

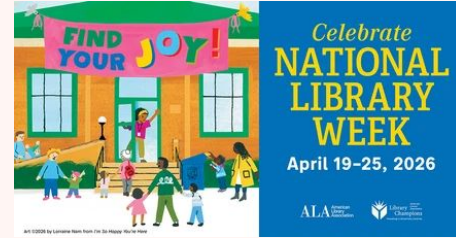
National Library Week 2026

# How to Advocate for Your Library



# Today's Session

## 01 National Library Week



## 02 Library Advocacy



## 03 Writing Your Story



## 04 Sharing Your Story

# Welcome!



Thank you for joining me today during National Library Week!

## Ursula Garcia

- Literacy Librarian
- Rancho Cucamonga
- 

## Your turn!

- Name
- Learner / Volunteer / Community Member
- City you live in

01

# National Library Week

An illustration of a hand with dark skin holding a black pole with a white sign. The sign has the text "WE LOVE LIBRARIES!" in bold, teal, sans-serif capital letters. The hand is wearing a teal sleeve. The background is light pink with white stars and a teal cloud-like shape in the top right. There are also green and white wavy lines in the bottom left and a cluster of teal dots at the bottom center.

**WE LOVE  
LIBRARIES!**

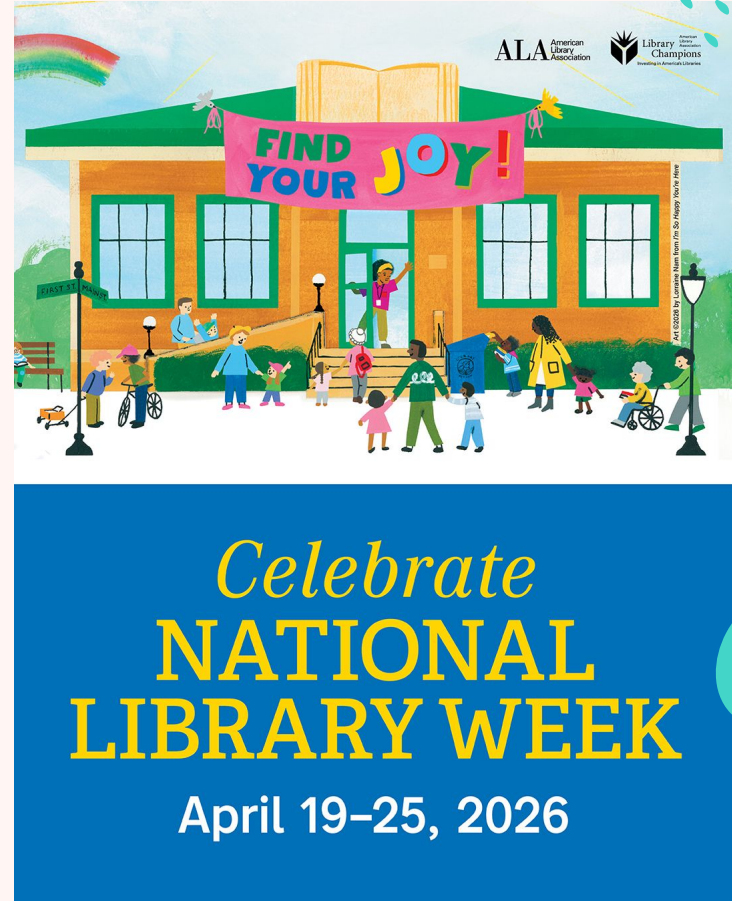
# What is National Library Week?

National Library Week is a yearly celebration of libraries and the people who work in them. We celebrate how they change lives and help our communities grow.

Take a moment.

Think of a memory you have in a library.

What comes to mind?



