



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA) CAMPAIGN GUIDANCE

Background: Following the American Library Association’s (ALA) recent election of Emily Drabinski, a self-proclaimed “Marxist lesbian” who has characterized the efforts of parents to eliminate pornography and far-left ideology from state libraries as representative of “Christo-fascist right”¹ “extremists” with a “far-right white supremacist fascist approach,” the organization and its respective state counterparts have come under increased and warranted scrutiny for its unapologetic progressivism.² With Drabinski’s proclaimed goal of “queering the landscape of library publishing and scholarship”³, those who continue to submit to the ALA’s authority are consenting to the continued use of taxpayer dollars to support an institution that has openly embraced cultural Marxism, critical race theory, and gender ideology, all the while creating barriers for people of faith and other concerned citizens who find the ALA’s agenda to be largely inconsistent with America’s biblical founding and Judeo-Christian ideals.⁴

While certainly not exhaustive, the following additional reasons herein may be used as talking points lending support to the counties seeking to terminate their membership with the woke ALA and their state counterparts to further demonstrate their unfitness to influence county and city library policies:

I. National:

- **Advocating for sexually explicit content:** In a list of the 13 most “challenged” sexually explicit books aimed at children, the ALA encouraged readers to “protect” the books challenged by concerns parents who do not wish for their children to be exposed to obscene materials. The list includes titles such as *Gender Queer*, *All Boys Aren’t Blue*, *Flamer*, and *This Book is Gay*, among others. See [“National Library Week kicks off with the highly anticipated annual list of Top 10 Most Challenged Books and State of America’s Libraries Report.”](#)
- **Pushing intersectionality, critical race theory, and queer academic activism:** The 2023 ALA Conference was dedicated to how to “stop book-banning,” featuring panels such as “Changing the Narrative: ALA Policy Corps Takes on Book Banners” and “Fight Book Bans: Frame the Debate, Fill the Seats, and Create Connections.” The conference also included

¹See [Drabinski 2022 Tweet](#); Drabinski, E. (2022). “[Divestment Poses as Great a Threat to Libraries as Book Bans.](#)” *Truthout*; and ALN Conference, “[Keynote 1-Emily Drabinski: Organizing for Change.](#)” (starting at 5:25 mark). *YouTube*.

²Following the [Montana State Library Commission’s decision to withdrawal from the ALA](#) as well as [Missouri’s decision to cut ties from the ALA](#), several states in the State Freedom Caucus Network have called for their respective states to withdraw from the ALA. This includes the GA Freedom Caucus (statement available [here](#)). The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has also announced that it plans to part ways with the ALA, see [here](#). This is following Rep. Brian Harrison’s letter calling for removal, available [here](#).

³See Drabinski’s article, “[Queering the Catalog: Queer Theory and the Politics of Correction](#)” published in *The Library Quarterly*: 2013, pp. 94–111.

⁴For religious-based discrimination, see “Kirk Cameron on American Library Association’s attempt to shut families out: ‘Why all the hate?’” in the *Washington Examiner*, (July 9, 2023), available [here](#).

controversial author Ibram X. Kendi, the critical race theory activist who wrote "How to be an Antiracist," in addition to queer and transgender writers who hosted the ALA's "Beyond the Middle School Rainbow: Intersectionality in LGBTQIA+ Middle Grade Books" session. See "[2023 Annual Wrap-Up](#)."

