



BOOK BANS

A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY
RESPONSE & ACTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 INTRODUCTION

4 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

FAIRHOPE, AL: FAIRHOPE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

MEDIA COVERAGE

GLEN RIDGE, NJ: GLEN RIDGE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEDIA COVERAGE

10 TAKE ACTION

RESEARCH & ORGANIZATION

ONCE ORGANIZED

ONE WEEK TO DECISIVE HEARING

NIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

AFTER THE DECISION

18 RESOURCES

22 CONTACT US

INTRODUCTION

Storytelling is vital to learning, understanding, and acceptance. The current story of book bans in the U.S. is interwoven with the story of the skyrocketing number of executive orders and legislative proposals targeting LGBTQ people, and especially transgender and nonbinary youth.

Like bills targeting health care, drag performance, school sports, pronouns, and public spaces, book bans purport to be about protecting children and parents' rights, when their true intent is aimed at limiting the rising visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ youth, and denying LGBTQ parents and parents of LGBTQ children the same rights to belong and be represented alongside every other family.

Since the latest surge in book challenges began in earnest in 2021, communities have lifted their voices and shared their stories to defend the right to read and protect all vulnerable readers. These success stories are detailed in this toolkit. But vigilance and action remain essential. Book banners [continue to evolve](#) tactics and language to disguise ongoing activism to deny the majority's support for the freedom to read, including:

- [Ramped up attacks](#) on library staff and educators
- Restricting library card privileges, or relocating books for youth to [“adult only” sections](#)
- Mass activation book bans at the hands of national anti-LGBTQ groups like [Moms for Liberty](#), replicated at the local level and falsely branded “grassroots”
- Accelerated [funding attacks](#) against libraries and museums, directly threatening local control over community spaces and services that include summer reading programs, limit online resources to help adults find jobs, and diminish events designed to bring all communities together, including in [rural](#) areas.
- A handful of parents in one of the most diverse counties in the U.S., backed by longtime anti-LGBTQ legal groups, fought to the U.S. Supreme Court to opt out their children from public education that includes recognition of LGBTQ families and stories about our lives. The consequences of the [decision](#) are [foreboding](#), include harmful messages legitimizing exclusion, and threaten public education's promise to support all families and students' chances at success.
- The disinformation campaign against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion led at the federal level, starting in 2025, [resulted](#) in hundreds of books pulled from military academies and schools for military service families.

The consequences of book bans extend to everyone in our country. Every American needs stories about LGBTQ people, Black people, queer and transgender people of color, and all marginalized groups to better understand our shared history and to fight for a future where we can all belong and be safe.

GLAAD created this guide with resources from professional library and free speech advocates. By using the power of storytelling and engaging media, communities can unite with their neighbors, send a powerful signal of welcome and acceptance, and strengthen all communities.

While book bans attempt to curb fundamental freedoms, they are far from the final chapter. Communities who care about each vulnerable reader and a future where all can be free should get the last word.



SARAH KATE ELLIS
President and CEO, GLAAD
Author, with Kristen Ellis-Henderson, of *All Moms*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOOK CHALLENGE AND A BOOK BAN?

Book challenges seek removal of titles and materials from school and public library shelves, whereas book bans see them successfully removed.

WHICH BOOKS ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONTESTED?

Each year, the American Library Association publishes a list of the [10 most challenged books](#), which predominantly feature LGBTQ people or topics, are written by LGBTQ authors, or highlight race and racism.

Many of the same titles show up year after year, as in 2024:

1. *All Boys Aren't Blue*
by George M. Johnson

2. *Gender Queer: A Memoir*
by Maia Kobabe

3. (tie) *The Bluest Eye*
by Toni Morrison

3. (tie) *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
by Stephen Chbosky

5. *Tricks*
by Ellen Hopkins

6. (tie) *Looking for Alaska*
by John Green

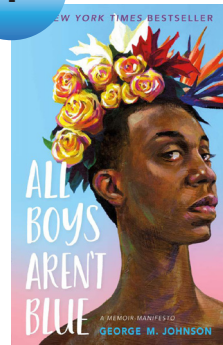
6. (tie) *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*
by Jesse Andrews

