

Indiana Library Federation

2019 Advocacy Results (January - June)

Secured Funding in the State Budget ([HEA1001](#))

ILF successfully led advocacy efforts for funding in the biennial State budget, which included:

- **\$1,382,250 each year for [INSPIRE](#)**, Indiana's virtual library. Students and residents may continue to rely on scholarly articles, TeachingBooks.Net, test-prep programs, historical newspapers or more through this cost-effective consolidation of academic and popular digital resources.
- **\$1,585,000 annually for internet connectivity for public libraries and \$3,415,000 annually for school internet connectivity**, which helps libraries provide internet to millions of Hoosiers each year.



ILF supported funding for [Indiana State Library](#), which included annually \$2,526,140 for statewide library services and \$3,025,259 for Indiana State Library operations. HEA1001 also increased funding for **K-12 education** and expansion of the **On My Way Pre-K** program.

Advocated for Public Libraries

ILF advocated to maintain the property and local income tax structure for public libraries. ILF advocated on many policies that could or would impact libraries.



ILF effectively worked to amend [HEA1343, Libraries](#), a bill that *would have allowed fiscal bodies to zero out library funding and/or the tax levy*, to a law that allows the **option to require binding review over a library budget if certain criteria are met**. ILF successfully advocated to limit possible cuts to a proposed library budget or levy by no more than 10%, and to require public notice.

[HEA1214, Construction Managers as Constructors](#), added public libraries to the list of public agencies in a definition that will help with planned building projects by public libraries.

[HEA1427, Local Government Matters](#), made changes related to **processes with Department of Local Government Finance**, enables changes to the distribution of certified shares, and requested an interim **study of Local Income Tax and GIS mapping for future allocations**.

ILF worked with legislators to amend bills ([SB64](#) and [SB436](#)) related to **criminal history checks for library employees and volunteers**. While the bills ultimately died, we are preparing for 2020.

Mobilized Library Supporters



ILF successfully scheduled individual appointments with 74 legislators for the 65 participants in our [Library Day at the Statehouse](#) on March 12.

ILF actively **mobilized at least 400 library advocates** to make more than **900 contacts** with legislators during the legislative session—at local Third House sessions, through in person meetings and via telephone and email.

ILF is elevating libraries in communities. More than 25 libraries placed over **1,200 "I Love My Library" yard signs** around their towns during National Library Week in April. And over 6,000 library supporters around the state sport **"I Love Libraries" license plate covers** on their vehicles.

Support your Indiana libraries by getting involved in our advocacy. Learn more at www.ilfonline.org



Advocated for School Libraries

ILF advocated for school libraries with key stakeholders and policymakers.

- ILF disseminated the [2018 Status Report on Indiana School Libraries](#), which summarized the changing staffing and features of libraries in K-12 education.
- ILF advocated with legislators and policymakers about the importance of **certified school librarians and effective school library programs**.
- ILF worked with Avon High School and key stakeholders to propose a graduation pathway for "Library Information Science." While not successful, the effort helped to **elevate school libraries to administrators and policymakers**.

- In support of 25% of Indiana's school librarians who tested in to certification, ILF is promoting the new 16-credit hour [School Librarian Certificate](#) from IUPUI School of Informatics and Computing.
- ILF offered trainings on school library advocacy and intellectual freedom during **AISLE Camp** in June.

Developed Supporters and Fought Misinformation

ILF successfully educated legislators, state agencies, policy makers, key stakeholder groups to **elevate Indiana's academic, public and school libraries**. As with a few other states, certain outside groups challenged certain library programs and materials, making assertions about INSPIRE, Indiana's virtual library. ILF **led behind-the-scenes advocacy and communications to combat misinformation**.



Monitored Bills and Positioned ILF for Action

ILF maintains an active presence at the Statehouse, monitoring legislative and administrative policies, so that we are positioned to take action. ILF contracts for government affairs services through Bose Public Affairs.

Educated Library Advocates

ILF publishes its [ILF Advocacy Update](#) to over 3,000 subscribers, and offered **bi-weekly virtual updates** to ILF members throughout the legislative session. After HEA1343 was enacted, ILF provided members virtual training sessions about property taxes, local income taxes, capital improvement planning, communicating the public library budget and more.



Advocated for Federal Funding

ILF advocates for federal funding and supportive policy for libraries. In February, ILF met with Indiana's Congressional delegation to advocate for federal funding through the Library Services and Technology Act and reauthorization of the Institute for Museum and Library Services. LSTA funding supports resource sharing, access for people with disabilities, early childhood literacy and technology in Indiana.

Our approach to advocacy

- Indiana Library Federation is a statewide nonprofit association that is dedicated to advancing library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
- Indiana Library Federation is nonpartisan and reflects the core values of the library field, including lifelong learning, freedom of ideas and civil discourse.
- Indiana Library Federation monitors public policies that affect all types of libraries and the people who work in and support them. ILF engages its members and stakeholders to be positioned for action in library advocacy.

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Indiana Library Federation leads, educates and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
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