Learn more at <https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

# National Library Week



| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Tuesday                                                                                                             | Wednesday                                                                                                                | Thursday                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Right to Read Day</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>National Library Workers Day</u>                                                                                 | <u>National Library Outreach Day</u>                                                                                     | <u>Take Action for Libraries Day</u>                  |
| <p>A day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read.</p> <p>The American Library Association (ALA) also releases the list of the Top Ten Most Challenged Books of the last year.</p> | <p>A day for library staff, administration, and professionals to recognize the hard work of all library workers</p> | <p>A day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who meet their patrons where they are</p> | <p>A day to rally advocates to support libraries!</p> |
| #RightToReadDay                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | #NLWD26                                                                                                             | #LibraryOutreachDay                                                                                                      | #ForOurLibraries                                      |

# 02

## Library Advocacy





**What is advocacy?**

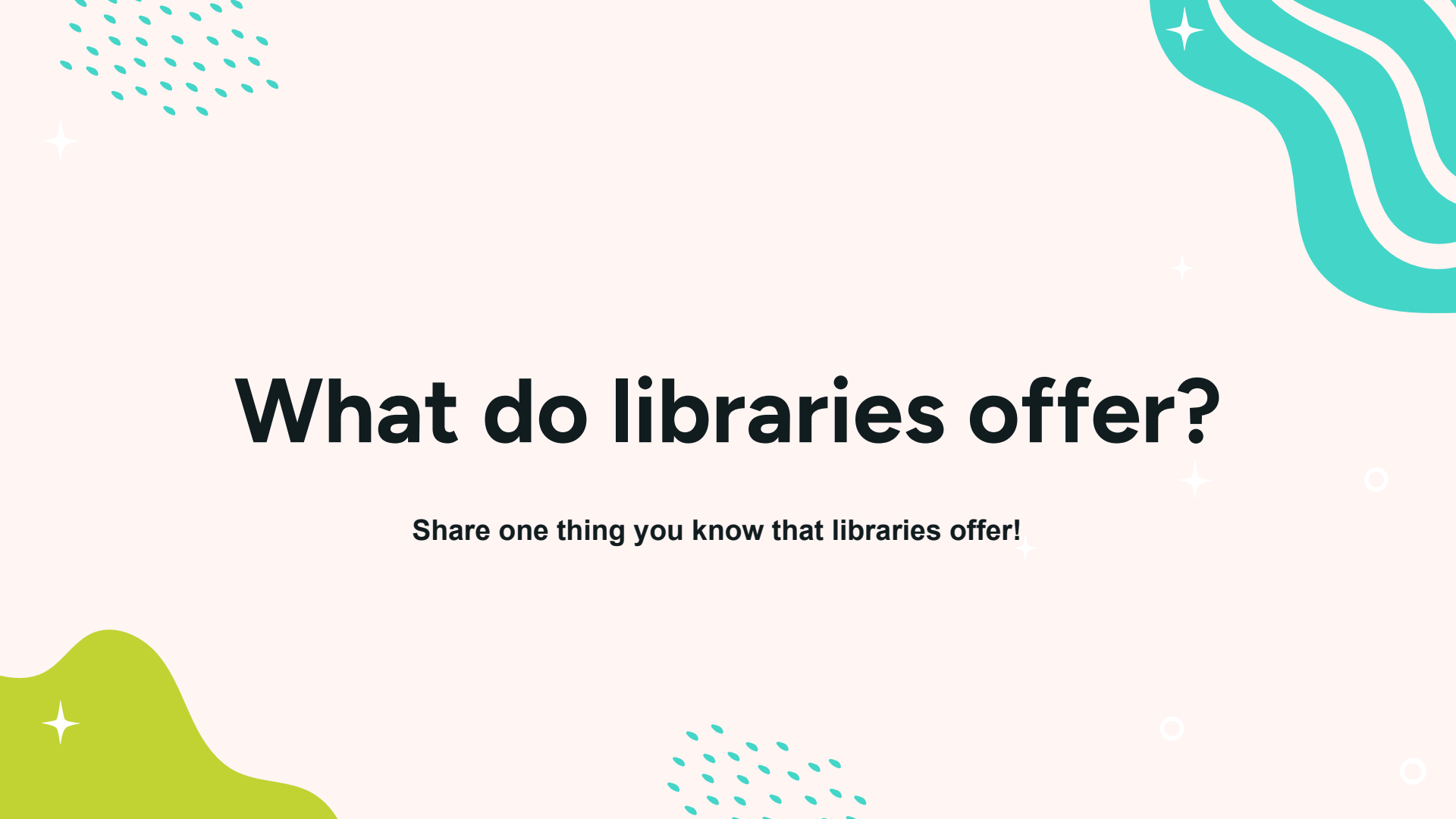


# Advocacy

[Ad-vuh-kuh-see] (n)

