

# LWVTPC Book Banning

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FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS

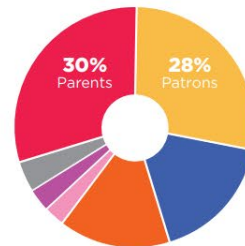
# CENSORSHIP

## BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://ala.org/bbooks)



### WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



17% Political/religious groups

15% Board/administration

3% Librarians/teachers

3% Elected officials

4% Other  
(Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

### WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



48%  
Public libraries



41%  
School libraries



10%  
Schools

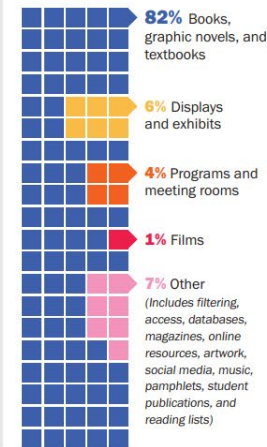


1%  
Higher education libraries and other institutions

Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

### BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **1,269 challenges** in 2022. Here's the breakdown:



### CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

CENSORSHIP  
STATISTICS  
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR  
Intellectual Freedom  
American Library Association

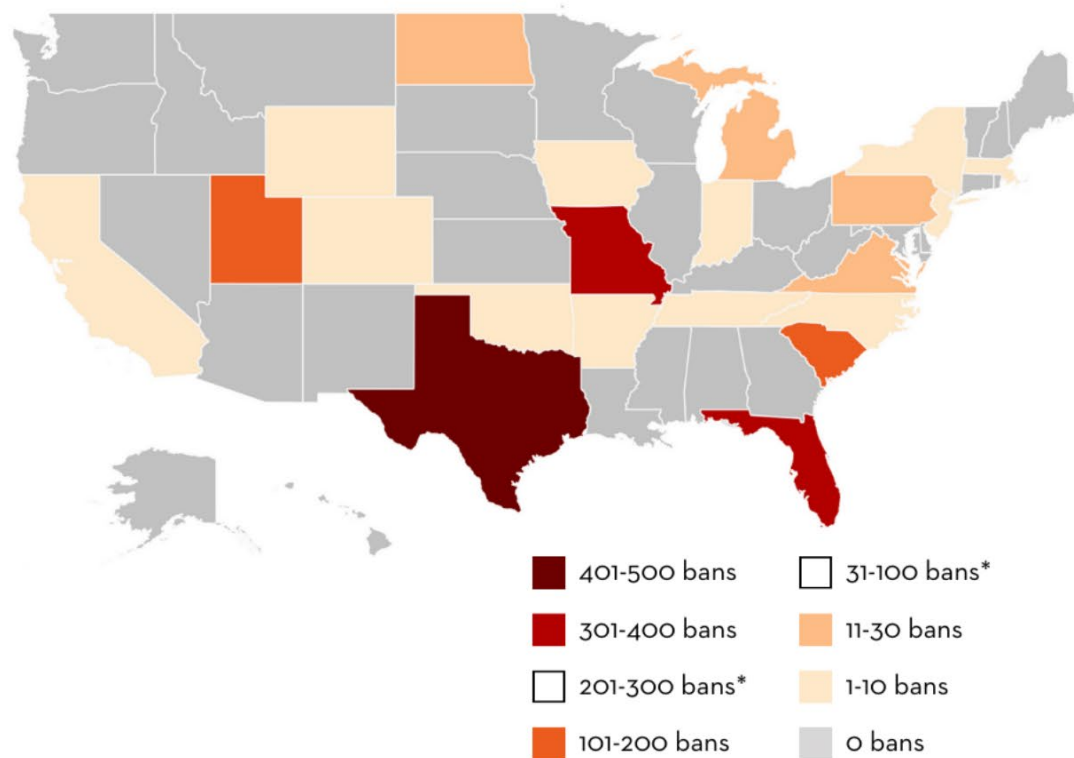
### NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR





