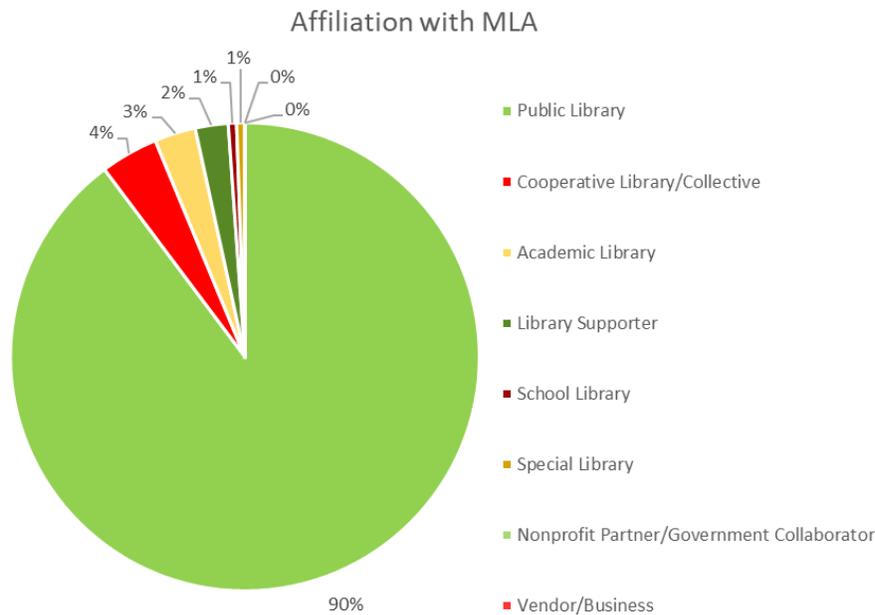


June 10th, 2021

Introduction

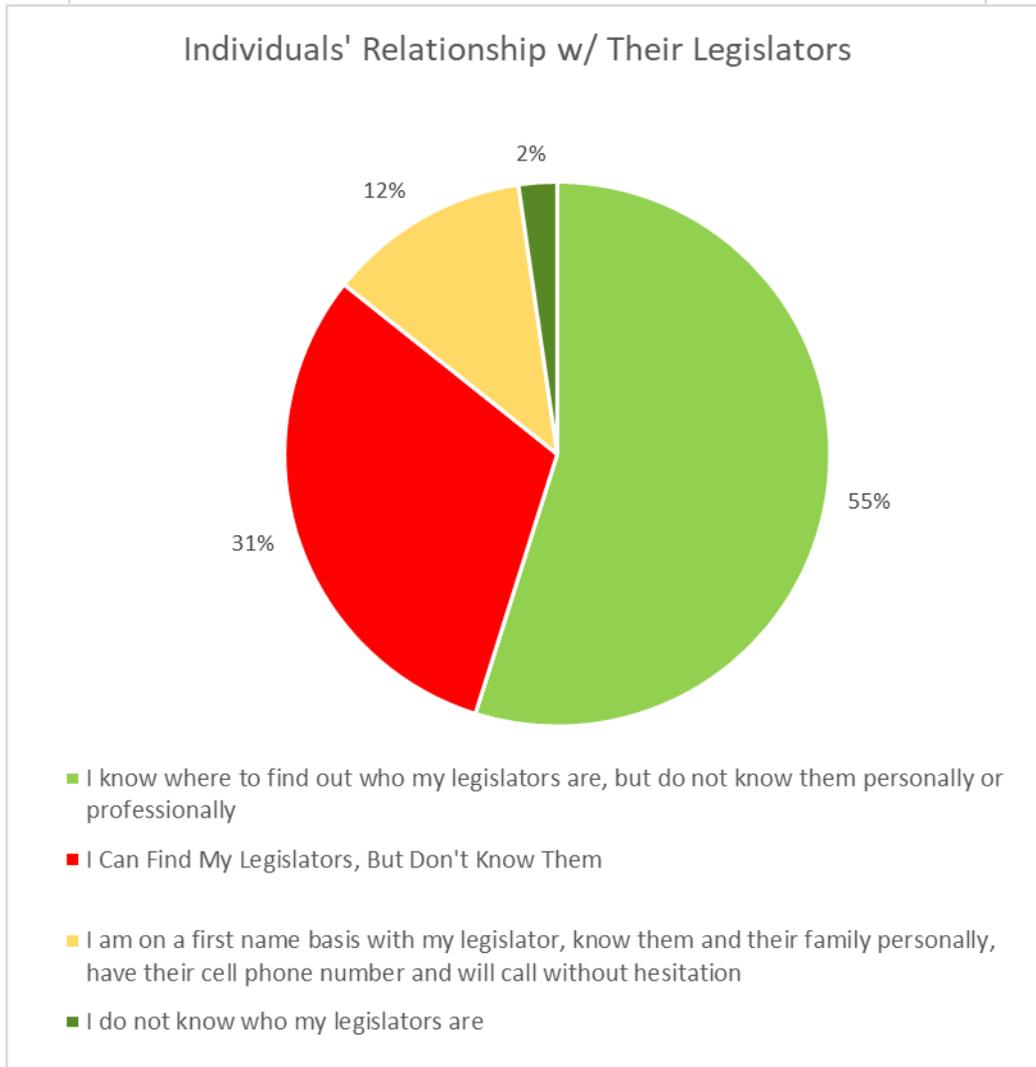
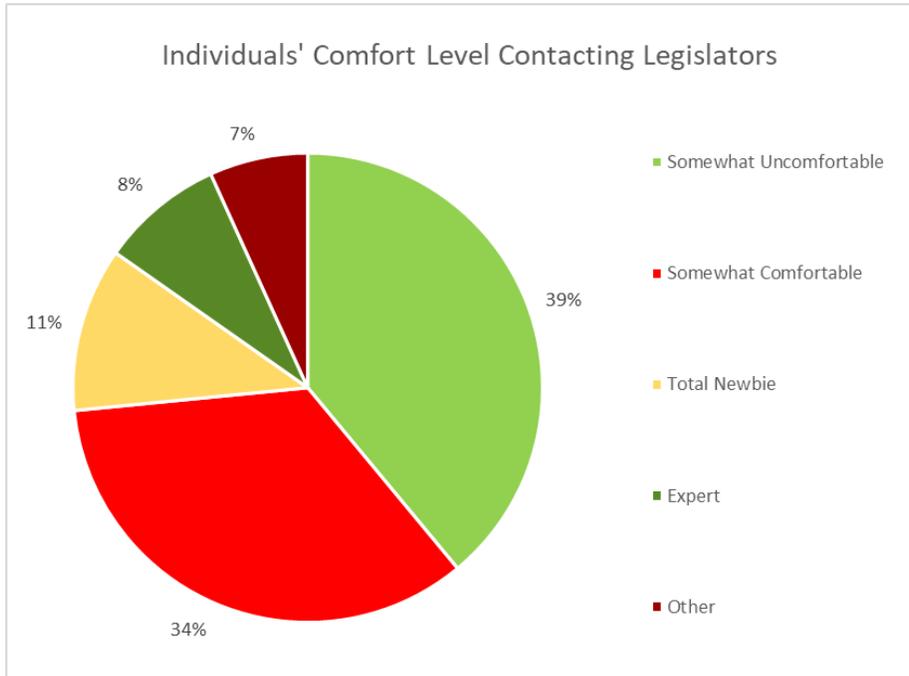
The Michigan Library Association has made advocacy one of its highest priorities. It has never been more important for librarians, staff members, trustees, and others with a vested interest in their libraries, to convey and address their challenges and successes. Meeting the challenges in 2021-2022 and, more importantly, making real progress for Michigan’s libraries in the long term requires fresh approaches and a proactive agenda. The survey results presented below represent over 175 opinions from library personnel throughout Michigan and will be used by the MLA Advocacy and Legislative Committee to prioritize our agenda and address what you want us to work on in the coming year.

Demographics of Individuals’ Responses





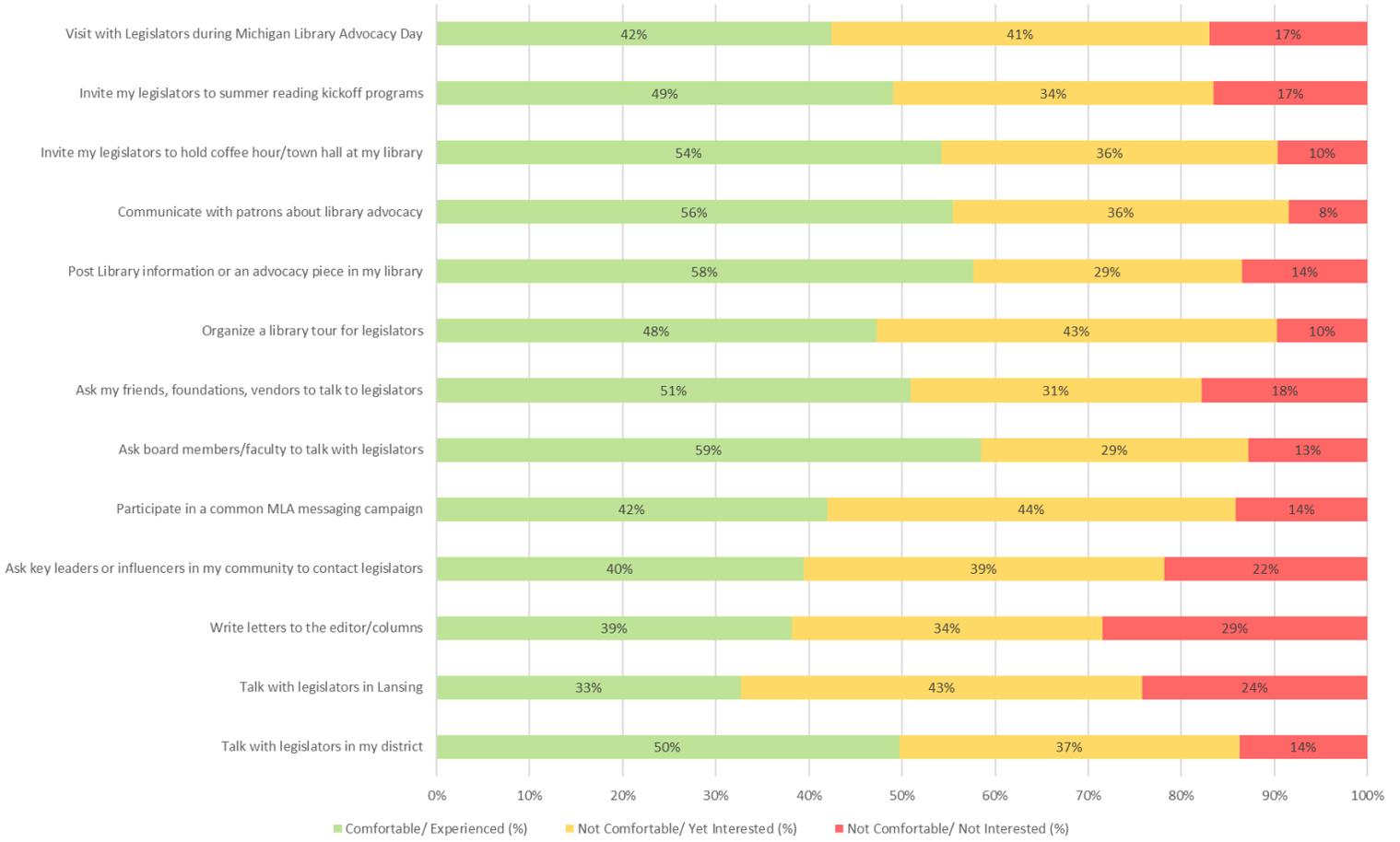
Individuals' Advocacy Comfort Level, and Legislator Relationships





