



“To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community.”



David Lankes

Florida librarians, what do you want to hear about in my keynote at FLA Thursday?



Yesterday at 5:28pm via Twitter · · Like · Comment · @rdlankes on Twitter



Mike Eisenberg They want to hear that things are great! Everyone loves libraries and librarians just as they are. But, they NEED to hear that this isn't true, that the Web and Google have changed everything. Libraries and librarians must radically change or risk becoming a quaint anachronism.

rad·i·cal *adj* \ˈrɑ-di-kəl\

Definition of RADICAL

1 : of, relating to, or proceeding from a root: as

a (1) : of or growing from the root of a plant <*radical* tubers>
(2) : growing from the base of a stem, from a rootlike stem, or from a stem that does not rise above the ground <*radical* leaves>

b : of, relating to, or constituting a linguistic root

c : of or relating to a mathematical root

d : designed to remove the root of a disease or all diseased and potentially diseased tissue <*radical* surgery> <*radical* mastectomy>

2 : of or relating to the origin : **FUNDAMENTAL**

3 a : very different from the usual or traditional : **EXTREME**

b : favoring extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions

c : associated with political views, practices, and policies of extreme change

d : advocating extreme measures to retain or restore a political state of affairs <the *radical* right>

4 slang : **EXCELLENT**, **COOL**

— **rad·i·cal·ness** *noun*

See **radical** defined for English-language learners »

See **radical** defined for kids »

