

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.A**

MEETING DATE: **May 17, 2024**

SUBJECT: **ALA Councilor Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Nick Tepe**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

ALA President and Council Election Results

Raymond Pun, Academic and Research Librarian at the Alder Graduate School of Education in California has been elected 2024-2025 president-elect of the American Library Association.

Pun received 5,611 votes, while his opponent, Sam Helmick, Community & Access Services Coordinator at Iowa City Public Library, received 2,778 votes.

Upon learning the outcome of the election, Pun said, "Thank you to each and every member who voted, and became part of the ALA community to make our profession and association stronger together. I am truly honored for this opportunity to lead our association with you all. My deepest thanks to Sam Helmick for standing in the election with me during this critical time."

Pun currently serves as the immediate past president of the Chinese American Librarians Association and was past president of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. Pun previously served on the ALA Council, ALA Policy Corps, and as a member of the advisory committees for two ALA past presidents. Pun is a member of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Pun holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fresno; a Master of Library Science from CUNY Queens College; a Master of Arts in East Asian Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in History from St. John's University in New York.

Congratulations to Dayton Metro Library branch manager Bradley Kuykendall for his election as Councilor-at-large.

ALA Releases State of America's Libraries 2024 Report

On April 8, the American Library Association released its [State of America's Libraries 2024](#) report, an annual summary of library trends. The report was published during National Library Week, this year being held April 7–13.

Censorship attempts took center stage again in the 2024 report. The number of unique titles targeted for censorship surged by 65% from 2022 to 2023, reaching the highest levels ever documented by ALA, according to the report.

ALA recorded 1,247 attempts to censor materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2023. 4,240 unique titles were challenged or banned in 2023. The most frequently challenged are featured in [Unite Against Book Bans' book résumés resource](#).

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Launched in February, these résumés provide information to help librarians, educators, parents, students, and other community advocates defend books from censorship.

Each résumé summarizes the book's significance and educational value, including a synopsis, reviews from professional journals, awards, and accolades. Where available, book résumés include information about how a title has been successfully retained in school districts and libraries after a demand to censor the book.

ALA Cancels LibLearnX 2026

The American Library Association (ALA) announced March 11 that its Executive Board has decided not to hold LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience in 2026, citing financial reasons and other factors. LibLearnX will be held January 24–27, 2025, in Phoenix as scheduled. ALA's full announcement can be read [here](#). Efforts are underway to determine how best to present some of the events traditionally held at the January conference: the I Love My Librarian Awards; the RUSA Book & Media Awards, which features the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction; the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration; and the Youth Media Awards. The Executive Board affirmed that LibLearnX will be held January 24–27, 2025, in Phoenix as planned.