Individuals' Advocacy Strategies Comfort Levels

Individuals' Comfort Levels w/ Various Advocacy Strategies



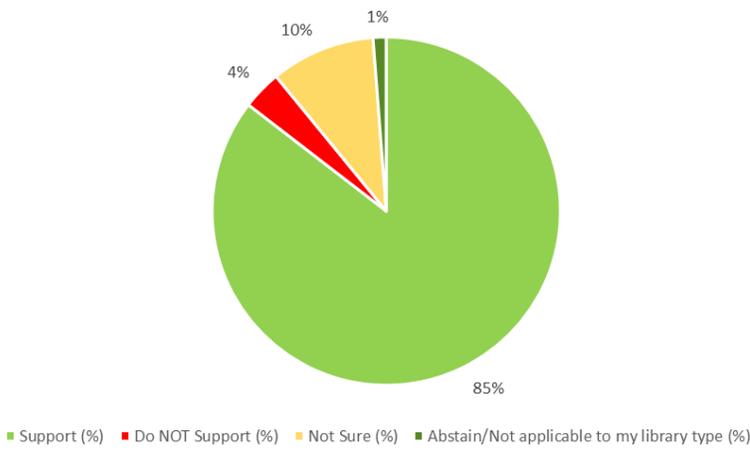
June 10th, 2021

Topics and Priorities: Metrics

Protect Penal Fines in the State Constitution for Public Libraries

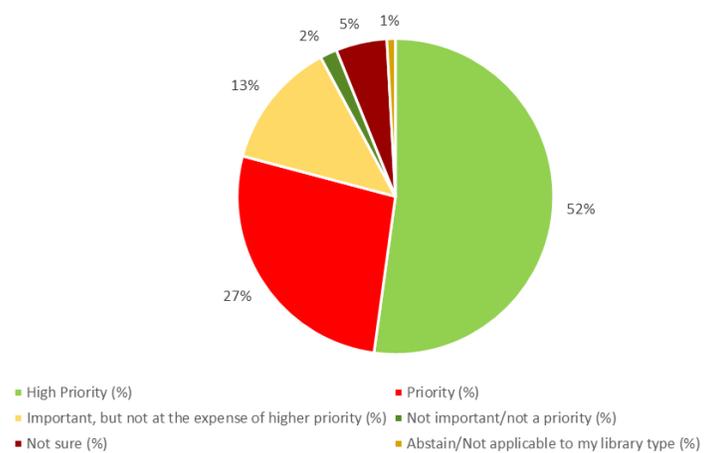
SUPPORT

Protect Penal Fines in the State Constitution for Public Libraries



PRIORITY

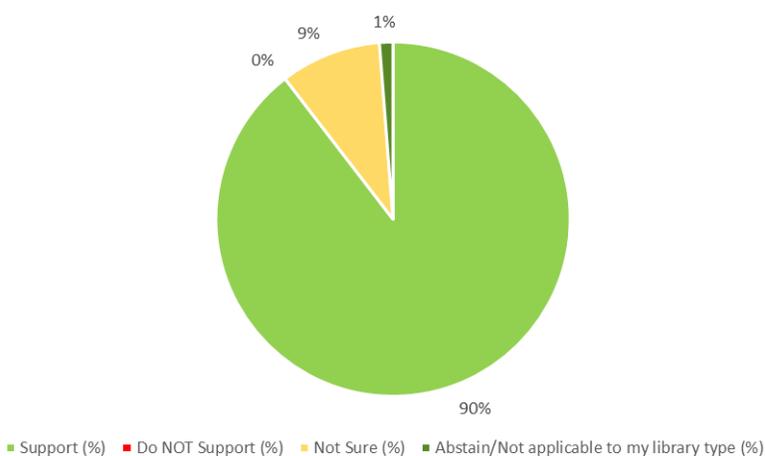
Protect Penal Fines in the State Constitution for Public Libraries



Support Penal Fine Transparency from Courts and County Treasurers

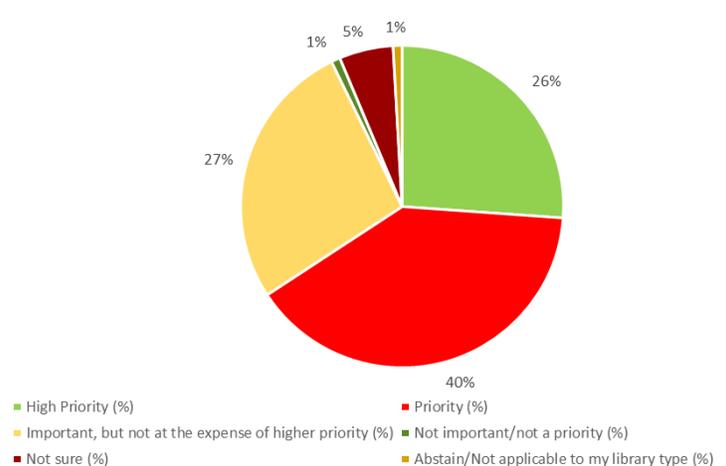
SUPPORT

Support Penal Fine Transparency from Courts and County Treasurers



PRIORITY

Support Penal Fine Transparency from Courts and County Treasurers





MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

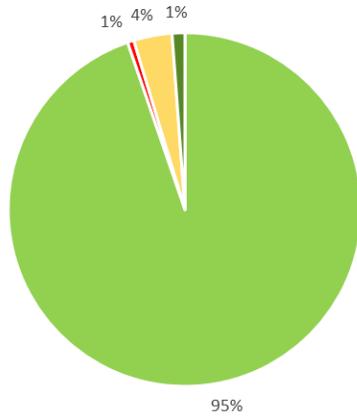
June 10th, 2021

Advocacy/Legislative Priorities Survey 2021-2022: *Metrics and Notes*

Increase State Aid for Libraries

SUPPORT

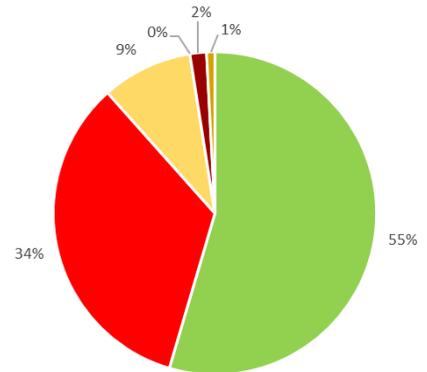
Increase State Aid for Libraries



■ Support (%) ■ Do NOT Support (%) ■ Not Sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

PRIORITY

Increase State Aid for Libraries

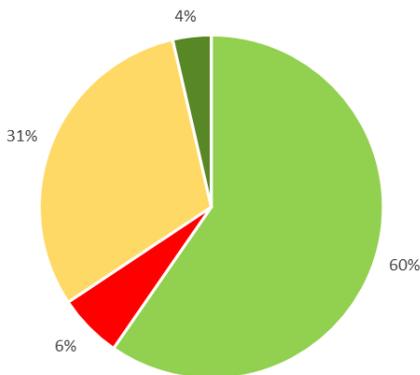


■ High Priority (%) ■ Priority (%)
■ Important, but not at the expense of higher priority (%) ■ Not important/not a priority (%)
■ Not sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

Reform Headlee Amendment to Allow Millage Rates to "Roll Up" During an Economic Recession

SUPPORT

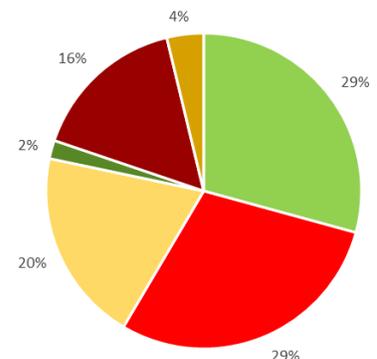
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■ Support (%) ■ Do NOT Support (%) ■ Not Sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

PRIORITY

Reform Headlee Amendment to Allow Millage Rates to "Roll Up" During an Economic Recession



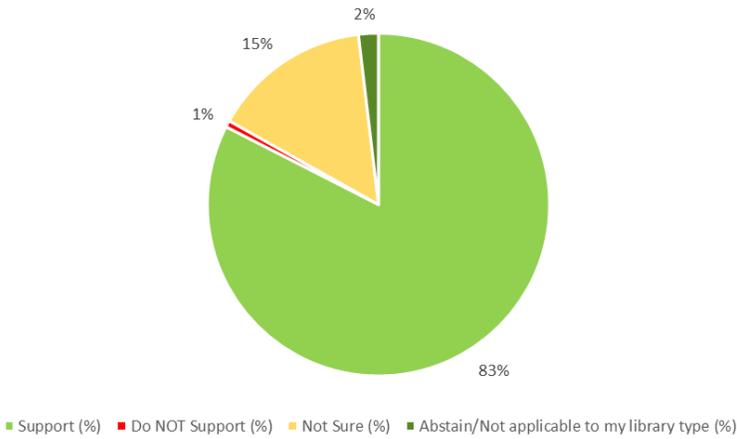
■ High Priority (%) ■ Priority (%)
■ Important, but not at the expense of higher priority (%) ■ Not important/not a priority (%)
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June 10th, 2021

Monitor Property Tax and Local Income Tax Funding Structure for Libraries

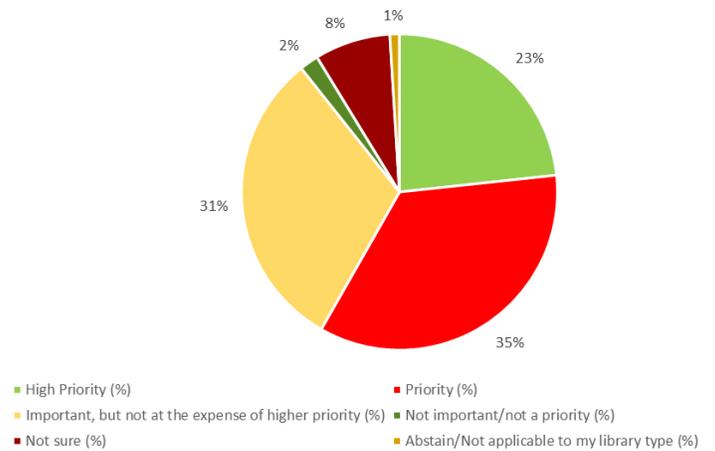
SUPPORT

Monitor Property Tax and Local Income Tax Funding Structure for Libraries



PRIORITY

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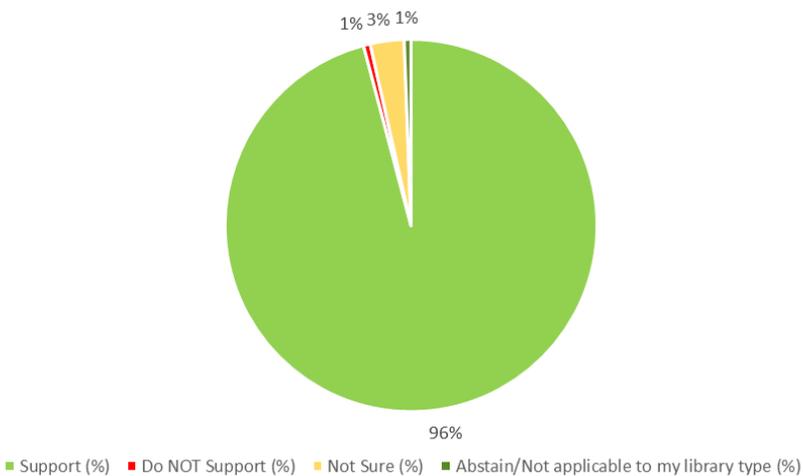


E

Expand Broadband/Wifi Access for Libraries

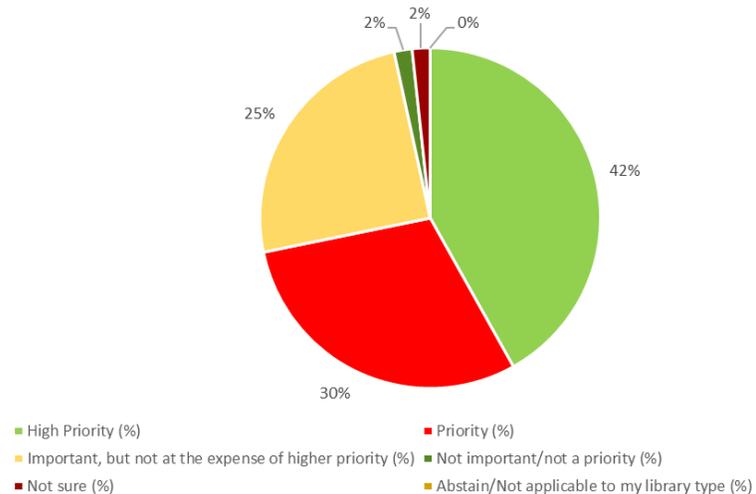
SUPPORT

Expand Broadband/Wifi Access for Libraries



PRIORITY

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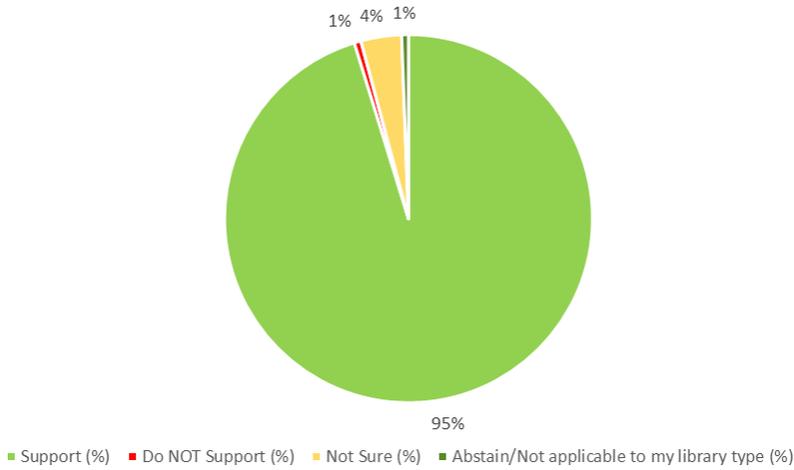