Advocacy is any action you take to support an idea or help a person. It means speaking up, asking for what is fair, and helping others get what they need.





# What do libraries offer?

Share one thing you know that libraries offer!

# Libraries offer...

## Books/Movies

(Of course~)

## Digital Library

Kanopy, eBooks,  
audiobooks, and learning  
resources

## Programming

Storytimes, book clubs,  
hobby clubs, workshops,  
Summer Reading  
Adventure, etc.

## Events & Help

Community events,  
lawyers, social workers in  
the library, book deliveries,  
etc.

## Passes/Items

State/County Park passes,  
Library of Things, Seed  
Library, etc.

## Literacy Help

Small-group classes, 1-on-1  
tutoring, ESL, citizenship,  
and more!

## What have you used at the library?

# What affects libraries the most?

## 1 Funding & Government Support

- Federal funding > Current administration wants to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) = less grants = less staff, programs, and services
- State funding > Similar to above

## 2 Community Support

- Less attended programs
- Little input about community interest

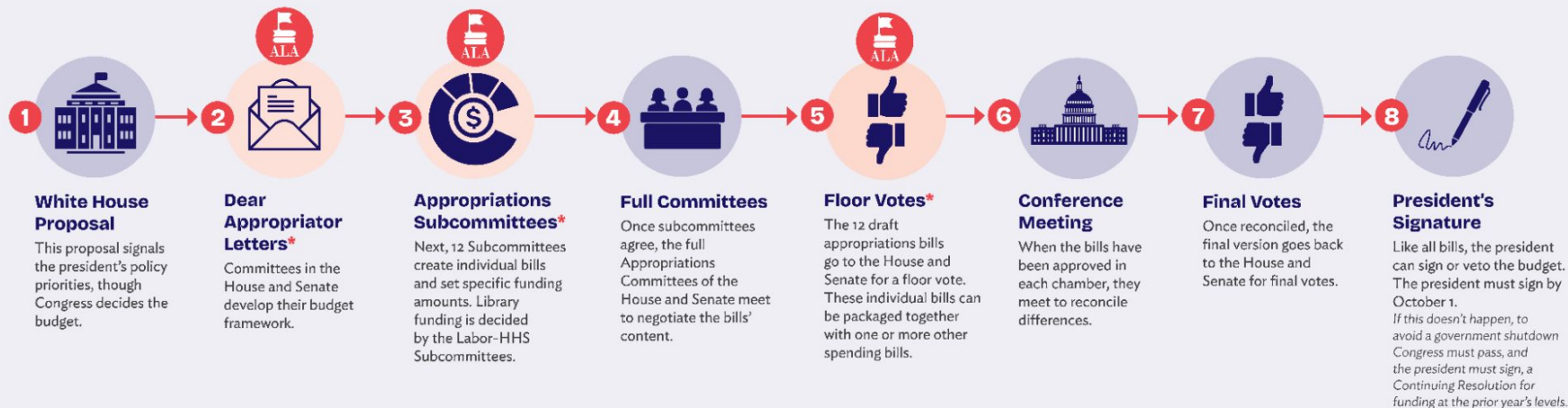
## 3 Censorship

- Misguided and harmful book bans

# The Path for Libraries in the Federal Budget



\* This icon shows where library supporters can take action!



# Happening Right Now! - Deadline 4/30

The California Library Association (CLA) is asking for immediate support in advocating for critical library funding in the 2026–27 State Budget. CLA is advocating for funding in three key areas:

1

## **California Library Services Act (CLSA) - \$3.2 million increase**

The CLSA is the loaning and lending program of the state. Funds are used to transport materials and buy cost-effective sharing of digital resources throughout the nine regions in California.