A US Perspective



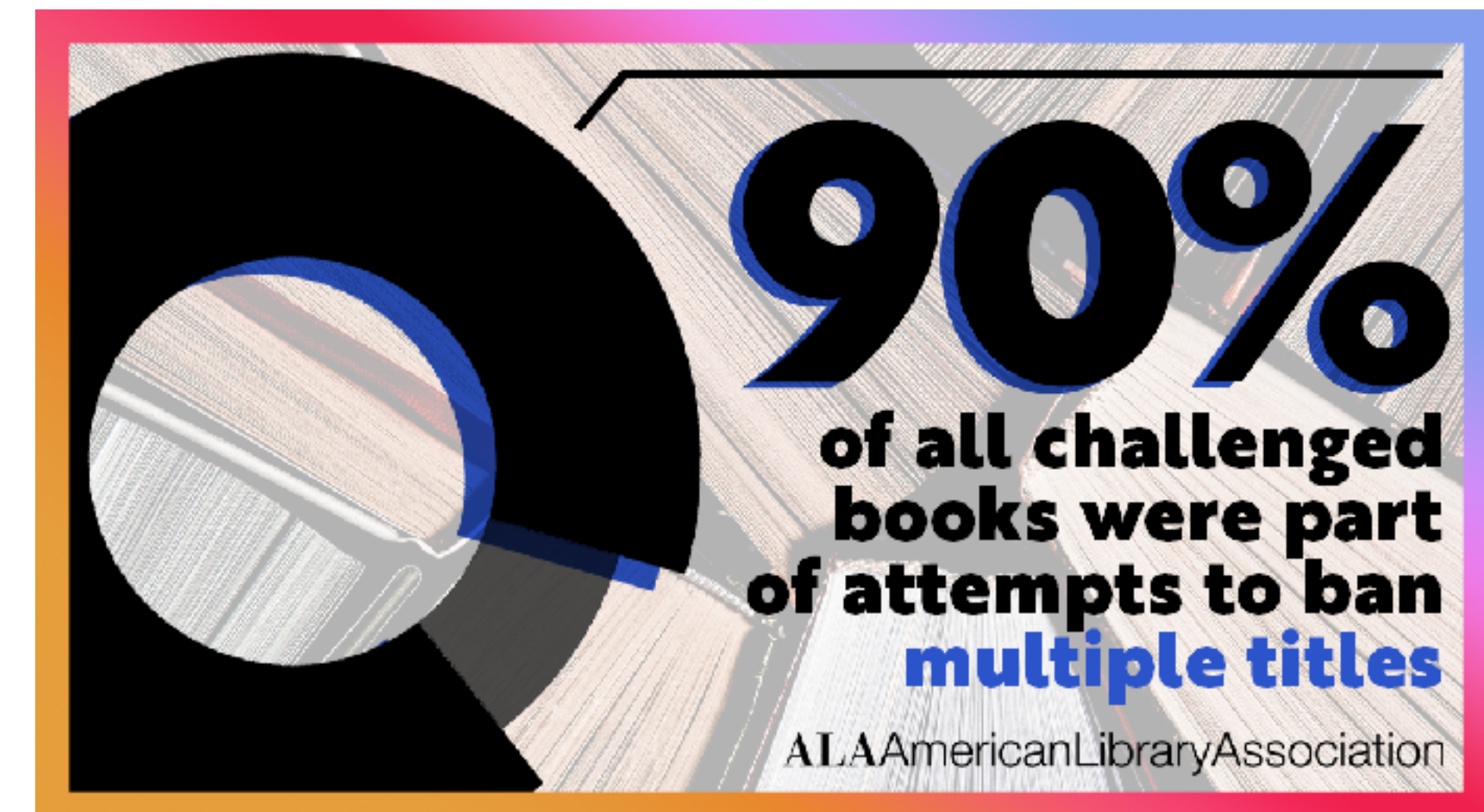
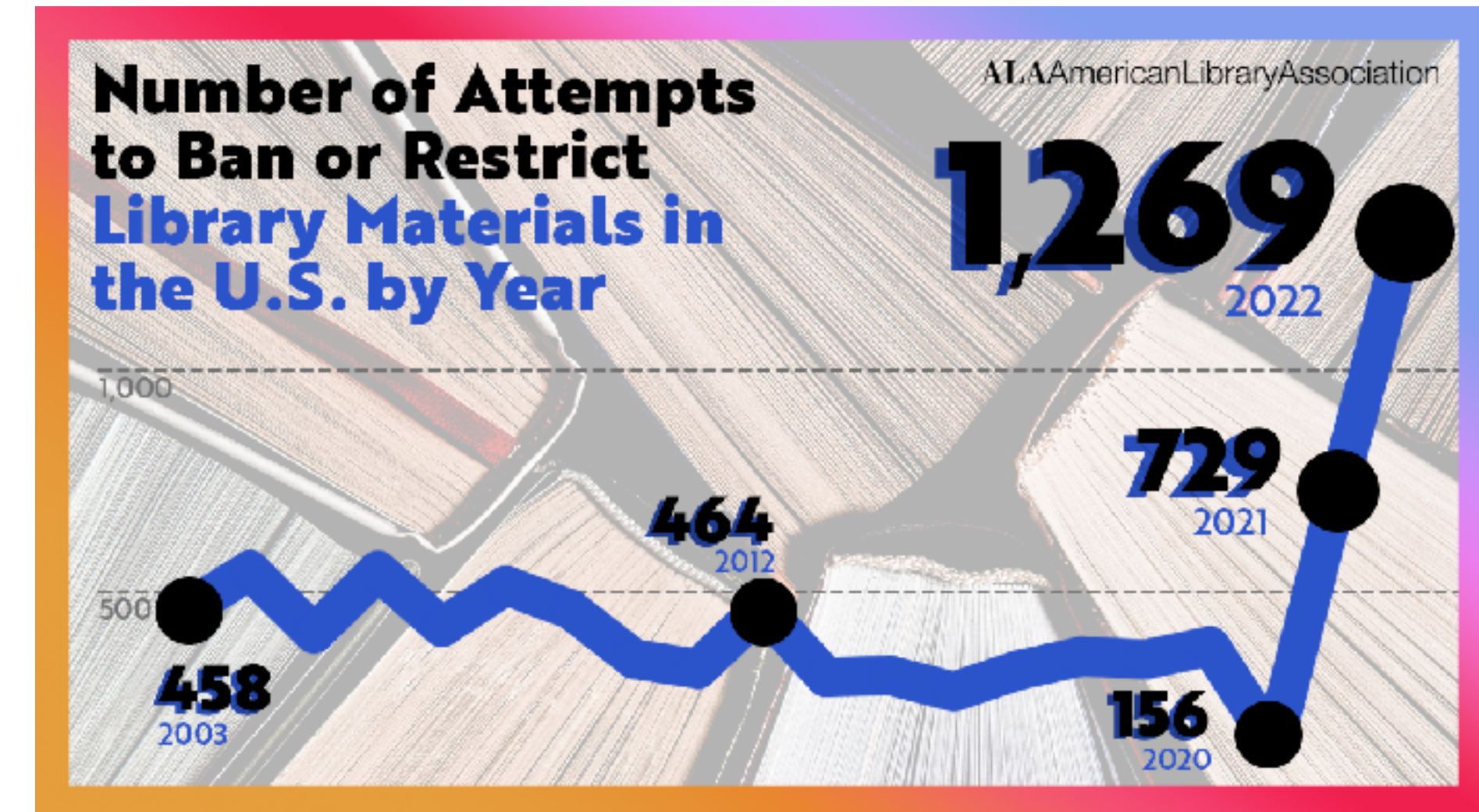
Oh What a Decade Can Do



