



October 7, 2024

Advocates for All Arkansas Libraries (AAAL) and The Arkansas Library Association (ArLA), with assistance from EveryLibrary, recently conducted a series of surveys for candidates running for state office in Arkansas to gauge their support for school and public libraries and gain their insights regarding current issues facing libraries. Surveys were conducted during both the primary election and the general election cycles.

The Candidate Questionnaire was launched to inform the public about the positions of their candidates on these school and public library issues. Candidates overwhelmingly expressed their support for school and public libraries both in library funding and in supporting the First Amendment rights of library patrons. These results mirror the public sentiment expressed in the University of Arkansas' 2023 Arkansas Poll, which showed an 83% approval rating for public libraries in the state. Selected and summarized responses from general election candidates include:

- 100% of respondents Strongly Disagreed or Disagreed with supporting a local measure that would take away funding from essential library services in additional public libraries.
- 88% of respondents would support additional State Library funding during the next legislative session in an effort to prevent public library closures.
- 96% of respondents support state appropriations to promote, aid, and equalize public library services in Arkansas.
- 100% of respondents would support increased funding to the State Library to ensure that schools and universities across the state can maintain access to Traveler databases.
- 92% Strongly Disagree or Disagree with supporting the Arkansas State Library board withholding funds based on certain books held in a public library.

You can view the complete list of the questions, cumulative responses, and a list of those who responded below or at the following link <https://bit.ly/3zOruDG>

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