

2012

West Virginia Library Association's Legislative Goals

On behalf of all the children and adults who use our public, school, academic, special and other libraries in the state, we thank you for your support. This support has allowed libraries to purchase more materials, extend hours, and keep the lights on so that we can provide great services to our communities.

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Increase Grants-in Aid by \$452,838 to bring the total to \$8,801,722. Our goal is \$6.50 per capita and this would be a modest increase in the current per capita funding, to \$4.75, which would account for the 2010 census figures.

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Establish a new line item of \$1,500,000 providing for library construction, maintenance and renovation in the Library Commission's budget. These funds would be used on a matching basis with local libraries and would assist libraries in seeking funds from other sources. Many libraries in the state were built over 30 years ago and are in need of renovation and repair. These funds would greatly assist libraries in making library buildings more user friendly and in compliance with the ADA guidelines.

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Require school libraries and librarians in every school. Schools should be required to have a certified librarian. School libraries have been proven to improve student learning and achievement and West Virginia should support having a school librarian in every school without being assigned other teaching responsibilities.

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