Shush → Groomer

Book Banning

- National Coordinated Effort
 - The Krause list
 - Moms for Liberty
- Built on legitimate concerns
 - Parents rights
 - Materials appropriateness
 - However, ultimately about imposing one view on many



Librarians Under Attack



88R872 JCG-F

By: Toth

H.B. No. 111

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to affirmative defenses to prosecution for certain

88R1136 MLH-D

School librarians face a new penalty in the banned-book wars: prison

May 18, 2023 Updated Thu., May 18, 2023 at 9:05 p.m.

By Hannah Natanson

Washington Post

Librarians could face years of imprisonment and tens of thousands of dollars in fines for providing sexually explicit, obscene or “harmful” books to children under new state laws that permit criminal prosecution of school and library personnel.

At least seven states have passed such laws in the last two years, according to a Washington Post analysis, six of them in the past two months – although governors of Idaho and North Dakota vetoed the legislation. Another dozen states considered more than 20 similar bills this year, half of which are likely to come up again in 2024, the Post found.

Some of the laws impose severe penalties on librarians, who until now were exempted in almost every state from prosecution over obscene material – a carve-out meant to permit accurate lessons in topics such as sex education. All but one of the new laws target schools, while some also target the staff of public libraries and one affects book vendors.

One example is an Arkansas measure that says school and public librarians, as well as teachers, can be imprisoned for up to six years or fined \$10,000 if they distribute obscene or harmful texts. It takes effect Aug. 1.


under Subsection (b)(3) [in which event it] is a felony of the third degree.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

develop and submit to the agency a list of each book or other written material sold by the publisher to a school district or open-enrollment charter school before that date. The list must include the title of the book or material and the content rating assigned to that book or material.



(i) The agency shall post each list submitted under Subsection (h) on the agency's Internet website as soon as practicable.



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EDUCATION

Report: Texas Librarians Could Be Sued for \$10,000 Under 'Abhorrent' Proposed Ordinances

SIMONE CARTER | FEBRUARY 20, 2023 | 4:00AM



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TOP STORIES



HOW TO CREATE A SEX SCANDAL UNRAVELS THE FANTASY BEHIND MINEOLA CHILD SEX CLUB CASE

Some Texas conservatives are now taking aim at librarians. Photo by Johnny McClung on Unsplash