2

## **English as a Second Language (ESL) programs - \$3 million**

The funding that was previously given for ESL services stop at the end of June 2026, leaving thousands of people without service.

3

## **Lunch at the Library**

Serves hundreds of thousands of meals to children and teens during the summer months at the library or at pop-up events. For some of our food insecure youth, this is the only meal that they will receive during the day.

These programs expand access to resources, support literacy and workforce development, and provide essential services to children, families, and learners across the state .

# 03

## Writing Your Story

An illustration of two brown hands holding a white rectangular sign. The hands are positioned at the bottom corners of the sign. The background is a light pink color with various decorative elements: a teal cloud-like shape in the top right, a green wavy shape in the bottom left, and a cluster of small teal dots at the bottom center. There are several white starburst and circle shapes scattered throughout the background.

**Get out your  
writing  
tools!**

Find full template here:



**Let's start!**



**Introduction**



**Libraries  
Matter**



**Your Story**



**Call to Action**

# Introduction



## Introduction

- Name
- City you live in
- Who you are
- Why you're writing

## Libraries Matter

## Your Story

## Call to Action

(If sending an email) **Subject:** Please Support (reason for advocacy)

# Introduction

**State who you are and why you are writing the letter.**

—

Dear (Senator) or (Assemblymember):

My name is [Your Name]. I live in [City].

I am (a learner in my library's literacy program / an English learner / a volunteer with my library's literacy program / a community member).

I would like to respectfully request your support of funding in the 2026-27 State Budget for the following issues that are so critically important to the public library community:

- funding for library services in [city].
- funding for literacy services in our libraries.
- ESL funding in our libraries.
- the freedom to read/to fight censorship.

# Libraries Matter



**Introduction**

**Libraries  
Matter**

**Your Story**

**Call to Action**

- What does your library/library system offer that's important?
- Why does it need support?

# Libraries Matter

Share what libraries provide to help others and/or a statistic (local or statewide) if you can.

- Libraries help many adults (learn English / improve their reading and writing / \_\_\_\_\_).
- Many people in California (do not speak English very well / want to improve their English / are not able to read or write well / \_\_\_\_\_).
- Last year, libraries helped almost 4,900 adults learn English.
- I believe (ESL classes / literacy programs / Lunch at the Library / \_\_\_\_\_) are important because [your reason].
- These programs help people in their daily lives.
- Adults learn English to (talk to their child's teacher / talk to a doctor / find a job / feel more confident).

# Your Story



**Introduction**



**Libraries  
Matter**



**Your Story**

- Share your own  
personal connection  
to the library, its  
services, or  
programs



**Call to Action**

# Your Story

Share why you, your family, or your community are personally connected to this issue.

Let's take a moment to think:

- Why do you go to the library? Use library services?
- How does the library or its services help you or someone you know personally?
- What would happen if the library or its services were no longer available?



# Your Story

Share why you, your family, or your community are personally connected to this issue.

Complete 3–4 sentences with the starters below.

- 
- I came to the library because [reason].
  - I wanted to (learn more English / speak better at work / help my children / feel more confident / help my community).
  - The library's / Literacy's [name of program] program helped me [what changed for you].
  - Now I can (talk more easily / understand more / fill out forms / speak at work / help my family).
  - I hope this program (continues / can help more people like me).

