

# Financial Costs of Book Challenges to Public Libraries: A Survey Conducted by Every Library

---

## INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. Library Name (If you are part of a larger system, please indicate whether you are reporting upon a specific branch or your system at large.)
2. City, State
3. Your Name
4. Library Size Based on Population Served
  - Small (less than 2,500)
  - Medium (2,500 - 9,999)
  - Large (10,000 - 25,000)
  - Very Large (>25,000)
  - Other
5. What is your library's annual operating budget?

## STAFFING COSTS

6. How many formal\* book challenges has your library handled in the last year? (\*by formal, we mean challenges which have prompted a review process)
7. How many staff hours have been spent addressing book challenges (e.g., reviewing books, attending meetings, responding to public comments)? N/A if not applicable.
8. What is the average hourly rate of staff assigned to these challenge-related tasks? N/A if not applicable.
9. Have you or your staff received formal training or legal guidance on handling book challenges?
10. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please specify the source and nature of the training or guidance. N/A if not applicable.

11. Did your library pay for this training/guidance?

12. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please specify the amount. N/A if not applicable.

## **OPERATIONAL COSTS**

13. Has your library had to divert funds from other programs to address book banning issues?

14. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, which programs were impacted? Please estimate the amount that was reallocated. N/A if not applicable.

15. Has your library had to reduce spending on new materials as a result of handling book challenges?

16. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please specify where cuts were made and how much. N/A if not applicable.

17. Have book challenges caused delays or cancellations in scheduled expenditures (e.g., technology upgrades, facility improvements)?

18. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe and estimate the total cost. N/A if not applicable.

## **REVENUE & FUNDING IMPACT**

19. Have book challenges affected your library's ability to secure grants or donations?

20. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please explain, and provide estimates if possible. N/A if not applicable.

21. Have you received any funding or grants specifically to support your response to book challenges?

22. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe and include amounts. N/A if not applicable.

23. Has your library faced threats to its funding (local, state, or private) due to your response to book challenges?

24. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please elaborate, including estimates if possible. N/A if not applicable.

## **DEFENSE COSTS**

25. Has your library had to spend additional funds on public relations, crisis communication, or community outreach in response to book challenges?

26. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe, and estimate the total cost. N/A if not applicable.

27. Has your library incurred additional costs related to public meetings, hearings, or community communications around book challenges (e.g., security for board meetings)?

28. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe, and estimate the total cost. N/A if not applicable.

29. Has your library incurred legal fees in response to book challenges (e.g., consultations, lawsuits, FOIA compliance)?

30. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe, and estimate the total cost. N/A if not applicable.

## **INDIRECT COSTS**

31. Has your library experienced increased staff turnover or absenteeism related to book banning controversies?

32. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please elaborate and estimate the cost of replacing/training staff.

33. Have book bans or challenges resulted in any measurable drop in library usage or circulation that could affect future funding metrics?

34. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please describe. N/A if not applicable.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

35. Do you have any final comments, reflections, or stories you would like to share related to book challenges and their impact on your library?