



TEN WAYS

YOU CAN HELP YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



01

GET (AND USE!) YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Actively using your library card to borrow books, ebooks, graphic novels, media, and other resources is critical to helping libraries maintain and expand their annual public funding sources.



02

VOTE IN YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Find out what elected body oversees your library - is it a city council, a library board, or some other group? Support, vote for, and advocate for elected officials who will support public libraries.



03

SPEAK UP AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Once you know who the decision makers are, attend public meetings and make public comments on the record. Not sure what your library needs? Get to know your director and staff, and ask them.



04

REQUEST MATERIALS YOU WANT TO SEE

Most libraries accept - and indeed welcome! - patron requests for books or other media, and will buy those materials for the community. If you want to see a more diverse collection, submit a request!



05

JOIN A LIBRARY SUPPORT GROUP

Most libraries have a Friends of the Library group or a foundation that helps support the library. Join other library lovers to help volunteer, fundraise, and get the word out to your neighbors!



06

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT LIBRARIES

Libraries work tirelessly to get the word out about programs and services - and you can help! Tell your friends and neighbors about what's happening at your local library and all it has to offer.



07

SHOW UP TO PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Actively attend programs that your library is putting on, and bring a friend (or five). Branch out and try new options - many libraries depend on meeting attendance goals to maintain diverse programming.



08

FIGHT CENSORSHIP AND BOOK BANS

Speak up locally for the freedom to access and read diverse materials - fight back against book bans and censorship. For more, visit UniteAgainstBookBans.org to learn about ongoing efforts you can join.



09

DONATE TO SUPPORT GROUPS OR EFFORTS

Public funding rarely meets all the needs of a library - if you are able to give money, donate to support programs and services that matter to you.



10

RUN FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICE

Become a decision maker! Run for your local library board, town council, or city government to pass policies and budgets that support and protect libraries.