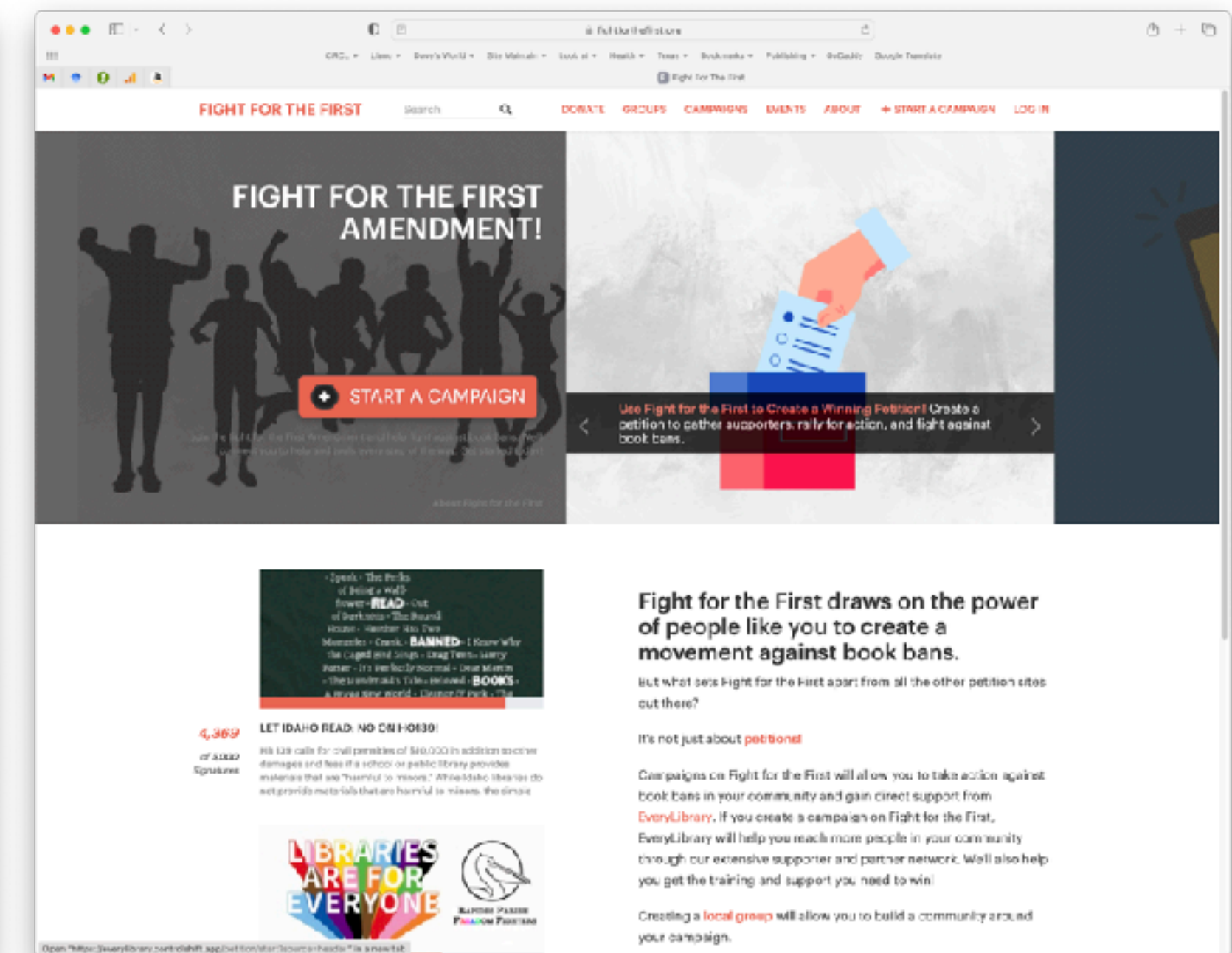
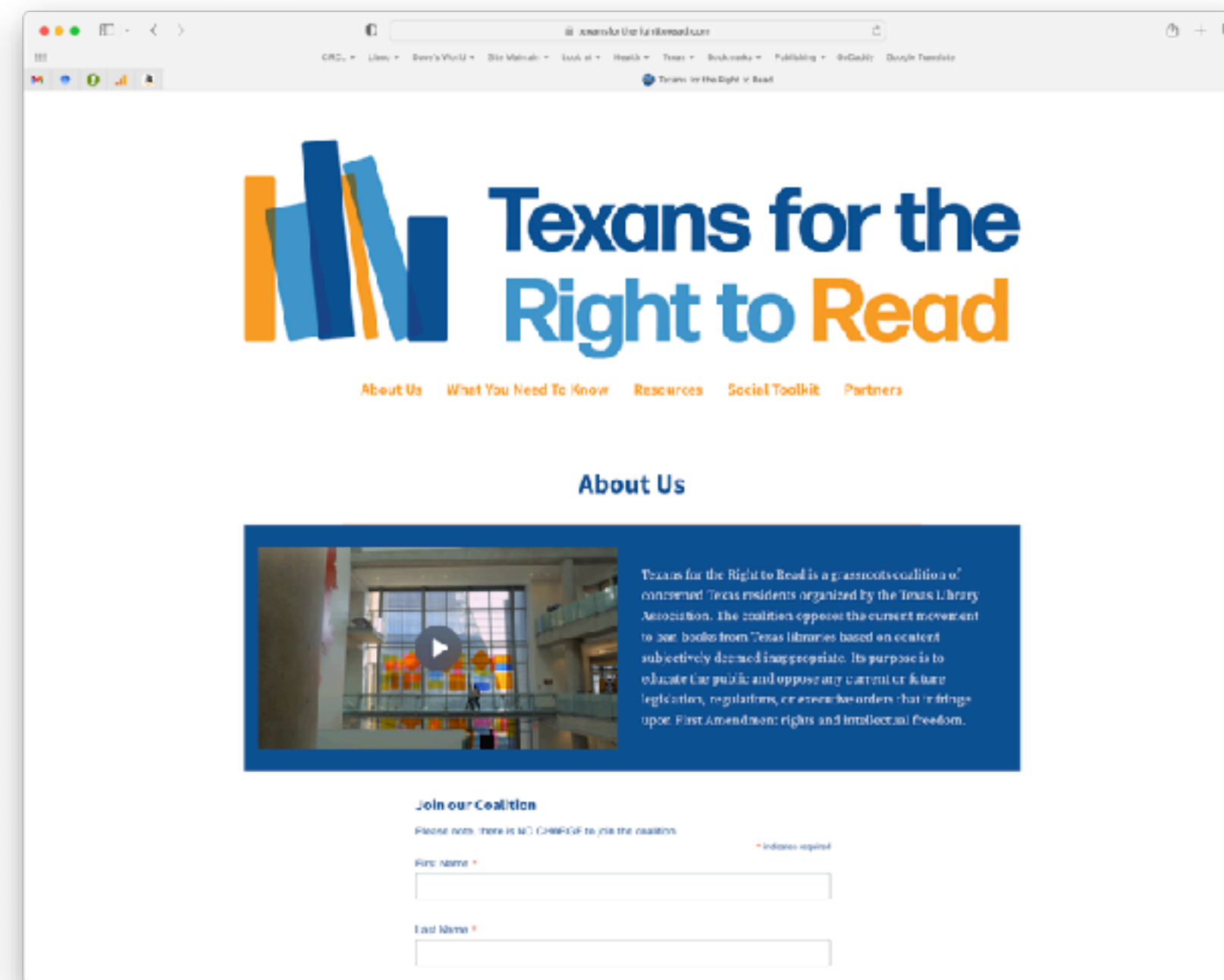
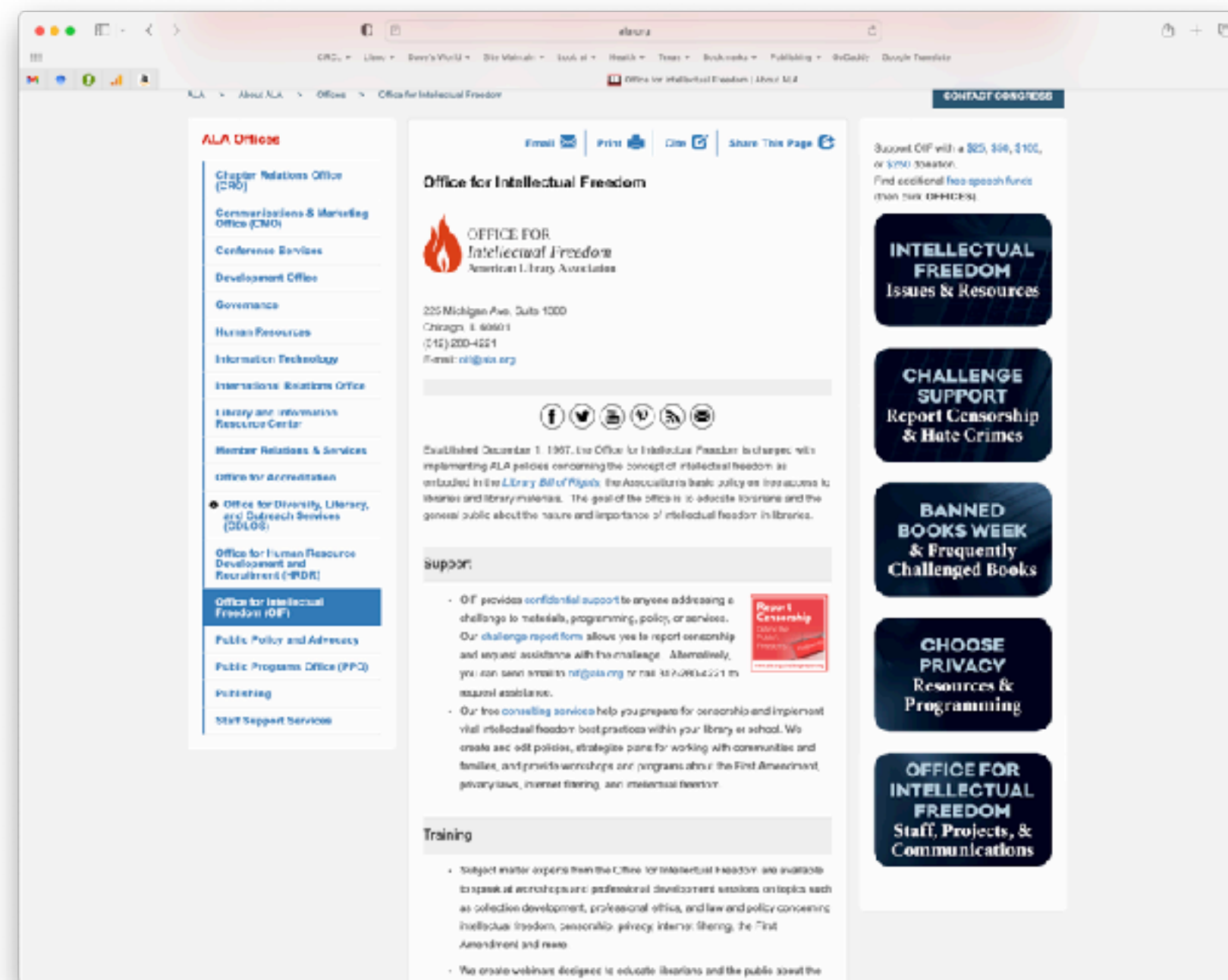
Texas' anti-abortion legislation lets private citizens sue those they believe have violated the state's ban. *Axios* reported on Thursday that **the Austin attorney who helped design the historic law, Jonathan Mitchell, has drafted city ordinances** that could potentially allow people to "[sue] librarians and others for their decisions about which books to put on shelves – or for expressing LGBTQ+ support."