8. (tie) *Crank*
by Ellen Hopkins

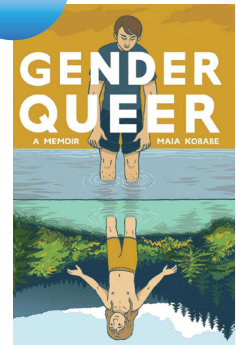
8. (tie) *Sold*
by Patricia McCormick

10. *Flamer*
by Mike Curato

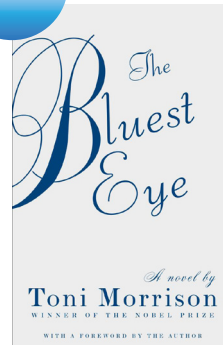
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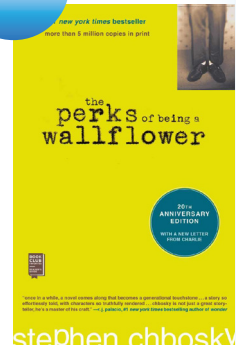
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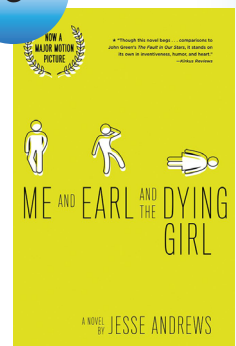
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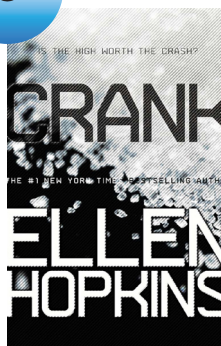
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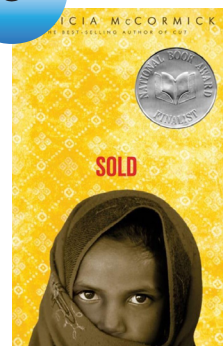
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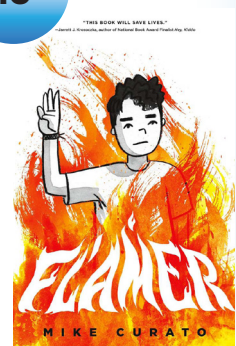
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8



10



WHICH STATES HAVE BANNED THE MOST BOOKS FROM SCHOOL LIBRARIES?

According to a 2024 [PEN America](#) report, Florida led the list with 4,561 bans in 33 school districts, followed by Iowa with 3,671 in 117 districts.

HOW MANY CHALLENGES ARE TAKING PLACE?

The [American Library Association](#) tracked 821 censorship demands in 2024. ALA notes their reporting only includes documented cases. Underreporting, prohibiting library staff from purchasing certain titles, requiring libraries to restrict visibility or access, and wide-reaching and vague censorship-focused legislation all hamper efforts to fully document book bans.

HOW MANY TITLES ARE FACING CHALLENGES?

According to an [American Library Association report](#), nearly 2,500 unique titles were targeted for censorship, “the third-highest number ever documented by ALA.” Of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people of color.” Of the challenges, 58% were filed against school libraries, while 41% targeted public libraries. In 90% of cases, organizations set their sights on multiple books, with 40% of attempted bans calling into question more than 100 books.

WHO IS INITIATING THESE CHALLENGES?

The American Library Association reports that almost [72% of book ban demands in 2024 were well-funded and organized](#), initiated by “pressure groups, elected officials, board members, and administrators.” Dozens of books have also been challenged by a single [person](#), often creating [disruptions](#) at schools statewide.

ON WHAT GROUNDS ARE THESE BOOKS BEING CHALLENGED?

Book challenges most frequently cite LGBTQ-inclusive content, falsely claiming inappropriate subject matter for younger readers, and books about race and racism.

WHAT’S AT STAKE?

Book challenges threaten our First Amendment right to free speech, limiting or restricting access to educational and potentially life-saving information.

Book bans threaten to silence already marginalized voices.

Book ban campaigns foster unsafe environments for vulnerable youth, who see their stories and themselves falsely described and stigmatized. This diminishes a view of a future where all youth can be themselves and be accepted.

WHERE CAN I REPORT CENSORSHIP ATTEMPTS?

- American Library Association (ALA): The ALA houses a confidential [challenge reporting form](#). After completion, a representative from the ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) will contact your team to offer support and resources. Provided information will also aid the OIF in maintaining their challenged materials database.
- National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC): Offers a confidential [reporting form](#). NCAC will follow up “if they are able to provide assistance or support” themselves and be accepted.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fairhope, Alabama

In March 2025, a majority of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) board members voted to temporarily defund Fairhope Public Library (FPL), leaving it with a \$42,000 shortfall. The library, serves 27,000 residents and has “more than 180,000 annual visits” - among the highest in the state.

FPL has been the target of [numerous instances of censorship efforts](#), both by nationally organized funded groups like [Moms for Liberty](#) and individual community members. This marked the first time [APLS deployed newly enacted policies](#) “to withhold funds from libraries that do not have policies to remove or restrict ‘sexually explicit or other material deemed inappropriate for minors.’” This vague [definition](#) opens the door to target books by and about LGBTQ people, and books about race and racism.

