

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

This National Library Week, we recognize how much libraries have done – and continue to do – for all Californians. There are 1,130 public libraries in California, each one as unique and diverse as the community it serves. At a time when seminal works of literature are under attack across the country, it is more important than ever that we expand equitable access to our public libraries and support their essential role in protecting intellectual freedom.

Our libraries open physical and digital doors to all, providing books, research databases, Wi-Fi hotspots, job training, online paths to high school diplomas, early learning for infants and toddlers, Virtual Reality stations, naturalization services, Makerspaces, and even biotech labs. During the pandemic, libraries rapidly morphed their service model from in-person plus online to online only. Virtual programs entertained, educated and connected Californians during a time of social distancing. Dedicated library staff served as “second responders” to communities, providing Californians with vital health information, PPE, and social services.

In the face of nationwide efforts to ban books from libraries and schools, librarians, teachers, and community members are speaking out against censorship and lifting up the freedom to read. The American Library Association reports more than 729 challenges to library, school and university materials and services last year, including many targeting works by LGBTQ writers and writers of color.

Libraries are the hearts of our communities and help Californians of all ages and backgrounds realize their fullest potential. It is critical that Californians can access the library resources they need to succeed and thrive, whether online or in-person. During National Library Week, let us celebrate the many ways that libraries enrich our communities and support efforts to ensure that they remain an inclusive space for learning and empowerment for all of us.

NOW THEREFORE I, ELENI KOUNALAKIS, Acting Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2022 as “California Library Week.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 4th day of April 2022.



ELENI KOUNALAKIS
Acting Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State