

VLA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 2003 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Perspective: The following items constitute the Legislative Agenda of the Virginia Library Association for the FY 2003 General Assembly Session. While these issues impact the library community as a whole, those relating directly to State Aid and the Library of Virginia affect the greatest number of libraries and library users in Virginia. Therefore, full funding of State Aid, Infopowering and the Library of Virginia's budget, including restitution of construction funding, are listed in priority order.

VLA also supports the full funding of VIVA and other academic funding.

The remaining issues indicate the need to monitor legislative initiatives.

1. State Aid for Public Libraries

VLA will continue to support full funding of State Aid.

2. Infopowering

VLA will work to restore the funds that were cut from the FY 2002 Budget and to phase-in full funding of the Infopowering initiative in fiscal years 2003-2006.

3. Library of Virginia Budget

VLA will continue to support the LVA requests for increased funding of the LVA operating budget, as developed by the LVA staff and board.

4. Library Capital/Construction Funding

VLA will work to restore funding of the Library Construction Grants program that was given its initial funding by the 2000 General Assembly.

5. VIVA and other academic library initiatives.

VLA will support the continuation of VIVA as well as other academic initiatives.

6 Internet Access

VLA will continue to monitor any proposed legislation that would seek to regulate Internet/electronic access.

7 Sales Tax

VLA will work to maintain the sales tax exemptions enjoyed by Friends' organizations both as to the sale of items and the purchase of items.

8. PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS

VLA will oppose legislation that proposes to curtail the powers of public boards and/or that attempts to eliminate library boards.