June 10th, 2021

Secure Funding for Broadband/Wifi Access for Libraries

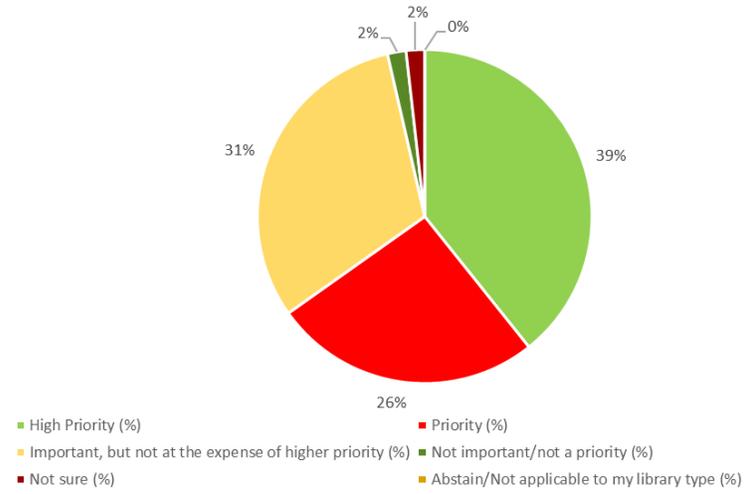
SUPPORT

Secure Funding for Broadband/Wifi Access for Libraries



PRIORITY

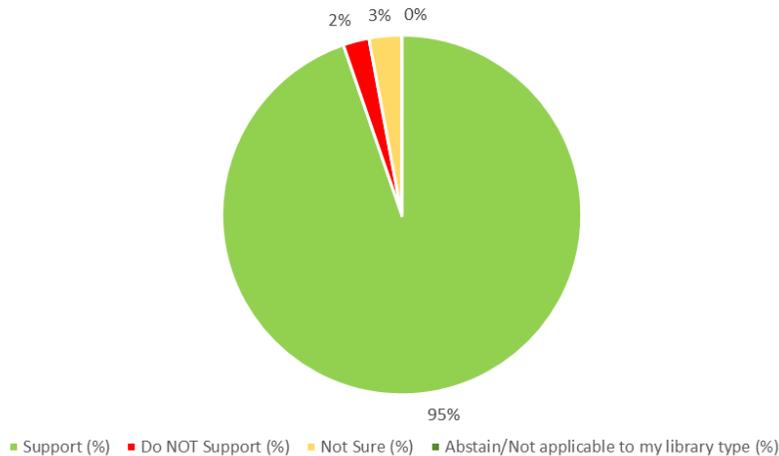
Secure Funding for Broadband/Wifi Access for Libraries



Produce a Statewide Marketing Campaign to Amplify the Value and Importance of Libraries Post COVID

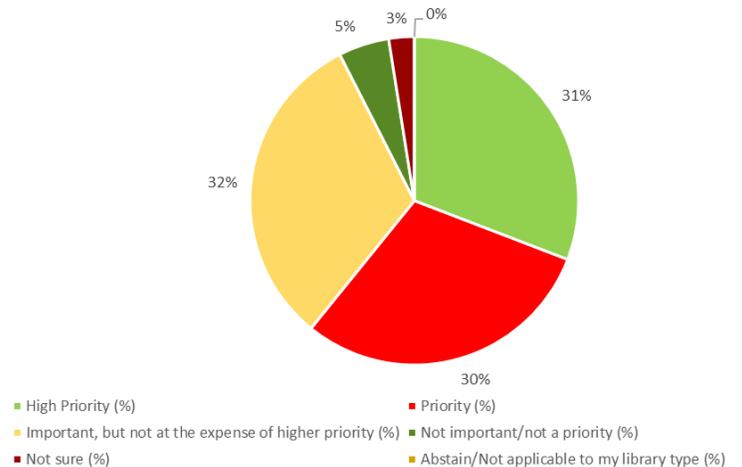
SUPPORT

Produce a Statewide Marketing Campaign to Amplify the Value and Importance of Libraries Post COVID



PRIORITY

Produce a Statewide Marketing Campaign to Amplify the Value and Importance of Libraries Post COVID

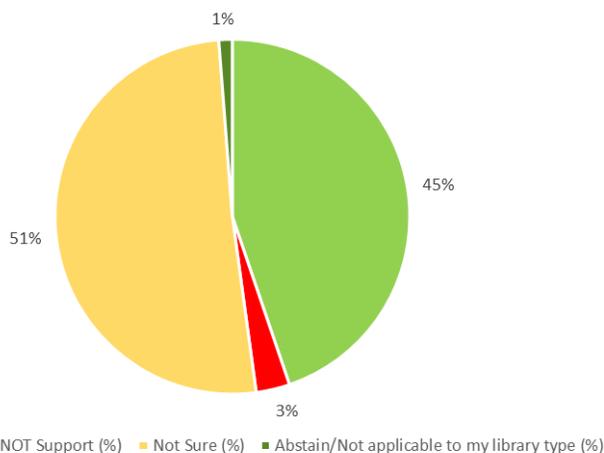




**Monitor and Address Nonprofit Status and Tax Exemptions for Health/Medical Providers
(which affects property taxes)**

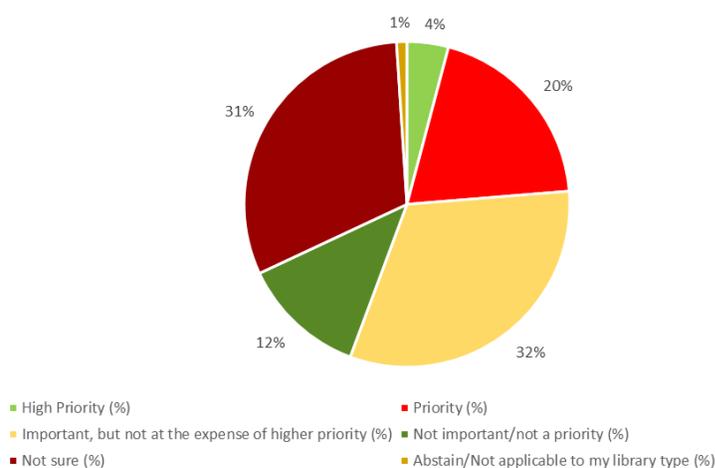
SUPPORT

Monitor and Address Nonprofit Status and Tax Exemptions for Health/Medical Providers (which affects property taxes)



PRIORITY

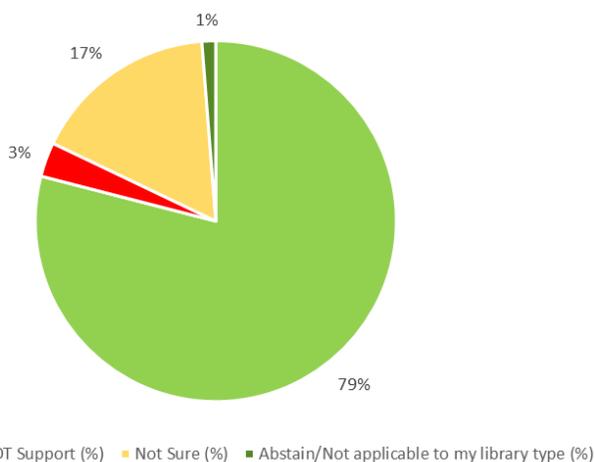
Monitor and Address Nonprofit Status and Tax Exemptions for Health/Medical Providers (which affects property taxes)



Monitor New Legislation for any Decrease in Personal Property Taxes (PPT) and Ensure Transparency

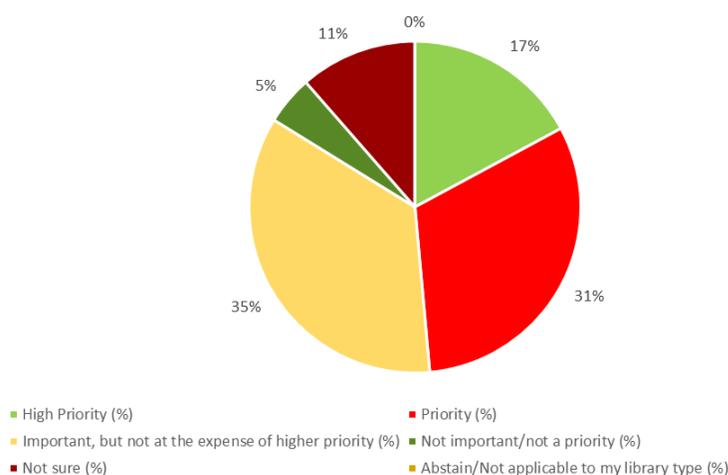
SUPPORT

Monitor New Legislation for any Decrease in Personal Property Taxes (PPT) and Ensure Transparency



PRIORITY

Monitor New Legislation for any Decrease in Personal Property Taxes (PPT) and Ensure Transparency



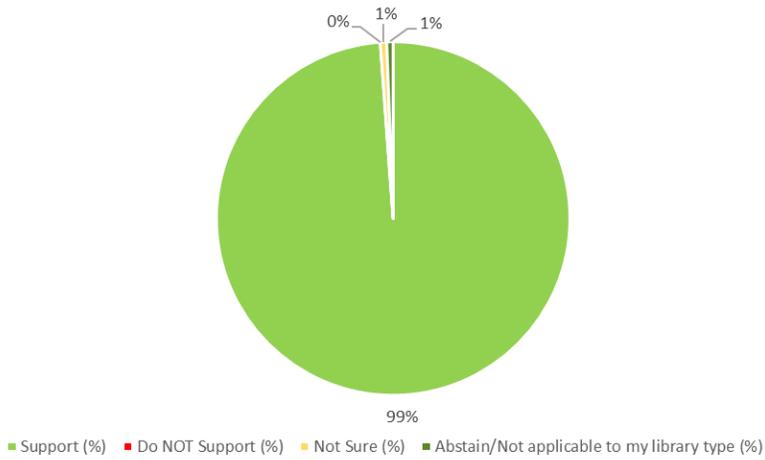


Advocacy/Legislative Priorities Survey 2021-2022: Metrics and Notes

Encourage Continued Support for Michigan E-Library - MeL and MeLCat

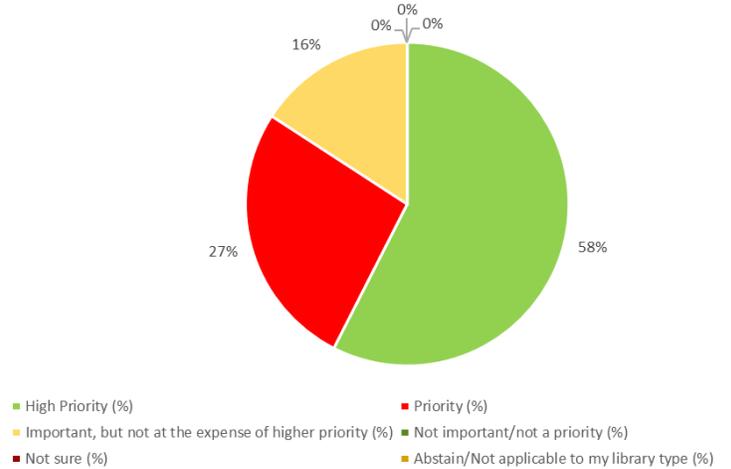
SUPPORT

Encourage Continued Support for Michigan E-Library - MeL and MeLCat



PRIORITY

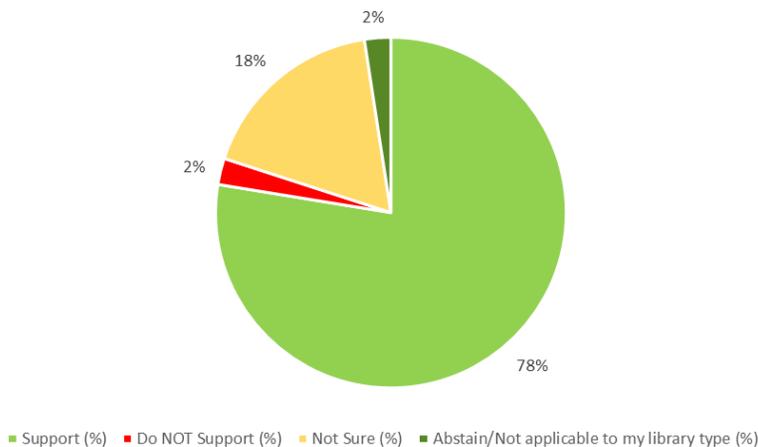
Encourage Continued Support for Michigan E-Library - MeL and MeLCat