- **Thwarting faith-based library events:** The ALA promulgated guidance to block Christian groups from gathering in public libraries on August 5th for Kirk Cameron's Brave Book Story Hours, with one ALA director providing recommendations on how libraries could employ "full capacity" arguments to discourage the utility of public meeting room use for these events. See "[ALA Video Evidence of Circulated Guidance](#)."⁵
- **Promoting the updating of cataloging subject headings "illegal alien" in favor of "noncitizens":** The ALA has promoted the politicization of language deemed "offensive" such as the term "illegal alien" that the ALA has called "outdated" and "dehumanizing." The ALA has admitted that this language strategy "reflects common terminology and respects library users and library workers from all backgrounds" while advancing "the core value of social justice for ALA members, who have been at the vanguard of this change for years." See "[ALA Welcomes Removal of Offensive 'Illegal aliens' Subject Headings](#)."
- **Maintaining Soros-based connections:** The ALA has been the recipient of a \$350,000 grant from the George Soros-funded group, Open Society Institute. See "Open Society Institute gives American Library Association \$350,000 seed grant." The organization has a long-documented history with Soros, as he was also awarded their "James Madison Award" back in 1997. See "[ALA: George Soros](#)."
- **Encouraging local librarians to alter existing library material to "sneak" in LGBTQ+ content:** A direct quote from this guidance states "For instance, if you're reading a book about a Mama bear and a Papa bear, maybe when you read it, you just change it to be about 2 Papa bears!" See "[ALA Guide to Grooming Young Readers](#)."
- **Launching "United Against Book Bans" with CRT-focus to counter parental concerns around book banning:** The ALA created a group called "Unite Against Book Bans" that operates under the auspices of concerns around the 1st Amendment to avoid addressing legitimate concerns around sexually explicit content. This group also hosted a "Rally for the Right to Read" event led by CRT activist Ibram X. Kendi. See "[Acclaimed Author Ibram X. Kendi to headline Rally for the Right to Read before ALA Conference](#)."
- **Issuing an "Embracing Gender Identities" reading list for those aged 0-5 years old:** This list published by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the ALA, features "works that challenge gender norms and explore the wide spectrum of gender identity."⁶ See "[Embracing Gender Identities](#)."

II. State-Specific:

a) Georgia Library Association (GLA):

- **Establishing the GLA Gender and Sexualities Diversities Interest Group:** The group's stated purpose is "to advocate for and advance the voices of LGBTQIA+ individuals in

⁵See also U.S. Senate Letter written by Senators Rubio, Cramer, and Braun condemning the ALA's discrimination against religious publishers and calling for an investigation of the ALA's conduct, available [here](#).

⁶Courtesy of findings published in the American Accountability Foundation's study, "The ALA's Promotion of Cultural Marxism," published July 27, 2023, available [here](#).

Georgia libraries through networking and collaboration” with an emphasis on “collaborative programming for the annual Georgia Libraries Conference. See [“Interest Groups.”](#)

- **Elevating “Inclusive Programming” for the LGBTQ+ community:** Endorsing the LGBTQ+ Media Club in Cobb County Libraries designed to “broaden understanding of the queer experience.” See [“Libraries are for Everyone: Inclusive Programming for the LGBTQ+ Community.”](#)
- **Aligning with the ALA in promoting the CRT-based concept of “systemic racism”:** A joint effort by the GLA with the ALA and the Black Caucus of ALA in “strongly condemning systemic violence and racism” and “fighting against the historical and continued impact of racism in Georgia libraries of all types, which creates unjust barriers of access to knowledge and information.” See [“Georgia Library Association Statement Against Racism.”](#)

b) Texas Library Association (TLA):

- **Creating the “Queers and Allies Round Table” to address “discrimination and censorship”:** To address “fairness and discrimination in personnel decisions and in collections; censorship; collection development; networking; and sharing information.” See [“Q+A RT: A resource for LGBTQIA patrons.”](#)
- **Launching the deceptive “Texans for the Right to Read” in response to “book banning”:** With the state purpose “to amplify and unify the voices of librarians, educators, parents, students, authors, and others who oppose widespread, coordinated efforts to apply subjective criteria in order to ban books across the state.” See [“TLA Launches Texans for the Right to Read, Statewide Coalition Opposed to Book Banning.”](#)
- **Featuring Drag Queens at the annual TLA Conference:** Speakers included adult entertainers who headlined the TLA’s “After Hours Keynote” and “Drag Queen Story Hour” events. At least 6 other panels were focused on LGBTQ+ issues, including one with the purpose of “helping students become anti-racists, allies, and fluent in the language and ideas of social justice.” See [“TLA 2022 Annual Conference Program.”](#)

c) Florida Library Association (FLA):

- **Developing the “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility” Value Statements:** Dedicated to “intentional, anti-racist actions” and “the insidious and persistent racism present in our nation.” See [“FLA Statement on Racial Justice”](#) and [“Florida Library Association Announces Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Value Statements.”](#)
- **Adopting the FLA Statement on Pride Month to advance DEI and social justice:** Statement in which the FLA expresses its “goal” for “Florida libraries to act in accordance with current research on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, belonging, and social justice (DEIA) within our association and to affirm the rights of our LGBTQIA+ community, along with those representing a multiplicity of identities and issues” while “allowing everyone access to materials, facilities, activities, and programs that are consistent with their gender identity.” See [“FLA Statement on Pride Month.”](#)
- **Headlining LGBTQ+ Activist Writer as Keynote Speaker for the annual FLA Conference:** The Conference featured Nalo Hopkinson, an openly queer writer who received the Gaylactic Spectrum Award for “positive LGBTQ representation.” See [“2023](#)

FLA Program.”