Read Freely Alabama, a volunteer group formed to push back against library censorship efforts, created a [fundraiser](#) to offset the shortfall; an effort that raised nearly \$47,000.

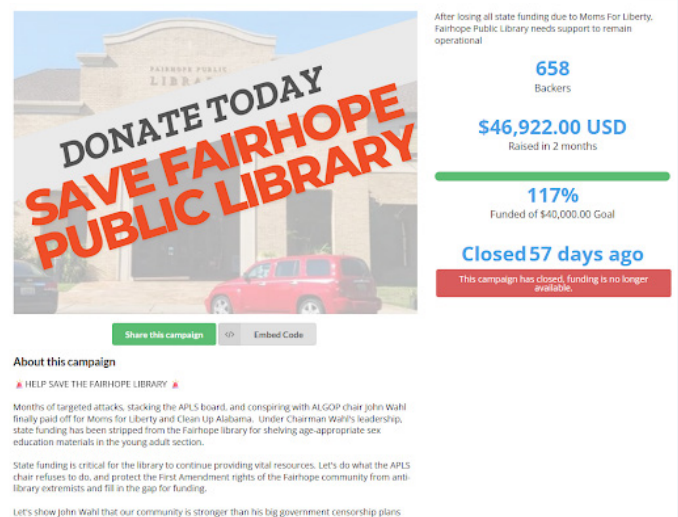
“If the APLS board was willing to withhold a library’s funding, we wanted to do what they wouldn’t. So, we partnered with EveryLibrary who facilitated the fundraising site and decided to do the APLS board’s job for them,” Read Freely Alabama’s Angie Hayden [told GLAAD](#).

“I had no doubt we would raise every penny, but I don’t think any of us expected it to happen so quickly. The outpouring of support for the public library in little Fairhope, Alabama, was overwhelming, and to top it off, we actually exceeded our goal. Let’s just say there were happy tears.”

The funding and censorship threats remain. FPL Board members [recently reviewed](#) 15 books and moved five to the library’s adult section.



The teen section at the Fairhope Public Library in Fairhope, AL. (Credit: Mickey Welsh, Mickey Welsh / Advertiser)



Read Freely Alabama’s fundraiser to keep Fairhope Public Library open raised nearly \$47,000. (Credit: [Support Fairhope Public Library](#) campaign on Fund Libraries)

Read Freely Alabama is supported by EveryLibrary. FundLibraries is an initiative of the EveryLibrary Institute.



“It appears that these local movements are not at all grassroots; they are receiving their orders and their tactics from national hate groups like Moms for Liberty. The people showing up in your library or your city council are very likely local to your area, but their mission is not.

They will take a sex education book with cartoon depictions of anatomy, and misrepresent it as obscenity. They’ll find a single curse word in a 300-page novel about racial injustice, and label it inappropriate.

These groups are seeking to define who is an acceptable and valid human being in public spaces. You will notice there is a disproportionate amount of LGBTQ-inclusive materials on their target list. Their real motive is to drive back progress marginalized people have made, and to control whose stories and perspectives are valid. As another one of my co-founders, Sam Olsen, once said, “These books are proxies for human beings.” So really it’s about so much more than the books on the shelves.

I firmly believe we need to stand up for all children, and that is what we intend to keep doing.”

-Angie Hayden,
Cofounder, Read Freely Alabama



Photo credit: Elizabeth Williams

MEDIA COVERAGE

Montgomery Advertiser

Anti-censorship group raises money to help Alabama library after pause in state funding

Alex Gladden
Montgomery Advertiser
April 17, 2025, 4:03 a.m. CT

Savan Wilson
Retired librarian and university level library science instructor

Retired Librarian discusses importance of reading freedom
Retired Librarian Savan Wilson discusses importance of libraries and the freedom to read.

ALABAMA REFLECTOR

Fairhope Public Library supporters raise money to replace funds state plans to withhold

BY: RALPH CHAPCO - MARCH 25, 2025 11:48 AM

A row of library books. Supporters of the Fairhope Public Library raised around \$40,000 to offset the funding that the Alabama Public Library Service has voted to withhold (Shelby)

AL.com

Alabama official: Fairhope Library won't regain funding without moving more books

Updated: Jun. 18, 2025, 11:54 a.m. | Published: Jun. 17, 2025, 10:03 a.m.