Encourage equitable fee structure to provide RIDES throughout Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsula

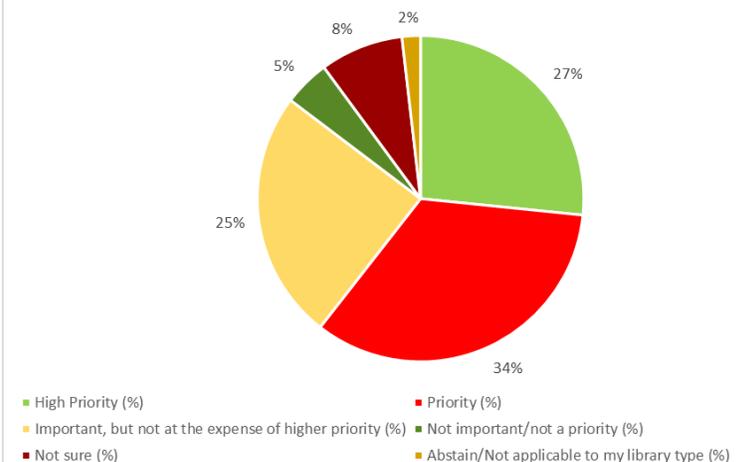
SUPPORT

Encourage equitable fee structure to provide RIDES throughout Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsula



PRIORITY

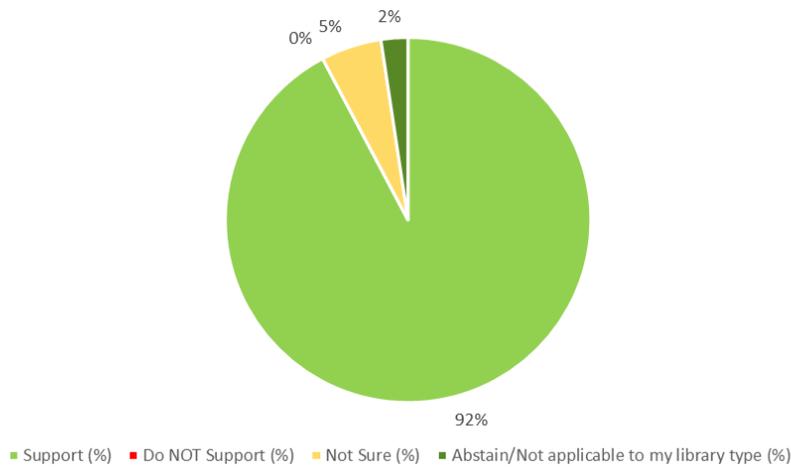
Encourage equitable fee structure to provide RIDES throughout Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsula



Maintain Ability to Hold Millage Elections in Key Months of August and November

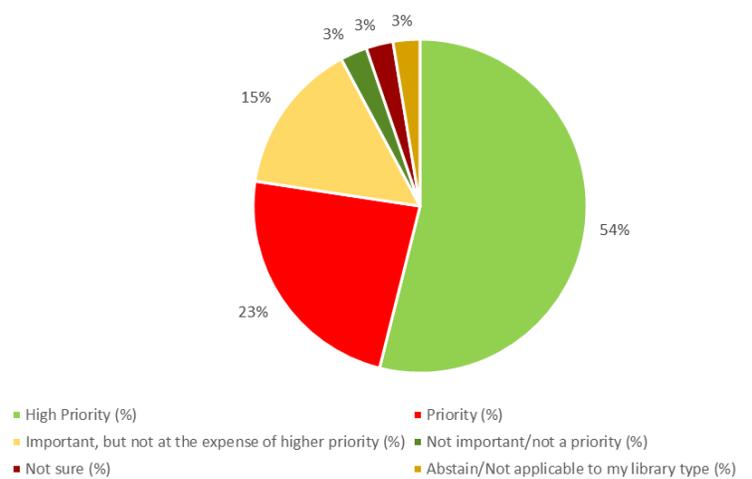
SUPPORT

Maintain Ability to Hold Millage Elections in Key Months of August and November



PRIORITY

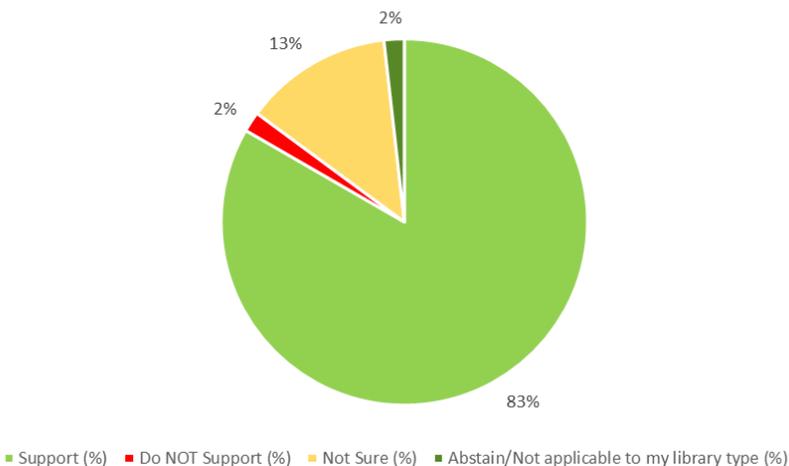
Maintain Ability to Hold Millage Elections in Key Months of August and November



Monitor Tax Tribunal Issues, ie. Open and Abandoned Big Box Stores (increase big box stores obligations to pay taxes)

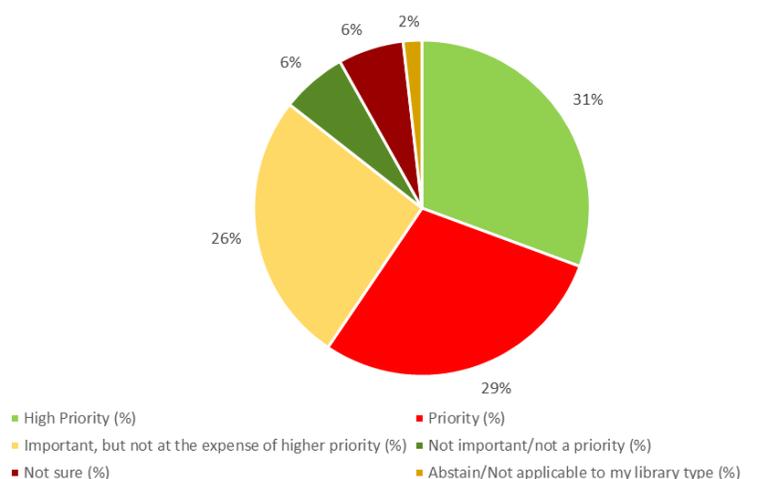
SUPPORT

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PRIORITY

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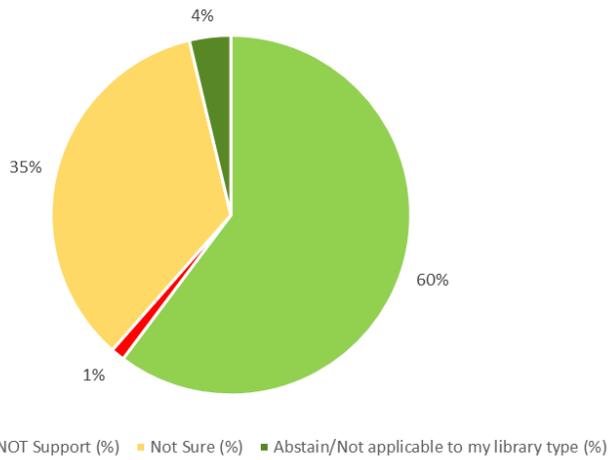




Monitor Legislation to Ensure Elimination of Automatic Tax Capture for Tax Increment Financing Authorities/Brownfields

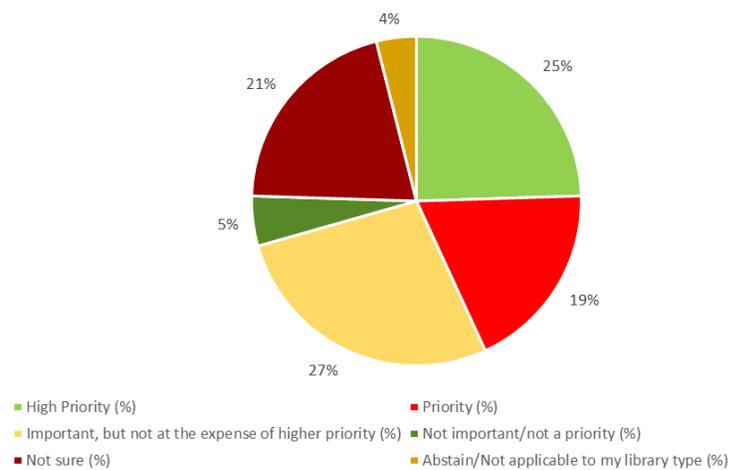
SUPPORT

Monitor Legislation to Ensure Elimination of Automatic Tax Capture for Tax Increment Financing Authorities/Brownfields



PRIORITY

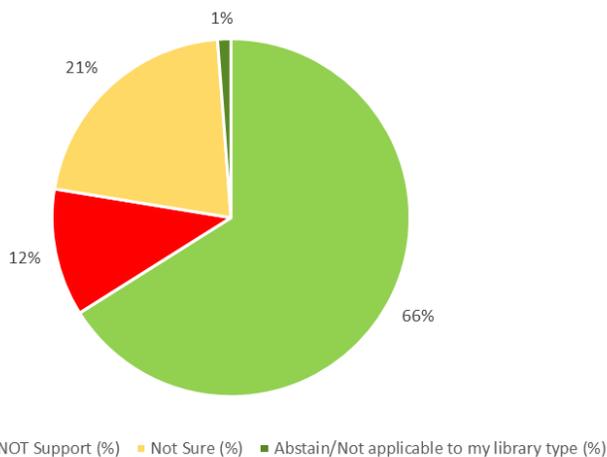
Monitor Legislation to Ensure Elimination of Automatic Tax Capture for Tax Increment Financing Authorities/Brownfields