# School book bans by state

in the first half of the 2022-2023 school year



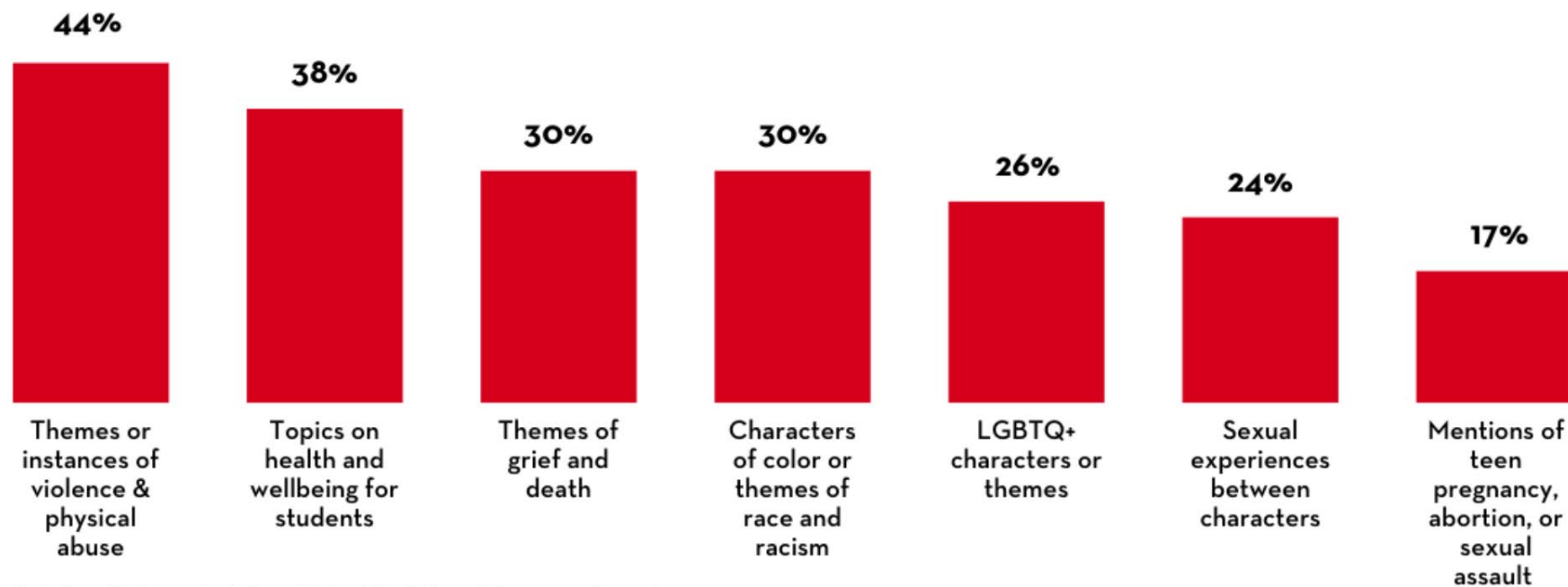
\*There are no states with 31-100 bans and 201-300 bans

Data from PEN America Index of School Book Bans, July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022.

# Subject matter of banned content

of the 874 unique titles banned July 1, 2022 - December 1, 2022

Note: many titles contain more than one type of content.



Data from PEN America Index of School Book Bans, July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022.

