



Library Advocacy Day 2026

Virtual Prep Session

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January 23, 2026

#LAD26 - Key Information

• Pre-Advocacy Day

- **When:** 9:30am – 5:00pm on Monday, February 2, 2026
- **Where:** New York State Museum - 222 Madison Ave, Albany, NY 12230
- **Parking:** Visitor lot next to the museum on Madison Avenue or in the Empire State Plaza Visitor Parking.
- **Register:** https://nyla.memberclicks.net/2026_Preadvocacy_Day_Reg

• Advocacy Day

- 8:00am – 3:00pm on Tuesday, February 3, 2026
- New York State Legislative Office Building (LOB) & Capitol
 - Entrance via Empire State Plaza Concourse or 198 State Street, Albany, NY 12210.
- Registration in the LOB starting at 8:00am
- 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 2026



The New York State legislative session calendar establishes a schedule for the 2026 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						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 7 2026 Legislative Session convenes
January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20 Final Day for Submission of Executive Budget

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

February 16 Presidents' Day
April 1 Beginning of new Fiscal Year
May 25 Memorial Day

 Indicates session day

New Committee Assignments

- **Assembly Libraries & Education Technology**

- AM Robert Carroll (Chair)
- AM Patrick Chludzinski (Ranker)
- AM Michaelle Solages
- AM Karen McMahon
- 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. Jose Serrano
- Sen. Jim Tedisco



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 20, 2026)
- One-House Budgets – March
- Enacted Budget – April 1st

• General Legislation

- Includes:

- New laws or changes to existing laws

- Timeline:

- Legislative Session – Jan. to June
- Post Budget Push
- Governor Action – As late as Dec. 31st



FY 2027 Budget Requests & Executive Budget

Request	FY2025 Enacted Budget	FY 2026 Enacted Budget	NYLA FY 2027 Requests	FY 2027 Executive Budget
Library Operating Aid	\$103.852	\$106.325M	\$181.32	\$104.67M
Library Construction Aid	\$44M	\$44M	\$175M	\$34M
Library Materials Aid	\$6.25/pupil	\$6.25/pupil	\$11.33/pupil	\$6.25/pupil
NOVELny	\$3M	\$3M	\$3.1M	\$3M
Office of Cultural Education Stabilization Funds	N/A	N/A	\$30/Transaction OR \$12M	\$12M

Funding Asks:

