

Wisconsin Library Association Question

Dr. Jill Underly Response

“How do public, school, and academic libraries fit into your vision for an educated and economically strong Wisconsin?”

Public, school, and academic libraries are essential pillars of an educated and economically strong Wisconsin. My vision is one where every kid, from early learners to lifelong scholars, has access to the knowledge and resources they need to succeed.

School libraries are the foundation of early literacy and learning. Strong school libraries, staffed by certified librarians, provide students with books, technology, and research skills that prepare them for academic success and informed citizenship. I support increasing funding for school libraries to ensure every child, regardless of zip code, has access to high-quality resources.

Public libraries serve as community hubs that promote literacy, workforce development, and digital access. They provide essential services such as internet access, job search assistance, and early childhood education programs. Investing in public libraries means investing in stronger communities and local economies.

Academic libraries are institutions to drive innovation, research, and workforce readiness. By supporting higher education libraries, we ensure that students and professionals have access to cutting-edge knowledge that fuels economic growth and entrepreneurship.

Ultimately, libraries are an investment in opportunity. By strengthening our libraries, we strengthen Wisconsin’s workforce, economy, democracy, and most importantly, our kids: which are the future of Wisconsin.