Support New York Libraries
Fund – Protect – Empower

Thank you for joining us for Advocacy Day 2024!

On February 7, the most powerful thing in Albany will be your voice. Your presence and the stories that you tell about your library help your legislators understand the very real need for funding for libraries and why they are important to you and your community.

This packet contains information from the New York Library Association and the Mid-Hudson Library System to help you navigate your Advocacy Day Experience. **Contents include:**

- Schedule of appointments
- Map of the Concourse
- Budget Priorities
- Legislative Priorities
- History of Library Aid Chart

Have a question? Look for your Mid-Hudson Library System Representatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rebekkah Smith Aldrich</th>
<th>Laura Crisci</th>
<th>Kerstin Cruger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Library Sustainability Coordinator</td>
<td>Outreach &amp; EDI Specialist</td>
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Schedule as of 2/2/24

The bus leaves at 3:30pm sharp, across the street from the Madison Ave. entrance to the Concourse.

**System Rep Key:** RSA - Rebekkah Smith Aldrich | LC - Laura Cistci | KC - Kerstin Cruger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Librarian</th>
<th>Room #</th>
<th>Dist</th>
<th>Legislator</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Assemblymember Scott, H. Bendert (R)</td>
<td>1109</td>
<td>107th</td>
<td>Assemblymember Saranah Sheikhstana</td>
<td>10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Assemblymember Didi, Bartlett (D)</td>
<td>10974</td>
<td>106th</td>
<td>Senator Michelle Hinchey (D)</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Senator Peter Dobrinski (R)</td>
<td>10902</td>
<td>41st</td>
<td>Senator Robert Rolison (R)</td>
<td>1:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Senator Peter Oberacker (R)</td>
<td>10906</td>
<td>51st</td>
<td>Senator Peter Harckham (D)</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Assemblymember John, M. F. Miller (R)</td>
<td>10910</td>
<td>105th</td>
<td>Assemblymember Matthew, J. Slater (R)</td>
<td>2:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**LOB = Legislative Office Building**}

2024 Library Advocacy Day - MHLS Appointment Schedule
2024 BUDGET PRIORITIES

$147.1 million for Library Operating Aid

- More than $200 million in lost state funding has cost our communities more than $875 million in lost local library services.

- New York State Education Law calls for $104.6M in State Library Aid for FY 2024-2025.

- Funding libraries is a smart investment in our communities improving the lives of residents of all ages, abilities, and economic status. Library services address digital inclusion, student success, workforce development, equitable access to information and building connections between neighbors.

$69.4 million for State Aid for Library Construction

- Public libraries require immediate, significant state investment to accommodate advances in technological infrastructure, investments in energy efficiency, and increased access to differently abled patrons.

- The New York State Education Department’s Division of Library Development (DLD) has identified $1.75 billion in capital needs statewide

- The State Aid for Library Construction program provides an immediate and efficient return on investment while boosting local economies. Since 2007, state investment has leveraged more than $500 million in local funding – a 5:1 return

- Funding for the State Aid for Library Construction Program remained stagnant for a decade prior to recent investment; the accumulated capital needs forced the sale of library buildings and has eroded operating funds for maintenance.
2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Protection of Patron Access to Library Materials and Services | S6350-B (May) / A6873-B (O’Donnell) | S7677 (May) / A7843A (Kelles)

Additional Proposals Pending

Libraries across our state face rapidly expanding efforts to censor materials and programming they deem objectionable based on subjective personal sensibilities and partisan ideologies. We require legislation that empowers library professionals to exercise their expertise and ensure public access to materials, services, and programs that represent their interests.

Elimination of Library Construction Cap | S7093 (Chu)

Libraries serving economically distressed communities may be eligible for Library Construction Aid awards beyond 75%. However, the law currently only allows public library systems to award 50% of their total allocation to such projects.

This proposal would eliminate the 50% cap to ensure that libraries serving economically distressed communities and libraries in rural regions will be able to make use of the library construction aid intended to benefit these communities.

Association Library Retirement Opt-In Option | S4245 (Palumbo) / A4885 (Thiele)

This bill would allow association libraries that meet certain criteria the ability to join the New York State Retirement System upon approval of their board.