Today, the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) issued the following statement on the Libraries’ Presidential Forum:

NHLA regrets to inform our community that our first-of-its-kind Libraries’ Presidential Forum at Concord City Auditorium in Concord, NH on Saturday, January 11 has been canceled. We made this difficult decision to cancel due to a confluence of unforeseen circumstances that were beyond our control.

“Hosting a successful forum hinges on one factor: planning. NHLA planned for every possible scenario that would best meet stakeholders’ needs, including a cancellation,” said NHLA President Amy Lappin. “There are so many factors that go into organizing a successful candidate forum. Candidates are spread very thin during a campaign season, and schedules are always shifting.”

The Libraries’ Presidential Forum was designed to be informational event to give candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves to the constituency for libraries and allow voters to hear their positions on library issues and pose questions. While the forum will not take place this year, NHLA leadership is refocusing efforts to double-down on engaging with candidates throughout the election cycle.

“Every year, library advocates in New Hampshire, alongside library advocates across the country, communicate with officials who have already been elected,” said Lappin. “We urge our elected leaders to stand up for libraries, enhance lifelong learning, and prioritize public access to information for all.”

“Advocating before the election—especially in such a visible way—is new. We are proud to have made a promising first attempt, and our planning for the forum has undoubtedly established communication channels with the candidates that we are excited to keep open.”


Should you have questions, please reach out to Lori Fisher at [advocacy@nhlibrarians.org](mailto:advocacy@nhlibrarians.org). Thank you in advance for your patience during this time of high communications volume with our team and all the candidates’ campaign staff.