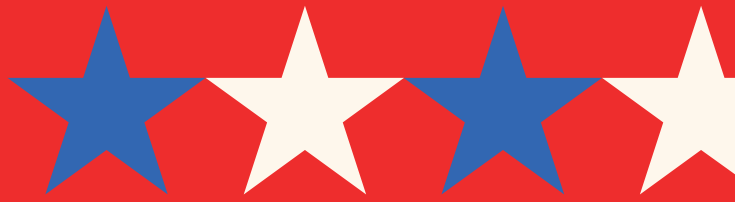


CENSORSHIP

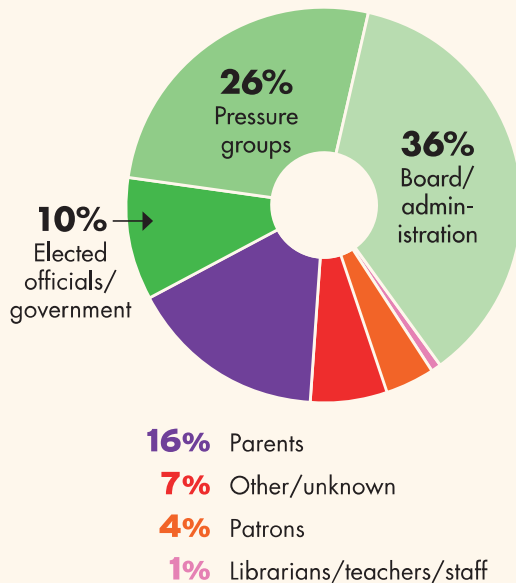
BY THE NUMBERS



The American Library Association documented another year in an unabating deluge of efforts to censor library materials in 2024, continuing an extremist campaign to suppress access to books that began in 2021. Last year, **2,452 unique titles** were challenged, the third highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 unique titles over the period from 2001–2020. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://ala.org/bbooks)

WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS?

Nearly **72% of censorship attempts** in 2024 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers who have been swayed by them.



Statistics based on 5,813 book challenges.

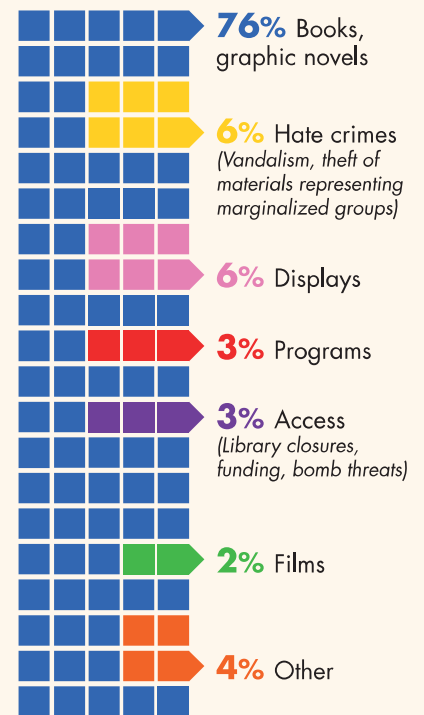
WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



Statistics based on 804 cases with known locations.

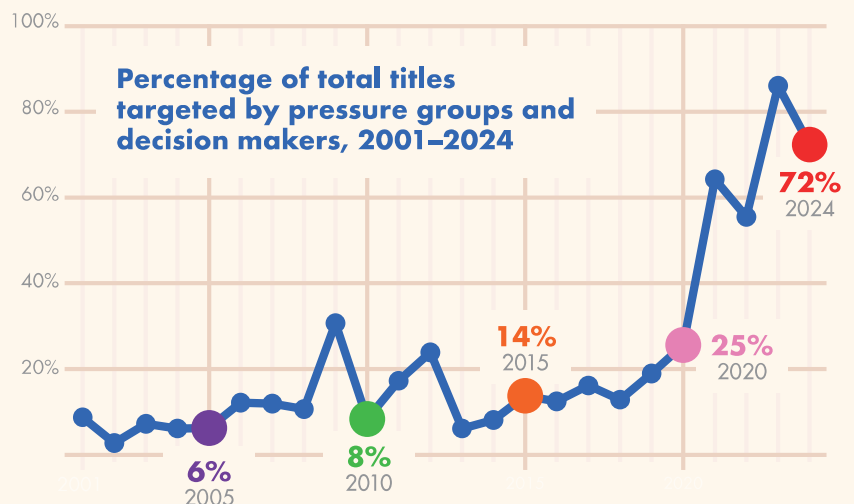
BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **821 censorship attempts** in 2024. Here's the breakdown:



CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The majority of library censorship can be tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the administrators, board members, and elected officials they influenced targeted 4,190 total titles in 2024. From 2001–2020, this constituency attempted to remove an average of 46 titles per year.



CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association



LET FREEDOM READ!

The freedom to read is under attack — **let's do something about it!**

Take at least one action today to help defend books from censorship and to stand up for library staff, educators, writers, publishers, booksellers, and readers!

IF YOU HAVE 5 MINUTES...

CALL A DECISION MAKER

Call school and library administrators and board members, city councilpersons, and elected representatives to ask them to support the right to read!

SUPPORT AN ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

Support the organizations fighting censorship! Learn about a few of these organizations at BannedBooksWeek.org/sponsors/

JOIN UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS

Unite Against Book Bans is a national campaign to protect everyone's right to access information. Unite provides a comprehensive toolkit, supports community advocates, and sends targeted messages to mobilize in areas that need it. Add your name: UniteAgainstBookBans.org/take-action/

IF YOU HAVE 15 MINUTES...

CHECK OUT A BANNED BOOK

Circulation matters! Circulation data can be used to support keeping challenged books on shelves and to justify ordering more books by the same authors or on the same topic.

BUY A BANNED BOOK

Censorship doesn't just harm libraries and schools; it also impacts writers, publishers, and booksellers. Support the people who make and sell books by buying them!

You can also donate the books you purchase to:

- **Public and school libraries:**
Contact your local library or school to find out what they need and how to donate.
- **Little Free Library:**
Use their free app (LittleFreeLibrary.org/app/) to find a book-sharing box near you!
- **Fundraisers:**
Many public libraries are supported by groups that use donated books to raise money.
- **A banned book giveaway or bookmobile:**
Call your local bookstore to see if they're hosting a giveaway or supporting a bookmobile.

IF YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES...

WRITE A LETTER OR E-MAIL

Write to local school and library boards and elected officials to ask them to defend the right to read for the entire community. Make a public statement for the right to read by writing a letter to the editor in your local paper. Finally, a letter can show library staff, educators, authors, and vulnerable readers that you support them!

PLAN TO ATTEND A MEETING

While decisions about book bans and library policies are being made at all levels of government, some of the biggest battles are being fought locally. Plan to attend local board and city council meetings to let officials know that many people (including you!) support access to information and oppose censorship.

IF YOU HAVE AN HOUR OR MORE...

VOLUNTEER AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Find out how these essential community institutions do so much more than just check out books!

START ORGANIZING!

No one person or organization can tackle censorship alone. Rally in support of our schools and libraries by bringing together your friends, family, and other members of the community in a shared cause: fighting censorship!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FIGHTING CENSORSHIP BY VISITING UNITEAGAINSTBOOKBANS.ORG