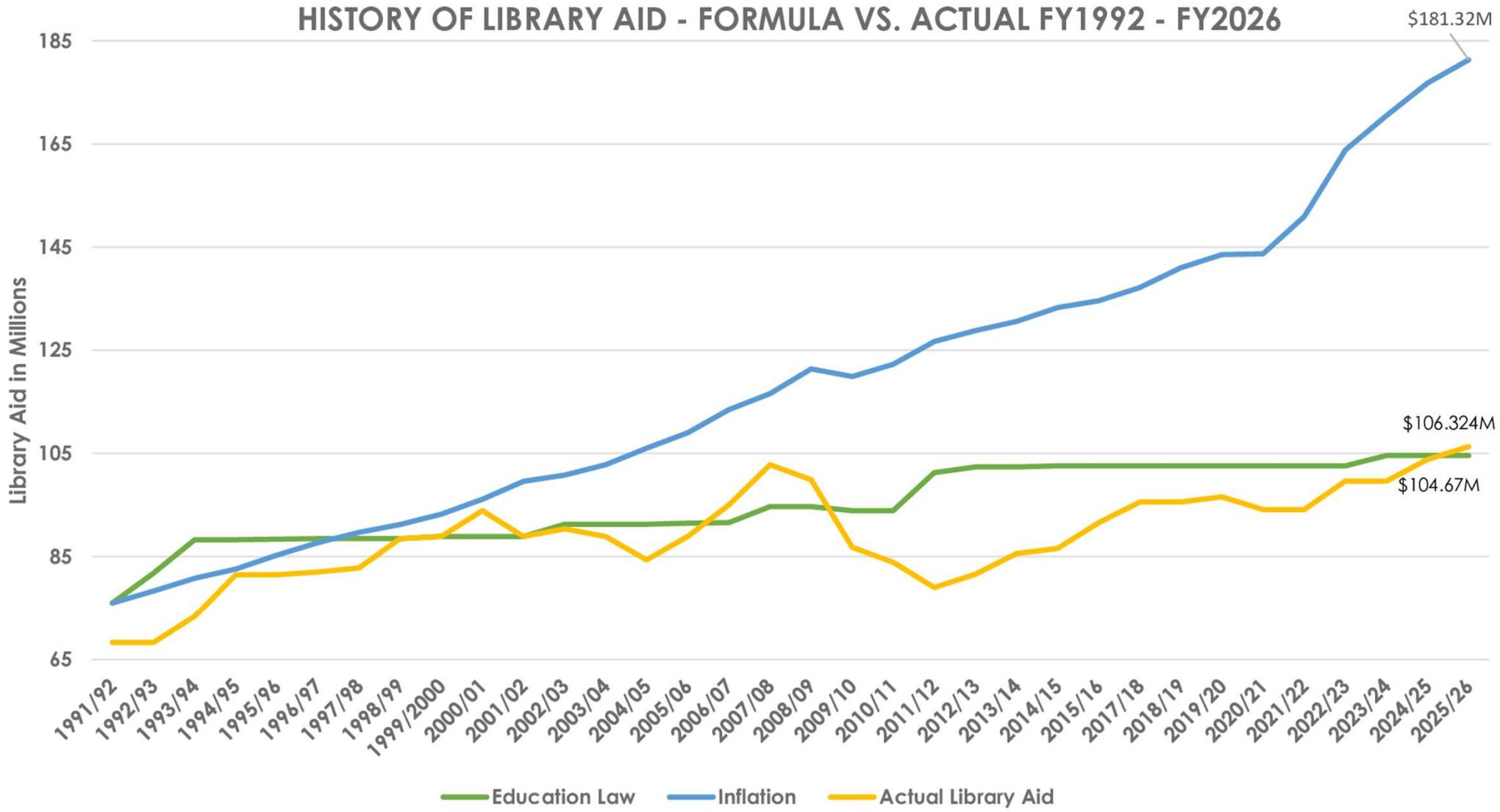
- **Operating Aid: \$181.32M**

- 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 2025 using the Consumer Price Index. Last year was the first year to match statutory funding requirements under NYS Ed. Law since FY 2008/2009, with over \$155M in cumulative funding shortfalls since that time and over \$207M since FY1991/1992.

- **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 2027 totals \$1.75 billion. The Governor's funding proposal represents just 1.9% of statewide needs.
- This ask represents 50% of one year of that need.

HISTORY OF LIBRARY AID - FORMULA VS. ACTUAL FY1992 - FY2026



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
- Same ask as last year to continue building momentum around the same number.

Funding Asks:

- **NOVELny: \$3M → \$3.1M**

- 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 and FY 2026 Executive Budgets included \$3M for NOVELny
- In FY 2027, NYLA is requesting \$3.1M for NOVELny to accommodate anticipated cost increases.

Funding Asks – New for FY 2027:

- **Office of Cultural Education Stabilization Funding: \$12M**
 - The Cultural Education Fee is the main source of funding for the Office of Cultural Education
 - It is a one-time fee collected by county clerks and clerks for the City of New York for real estate deed transfers.
 - The current fee of \$15 was set in 2002 and has not increased in 23 years, despite core costs like wages and employee benefits more than doubling in that period.
 - Supporting general fund appropriation of \$12 million.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• Intellectual Freedom

• Freedom to Read Act – School Library Focus ([S.8630](#) – May/A.9537 – Simone)

- This bill adds a new section to the Education Law governing school library materials. It requires boards of education to adopt and publicly post written policies for the development of school library collections and for the reconsideration of library materials. It establishes basic procedural requirements for handling challenges to library materials, including review committees, timelines, appeal pathways, and transparency.
- The bill prohibits the removal or restriction of library materials based solely on disagreement with ideas, viewpoints, or identities, and ensures that materials remain available while under review. It protects school library staff from discipline when acting in reasonable reliance on district policy, while preserving the role of boards of education and superintendents. The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to promulgate implementing regulations and develop model policies, and authorizes school library systems to provide additional guidance.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

- **Intellectual Freedom**

- **Open Shelves Act- Public Library Focus ([S.1100-A](#) / [A.3119-B](#))**

- It is the sense of the legislature that public libraries are essential to ensuring broad access to information, fostering informed citizenship, intellectual exploration, and imagination. By ensuring that library collections, services, and programming reflect diverse experiences and perspectives, the legislature seeks to maintain libraries as spaces where all members of the community can engage with the marketplace of ideas, promoting open access to information and points of view. Librarians are professionals trained to curate robust collections that serve the full spectrum of their communities, and this legislation affirms the state's trust in their ability to do so.
- 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 in a manner that shall be consistent with the values and protections established under the human rights law under article fifteen of the executive law and the equal rights amendment to the state constitution.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• eBook Licensing Reform

- A.3589 (AM Robert Carroll)
- 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.
- Also investigating other additional avenues for more targeted legislation that could provide avenues for relief.

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 – New information coming soon.
- No new funding for Media Literacy included in the FY 2027 Executive Budget.

Legislation: 2025 NYLA Legislative Priorities

• Civil Service Reform

- Pursue legislation to break down existing barriers to library staffing present in Civil Service.
- Long-term goals include continuous recruitment, standard grading metrics, exam modernization, fixing issues with retention from provisional to permanent appointment, lowering barriers to part-time hiring, and more.

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?