The Fairhope Library board meets on Monday, June 16, 2025, at the Fairhope Library in Fairhope, Ala. Pictured from left to right: Anne Johnson, Randal Wright and Andy Parvin. John Sharp

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

GLEN RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Glen Ridge, New Jersey

In October 2022, eight people from five families, under the letterhead of an organization purporting to be about education, submitted requests to have six books removed from Glen Ridge Public Library shelves:

1. *You Know, Sex*

by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth

2. *It's Perfectly Normal*

by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley

3. *Here and Queer: A Queer Girl's Guide to Life*

by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan

4. *It's Not the Stork!*

by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley

5. *This Book is Gay*

by Juno Dawson

6. *All Boys Aren't Blue*

by George M. Johnson

After reviewing the forms, some of which called for [burning or throwing out](#) the contested titles, the library's director followed up in November, stating that "...all of the titles meet the criteria of [the Library Materials Selection Policy](#)." The group appealed this decision, and the library responded by scheduling a hearing at their February board of trustees meeting.

During the interim period, a group of residents formed an opposing group, Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans, and laid the groundwork to organize support for the books and LGBTQ youth in the community. Initiatives included:

- Reading the books in their entirety to ensure members were ready to speak about them at the public hearing.
- Obtaining the support of [EveryLibrary](#), a nonprofit organization that helps libraries secure funding, and [Fight for the First](#), which seeks to protect First Amendment rights through resources for local communities. Glen Ridge United then launched media efforts to tell their stories:
 - [Creating a petition](#) in support of keeping the books on library shelves.
 - Building social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to:
 - share frequent updates, a letter from the ACLU to the library director, and messages of support from local communities, medical professionals, and clergy;
 - engage with the community; and
 - correct misinformation.
 - Designing and distributing lawn signs to grow awareness and T-shirts to present a unified front during the board meeting.
 - Encouraging supporters to submit a written letter to be summarized by the library's board of trustees at the board meeting.
 - [Obtaining a statement](#) from New Jersey native George M. Johnson, author of *All Boys Aren't Blue*.

[Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans also created a fundraiser to support Friends of the Glen Ridge Library and its programs and resources, raising more than \\$2,000.](#)

More than 750 people from Glen Ridge and surrounding communities attended the library's board of trustees meeting in February 2023. Speakers included parents, students at Glen Ridge public schools, teachers, librarians, clergy, and New Jersey Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake. Family members of challenged author George M. Johnson, who live in New Jersey, delivered a prepared statement from the author, as did Jane Clementi, another New Jersey resident who created a foundation in honor of her son Tyler, who committed suicide after his roommate targeted him with LGBTQ cyberbullying in his first semester in college in 2010.

After more than two hours of public comments, the board voted unanimously to keep the books on library shelves.



“As a Black queer person, I know what it’s like to read books that don’t tell my story. So in this hunt to “protect teens” does it ever cross your mind that banning this lifesaving story for LGBTQ students only harms them more? Or do you not care because that’s really what this fight is over? Removing LGBTQ stories and Black stories.

If you don’t want your child to read it, that’s fine. You have every right to not allow YOUR child to read it. But you don’t get to trample on the rights of parents like my mother and my aunts who have raised LGBTQ teens who needed books like these.”

-George M. Johnson,
Author, “All Boys Aren’t Blue”



Photo credit: Elizabeth Williams

MEDIA COVERAGE



‘All Boys Aren’t Blue’ Author George M. Johnson’s Mom Joins Attendees Speaking Out Against Book Banning Attempt in NJ





Glen Ridge Public Library votes to keep 6 LGBTQ+ books after request to remove them




northjersey.com

GLEN RIDGE

Glen Ridge Library won't ban LGBTQ books as a thousand people show up in opposition

2-minute read



Julia Martin
NorthJersey.com
Updated Feb. 9, 2023, 4:27 p.m. ET

MONTCLAIR Local

FEATURED POSTS

No Book Ban In Glen Ridge: Library Unanimously Votes To Keep Six Challenged Books

by Liz George
February 9, 2023

Patch

Proposed Book Ban Shot Down In Glen Ridge; LGBTQ Advocates Cheer

A conservative group tried to get six books banned from a library in North Jersey, infuriating LGBTQ+ advocates in Glen Ridge and Montclair.

Eric Kiefer, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 10:33 am ET | Updated Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 4:48 pm ET

TAKE ACTION

If you are reading this, you have likely become aware of a local book challenge and want to know how you can get involved and fight back. GLAAD has compiled a list of steps to help set up your campaign.

RESEARCH & ORGANIZATION

1

REVIEW ALA GUIDANCE to find out if your library or school district has a policy for making and reviewing book challenges.

2

ASK QUESTIONS AND GATHER FACTS:

- What book(s) are being challenged?
- On what basis are they being challenged (themes, content)?
- Who is challenging the book(s)?
- Where is the library or school district in the reconsideration process? What is the next step?
- Does the library or school board have a portal for public comment or an in-person hearing?
- If a hearing is being held that allows for public comment, when is it being held?
- When is the vote for reconsideration of the titles? Is it open to the public?