Similar to the abortion law, the book-related ordinances would apparently mean that violators could be sued for at least \$10,000, plus attorney fees and legal expenses. The report also states that civil action could be brought against the library if workers don't scrub contested titles from shelves.

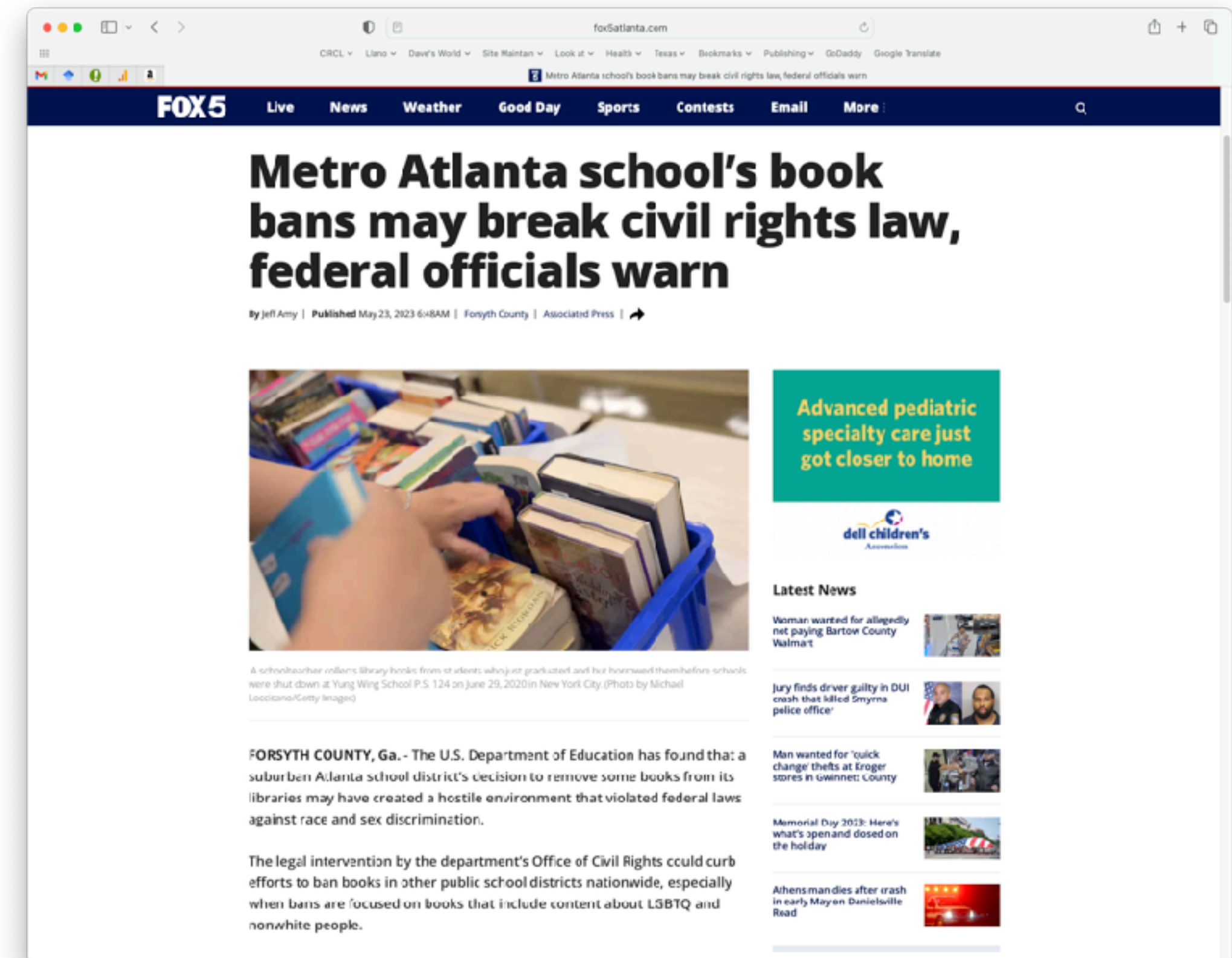
Librarians certainly aren't happy with the idea.



