



Library Advocacy Day 2025 Virtual Prep Session

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January 30, 2025

#LAD25 - Key Information

• Pre-Advocacy Day

- 10:30am – 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 4, 2025
- Lunch & Meetings
 - Hampton Inn & Suites (25 Chapel St., Albany, NY 12210)
- Continuing Ed Sessions
 - New York State Library Building (222 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12210)

• Advocacy Day

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025
- New York State Legislative Office Building & Capitol
 - Entrance via Empire State Plaza Concourse or 198 State Street, Albany, NY 12210.
- Rally in the Well at 12:00pm

Background Information



Quick Facts:

• Executive Branch

• Governor Kathy Hochul

- Party: Democratic
- From: Buffalo, NY
- Since: 2021

• Legislative Branch

• New York State Senate

- Districts: 63
- Majority: Democratic
- Leadership: Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins

• New York State Assembly

- Districts: 150
- Majority: Democratic
- Leadership: Speaker Carl Heastie



New York State Legislative Session Calendar

January — June 2025

The New York State legislative session calendar establishes a schedule for the 2025 legislative session and provides dates important to the legislative process. The session calendar is intended to afford Members flexibility in conducting legislative business in Albany and planning activities within their home districts. The session calendar will foster orderly and timely consideration of legislation. Unforeseen events may require modification of the session calendar.



JANUARY						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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30	31					

APRIL						
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MAY						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- January 8 2025 Legislative Session convenes
- January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21 Final Day for Submission of Executive Budget

- February 17 Presidents' Day
- April 1 Beginning of new Fiscal Year
- May 26 Memorial Day

 Indicates session day

Budget vs. General Legislation

• New York State Budget

• Includes:

- State Library Aid, Library Construction Aid, Library Materials Aid, NOVELny, spending-related policy (AKA Article VII Bills)

• Timeline:

- Budget Development – Summer/Fall
- Executive Budget – Jan./Feb.(Jan 21, 2025)
- One-House Budgets – March
- Enacted Budget – April 1st

• General Legislation

• Includes:

- New laws or changes to existing laws

• Timeline:

- Legislative Session – Jan. to June. (Jan 8, 2025)
- Post Budget Push
- Governor Action – As late as Dec. 31st

New Committee Assignments

• Assembly Libraries & Education Technology

- AM Robert Carroll (Chair)
- AM Patrick Chludzinski (Ranker)
- AM Michaelle Solages
- AM Karen McMahan
- AM Jen Lunsford
- AM Dana Levenberg
- AM Jordan Wright
- AM Larinda Hooks
- AM Andrea Bailey

• Senate Libraries

- Sen. Siela Bynoe (Chair)
- Sen. Dean Murray (Ranker)
- Sen. Jabari Brisport
- Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal
- Sen. Sean Ryan
- Sen. Jose Serrano
- Sen. Jim Tedisco

Budget: Results and Requests

Request	FY2025 NYLA Request	FY 2025 Enacted Budget	FY 2026 NYLA Request	FY 2026 Executive Budget
Library Operating Aid	\$147.1M	\$103.852M (+\$4.252M)	\$176.8M	\$104.6M (+\$748,000)
Library Construction Aid	\$69.4M	\$44M (+\$10M)	\$175M	\$34M (-\$10M)
Library Materials Aid	\$11.00/pupil	\$6.25/pupil	\$11.33/pupil	No Change



Funding Asks:

