

## **Policy on GLA Legislative Advocacy**

This policy is to serve as the guiding document directing the Georgia Library Association in matters related to advocating for or against proposed legislation.

The Executive Board will charge the Government Relations Committee to develop a list of legislative priorities for the organization as a whole to advocate for every year. Anyone interested in contributing items for consideration should submit them to the Chair of that committee. The Government Relations Committee will select the issues to focus on, craft a message and plan for implementing these priorities, and then they will submit it to the Board for approval. Typically, the organization will focus on three main areas of concern: legislation specifically targeted at libraries or archives, bills that affect library funding, and matters related to intellectual freedom.

In the event that there is a legislative issue that comes forward that requires a more immediate response, the Executive Board will be empowered to draft and publish statements on behalf of the organization via their agreed upon methods for deciding business. These issues should still be submitted to the Chair of the Government Relations Committee who will serve as the point person on these matters.

While we recognize that many issues touch on libraries directly and indirectly, the diversity of viewpoints contained with the Georgia Library Association does not allow for the Association to take a unified stand on any issues directly outside of our legislative priorities of encouraging library funding, serving as an adviser to legislators on bill's with a specific library focus, and on matters of intellectual freedom and information policy. We however encourage all of our members to advocate for things that they believe in on their own behalves. Whenever possible, the association will link to appropriate toolkits for personal advocacy to encourage personal member involvement in the legislative process.

Discussion of legislative priorities is welcome on the listserv, but all listserv discussions must occur in accordance with the association's current set of listserv rules.