3

CREATE A TASK FORCE recruiting volunteers from all backgrounds:

- A diverse and inclusive coalition will include local community members of various ages, incomes, races, religions, occupations, and professions: students, parents, librarians, teachers, authors, LGBTQ groups, and advocates, clergy, and medical professionals.
- Select your leaders:
 - Task Force Leader: to organize, schedule and lead meetings, and coordinate action steps;
 - Policy Organizer: to research book-banning organizations, school board and library governance, and online resources;
 - Writer(s): to draft the task force's statement of mission, summary of the book challenge, sign-on letter or petition, messaging for spokespeople and experts, social media posts;
 - Graphic Designer: to create graphics and branding for social media, lawn signs, signs for in-person meetings, and T-shirts for in-person meetings and press events (a group dressed in the same brightly colored shirts sends a message of solidarity to the public and press);
 - Social Media: to create task force accounts, draft and share copy for social posts and graphics, connect with supporters and the public, and monitor opposition accounts; and
 - Press Manager: organize messages for media, create a list of reporters and email addresses to contact and coordinate coverage.

4

CHOOSE A GROUP NAME:

Select something direct, easy to remember and share, and that conveys the group's purpose (e.g. "Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans").

- Activate a policy organizer who is familiar with school board or library governance and online resources to:
 - Find and review information and documents from the deciding body (school board, library board), including previous meeting minutes, testimony, and important dates of upcoming hearings.
 - Learn the rules for public comment. If not publicly available, connect with school or library board leadership to inquire.
- Create a cloud-based document (e.g. using Google Docs or Microsoft 365) to share relevant information on the public comment period, when decisions about title challenges will be made, by whom and how, and how the public will be made aware.

5

DESIGNATE A RESEARCH VOLUNTEER to research organizations challenging the books.

- Note record of speaking out against critical race theory, LGBTQ people/issues/content, and diversity/equity/inclusion initiatives.
- Organize and save research in a shareable document that can serve as a resource for reporters.
 - In many cases, this will be the first time local reporters cover a book ban or challenge. They need background information and context to accurately describe the motivation of those seeking to ban books and alert to the bigger national picture on book bans.
 - Additional information: Compare local lists to lists shared by national groups, note funding of groups and how the efforts are connected to previous anti-LGBTQ advocacy.

6

DRAFT MESSAGING:

Create a document to share with your group and the public when ready to activate. Include the 5 Ws of the hearing: Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and essential values:

- We support the freedom to read.
- No one has the right to dictate what other people can read or have access to read.
- Parents have the right to decide what their children read. No one has the right to dictate what other parents' children cannot read.
- Everyone deserves to see themselves and their experiences in books.
- Reading helps us understand ourselves, our world, and each other.
- LGBTQ-inclusive books and titles about race and racism are among the most targeted books in recent challenges across the country, organized by national anti-LGBTQ groups. These are not local community-driven efforts.
- Removing books sends a dangerous message to vulnerable communities and youth about who belongs in the world and who doesn't. Every child should be able to see themselves and see a future where they continue to belong.

7

IDENTIFY EXPERTISE:

Find individuals who can speak up and represent the group on social media, who can write essays for media placement, and who can appear and speak at in-person public meetings:

- Challenged authors and/or their spokesperson:
 - Can appear in-person at the hearing, offer a prepared statement, or record a video to share with the media and on social media the night of the hearing. ([example of social media post from George M. Johnson](#))
 - GLAAD can help you connect with authors and representatives: press@glaad.org.
- Allies and parents of LGBTQ youth
- GSA leaders from your school and other schools
- Teachers
- Librarians from your town or neighboring areas
- School alumni
- Local LGBTQ advocates, civil rights advocates, and equality groups
- Notable figures, business and institution leaders in your community
- Affirming local elected officials
- Local faith leaders
- Mental health professionals with expertise and experience in LGBTQ and gender identity and expression

8

CREATE A SIGN-ON LETTER OR PETITION:

- Write messaging to introduce your campaign and establish a call to action.
- Request basic information.
- Use Google Forms or a campaign organization platform such as [Fight for the First](#) (see [Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans](#) for inspiration).
- Share on your group's social media accounts to gather signatures.

9

CREATE AN ORDER FORM to request T-shirts and denote size, as well as lawn signs and other materials to advance your group's mission. Use Google Forms or a similar solution.