# Call to Action



**Introduction**



**Libraries  
Matter**



**Your Story**



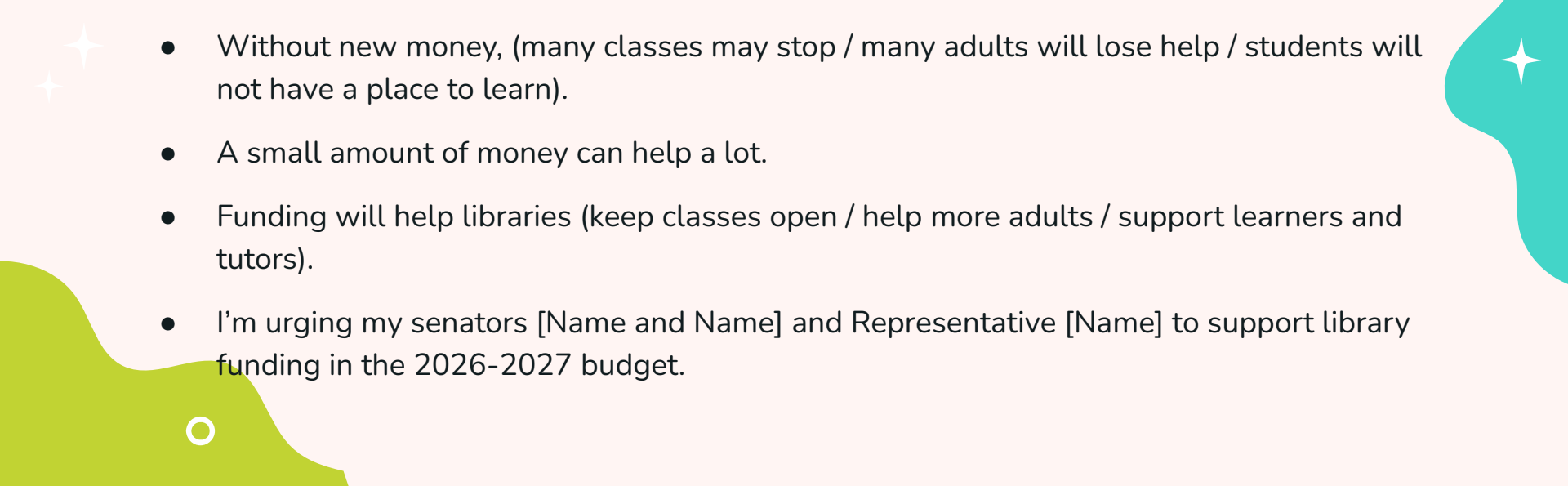
**Call to Action**

- What can your  
elected officials do?



# Call to Action

Tell your representative(s) why they need to take action and exactly what you want them to do to support libraries. Reaffirm the main point, offer a solution to the problem, and reinforce how important this is to you.

- 
- But the money for these programs (is not enough / will end in June 2026).
  - Without new money, (many classes may stop / many adults will lose help / students will not have a place to learn).
  - A small amount of money can help a lot.
  - Funding will help libraries (keep classes open / help more adults / support learners and tutors).
  - I'm urging my senators [Name and Name] and Representative [Name] to support library funding in the 2026-2027 budget.

# Farewell

- Thank you for reading my letter and for supporting ESL and literacy in California.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Email or Phone Number]

**04**

# **Sharing Your Story**



# Who should you share your story with?



## Your Circle

Your family, friends,  
coworkers, etc.!



## Representatives

- [commoncause.org/find-your-representative/#](https://commoncause.org/find-your-representative/#)
- [ballotready.org/](https://ballotready.org/)



## Your Community

Organizations, local news,  
etc.



Look up your address on one  
of the links.

Who are your local officials?

Who are your state officials?

# Call to Action

## If you have 5 minutes or more:

- Send a Message to Your U.S. Senators!
- Sign a petition at [action.everylibrary.org/](https://action.everylibrary.org/)
- Tell Congress to oppose censorship and book bans!



## If you have 10 minutes or more:

- Post on social media
- Share your library story with Congress or the American Library Association

## If you have more time:

- Write a letter to the editor (LTE) of your local news outlet (and let your officials know you've sent it to your local newspaper to show how much you care!)
- Read why the Institute for Museum and Library Services is so important across the country

Learn more: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>

# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

[Literacy@rivlib.net](mailto:Literacy@rivlib.net)

951-685-6901

[www.rivlib.net/services/literacy-services/](http://www.rivlib.net/services/literacy-services/)



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