

PO Box 901, Bellingham, MA 02019  
781-698-7764 | [manager@masslib.org](mailto:manager@masslib.org) | [www.masslib.org](http://www.masslib.org)



## **MLA Censorship and Challenges Statement**

July 2022

Massachusetts libraries, along with the rest of the nation, are experiencing unprecedented numbers of censorship attempts. More book challenges were reported to the American Library Association in 2021 than in any year since data collection began. 2022 is shaping up to outpace 2021 with the majority of censorship efforts hitting school and public libraries.

The Massachusetts Library Association fully supports the American Library Association's Statement on Book Censorship

[\(<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship>\)](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship).

We champion the public's constitutional right to access a broad array of information, services, and programs. As professionals, librarians rely on policies and local knowledge to create collections, services, and programs that serve their entire community. Individuals make their own decisions about what they read and what they believe and patrons and parents have the freedom to determine which of these offerings fit their individual needs. These ideals are rooted in the First Amendment and the American Library Association's [Bill of Rights](#), including the [ALA Freedom to Read](#) statement.

If your library is experiencing a challenge to materials, services, or programs, Massachusetts library workers can reach out to the Massachusetts Library Association's Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibility Committee ([ifsrc@masslib.org](mailto:ifsrc@masslib.org)), the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners ([answers@mblc.state.ma.us](mailto:answers@mblc.state.ma.us)), or the Massachusetts Library System ([info@masslibsystem.org](mailto:info@masslibsystem.org)) for support and resources.

MLA calls on you to stand up against censorship in your community and join the [Unite Against Book Bans Campaign](#).

Signed,  
MLA Administrative Board