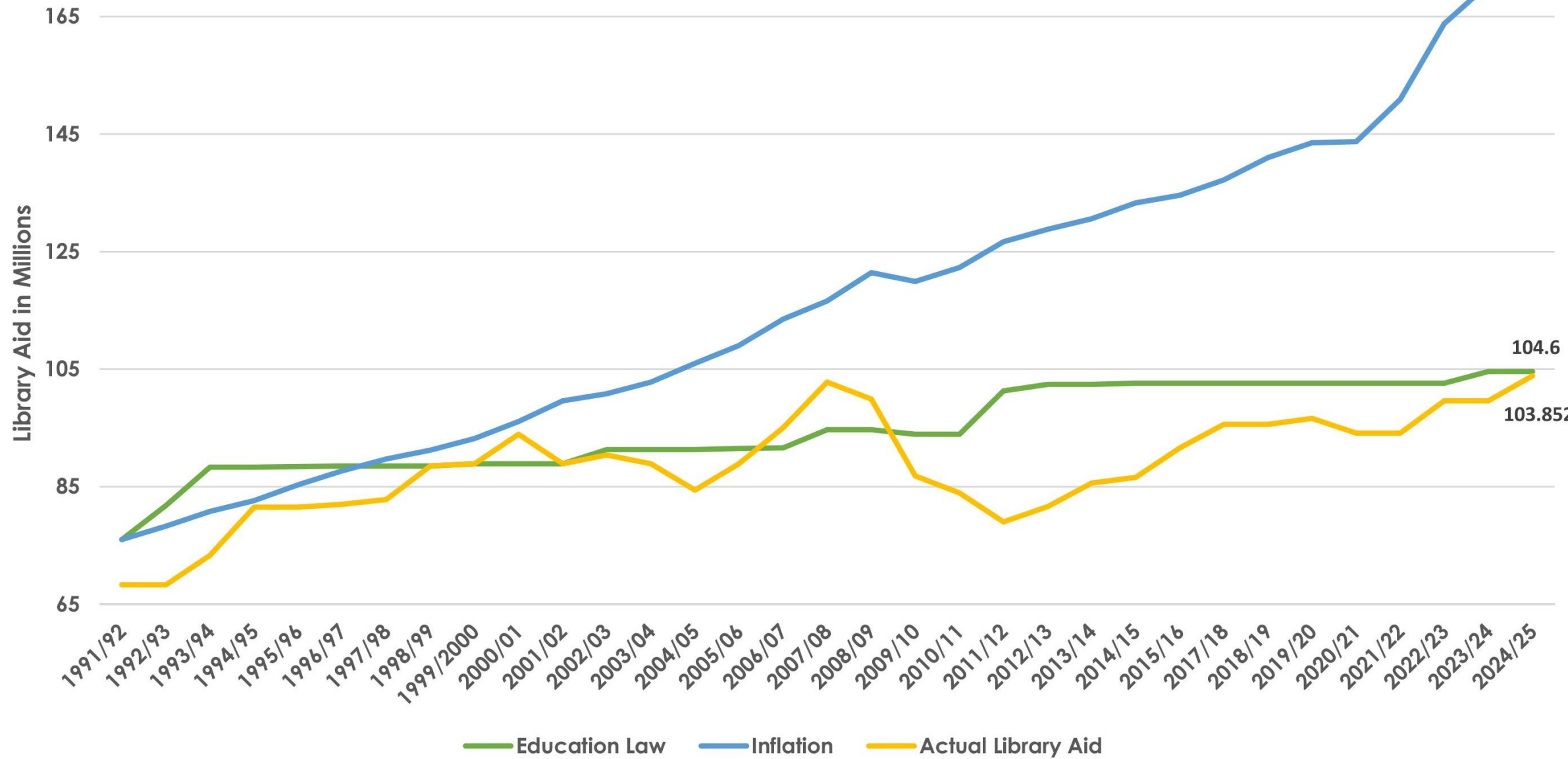
- **Operating Aid: \$176.8M**

- This number represents the \$76 million statutory value for State Aid for Libraries in FY 1991 – 1992, the first year of modern operating aid, adjusted for 2024 using the Consumer Price Index.

- **Construction Aid: \$175M**

- The New York State Library Division of Library Development estimates that New York's library construction needs in the five-year period spanning 2023 to 2025 totals \$1.75 billion.
- This ask represents 50% of one year of that need.

