

# Missouri Library Advocacy Day

2/7/23

## Main Talking Points

1. MLA supports the library funding request by the Secretary. The Secretary of State requested \$4.5 million for State Aid to Public Libraries and \$3.1 million for the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) program.

The REAL program The Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) Program supports library costs for internet access, technical support and online resources for library patrons.

2. MLA supports full funding for all qualifying agencies as outlined in the Statutes for the Non-Resident Athletes and Entertainers Tax. Libraries receive 10% of the funding distributed for the purpose of buying materials and fund resource sharing efforts such as interlibrary loan and courier service. The Secretary of State has requested \$3.2 million for the Library Networking Fund transfer.

## Additional Talking Points

4. Libraries help kids stay on grade-reading level through the Summer Library Program. MO libraries saw a 75% increase in participation in summer 2022, back to pre-pandemic levels of participation. 139 libraries provided a summer learning program last year.

Did your library see an increase in summer library program participants or completions this year? What other ways has your library supported the learning of youth in your community?

5. As a legislative priority, MLA supports the expansion of broadband across Missouri, and legislation that provides that goal in an equitable manner to bridge, and ultimately, eliminate, the technology gap.

In 2022, Missouri libraries continued to meet the expanding digital needs of their communities by providing internet access. MO libraries saw 4.87 million Wi-Fi sessions. 40% of MO public libraries made hotspot lending programs available to help their communities access online resources outside library walls. 3,350 hotspot device checkouts happened in 2022 alone.

Did your library checkout Hotspot devices or provide internet access through Wi-Fi, public computers, and/or other internet services to your community? What statistics can you share with your legislator on your library's internet services provided to your community?

6. What other services did your library provide in 2022 that you think would be beneficial to share with your legislator?

### **Best Practices**

1. Remember the Representatives and Senators are very busy.
2. Cover the two or three most important points first. Then cover others if you have time.
3. Find a way to tie the points to the legislator's district or constituency.
4. If the Representative or Senator isn't there when you drop by, ask if there is another time they might be available. If not, give the legislative aid a brief explanation of your points, and give them the packet and a library pin.
5. It is important to know enough about bills in question to be able to answer basic questions, but you don't need to be an expert.
6. Remember that you provide a great service to the people of each Representative or Senator's district.
7. Remember to thank the Representative or Senator for their service and offer to handle any Library or related questions that get directed toward their office.