




Oak Park as a Book Sanctuary

June 20, 2023





Why do it? What is it?

Protect the freedom to read, watch, & listen

A LIBRARY  FOR EVERYONE



Who is affected?

- More than 2,400 U.S. Book Sanctuaries*
- First in the nation Illinois legislation
- Federal support

*Chicago Public Library

A LIBRARY  FOR EVERYONE



Close to home

- **In Missouri**, lawmakers passed legislation that can jail or fine school librarians who provide students with certain books, and its House of Representatives voted to cut all library funding in the state's annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **In Iowa**, the governor's proposed education bill contained measures to remove books from school libraries.
- **In Indiana**, the Legislature passed House Bill 1447, which requires schools to publicly post their library catalogs and establish procedures to allow parents and community members to file challenges to books they believe inappropriate. The bill also bars public school employees from using a book's educational value as a legal defense against charges that they distributed harmful material to minors.



Book Sanctuary: Key action items

1. Collect and protect endangered books
2. Make those books broadly accessible
3. Host book talks and events, including sparking conversations about diverse characters and stories
4. Educate others on the history of book banning and burning