HISTORY OF LIBRARY AID - FORMULA VS. ACTUAL FY1992 - FY2025



Funding Asks:

- **Library Materials Aid: \$11.33/pupil**

- No increase since 2007
- Average cost of new book around \$25
- Current per-pupil allocation of \$6.25/pupil covers just 1/4 of one book per student
- Increase over last year's ask of \$11/pupil reflects annual inflationary increase

Budget: New Requests, New Wins

- **NOVELny: \$3M → \$3.1M**

- Without action, funding for NOVELny would have run out on June 30, 2024.
- NOVELny is a web-based suite of databases and digital resources featuring hundreds of magazines, journals, newspapers, maps, charts, research, and reference materials available to all New Yorkers free of charge. The resources needed to fund the continuation of NOVELny require fresh appropriation each year or the program will face discontinuation.
- **The FY 2025 Executive Budget includes \$3M for NOVELny**
- **In FY 2026, NYLA is requesting \$3.1M for NOVELny.**

2024 Legislative Initiatives

- Elimination of Library Construction Cap (S7093-A/A9076-A)
- eBook Purchasing Terms (S6868-A/A10544)
- Freedom to Read Act (S6350B/A6873B)
- Public Library Protection of Patron Access to Library Materials & Services (S7677-A/A7843-B)
- Civil Service Reform
- Media Literacy Package
 - Certified School Library Media Specialist Requirement, Professional Development, Advisory Group, Standards
- Access to Publicly Funded Research (S6562/A9139)
- Checkout New York (S5956-A/A4112-A)
- School Library Facility Modernization (S6744/A3174)
- Association Library Retirement Opt-In Option (S4245/A4885)
- Book Fair Tax Exemption (S5955-A/A5538-A)

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• Intellectual Freedom

• Freedom to Read Act - Schools (S.1099)

- “Such laws and rules established by the Commissioner (of Education) shall include policies to ensure that school libraries and library staff, including but not limited to certified library media specialists, are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available to school districts.”

• Open Shelves Act- Public (S.1100/A.3119)

- Such standards shall require every free association, public, and hospital library or, with the advice of the appropriate tribal government and library board of trustees, Indian library, which receives any portion of the moneys appropriated by the state to aid such libraries, to adopt policies and procedures that ensure library staff are able to curate and develop collections, services, and programming that reflect the interests of all people of the community that the library serves.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• eBook Licensing Reform

- A.3589 (AM Robert Carroll)
- Awaiting Reintroduction in Senate
- Establishes prohibited clauses & terms for contracts between publishers & libraries/library systems dealing with the purchase or licensing of electronic library materials (eBooks and electronic audiobooks).
- Fundamentally different from legislation previously vetoed by Gov. Hochul.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• Media Literacy

- “Media literacy education is a multidisciplinary expansion of traditional literacy instruction that teaches students to apply critical inquiry, reading, and reflection skills to all forms of media that they encounter, use, and create.”
- Includes aspects of information literacy, news literacy, visual literacy, AI literacy, and digital citizenship.
- Redefining Specific Legislative Goals & [working with aligned stakeholder groups](#) to appeal to State Ed. & Executive Chamber
- [DRNY Action Plan](#)
- Executive Budget includes \$1M for expanded Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Media Literacy Toolkit work but does not explicitly include a place for librarians.

Quick Tips for Effective Advocacy

Advocacy Quick Tips - Meetings

- **Have a plan & review plan with all participants**
 - Objectives, roles, elevator pitch, examples, etc.
- **Reinforce main requests with illustrative examples and personal experiences.**
 - *What will happen for your library / system if funding remains stagnant?*
 - *What can you do with a significant increase in funds?*
- **Balance being memorable with being concise.**
- **Finish by underlining your main points, saying thank you, and obtaining any contact information necessary to follow up.**

Advocacy Quick Tips - Continuous Advocacy

- **Effective Advocacy is continuous, intentional, and dynamic**

- Set objectives

- **Build Relationships with Elected Officials**

- [Assemblymember Lookup](#)
- [Senator Lookup](#)

- **Develop Your Advocacy Network**

- Members of the library community, patrons, community partners, etc.

- **Utilize Digital Advocacy**

- NYLA Take Action Campaigns
- [Digital Advocacy 101](#)



Questions?