

2022 Legislative Priorities

Minnesota Library Association (MLA)

To Support Lifelong Learners by Improving Minnesota Library and School Services

- By securing increased funding and a corresponding formula change for Minnesota's regional public library systems to provide the essential support needed by citizens, students and lifelong learners to reach their educational, personal and professional goals. (SF1131/HF1710)
- By defining a school library media center and its staff, and by encouraging school districts to increase student and classroom teacher access to licensed library media specialists. (SF1477/HF1856)
- By securing increased funding for the multicounty multitype systems, in particular for their work to develop and support school media centers and their staff.

To Assist Communities in Securing Accessible and Productive Library Facilities

- By advocating for investment in infrastructure to repair, modernize, and construct public library facilities to ensure safe, accessible and welcoming library spaces for Minnesotans. (HF337)
- By advocating for investment in public higher education facilities that improve access to library resources and digital learning space.

To Expand Broadband and Digital Access to All Minnesotans

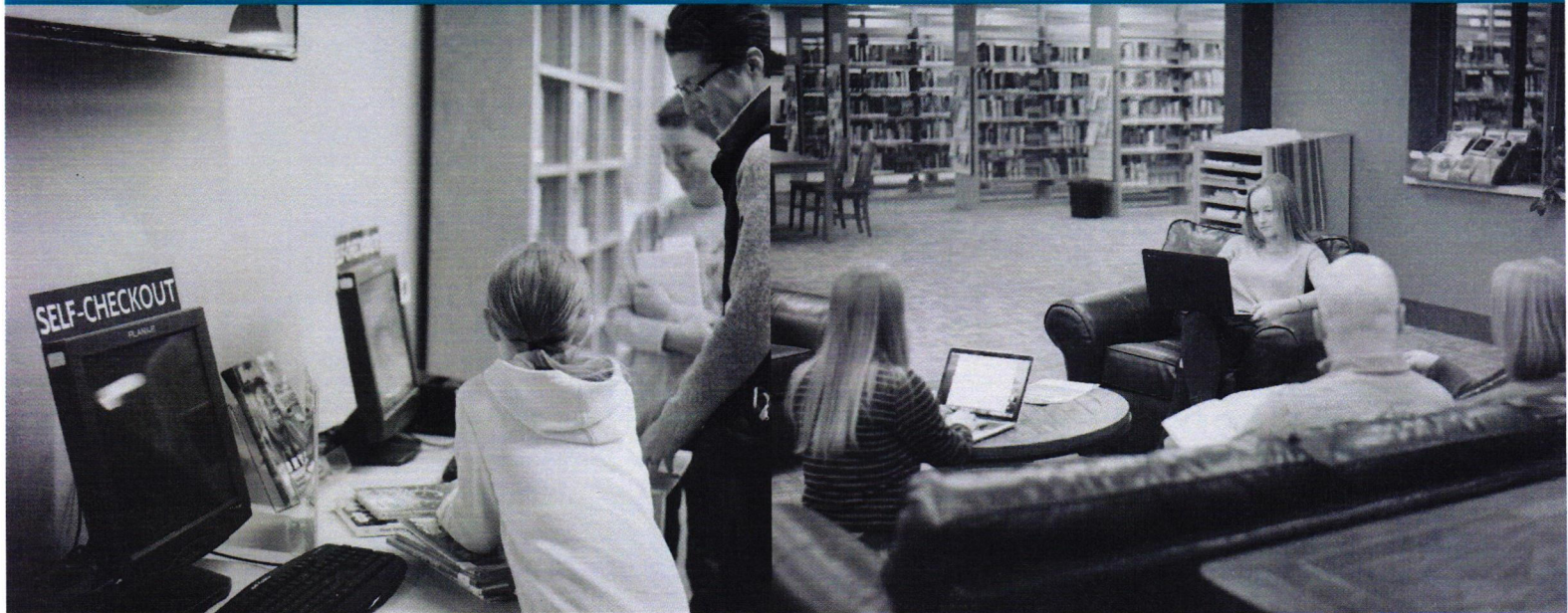
- By encouraging investment in broadband to ensure affordable, high-capacity internet access is available to all Minnesotans.
- By expanding resources for the E-Library of Minnesota that enables every library and school in Minnesota to have access to the highest quality online resources, including research databases, career prep tools, and more.

To Protect Intellectual Freedom and Equitable Access

- By monitoring and addressing legislation impacting libraries and by protecting intellectual freedom by opposing library censorship.

Invest in Minnesota's Regional Public Libraries

Support Funding for Minnesota Public Libraries SF 1131/HF 1710



In early 2020, Minnesota libraries sprang into action, reinventing library services, loaning out internet hotspots, providing contactless service and technology support, while maintaining traditional library services. Public Libraries are playing a key role in economic recovery by partnering with state and local organizations to support E-12 education/literacy and resources for Minnesota's students, families and workforce.

A \$2M increase in Basic Library System Support funding and corresponding formula change for Minnesota's Regional Public Library Systems means:

- Expanded service for seniors and lifelong learners
- Increased access to vital technology and broadband
- Sufficient library resources, materials, and hours of operation
- Expanded partnerships with schools, businesses, and government agencies
- Increased services to enhance literacy/reading skills and school success
- Enhances job/career support and workforce development

A proposed increase and formula change is endorsed by the 12 Minnesota Regional Public Library System Governing Boards and the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) in effort to maintain a strong public library network for all Minnesotans.

"The library provides my family with a variety of options for all of my children's varying reading levels and it is a fun and safe place for my kids to explore."

I am a teacher and I check out books to read before purchasing them for my classroom. **We love our library!**
- MN Library Customer

Chief Authors:
SF 1131 Senator Mark Johnson
HF 1710 Representative Dan Wolgamott