10

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING:

- Create a Facebook page (select cause as type), Instagram account, and Bluesky profile:
- Use an easy-to-remember handle and be consistent across all platforms (e.g. [@glenridge_united](#) for Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans).
- Write and share engaging content:
 - Share opinion essays and Letters to the Editor from local educators, clergy, mental health professionals and LGBTQ leaders. [Templates: [Opinion essay](#) and [Letter to the Editor](#)]
 - Reach out to community members and challenged-book authors, asking them for quotes to share, and collaborate on posts. [[template for requests](#)]
 - Keep posts short, snappy, and positive (e.g. “Everyone deserves to see themselves reflected on library shelves.”).
 - Engage with followers and ask them to share posts.
 - Include a call to action (e.g. “Join us Wednesday, March 22, for a rally at the public library and tell everyone you support the freedom to read!” or “Sign our petition! Link in bio.”).
 - Create a hashtag group, research trending hashtags, or create catchy new ones (e.g. #FReadom, #FreePeopleReadFreely, #bookbans, #bannedbooks, #libraries, #censorship, #ireadbannedbooks, #stopbookbans, #booksnotbans, #uniteagainstbookbans).
 - Tag advocacy groups to cross-promote and build awareness @ AmericanLibraryAssociation, @ALALibrary, @UniteAgainstBookBans, @BannedBooksWeek).
- Schedule and track content through a social media management platform. Many services offer free basic solutions (Buffer, CoSchedule, Friends+Me).

11

CREATE A LINKTREE ACCOUNT:

[Linktree](#) offers a free solution to share all of your links (social media, forms, FAQ, resources, etc.) in one convenient location.

12

KEEP SUPPORTERS INFORMED via social media accounts.

ONCE ORGANIZED

1

IDENTIFY SPEAKERS FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS:

Prior to the hearing, prepare task force members to speak with the media. Include the facts about book ban trends, values of the community and commitment to diversity and belonging, importance of the titles challenged, especially to marginalized communities, and overall support for books and the freedom to read. Examples:

- [Book Ban Data American Library Association](#): Presents statistical information about attempted book bans and the number of titles being targeted.
- [How to Talk About Book Bans \(Unite Against Book Bans\)](#): Includes messaging that can be helpful in informing the press about the dangers of book bans.
- [Working with the Media \(American Library Association\)](#): Provides practical tips on how best to work with the media and deal with potential negative publicity. Geared toward library workers, but most of the advice is applicable.

2

IDENTIFY REPORTERS AND TRUSTED MESSENGERS:

Look for those who are covering education and other book bans in your town/state/region.

- Reach out with information about your group, and point person for them to contact.
- Offer interviews and research.

3

DESIGNATE A MEDIA VOLUNTEER:

This person will manage press inquiries, set up interviews, and gather and submit opinion essays from local experts.

4

DISTRIBUTE LAWN SIGNS AND T-SHIRTS:

Post photos and videos of these visuals on social media.

5

MONITOR BOOK BANNERS' MEDIA PRESENCE:

Keep an eye on social media and news coverage. Share messages with the task force and note where the story may be shifting or new narratives and partners being introduced.

ONE WEEK TO DECISIVE HEARING

1

FIND OUT THE RULES OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- How do speakers sign up?
- How many speakers are allowed?
- How long is each person allowed to speak?
- How long is the full period of public comment?

2

CREATE A SPEAKERS LIST FOR NIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Organize responses according to topic area or expertise (e.g. librarian re: freedom to read, author of challenged work, LGBTQ youth or advocate, parent of LGBTQ youth, clergy, and medical professional). Move most important messengers and best-known speakers first; divide speakers into content areas (e.g. one per challenged title).

3

INVITE LOCAL AND RELEVANT PRESS:

This should include reporters who have covered book bans, as well as LGBTQ news sources.

4

PREPARE AND REHEARSE SPEAKER REMARKS:

- Keep messaging positive and to the point.
- Acknowledge that you have given due diligence in considering the opposing viewpoint.
- Prepare answers to difficult or unanticipated questions.
- Offer ample opportunities for speakers to rehearse.

5

PUBLISH REMINDER OF HEARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Encourage supporters to attend the public meeting and bring others who support your cause.

6

CREATE A TRACKING SPREADSHEET:

Include speakers and their remarks to ensure all angles are covered.

7

PREPARE POST-VOTE PRESS RELEASE:

Include the strongest quotes from the hearing, as well as quotes from challenged authors and other stakeholders. [[Template for releases](#)]

NIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1 INCREASE VISIBILITY:** Ask supporters to wear their group T-shirts, sit together, and make themselves easily identifiable to those in attendance, including the media.
- 2 BE MINDFUL OF SPEAKER TIME LIMITS:** Ensure representatives speaking out have prepared remarks conforming to time limits.
- 3 BE RESPECTFUL:** This goes without saying, but treat all participants, including those with differing views, with respect. This will help your group stay focused and maintain credibility.

