



## Support the Library of Congress

*Last updated 4-2-18*

### **Objective:**

We urge Congress to maintain or increase funding for the Library of Congress.

### **Background:**

The Library of Congress (LOC), created in 1800, is the largest library in the world. It houses over 164 million items, including books, manuscripts, historic documents, films, maps, sheet music, and sound recordings and responds to over one million reference requests every year. It also houses the U.S. Copyright Office and serves as the research arm of Congress through the Congressional Research Service.

Unlike most history-related agencies and programs, the LOC has received consistent increases in funding in recent years, and President Trump’s budget request for FY2019 proposed another small increase.

*LOC Funding History, FY10 – Present (in millions of dollars)*

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19*
440	439	587	558	579	591	600	632	670	673

\*President’s budget request. Final appropriations for FY19 have not been determined.

### **Why it matters:**

The Library of Congress provides public research access to an unparalleled collection of materials, free of charge. Beginning with the American Memory project in 1990, LOC has also digitized many of its most significant holdings, making them available online for those unable to visit the Library in person.

The LOC also manages the American Folklife Center, a repository of traditional American cultural documentation. The Folklife Center administers the Veterans History Project, which collects reminiscences of American war veterans, and StoryCorps, an oral history project documenting the lives of ordinary citizens.

Access to these extensive public resources is essential for historians, students, and researchers in all fields. Funding the LOC is crucial to productive scholarship in this country.

*LOC is funded under the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill*