

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

Senator Stamas offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to designate October 2021 as Michigan Library
2 Appreciation Month.

3 Whereas, The Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually
4 designates the month of October as a statewide observance to
5 celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians,
6 and library staff; and

7 Whereas, Michigan's libraries, including school, public,
8 academic, tribal, and special libraries, are vital institutions and
9 dynamic centers of discovery, lifelong learning, and serve as
10 cornerstones in healthy communities; and

11 Whereas, Librarians and library workers play key roles in
12 helping people explore, imagine, and discover new horizons in the

1 vast world of information, knowledge, and entertainment; and

2 Whereas, Today's libraries are less about what they have on
3 the shelves and more about what they can do with and for their
4 communities, whether it's through virtual services or in-person
5 visits; and

6 Whereas, Libraries and librarians work to create an equitable
7 society by providing free access to accurate information for all
8 people; and

9 Whereas, In times of crisis, libraries and library staff play
10 a critical role in continuing to support their communities when
11 they need it the most; and

12 Whereas, Libraries bring together diverse populations and are
13 a resource for all members within their communities regardless of
14 race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender
15 identity, or socio-economic status; and

16 Whereas, The development and maintenance of programs and
17 collections in libraries are as diverse as the populations they
18 serve; and

19 Whereas, Libraries serve as a vital connection to the people,
20 places, and ideas of the world through books, magazines, videos,
21 and the internet and are the primary point of online access for
22 people without computers at home, school, or work; and

23 Whereas, Indispensable educational resources for children and
24 teenagers are provided by libraries, which are on the front lines
25 in the battle against illiteracy, offer plenty of free activities,
26 as well as safe, enriching entertainment for the whole family; and

27 Whereas, Half of all Michiganders hold library cards and visit
28 their local libraries in-person more than 43 million times
29 annually, online nearly 50 million times annually, and borrow

1 nearly 40 million items each year; and

2 Whereas, In 2020, Michigan public libraries provided more than
3 13,000 live virtual programs for children, teens, and adults
4 reaching over 608,000 people; and

5 Whereas, Additionally, during the worldwide pandemic, 76
6 percent of Michigan's public libraries offered curbside services
7 and 82 percent continued to provide reference services via phone
8 and internet which provided a way for residents to get information
9 and materials even when library buildings were closed to the
10 public; and

11 Whereas, Hundreds of libraries and millions of library
12 supporters across Michigan are celebrating Michigan Library
13 Appreciation Month this October; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the Senate, That members of this legislative body
15 designate October 2021 as Michigan Library Appreciation Month.
16 During this time, we encourage all residents to visit their
17 library's website to explore and discover its wide variety of
18 services, resources, and collections.