AFTER THE DECISION

- 1 THANK GROUP VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS.**
- 2 PROVIDE SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE:** Keep non-attending supporters apprised by sharing real-time updates and a post-meeting update on group platforms.
- 3 DISTRIBUTE POST-VOTE PRESS RELEASE TO THE MEDIA.**
- 4 KEEP ORGANIZED AND STAY VIGILANT:** This is likely not the last time the opposition will attempt to impose censorship within your community, and they may employ alternate methods to gain power and exert influence (e.g., running for office, school, or library board).

IF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS MET WITH A NEGATIVE OUTCOME:

- 1 DON'T BECOME DISCOURAGED:** A setback does not equate to a decisive victory for the opposition. Stay positive and continue to build your case.
- 2 WRITE/CALL YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATORS:** Your voice matters, and it is the responsibility of elected officials to listen to their constituents, and many log and track constituent contacts about policy and issues.
- 3 DRAFT AN OP-ED:** Submit an opinion piece or letter to the editor to your local newspaper.
- 4 GET INVOLVED:** Joining your library or school board will give you a voice during discussions about censorship and ensure greater success in combating future book banning efforts.

RESOURCES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Banned & Challenged Books: View the most frequently challenged books and download free resources, including infographics and social media images.

Banned Book FAQ: Answers to the most commonly asked questions about banned books, including the difference between a challenge and a ban, and why books are challenged.

Challenge Support: Toolkit detailing how to respond to book challenges and work with the media and report censorship.

Intellectual Freedom Blog: Publishes weekly updates about censorship efforts and current legislation aimed at banning books.

Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF):

Educates librarians and community members about the importance of keeping books on library shelves. The OIF also maintains a [YouTube channel](#) with webinars discussing intellectual freedom and how to respond to book challenges.

State of America's Libraries: A Snapshot of 2024:

Annual report examining 2024's book ban trends, the most challenged books of the year, and the number of titles involved.

THE BANNED BOOK CLUB

An initiative of the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Provides digital access to banned books to people in affected areas through The Palace Project app. Features an interactive map cataloguing book ban instances throughout the country.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Annual event centered around raising awareness and support for the freedom to read. Programming includes interviews with authors of challenged books and subject matter experts, as well as nationwide [events](#) hosted by libraries, bookstores, organizations, and higher education institutions that support intellectual freedom.

BOOK RIOT

Literary Activism:

Publishes regular articles and news roundups to keep readers up to date on censorship and book bans, and how to fight them.

BOOKS UNBANNED

An initiative of the Brooklyn Public Library. Offers teens and young adults aged 13-21 nationwide a free eCard, providing access to their entire eBook collection. Partnering libraries include [Boston Public Library](#), [LA County Library](#), [San Diego Public Library](#), and [Seattle Public Library](#).

ERIN IN THE MORNING

Journalist and transgender rights activist Erin Reed monitors and summarizes news of importance to the LGBTQ community, including book bans and challenges.

EVERYLIBRARY

Nonprofit organization that employs various means to secure funding for libraries. Groups that start a campaign on [Fight for the First](#) will gain access to support and training from EveryLibrary, as well as help with gaining exposure.

Pro-Library Bill Tracking and **Legislation of Concern:**

Maps out and provides a summary of bills that would safeguard the freedom to read and protect librarians and educators from prosecution, as well as legislation that would lead to book bans and potential criminal charges against educators and library workers.

FIGHT FOR THE FIRST

With the support of [EveryLibrary](#), Fight for the First provides organizers with tools to help them get started in creating a group. Platform that allows you to create a petition to gain support, create events, and communicate with campaign followers.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CENSORSHIP

Defend LGBTQ stories: Explores the reasons behind the attempted censorship of books exploring LGBTQ topics and provides practical advice about defending challenged titles.

RESOURCES

[Kids' Right to Read Project:](#) Learn about the organization's efforts to provide education and advocacy to help community members fight back. Resources include a toolkit to help parents and children confront book challenges.

[Youth Censorship Database:](#) Tracks and maps incidents of various types of censorship, including book bans, in schools and public libraries nationwide from 2018 through present. Each database entry explains the type of and motive behind the censorship, and provides a link for more information.

[PEN AMERICA](#)

Provides research, reports and FAQs about book challenges in schools and their threat to First Amendment rights. Each year, PEN America publishes an Index of School Book Bans, noting which books are being censored and where.