Require Mandatory Training for Public Library Board Members

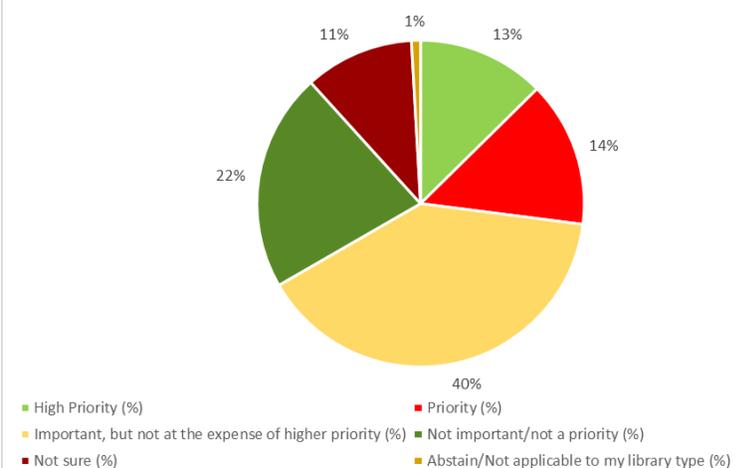
SUPPORT

Require Mandatory Training for Public Library Board Members



PRIORITY

Require Mandatory Training for Public Library Board Members





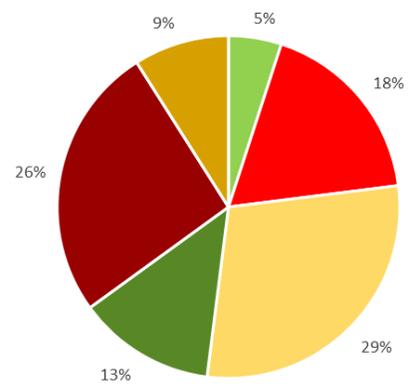
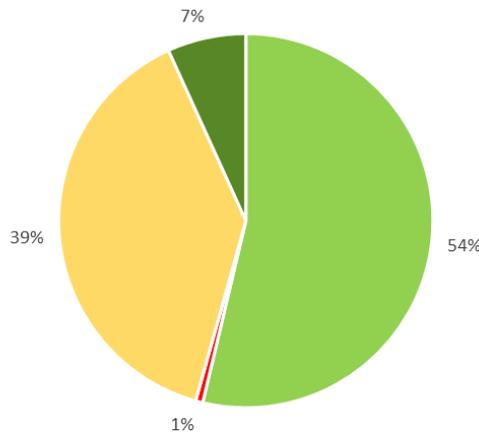
Support Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives

SUPPORT

PRIORITY

Support Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives

Support Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives



- Support (%)
- Do NOT Support (%)
- Not Sure (%)
- Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)
- High Priority (%)
- Priority (%)
- Important, but not at the expense of higher priority (%)
- Not important/not a priority (%)
- Not sure (%)
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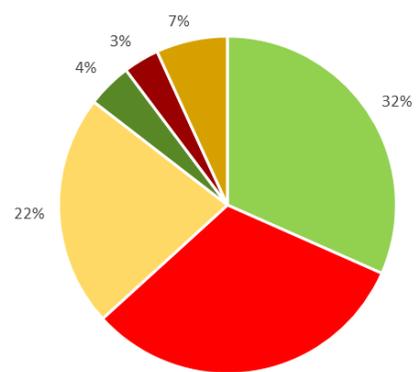
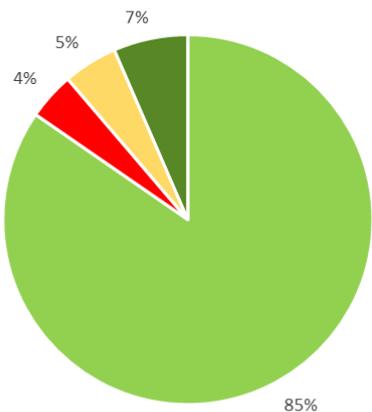
Support Certified School Librarians in K-12 Education

SUPPORT

PRIORITY

Support Certified School Librarians in K-12 Education

Support Certified School Librarians in K-12 Education



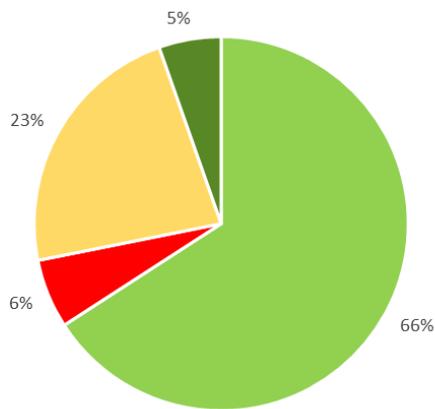
- Support (%)
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June 10th, 2021

3rd Grade Reading/Literacy Challenges

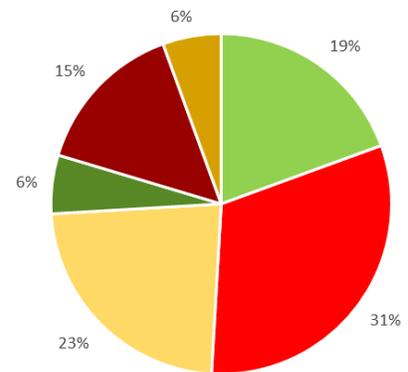
SUPPORT

3rd Grade Reading/Literacy Challenges



PRIORITY

3rd Grade Reading/Literacy Challenges

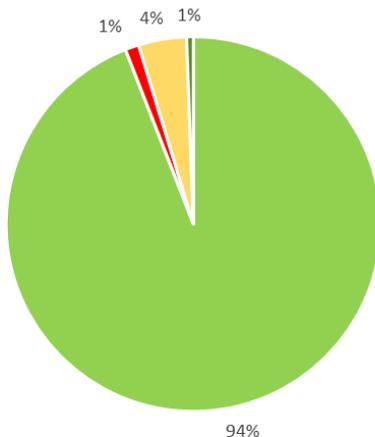


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Secure Funding for Libraries Participation in Early Childhood Literacy

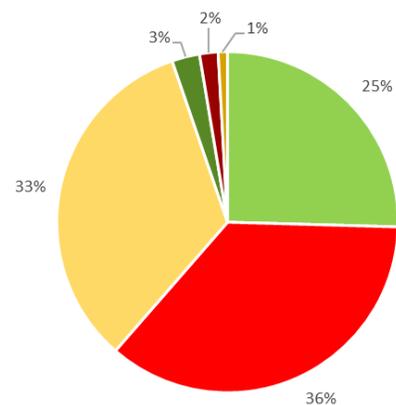
SUPPORT

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PRIORITY

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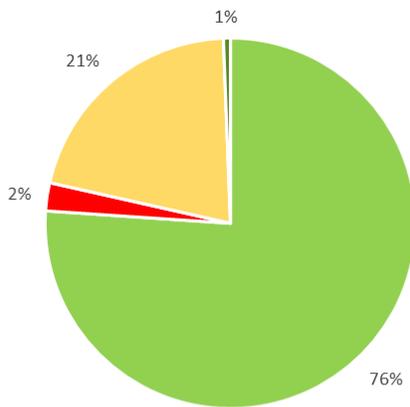
- Support (%)
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- High Priority (%)
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- Not important/not a priority (%)
- Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)
- Not sure (%)

June 10th, 2021

Promote Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship Laws

SUPPORT

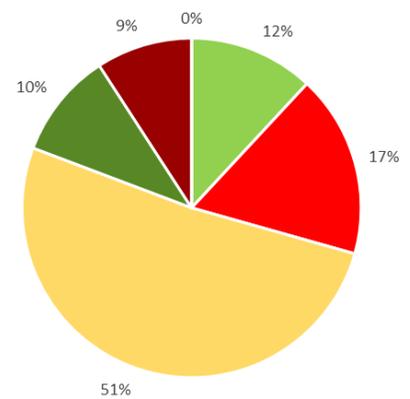
Promote Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship Laws



■ Support (%) ■ Do NOT Support (%) ■ Not Sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

PRIORITY

Promote Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship Laws

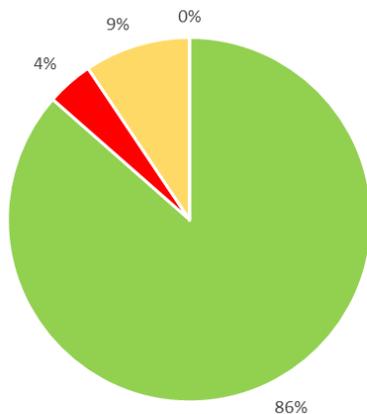


■ High Priority (%) ■ Priority (%)
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 ■ Not sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

E-Book Purchasing Challenges (publishers trying to stifle library access to new releases)

SUPPORT

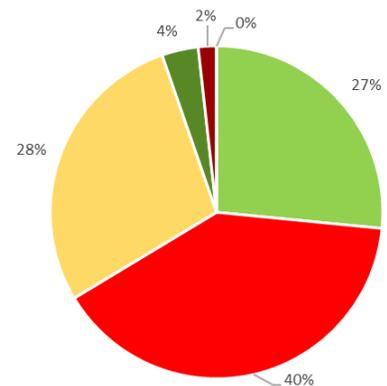
E-Book Purchasing Challenges (publishers trying to stifle library access to new releases)



■ Support (%) ■ Do NOT Support (%) ■ Not Sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

PRIORITY

E-Book Purchasing Challenges (publishers trying to stifle library access to new releases)



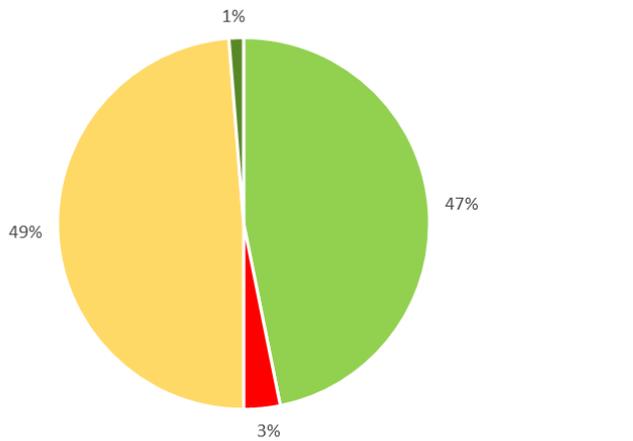
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June 10th, 2021

3rd Party Vendor Privacy Challenges

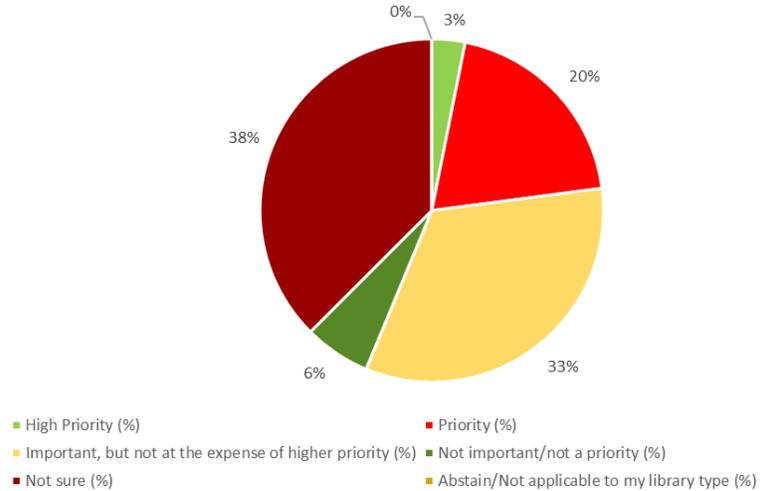
SUPPORT

3rd Party Vendor Privacy Challenges



PRIORITY

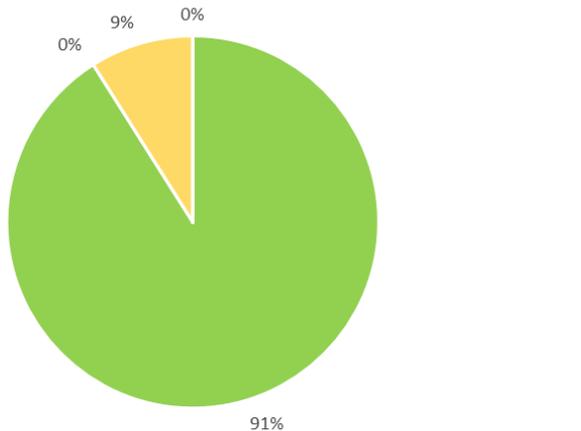
3rd Party Vendor Privacy Challenges



Net Neutrality Issues (keep the internet unencumbered and not allow internet providers to influence content and speeds)

