

# BOARD ACADEMY



This publication shares information of interest to public library boards. Links to the resources and full content can be found in the e-newsletter version.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ECOSYSTEM?

### STATE BUDGET

As both the Senate and the House canceled weekend sessions, the State budget will not be on time this year. The Senate and the House added session days for this week, but if a budget is not passed nor if more days are added to reach that goal, September is the next scheduled session day for both chambers.

Unlike the previous years without an on-time budget, there does not appear to be any major bone of contention this year. Senate Appropriations Chair Joe Pittman has a positive outlook, believing that the Legislature will be able to have a budget passed and signed in early July. If the bill is passed in early July, impacts on residents will hopefully be minimal. If it goes much further, we'll begin to see impacts.

### PALA ADVOCACY ACTION NEEDED

Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is asking everyone to send an email, or make a phone call to your PA Representative and PA Senator. The message is for 3 things:

1. Please pass the budget and fiscal language in a timely manner! Last year, the distribution language for the Public Library Subsidy was not completed until December and had significant negative impact on district libraries and their services to member libraries. Many of our public libraries do not have large reserves to cover delayed payments.
2. We would like an increase of \$2.8 million =4% in the Public Library Subsidy line of the state budget. The public library subsidy is at \$70.47 million, but is still not restored to the \$75 million we had in 2001 and 2008. We need an increase to manage rising expenses and inflation.
3. Ask your legislator to send a message of support for the increase in the Public Library Subsidy to their party's Appropriation Committee Chairperson asap! Please add your own local library impact stories and information. The KEY is to get the message to your legislators AND have them send a message to their party's Appropriation Committee Chairperson.

**Find your local legislator at <https://snoelibraries.org/2023-legislative-session/>**

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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ECOSYSTEM? (CONT'D)

### LIBRARY REGULATIONS UPDATE

The Regulations Exposure Draft revisions were released. You can find it, along with other clarifying documents, at <https://pa-gov.libguides.com/libraryregulations>.

**As a refresher: These are draft regulations and not in effect. It would be as early as 2026-2027 if they pass. The Library Code (which lays out the standards to receive State aid) is composed of two parts: the Statutes and the Regulations. The Statutes are law, passed by the Legislature, and can only be edited by an act of the Assembly. The Regulations enact the Statutes and provide better clarity and definitions for the broader terms contained in the law.**

Our current Regulations have not been updated since the 1980s and do not properly enact the 2012 statute revisions. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries have been working over the past year to revise the Regulations to present their Exposure Draft. The revised draft has taken all of the feedback from the field into account and is now ready for submission for review and public comment through the International Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC).

**It is not a public document at this time or in this version. The IRRC will have a public comment period during their process (likely this fall).**

We'll continue to keep you posted. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your district consultant. As with anything State related, there are a lot of pieces to this process, and we'll do our best to clarify what we can.



#### Hierarchy of Library Law

Statutes: Laws enacted by the legislature.

Regulations: Written by administrative agencies to fill in the details of how to apply statutes. They increase flexibility and efficiency in the operation of laws.

Policies: How the agency interprets and implements regulations.

Guidance: Best practice

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## TIMELY TOPICS & SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

### ADVOCACY - FREE WEBINAR

#### Advocacy in a Polarized World

As our political world becomes more and more divided, communicating with those who you may not agree with becomes more and more crucial. This session by EveryLibrary teaches the principles of "The Three Languages" of politics and how to apply them when communicating with people from across the political spectrum. Building upon those principles, you will also learn how to effectively use data, stories, and research to craft compelling, resonant messages.

Register:

[www.everylibraryinstitute.org/advocacyinapolarizedworld](http://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/advocacyinapolarizedworld)

Prepare by reading the free ebook of "The Three Languages of Politics" by Arnold Kling (find it at <https://www.cato.org/three-languages-of-politics>)



### SNOE RESOURCE LIBRARY

Have you checked out our website, [www.snoelibraries.org](http://www.snoelibraries.org)?

We've added some great FAQs and checklists to help you and your director manage the operations of your library - topics like Right-to-Know laws, Insurance, and maintaining nonprofit status.

There's also some tools under "Library Self-Assessments" - if you want to know where your library stands on some basic benchmarks, check these forms out! They are great tools for strategic plan development, board training, and director orientation.

Here's a sample from the Human Resources section:

#### Frequently Used Links

- Clearances
  - [PA Criminal History](#)
  - [PA Child Abuse](#)
  - [FBI Fingerprinting](#) (Employee Code: 1KG756/Volunteer Code: 1KG6ZJ)
  - [Mandated Reporter Training](#)
- [Librarian Certification Portal](#) (TIMS)

#### Checklists and Guides

- [New Hire Paperwork](#) (August 2023)
- [Labor Law Posters](#) (May 2024)
- [Guide for Transitioning Directors](#) (September 2023)

#### Recent Explainers

[FAQ: Staff & Volunteer Clearances](#)

May 24, 2024

[FAQ: Comp Time & Flex Time](#)

September 22, 2023

[Labor Law Required Posters](#)

September 15, 2023

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## SNOE REGION

We've been hearing from board members that they would like to learn more about their role on the board, within the library, and library-related information from across the State. So, we're coming to you with a new publication: Board Academy. This will be distributed by e-mail about 4 times a year, with special editions to cover major breaking news. There will also be a PDF version available to print for distribution to other members of your board. While SNOE had previously put energy into the SNOEBall Advocacy e-newsletters, those resources will be converted to a webpage soon for on-demand access.

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The SNOE Region is a cooperative initiative of the Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, and Erie & Crawford Library Districts to help develop and strengthen the libraries in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

This information is provided to the best of our knowledge as of the date provided. Information is subject to change without notice. While authoritative, it is not guaranteed for accuracy or legalities. If there are questions, please reach out to your district consultant, who may encourage your library to ask a local solicitor/lawyer for further guidance.

If you have any questions about this publication or previous editions' content, feel free to reach out to all of the SNOE Region's District Consultants at [consultant@snoelibraries.org](mailto:consultant@snoelibraries.org). If you have questions on any topics related to board governance, duties, advocacy, or libraries, please feel free to reach out to your library's District Consultant:

Leslie LaBarte, Seneca Library District: [districtconsultant@senecadistrictlibraries.org](mailto:districtconsultant@senecadistrictlibraries.org)

Erin Joyce, Oil Creek Library District: [consultant@oilcreek.org](mailto:consultant@oilcreek.org)

Jessica Church, Erie & Crawford Library District: [districtconsultant@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:districtconsultant@eriecountypa.gov)