[Banned Books:](#) Portal to view all of PEN America's banned book research, as well as the organization's efforts to protect intellectual freedom and the right to read.

[Banned in the USA: Beyond the Shelves:](#) An annual report that tracks the number of instances of book bans in public schools, titles and categories affected, and where censorship is taking place.

[Cover to Cover:](#) Details PEN America's research and key findings on book bans during the 2023-24 school year.

[What Is a Book Ban? And More Frequently Asked Questions:](#) Provides answers to commonly asked questions about book bans, including who is behind them, the driving force, and the difference between book bans and challenges.

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

[Read Banned Books:](#) Details the publisher's legal efforts to defend the freedom to read, and provides information and resources for authors, librarians, parents, students, and more.

RED WINE & BLUE

[Troublemaker Resources:](#) Provides resources and a guidebook for community members who wish to organize and join the fight against book bans and censorship.

BOOKS

[THE ABA RIGHT TO READ HANDBOOK:](#) by Philomena Polefrone and American Booksellers Association. Guidebook to help individuals organize to fight book bans.

[BANNED BOOKS FOR KIDS: READING LISTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHING KIDS TO READ CENSORED LITERATURE](#) by Pat Scales. Offers advice to parents and educators on how to explain banned books and the importance of the right to read to kids.

[BANNED TOGETHER: OUR FIGHT FOR READERS' RIGHTS](#) by Ashley Hope Pérez (editor), Debbie Fong (Illustrator), Bill Konigsberg (Contribution by), et al. A young adult book "that spotlights the transformative power of books" and helps prepare teenagers to fight back.

[THAT LIBRARIAN: THE FIGHT AGAINST BOOK BANNING IN AMERICA.](#) Author and librarian Amanda Jones chronicles her experiences speaking out against book bans, the harassment and death threats she received, and her efforts to combat book censorship and support librarians facing uncertainty threats against their own safety.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

[THE ABCS OF BOOK BANNING:](#) "Centenarian, Grace Linn, confronts a Florida School Board, opposing book banning in local schools. Children express disappointment over losing access to vital titles on LGBTQ and racial issues, wars, and the realities of growing up."

[BANNED TOGETHER:](#) "Pulls back the curtain on two of the most controversial issues in America today: book bans and curriculum censorship in public schools. Banned Together follows three students and their adult allies as they fight to reinstate 97 books suddenly pulled from their school libraries. As they evolve from local to national activists – meeting with bestselling/banned authors, politicians, Constitutional experts, and more – the film reveals the dark forces behind the accelerating wave of book bans in the U.S."

RESOURCES

[IT'S LIT! THE FIERY HISTORY OF BANNED BOOKS:](#)

Explores “how the seemingly innocuous book has survived centuries of the ban hammer.”

[THE LIBRARIANS:](#) “Librarians connect the dots from heated school and library board meetings nationwide to lay bare the underpinnings of White Christian Nationalism fueling the censorship efforts. Despite facing harassment, threats, and laws aimed at criminalizing their work – the librarians’ rallying cry for freedom to read is a chilling cautionary tale.”

[TO BE DESTROYED:](#) “Follows author Dave Eggers as he meets with students and teachers in the Rapid City, SD school district where his novel, ‘The Circle’, was pulled from shelves along with works by Alison Bechdel, Stephen Chbosky, Bernardine Evaristo and Imbolo Mbue. Through footage of heated school board meetings, community rallies and interviews with locals, we learn how these books were designated ‘to be destroyed.’”

[TROUBLE IN CENSORVILLE:](#) “Presents the testimonials of K-12 public school teachers across the United States who have been fired, harassed, or smeared for teaching historical truth and racial justice and for offering books by and about LGBTQ+ people.”

PODCASTS

[BORROWED AND BANNED \(BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY\):](#) Hear from students, librarians, and educators “whose livelihoods are endangered when they speak up, and writers whose books have become a political battleground.”

[BANNED AND CHALLENGED: RESTRICTING ACCESS TO BOOKS IN THE U.S. \(NPR\):](#) Series of interviews with the authors of some of the most frequently banned books. Discussed topics include the importance of Black queer storytelling, sharing experiences that LGBTQ kids and young adults can identify with and that grow understanding, and how titles such as Maia Kobabe’s Gender Queer can help youth broach difficult topics with their parents.

[THE STRAIN OF CENSORSHIP ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES \(NPR\):](#) Explores the future of libraries and librarians in the face of increasing book challenges.

CONTACT US

Additional questions and support:
Email - press@glaad.org.



GLAAD rewrites the script for LGBTQ acceptance. As a dynamic media force, GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. GLAAD protects all that has been accomplished and creates a world where everyone can live the life they love.

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