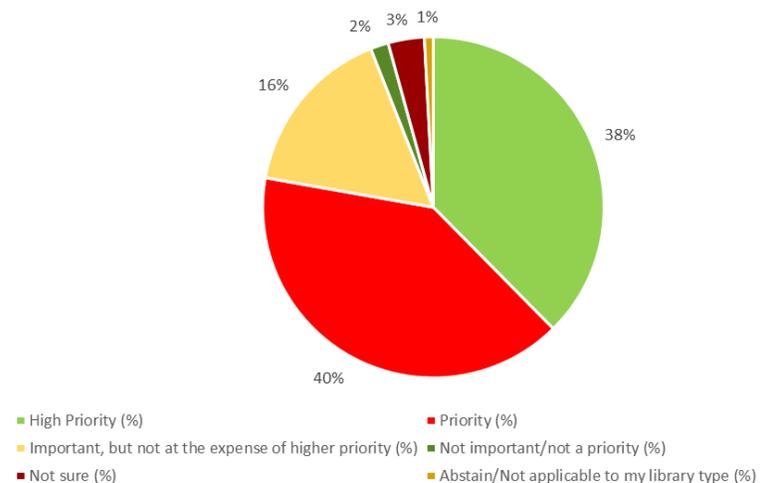
SUPPORT

Net Neutrality Issues (keep the internet unencumbered and not allow internet providers to influence content and speeds)



PRIORITY

Net Neutrality Issues (keep the internet unencumbered and not allow internet providers to influence content and speeds)

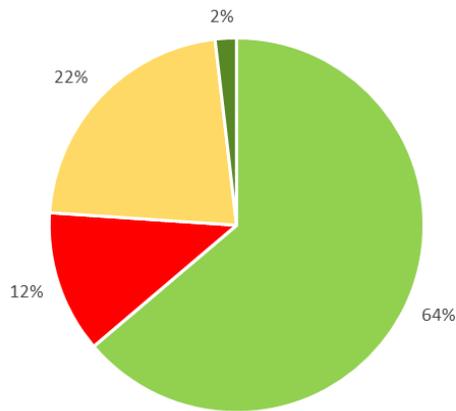


June 10th, 2021

Comfort Animals in Libraries (promote regulations and a certification structure)

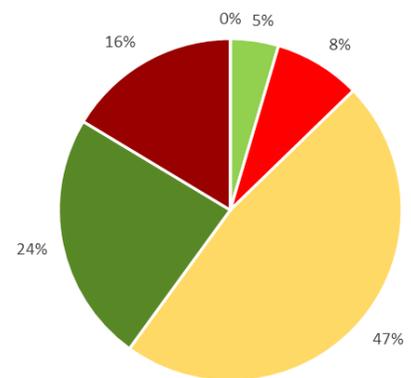
SUPPORT

Comfort Animals in Libraries (promote regulations and a certification structure)



PRIORITY

Comfort Animals in Libraries (promote regulations and a certification structure)

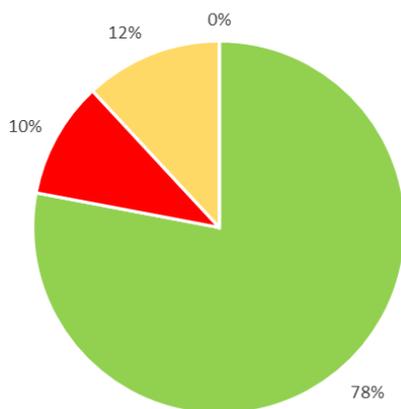


- Support (%)
- Do NOT Support (%)
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- High Priority (%)
- Priority (%)
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- Not important/not a priority (%)
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Reform State Law to Enable Libraries to Prohibit the Open Carry of Firearms in their Buildings

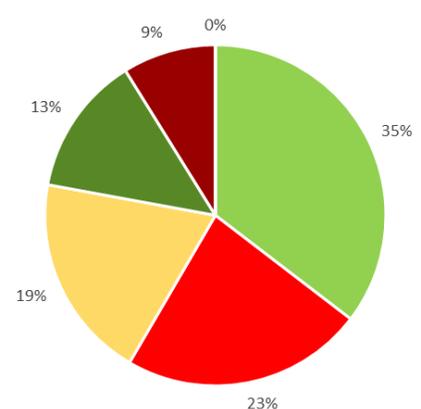
SUPPORT

Reform State Law to Enable Libraries to Prohibit the Open Carry of Firearms in their Buildings



PRIORITY

Reform State Law to Enable Libraries to Prohibit the Open Carry of Firearms in their Buildings



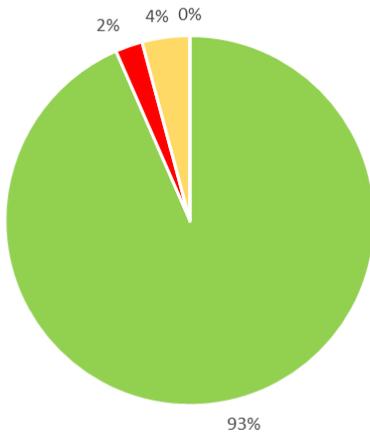
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June 10th, 2021

Protect Intellectual Freedom (where every individual has the right to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction)

SUPPORT

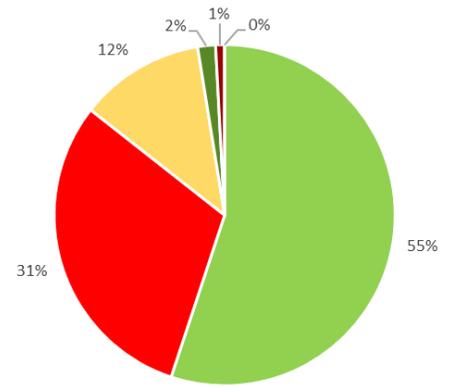
Protect Intellectual Freedom (where every individual has the right to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction)



■ Support (%) ■ Do NOT Support (%) ■ Not Sure (%) ■ Abstain/Not applicable to my library type (%)

PRIORITY

Protect Intellectual Freedom (where every individual has the right to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction)



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MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Advocacy/Legislative Priorities Survey 2021-2022: *Metrics and Notes*

June 10th, 2021

Topics and Priorities: Notes/Comments*

**Responses that said "n/a" or "none" or "no comment" were removed from this document for conciseness.*

Advocacy for capital funding for academic library renovation and buildings. The process and criteria for prioritizing funding requests for colleges and universities does not value libraries and makes it difficult/impossible for universities/colleges to get state funding for library renovation.
On some of the questions above, I feel that they are important, but can be dealt with at a local level or are currently being dealt with well.
Zip Code restructuring so that one community has a distinct zip code. Chesterfield population ~50K, New Baltimore population ~12K - most Chesterfield residents believe they live in New Baltimore - negative effect on voting, understanding which library provides them service, and what services are in their community.
Help to make Secretary of State appointments more available or move to more advanced technology. Libraries are being confronted with helping people to get appointments via online as many people are not digitally trained or have technology knowledge to do this. Why not do zoom etc. meeting with people online especially after covid. Saves people from taking off time to go to an appointment during the week. Hard to keep employees working as it is and if people are constantly taking off for this issue once a year it creates staffing issues.
some of the issues noted above I do not know about
Encourage the study of Library Science in higher education institutions.
Personally, I support many of the measures listed here; unfortunately, the board restricts its members to their parochial agenda. I am no longer a trustee due to my refusal to resume attending in-person board meetings (beginning April 2021) because of covid and my on-going medical issues. After they made it clear that they would no longer support my need to continue using ZOOM, I submitted my resignation.
Call for a completely transparent PILOT accounting, and require payments be due and payable on a specific date statewide. Eliminate future TIF captures.
1. Professional/MLIS librarian in all public/school libraries with the librarian in charge of the library not under the management of the school superintendent. 2. Bring back the MeL Portals, not having them is basically like having a library without a librarian. They were extremely helpful for ready ref questions and for sharing with students as reliable resources. I even told our PTA and Nursing students they could share these resources with their patients. 3. Create a statement declaring the appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence for libraries, no AI should be replacing a librarian, they should just be supplemental.
In terms of penal fines, I don't think it's just to incentivize the state to fine people as a means of raising revenue. I understand that penal fines as a means of supporting libraries is written into the state constitution, and libraries depend upon this money, but I would prefer a more just means of funding public libraries be devised and added to the state constitution that doesn't depend upon the state penalizing individuals.
Antiracist policies backed in Action.
Not comfortable with certifying comfort animals. Would need to know details. We do not currently allow comfort animals. Worry that certification means we must allow them. We are a small library and there are patrons who would not come in. Leave it to each library.
So much to do!!!
I am particularly concerned with intellectual freedom as it pertains to recent legislative attempts to stifle discussions of the history of racism in the United States.
Intellectual freedom should continue to be the highest priority in the public library setting.
With regard to the 3rd grade reading - literacy is absolutely one of my biggest concerns. I'm not sure that the 3rd grade reading initiatives will effectively address the issue, but I am supportive of doing something to effectively increase literacy in our country/state.
Big box legislation should be at least "encourage," not just monitor.
I agree with having a certified school librarian however I do know that my small school system could not afford to hire or retain one. They don't even budget money for new materials in the elementary school library.



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<p>Most of my top priorities are around funding. If funding is sustained or increased, it then allows us to expand services. Just a couple of notes: our problems with firearms have DECREASED since individuals can open carry; We are interested in universal access rather than expanding or funding broadband for the library; most of the MeL resources are academic and are rarely used by patrons</p>
<p>Highest priority on all threats to library funding structures.</p>
<p>I assume by "do you support" you mean from the perspective of my organization. But maybe you mean me personally. RE: Penal fines, support keeping them in place until a permanent replacement can be put in place. RE: Intellectual freedom, I don't think all points of view should be represented if a view is factually incorrect or contributes to a false narrative.</p>
<p>It is vital to get the big-box stores like Walmart to pay their fair share.</p>
<p>I support service animals in libraries but do not support comfort animals...unless library has its own animal(s) & program</p>
<p>Broadband and wifi access instead of getting it would be nice to have MORE broadband capability. Move from MG to 1 T. Many libraries share broadband width and more would be needed instead of money towards getting it. Many have it already and so do their users. So money for getting wifi and broadband is not helping and neither is hot spots.</p>
<p>For future surveys, please provide more information as to what actions might entail, perhaps in the newsletter. E.g., the statements regarding "monitoring" seem ambiguous to me.</p>
<p>Not sure from the wording on challenges to e-book purchasing. I don't endorse blocking any purchases the library chooses to make regarding materials.</p>
<p>Need further clarification on several of the ideas posted to make an educational determination. Most were very clear~</p>
<p>Protecting library funding from all angles is the most important....</p>
<p>GUN ISSUES - After 20 years in library management, I am at the point where I have given up on meaningful reform on this issue, in libraries AND in general society. I believe it is better for MLA to use its political capital in areas that our profession has a reasonable chance of gaining success, and the gun issue is not one of them, I believe.</p>
<p>I would counsel that MLA refrain from pursuing this issue until the political environment is WAY changed from its current status, including a major change in the makeup of power in the Legislature.</p>
<p>Not sure what the 3rd grade literacy means. Are we pro or against?</p>
<p>Did not answer some of questions above and below, due to restrictive phraseology.</p>
<p>While I firmly support protecting penal fines for libraries due to the State's current funding system for libraries, I would prefer to see a new, stable, and more equitable system introduced for funding libraries that moves away from penal fines and property taxes. Penal fines for traffic tickets, etc., logically should go to road or law enforcement funding. Penal fine for infractions where a free, well funded community library could potentially prevent the infraction by providing an alternate outlet, increased education, job training, or just a safe place should remain.</p>
<p>While I believe the Headlee Amendment should be able to roll up during a recession, I think it should be limited in scope. If a severe recession impacts the region, increasing property taxes may result in a struggling homeowner's house being seized and sold by the local treasurer for back taxes and this doesn't solve anything.</p>
<p>Some of the activities regarding funding that I marked as lower priority are because I think libraries are responsible for finding funding for this within their budgets. Outside support or matching grants are great, but responsibility does not lie wholly on a different government body.</p>
<p>If the mandatory training for library board members is an impediment to recruiting dedicated board members, it isn't worth it--</p>

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especially if we're talking about an advisory board as opposed to a governing board. Training should be available and encouraged, but new mandates make me uneasy. I would need to see scope and where the funding comes from before deciding whether to support or not.

I think ebook purchasing challenges are a high priority. The one you listed (stifling access to new releases) is not. The most vocal segments of the library community have for a decade systematically ignored the most disadvantageous actions on the part of publishers regarding the ebook market and sacrificed the interests of small libraries and long-term needs for the sake of large systems/consortium interests and short term gains. I frankly don't trust you on this topic.

While I would not be opposed to the legislature adding libraries to the list of restricted areas prohibiting open carry, I am vehemently opposed to providing library boards the authority to make local policy decisions regarding the 2nd amendment.

