



2018 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Investing in Public, Academic and School Libraries Pays Off!

Libraries return \$10.18 for every dollar of funding they receive and 95% of Americans say libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed (Pew 2014).

Libraries contribute to quality of life and make our state attractive to business.

Libraries are community hubs that provide learning environments, access to government services, small business resources, computers and technical training.

Libraries help job seekers prepare for and find jobs and help children get ready for school.

51% of Floridians have a library card and they checked out an average of 6 books per person in 2014. Floridians visited their public library 75.1 million times in person and made 97.3 million virtual visits!

From 2001 to 2016, spending has dropped from \$2.02 per person to \$1.08 per person while new mandates for services, increased costs for materials and facilities, and other expenses mean libraries are stretched and, inevitably, services will erode in spite of the best efforts of library staff.

Student success depends on access to high quality, scholarly e-resources across all academic disciplines. It is essential that funding for them be increased as costs rise.

We ask you to:

- Incrementally restore funding to 2001 levels by increasing the current \$23.1 million to \$33 million by 2022.
- Create an innovative grant program with funding of \$2 million
- Provide for library construction and infrastructure upgrades with funding of \$8.5 million
- Continue funding Multi-Type Library Cooperatives for \$2 million
- Support the Career Online High School with funding of \$2.5 million
- Increase funding for E-Resources provided by the Florida Virtual Campus to \$8 million
- Continue financial support for the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Service
- Continue financial support for correctional libraries
- Restore the requirement that instruction in all school library media centers in all school districts be by a certified school library media specialist.

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