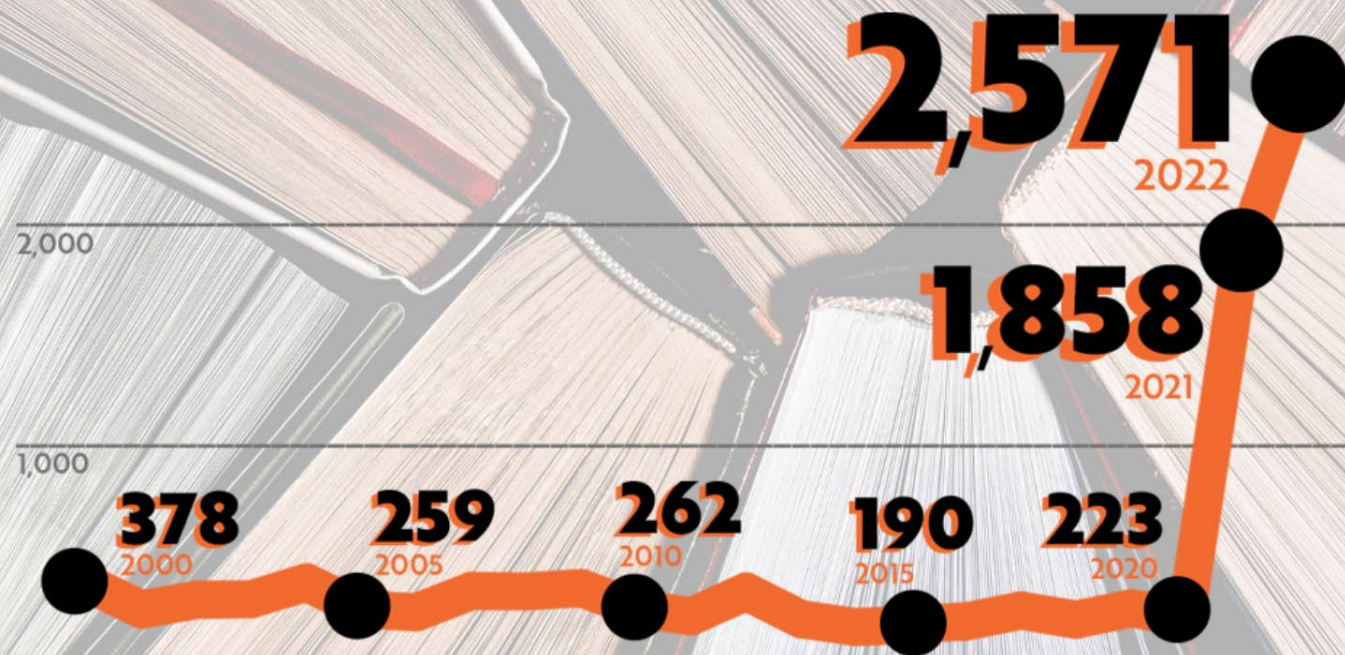
## Most banned books in the first half of the 2022-2023




Of the 874 unique titles banned July 1, 2022 - December 1, 2022.  
Data from PEN America Index of School Book Bans.



# Number of Unique Titles Challenged in the U.S. by Year





## EXAMPLES IN THE US

**Florida**, Gov. De Santis signed a law restricting the teaching of gender and sexuality that has led to over 300 instances of book removals.

**Texas** – More than 800 books were banned across school districts in 2022.

**Illinois**, June 12, 2023 – Gov. J. B. Pritzker signed into law a bill restricts public libraries.

**California** Sept 25, 2023 – Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill prohibiting book bans in schools.

## EXAMPLES IN WASHINGTON STATE

### Fox News January 25, 2022

The Mukilteo School Board voted to remove the classic novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" from the district's ninth-grade reading curriculum after teachers, parents, and some students complained that it was racially insensitive. The Mukilteo School Board approved the resolution Monday night.

### Liberty Lake, WA November 14, 2023

Liberty Lake Councilmember Phil Folyer introduced an ordinance would give the Council policy-making control over the city's library, including which titles can appear on its shelves. Those decisions are currently made by the library's board of trustees, an appointed body of library professionals

### Lewis County November 28, 2023

Lewis County Commissioner Sean Swope proposed libraries be required to use a universal book-rating system, like the one voluntarily used by the movie industry to designate films "G," "PG," "PG-13" and "R." Under Swope's proposed plan, librarians would be required to rate books according to criteria that he would set.





GUEST SPEAKERS

AND

DISCUSSION



## WHAT OTHER LWV ARE DOING ABOUT BOOK BANNING

- LWV of Cape Ann, Massachusetts adopted a resolution against book bans:

*After several “Whereas”es.....Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Cape Ann supports the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights and will stand with libraries to safeguard those rights.*

- LWV of Orange Coast, California adopted a Position:

*Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society. --- LWVC Action Policies and Positions (p.11)*

- LWV of Oakland Area, Michigan held a forum.
- LWV of North Hampton, MA had a banned book sale
- LWV of South Carolina is part of a statewide coalition, Freedom to Read

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## LINKS TO EXPLORE

- American Library Association

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/>

- PEN America

<https://pen.org/issue/book-bans/>

- LWV of South Carolina

<https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina-state/article/how-talk-about-book-bans>

- LWV of North Dakota

<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/letters/letter-the-freedom-to-read-is-essential-to-democracy>

- Oakland Area Michigan

[https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/2023\\_10voter.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/2023_10voter.pdf)