Net neutrality--I've yet to see a non-tech organization fully articulate both what net neutrality is and what needs to be done. A couple of years back there were a lot of people brandishing torches about things that were going to change if we lost "net neutrality"--and most of them either could or already were legally happening and the oversight change would have had no material affect on whether they continued or ceased.

Comfort animals...I'm not sure why we would need regulations and certification structure. To my knowledge comfort animals are not covered by ADA and local boards can decide whether they want to make accommodations for them or not. Unless there's some action in the legislature that would legally require us to grant access for comfort animals, I don't think setting up a certification system is necessary.

As a former HS Media Specialist, I strongly support certified librarians in school libraries, esp. to teach evaluation of sources and facts.

I don't support the retention of third graders for failing M-step.

Like schools, advocacy for an equitable and balanced source and targeted to all libraries.

Marketing is a perpetual library problem but there will never be enough funding to make a meaningful difference at a statewide level. It is also extremely hard to track the effectiveness of such campaigns. OCLC tried "Geek the Library" which was fun but not sure how effective.

I am not fully informed on the ramifications of some of these issues so it is hard to say whether I would fully support them or not. Answered the best I could.

What are 'digital literacy laws'?, Why laws and not rights, how is this different than Net Neutrality?

Comfort animals- not sure where this is going. Worry that allowing them would create issues. How to deal with people with allergies, fear? We currently allow by lawyers service animals but comfort animals are k no or

I think PA 89 of 1977 needs to be revised. We are slipping into "have" and "have not" library service and the spirit of the legislation has been lost, I believe. I would like to see attention paid to minimum quality and funding for public libraries in the state so we have equity and can be proud of Michigan's public libraries serving ALL of the public equitably.

In regards to penal fines, I would prefer to find a different, more equitable funding source for libraries that is more predictable and secure.

Because I am a public library director, I felt compelled to abstain from weighing in on the issue of having certified K-12 librarians in the schools. I feel this is a vital issue and has a direct impact on literacy rates in students and adult digital literacy.



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Big ones in my area....voting dates, tax capture activity and penal fines
Still need to address how to improve definition of Broadband and get "lit" fiber to two of our eight branches (remote and rural)
It's hard to answer the 3rd grade literacy question because of how it's phrased. I oppose mandatory retention of third graders based on standardized testing scores.
Board training will help with all the other issues!!
If a library isn't already protecting Intellectual Freedom, it cannot call itself a library. There is no reason to throw more money on this issue. Either the library is or isn't doing its job.
Stable funding for libraries is the highest priority.

Q: If you have made contact with your legislators in the past year, please indicate how you have made contact (phone, letter, in person, etc.) and with whom you have had contact (legislators name or staff name), and for what issue/concern/engagement?*

**Responses that said "n/a" or "none" or "no comment" were removed from this document for conciseness.*

Many contacts with many different legislators. Phone, email, zoom meetings. Most meetings about school libraries.
phone, email, letter Schmitt and Roth Re millage dates
I have left voicemails for my State Senator Jim Runestad regarding legislation about voting rights, 2020 election certification, and the pandemic. I have left phone messages for House Rep. Haley Stevens and US Senators Stabenow and Peters regarding voting rights legislation and matters relating to presidential impeachment.
MLA led email campaign Kevin Dailey at local meet-and-greet
Daire Rendon, 2018
phone and email and town halls -----Senator Baret, Rep. Slotkin, Walberg and Senator Peters
Steve Marino - email - Build America's Libraries Act, invitation to record an online storytime with the library Lisa McClain - email - Build America's Libraries Act Pete Lucido - email - the importance of libraries for our economic recovery (budgeting), invitation to record an online storytime with the library
MLA Advocacy Day Legislative Open House Lapeer County
Fred Upton - email and phone Stabenow - email and phone
MLA Advocacy Day with follow up email, also I send a packet in the mail to them in January with a lot of library information.
Email to State Rep. Padma Kuppa on the issue of elections ("House Bills 4530, 4531, 4532, and 4533")
Email Haley Stevens Ryan Berman Jim Runestad Gary Peters Debbie Stabenow
Letters- Rep. Kahle, Rep. Walberg, Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Zorn. Re: library funding



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email
I have reached out to Adam Hollier and Joe Tate about several issues this year.
Our Ionia County Library Association held a Zoom meeting with our two legislators in January to just discuss our concerns in the library world. This was great and we have also had them as our guests at in person meetings when possible.
MLA Advocacy Day; contact over Twitter
In person: Kevin Daley, Gary Howell. Met them at the regular monthly GOP meeting and at a breakfast meeting
Facebook - support for the legislator's vote
Local and nation office holder via email.
Phone, letters. Senator Jim Runestad office regarding COVID funds and election date legislation (spoke with his liaison). Rep Ryan Berman regarding legislation (letters)
Mailed thank you letters to Rep. Beth Griffin and Sen. Aric Nesbitt for CARES grant.
At a Kiwanis meeting. Doug Wozniak
Phone, letter, and in person
I have made contact with both our House Rep and Senator. I've called, sent letters, and participated in legislative day.
U.S. Senator Gary Peters: Letters re Build America's Libraries Act; U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow: Letters re Build America's Libraries Act; U.S. Representative Lisa McClain: Letters, In person re IMLS funding, Build America's Libraries Act, received books from Library of Congress; MI Representative Pamela Hornberger: Phone calls, letters, in person re Michigan election dates; Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel re ARPA funding;
Tim Walberg, emailed twice; can't recall topic but it was not related to the library
Phone, letter, and in person. I have contacted Kelly Breen, Elena Scott, Sri Thanedar, Abraha Aiyash, Tullio Liberatti
MLA Legislative Day
I made contact with the local legislators at my former library in January requesting that they be a part of our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. All invited accepted the offer.
Emails to Rep. Greg Markkanen and Sen. Ed McBroom re library funding needs
Mainly emails; participated in MLA Advocacy Day
State Representative Ken Borton -all above (many issues) Senator Wayne Schmidt-all above (many issues) Many others that are not mine. (message, call)
Sen Wayne Schmidt - letter supporting APRN concerns
I have only signed and sent pre-written, pre-addressed form emails; I haven't kept track of such information, and know only that all legislators, state and federal, have received these emails during the course of the year.
'Senator Jeremy Moss. State Rep. Regina Weiss in person
I have written, called, and signed petitions to my legislators, mostly when prompted by political action groups whose email lists I subscribe to. I have a very hard time finding time for letters or phone calls, though.
Letter, phone
I have contacted: Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow and Representative Brenda Lawrence by phone and petition to support ALA.
Email, Van Single, consolidation of voting dates



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<p>I've fwd'ed emails sent by ALA and MLA to Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Gary Peters re. various issues (especially during COVID); asking them to vote on behalf of libraries using pre-composed text. I received an email, (not finding it at present, and not sure if it was from Cathy Lancaster, Youth Services Coordinator, Library of MI, or from Debbie Mikula, Exec. Dir., MLA. I also may be entirely wrong in my recollection of it being sent from either person). To the best of my recollection, however, a letter arrived in my (overcrowded:) inbox encouraging librarians to reach out to Legislators, Community Leaders during March is Reading Month. Maybe they'd like to participate in a storytime, offer a virtual statement of support for the libraries, or share what favorite book/reading/libraries have meant to them. I called Congressman Andy Levin's (MI 9th District) Warren office and left a voice mail. I heard back via email from Stephanie Marroki, MSW, Community Outreach & Constituent Services Representative. She replied that the Congressman and staff were working to put something together to share in support of the Month/Libraries. They'd share the finished product with Public Libraries within the 9th District. They produced a knockout virtual storytime which we posted to Royal Oak Public Library's Facebook page.</p> <p>The Congressman is a Natural Youth Librarian if he ever loses his day job, (which must be a 24-hr-day job in actuality and hopefully one not lost anytime soon). With the natural humor he displayed, (including a 3-cornered-hat costume piece, I think?), he reached out to children and families during what has been a time of horror stories for far too many. I am so very grateful that the Congressman felt this was a very important use of his time, his leadership and a note of cheer to people of all ages who enjoyed seeing him as an Advocate for Reading and Libraries, (for so many other issues effecting our world); but also as a Relatable, Humane, Human Being; one who recognizes such in other Human Beings. In addition, it was terrific to experience the communications (email, 1-2 calls?) with Stephanie Marroki, who was exceptional in her role in the work as well.</p>
Phone/email/text/in person - Michelle Hoitenga State Rep. regarding funding for Manton Public Library Building Project
phone, letter and in person
Have talked to both Legislators and staff for Legislators in my area and in the state of MI.
John Damoose - he attended a story hour and read to our kids. Wayne Schmidt - i spoke with him about a partnership idea of public libraries and school librarians.
Letter
Zoom meeting with Reps. Calley & Albert (with five other Ionia County library directors, various issues) Zoom meeting with Congressman Peter Meijer, West Michigan Library Services, Federal relief cash for library, esp. Library Construction Grants Zoom meeting with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin Phone calls and emails to Rep. Calley (Rural Broadband, Elections), return emails from Luke Froncheck Legislative Aide/ Constituent Services Representative Julie Calley
Email, lots of email - all of it canned stuff
No contact made
MLA Advocacy day - Nate Shannon, Padma Kuppa Michael MacDonald - march is reading month book donation for him to take books to local schools
previous job
Phone/email, Rep. Dingell, Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Peters, and Pres. Biden. Thanking them for federal funding of libraries, Gun reform, immigration, opposition to the Saudi fuel blockade of Yemen
In person, email
Advocacy Day with Rep. Ellison and Sen. McMorrow's staff, and Rep. Garza, primary focus on election dates. More frequent informal contact over social media with Rep. Garza & Sen. Geiss on various issues. Have been on a first name basis for 5+ years with Garza & Geiss.
I've added my name to many letter that ALA/MLA have sent to me. I cannot remember the issues.
phone/Zoom, Tom Barrett and Angela Whitwer
Library Advocacy Day - First timer!
Phone and email.



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Senator Jim Stamas and Rep. Wentworth during Library Advocacy day, also as a private tour of our library and tour of the town. This included the city manager, school Superintendent, community leader, and myself. This tour focused on new developments and funding issues.
Not in the past year.
No contact regarding library issues. Contact state, federal and local representatives on issues pertinent to current national issues.
phone and/or letter Andrea Schroeder (state rep), Rosemary Bayer (state senator), Elisa Slotkin (congressional rep) about libraries & voting rights
Attended state senator's coffee and conversation session.
I made contact with one of my legislators by phone. Her name is Rep. Whitsett in regards to opposing the reduction of votes for library millages to once per year. For Advocacy Day I spoke with Rep. Weiss and Sen. Johnson about the issues on our agenda regarding school librarians, open education resources, and continued library funding.
Letters to Senator Debbie Stabenow Congressman Upton, State Senator Kim LaSatta, and Representative Pauline Wendzel
Phone, letter, in person - Congressman Andy Levin; state reps, county commissioners, township boards - tours, ALA Leg Day, MLA Leg Day, MLBPH contract renewal
phone, letter
No
Once per month, for several months during the pandemic in 2020, I was writing to Rep. Markkanen, Sen. McBroom and Sen. Bergman, highlighting all the needs my library was meeting for area residents during the pandemic.
email
Largely email contact: We invite both Sen Barrett and Rep Whitwer to participate annually as Guest Readers for Preschool Story times: to supply community materials (Pocket Constitutions, Legislative Guides, etc.); to participate in League of Women Voters events; to hold constituent meetings.
I know my legislators personally, but do not know their families and do not have their cell number. Although, I sometimes run into Senator Erika Geiss at the grocery store and will say hello. I have not personally contacted her or Rep Alex Garza this past year due to COVID but my staff contacted Senator Erika Geiss through an email to her office. She was asked and agreed to be videotaped reading stories for March is Reading Month, which were posted on our social media outlets. She participates in reading events for us every year.
email. personal
Email
Talked to him regarding millage election pending changes.
Phone, letter, text messaging. Jim Haadsma, John Bizon, Meijer, Stabenow.
Phone, letter and in person Several issues
MLA Legislative Day, as well as local legislators for concerns relating to HB4533 (elections).
MLA advocacy day Wayne Schmidt and Ken Borton
Email and letter
participate in legislative day, write letters, send emails to US senators, our rep in congress, and state senator, state rep.
Phone, meetings, emails and letters to/with Sen. Hertel and Rep Brixie and their staff as well as UU Rep Slotkin and staff.
I have made contact via email and letter; however, because I live in a different area from the area in which I work, I have found that legislators aren't interested in talking about the library within their own districts. They just say that because I don't live in their district that basically they don't care that I represent those who do and use the library or need the services we provide. I have attempted to interact with US Representative Bill Huizenga (mostly for ALA related campaigns) and Michigan State Representative Brad Slauch. I also send things to those that represent the district in which I live; however, I write as a citizen who just also happens to be a librarian.
Email
email campaigns, etc