- **Featuring pro-CRT panel at 2021 FLA Library Association Annual Conference focused on combating “anti-racism” and “systemic” transphobia:** Panel comprised of “BIPOC library professionals” advocating for acknowledging “the existing...exclusionary, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and more structures (i.e., policies, practices, cultural norms, etc.) that undergirds our societies” with “inclusion, equity, diversity, accessibility, anti-racism, and racial justice” serving “at the core of our values and embedded in our daily practice.” See “[Leading Inclusively: BIPOC Library Workers Perspective.](#)”

CALL TO ACTION

Citizens Defending Freedom has developed the following resource to empower leadership at the county level to protect our children and safeguard civil and religious liberties from the ALA’s overreach.

Note that despite any state-wide attempts calling for removal or divestment from the ALA⁷, requiring that the ALA’s influence be rooted out of each county is ultimately a local light and local action initiative. Therefore, identifying who has the authority over the library system is paramount to determine with whom to address this matter.

- **Texas (Commissioner’s Court System):** See [Texas Local Gov. Code, Chapter 323: County Libraries., Sec. 323.006](#): “The county library is under the general supervision of the commissioners court. It is also under the supervision of the state librarian who, in person or by an assistant, shall periodically visit the library, inquire as to its condition, advise the librarian and the commissioners court about the library, and give whatever assistance possible in matters that relate to the library”).⁸
- **Georgia (County Library Boards/Boards of Trustees):** See [GA Code § 20-5-41 \(2022\)](#): “Each library system shall be governed by a board of trustees. Each system shall have a governing board of trustees but may have other affiliated boards of trustees for member libraries. The county board of library trustees shall exercise authority in a county system. The regional board of library trustees shall exercise authority in a multicounty system.”
- **Florida (Library Boards/County Boards):** “Cooperative library systems are directed by a cooperative coordinator who may be employed by the cooperative’s governing board (e.g., the libraries in Okaloosa, Pinellas, and Polk counties), by the county (e.g., Lake) or by a member library (e.g., in Hendry and Hillsborough counties). Each member library is administered by its own library director rather than by a single centralized director.” See [FL Library Landscape](#).

At the county level:

- Determine if libraries in your respective county prescribe or adopt ALA standards. This means reviewing your county or city library policies to identify if the ALA is recommended

⁷This includes [the announcement of the decision made by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission \(TSLAC\)](#) that it plans to part ways with the ALA following Rep. Brian Harrison’s letter calling for removal, available [here](#).

⁸There is still significance to TSLAC’s announcement to cut ties with the ALA given TSLAC’s role in recommending the adoption of ALA standards in Texas public libraries to the SBOE. Under HB 900 recently passed by the Texas Legislature, TSLAC is required to adopt new standards that will be used for the collection and development of books to be considered appropriate for Texas public libraries. If TSLAC and the ALA separate, these standards can be developed apart from the ALA’s influence. For more, see [here](#).

in any of their material, including at the county/municipal library level.

- Check for any reference to the Texas Library Association (TLA), the Florida Library Association (FLA), and the Georgia Library Association (GLA) in these policies, as these are all considered state/regional chapters of the ALA.

For more, please see “ALA—Our Association---Chapters---State and Regional Chapters”:
[Texas Library Association](#), [Florida Library Association](#), [Georgia Library Association](#).

- Keep in mind that references to the ALA and their respective state-chapters are not always obvious. Reviewing the County/City Library policy and procedures can be helpful in locating this information. At other times, this content may be featured at the bottom of the website in the material selection policy.
- Consider the example of [Texas’s Harris County Collection Policy](#) which states at the bottom of the web page, “The Library has adopted the Library Bill of Rights, [the ALA Code of Ethics](#), as well as statements affirming the Freedom to Read and the Freedom to View.”)

References to the ALA Code of Ethics is also a clear giveaway that the county library system follows the ALA’s guidance.

- In the event this information is not available online, consider submitting a Public Information Request (PIR) to your county/city for records related to membership in the ALA, including the TLA/GLA/FLA.
- Contact your local chapter of Citizens Defending Freedom (full list of counties available [here](#)) who may be able to offer assistance in shaping a local strategy to modify any policies that once made reference to the ALA or its respective state affiliates to instead reflect local values.