

# CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

The ability to engage in discourse while remaining respectful of other individuals of varying opinions; to understand the importance of community and engagement which allows individuals to interact with one another in a participatory manner; to invoke change in an area.



Good readers make good citizens. Regular readers are more than twice as likely as non-readers to volunteer or do charity work.

- ✓ Only 47% of high school seniors have mastered a minimum level of U.S. history and civics.
- ✓ Only 23% of students performed at or above the proficient level on the 2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress civic assessment.

39% of Americans cannot name any of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

- ✓ In the 2016 presidential election, high school graduates voted at almost twice the level (47%) than those who did not finish high school (24%). Participation continued to increase with the level of education.

Greater civic knowledge is the leading factor in promoting the kind of active civic engagement that has proven to be emblematic of effective citizenship.



Only a quarter of Americans can name all three branches of government; nearly a third of Americans cannot name any of the three branches of government.

- ✓ Over 1/3 of 18- to 29-year-olds named social media as the most helpful source of information about the 2016 election.



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## About PA Forward

Pennsylvania's libraries serve as models of cost-effective service. Libraries stretch the public's resources through book sharing, computers, online resources, facilities and expertise.

PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association, aims to make sure libraries have what they need to help people reach their greatest potential and meet the demands of a constantly changing world. The program establishes new public-private partnerships and builds on the belief that libraries are uniquely positioned to help Pennsylvanians improve their command of five types of literacy essential to greater success in all vital roles of life, from citizens, students, and parents to employers, employees, and consumers.

PA Forward promotes and benefits all libraries by demonstrating that literacy is power and how libraries provide the fuel to power Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Library Association and PA Forward, visit [www.palibraries.org](http://www.palibraries.org) or call 717-766-7663. For the latest information, like the Association's Facebook pages as Facebook/PALibraries and Facebook/PA Forward. You can also follow on Twitter at @PALibraryAssoc and @PAForward5.

### Library Contact Information

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