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<p>phone, email, web meeting Other than MLA Advocacy day I end up always just reaching Aides (they are great) I am retiring and have backed off on a lot of contacts but hope to resume in retirement when I can "campaign" and champion</p>
<p>Phone, letter, Precovid face to face at GR Chamber meeting</p>
<p>I use email for most of my contacts.</p>
<p>Email/phone</p>
<p>email; in-person; legislators and staff re k-12 certified media specialists</p>
<p>Ken Horn, Amos O'Neil, Rodney Wakeman, Gary Peters, Debbie Stabenaw, Dan Kildee.</p> <p>Phone, letter and social medial.</p> <p>As a response to MLA and ALA advocacy requests to contact legislators.</p> <p>Issue include funding, school library specialists, State Aid, penal fines.</p> <p>Participated in meeting with new representative Amos O'Neil and MLA Advocacy Day.</p>
<p>Congressman Peter Meier in person. Talked with him about the importance of broadband.</p>
<p>phone, email, social media, in person</p>
<p>Zoom meetings and email contacts with Wayne Schmidt, John Damoose, Gary Peters, Jack Bergman, Debbie Stabenow. New legislator meetings and ALA/MLA Calls to action.</p>
<p>Typically via email and on a variety of issues.</p>
<p>I have used ALA automatic support email sends.</p>
<p>In person</p>

Q: Learnings from other states. Are there any advocacy priorities from another state that we should model or avoid? Be specific.*

**Responses that said "n/a" or "none" or "no comment" were removed from this document for conciseness.*

<p>Washington Library Association has been working with the School Libraries and has made progress on the issue of Information Literacy / Digital Citizenship legislation.</p>
<p>Watching what Maryland did with eBook legislation.</p>
<p>Other states are passing / have passed legislation for K-12 libraries/librarians that A. requires them and B. funds them.</p>
<p>That would take some research, I am sure there are some of each, with the last two years not including national venues or conferences it would take some back tracking. From the past there was very few that MI did not have or were better at then most states.</p>
<p>Not that I know of but ALA sure has a strong representation of activities. I would totally like to be more involved at a state and national level.</p>
<p>Remove municipal government from library taxing levies. Make all funds raised by levies on behalf of libraries payable directly and only to libraries with legal penalties in place to compel cities to comply.</p>

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Staying on top of copycat legislation that could be coming our way is critical - currently the censorship attacks on electronic resources is making the rounds
I don't support the advocacy effort to see a certified media specialists in every K12 school. Dozens (maybe more?) school librarians would be out of work if that mandate was ever approved and funding was ever secured. My library manages a neighboring school public library, and I am 100% certain my exceptional Library Manager is just as capable as ensuring student success as an MLS / certified media specialist would be.
Ohio and Wisconsin provide strong support for their public libraries. Would like Michigan to model them.
As much as possible be proactive rather than reactive.
I do like how other states still have funds available to assist with building/renovating libraries
Determine which state has the highest amount of funding for public libraries and study their model
Illinois does an excellent job with advocacy and libraries

Q: What else should the MLA Advocacy & Legislative Committee know about needs, trends, or policy issues as we plan for MLA policy priorities and strategies? Be specific.*

**Responses that said "n/a" or "none" or "no comment" were removed from this document for conciseness.*

1. Funding 2. Plight of School Libraries-In the long run this is essential to promoting a culture of reading.
As a small library director, I wear many hats. I'm not always aware of or watching the political arenas. Sometimes more seasoned folks talk or email on important topics using acronyms for proposed bills or processes and I get lost. I have no idea what they are saying. Just be mindful that you may need to educate some of us so we can carry on with confidence and feel like we know what we're talking about.
Diversity and inclusion.
Instead of following the corporations in promoting highly divisive critical race theory trainings, MLA would be much better off with trainings based on love of our common humanity, such as Chloe Valdary's Theory of Enchantment (www.theoryofenchantment.com) https://youtu.be/Q4NlvSnIPMg
Honestly, I think you're doing a great job.
I never know when Michigan Library Advocacy Day is until the day of and then it's too late. How much promotion do you give out before it happens? Am I just missing it?
Many households in Ionia lack internet access, and those outside of the city have sporadic and often terrible connections. (As a response to all those who question the need for libraries, stating that "everybody's on the Internet and nobody reads books any more.")
I feel like there has been an increase in misinformation about trans people, and as information professionals it is important for us to be supportive of them and clarify common myths for the public. I also think libraries should improve facilities and outreach for transgender people who need our services.
Most of us do not know what is going on in the legislative world. I have so much on my plate as a small rural library director. Having somewhere that will give me quick updates that I can quickly act on are great. If I have to attempt to make an appointment with someone, it can quickly go off tracks if I am not able to connect with them immediately as other tasks will take over and I will completely forget.
PLEASE keep our libraries safe for all.



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MLA stopped working on the Tax Tribunal topic for quite some time, I'm glad to see it is on the list again...the impacts are still being felt by many of us. I also think there is value in starting a conversation about Marijuana funds...if the state is going to consider raising the tax again (which I'm told they are) then we need to be at the table so that potentially libraries can get some of that funding!

library infrastructure

Thanks for your work on these important issues.

Libraries in Michigan are primarily funded locally. This does not account for equitable access to library services. IDK where that leaves us but just a thought.

Many legislature tell you what you want to hear and still vote the way the lobbyist want them to. I would suggest MLA gets in the house and senate balcony once a year and gets introduced on the floor to show we are interested in what they are voting on. I have been on the House and Senate floor with my representatives and see how the laws are run and how the lobbyists sit in the hallway watching the votes via the camera in the cabinet. Also the morning breakfasts that companies pay with checks to the legislature to vote their way. We can do all we want if the legislature is still going to vote by what their party tells them how to vote, it is wasting our time. Maybe we should have MLA attend fundraising breakfasts and giving checks to the legislature to make things happen! Politics is very corrupt and money talks.

keep educating board members

I can't think of anything else. The present list seems exhaustive and ambitious.

If you wish to have library board members engage with legislators, we need to be more informed with prepared talking points.

Huge need to maintain August voting date encumbered by major funding issues by non library concerns such as school mileage/bond issues.

I know Ryan Dowd is a phenomenal Advocate on behalf of those who experience homelessness; has produced virtual material on how to deal with patrons different ages, different struggles who enter the library each day; I've heard pros and cons re. having a social worker in the library. I think it's a worthwhile option to explore and in addition, maybe even a medical team, as has been the case for awhile now, libraries often have at least one person "trained" on injecting Narcan to rehabilitate someone who has overdosed on opiates. A colleague and I spoke about confusion over where to catalogue a title. She listened/viewed? something on 'radical cataloguing' I believe? I've listened and watched, this Spring too, about "diversity audits" and needing to "decolonize the collection." Also, I would love if there was one rule for using copywritten material on social media due to not meeting in person, without the fear/guilt/terror of being in violation of the law; of denying someone or someone's representation, company rightful earning potential. Another colleague sent a link advising what to consider when using copywritten material, or not, but the document (which I believe is a MI doc., maybe a Lib. of MI doc?) said explicitly that it was not a legal document, (my interpretation, I don't know if it said specifically, "not legally binding"), 'but that we should consult with the city attorney for further queries.' That last issue has been quite an issue and I've made it more-so at our library. And I've gotten some great resources from co-workers and others. But, I don't believe anyone reading this portion would come away with the idea that one person, even a multi-tasking person, who works part-time, is in any way qualified to do and handle all of these issues/tasks/ often needing to be done near-to simultaneously. I do not have a medical degree, a law degree, certainly no specialty in copyright law; I feel that gaining permission 4-6 weeks, if a response even comes from a publisher during that time, before reading a storybook online, is unrealistic, when given the multitude of expectations in and out the stacks. Thank you!



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<p>Be Kept a breast of needs that effect Libraries, no mater the nature of the issue. Does not always need to imply a policy, there are numerous issues we need to focus on from time to time, with issues being presented for different folks to address some are better at some and some are better at others with different interests however all pertaining to Libraries.</p>
<p>I would say to concentrate time and effort on funding and election issues and to monitor social issues only, unless and until it is necessary to go on record.</p>
<p>Advocacy/Legislative work really is my favorite - I'd like to do more but I also don't want where I live to be an issue</p>
<p>I need more specific information. I consider myself a fast study. If given specific information on needs and policies, would be ready advocate in minimal time.</p>
<p>As we all have sidelined so many regular library issues prior to the pandemic, we must not forget them. But now we have a challenge with the post-pandemic to incorporate the previous pandemic issues with a potential "money grab" of new legislation and programs that could leave libraries out of the loop. Stay vigilant!!!!</p>
<p>The consistent disregard for fellow board members and their concerns. Perhaps this is a trend among other boards. If so, it's definitely bullying.</p> <p>Specifically, our board continued to delay issuing background checks. I'm unsure whether this has yet occurred.</p>
<p>Each and every library board meeting was like a popularity contest.</p>
<p>The fact many families in The northern half of the lower peninsula and the UP do not have access to computers at home which increases the importance of the library</p>
<p>Make Trustees members of MLA and directly engage all of them to create a cohesive powerful organization by organizing them to advocate for everyone.</p>
<p>I remain concerned about how far we go with gun legislation. Open carry incidents have been few and far between and given the current composition of the legislature is a losing proposition out the door. A law change is not going to keep people safer in libraries with the one exception that it would be helpful if we saw someone carrying a gun it would mean an instant call to law enforcement rather than having to determine if it was a problem or not. But to be clear, I do not think that allowing people to carry guns in libraries is a good idea.</p>
<p>They need know what the public expects from their Library whether it is the public library or a school library</p>
<p>I wish that there was a different funding source, instead of penal fines, but I know that would cause major upheaval. It is just frustrating to see the amounts go down each year. This year we will receive about half of the amount that we received years ago. A steady decline should tell us that this needs to be changed. That being said, I have no clue as to how to do that or any ideas of what would be a better method to fund libraries. Thanks.</p>
<p>Our district library runs eight small libraries in a very rural area. Sometimes "city and big city" doesn't work the same for us, so some wiggle room needs to be an option.</p>
<p>Libraries can play big role in getting broadband to all households, and building technical support/ digital literacy systems for residents.</p>
<p>Equitable access and antiracism has to baked into the foundation of all policies and actions.</p>
<p>I appreciate your work immensely, especially the way you make it so easy for us to write legislators on a topic in the alerts.</p>



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Advocacy/Legislative Priorities Survey 2021-2022: *Metrics and Notes*

June 10th, 2021

The one thing I think we need is a policy and advocacy training series for those who lead (director, board members) and those who work in libraries. I think it would be helpful to have. I have attended some brief presentations on advocacy, but it would be great to have some specific insights on how to advocate as a woman leader. I find that men are often treated differently than women in these situations (local, state and national). It's not the case in every situation, but it is pervasive and something I could use some more tips on.

This MLA team has really impressed me. Please keep sending those monthly letters to legislators addressing the subject of the month.

As I talk with my member libraries and their boards two things are apparent: they need training on OMA, FOIA, roles of trustees, budgets and strategic planning. I'm helping with all of this as is LM but mandatory OMA and FOIA training like in ILLINOIS would really help!

Working with school districts as we had the experience of our school district's Board of Ed President speak out against the library's recent attempt at a millage to build a new building by stating it was something she didn't think was important and by liking comments of "do people still use libraries" plus the district has down sized it's schools' libraries and has no library media specialists ; just para pros

MLA is getting way too woke. Most of the communities in Michigan do not share these points of view. MLA needs to redirect its focus to helping libraries and this requires engaging with politicians on the right. The legislature controls the purse in Michigan and right now, the legislation is Republican. Many of the areas that MLA is getting involved in are a big turn-off to Republican/Conservative politicians. MLA needs to be much more mindful of this fact. MLA has an important message to communicate to Michigan's political leadership regarding the importance of public libraries. It needs to communicate this message so it can be heard. Move away for the far-left and become more centrist.

Spend the money, time, and effort wisely. Complete something then move onto the next something.