



**Virginia Library Association  
Legislative Agenda  
2015**

**Agenda items**

*1. Sustain State funding for public libraries through the “New Age, New Library” plan to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century library users in Virginia.*

**VLA proposes that the Commonwealth sustain, without additional funding reductions, the “New Age, New Library” initiative started in FY 2014 to provide Virginia public library users with contemporary digital library materials including ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and electronic databases.**

State Aid to Public Libraries has been cut dramatically over the past 15 years, declining by over \$5 million in constant dollars to a level last seen in FY 1999. State Aid now falls nearly \$12 million short of the calculated funding level set forth in section 42.1-48 of the Code of Virginia. VLA opposes any additional cuts to State Aid to Public Libraries in FY 2015 and FY 2016. Additional cuts present a serious threat to the viability of this program, which the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) found in 2001 to be an effective investment that leverages local spending and achieves cost efficiencies and economies of scale.