Response - Social



Response - Legal



Response - Understanding

The “Out Loud Part”

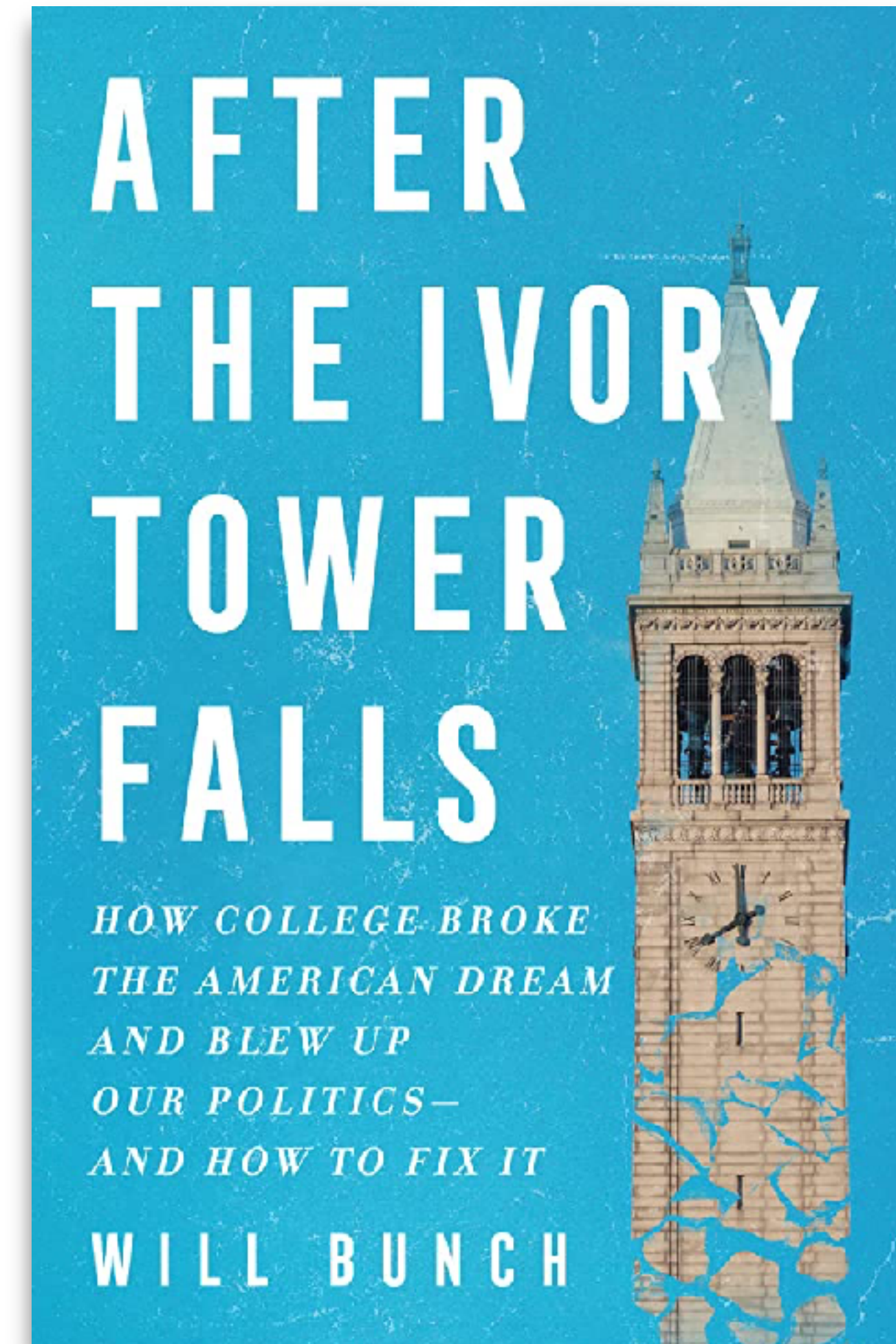
- Parents rights
- Religious liberty
- Curriculum
- Not banning - Just not in the library
- Grooming/Indoctrination

The “Quiet Part”

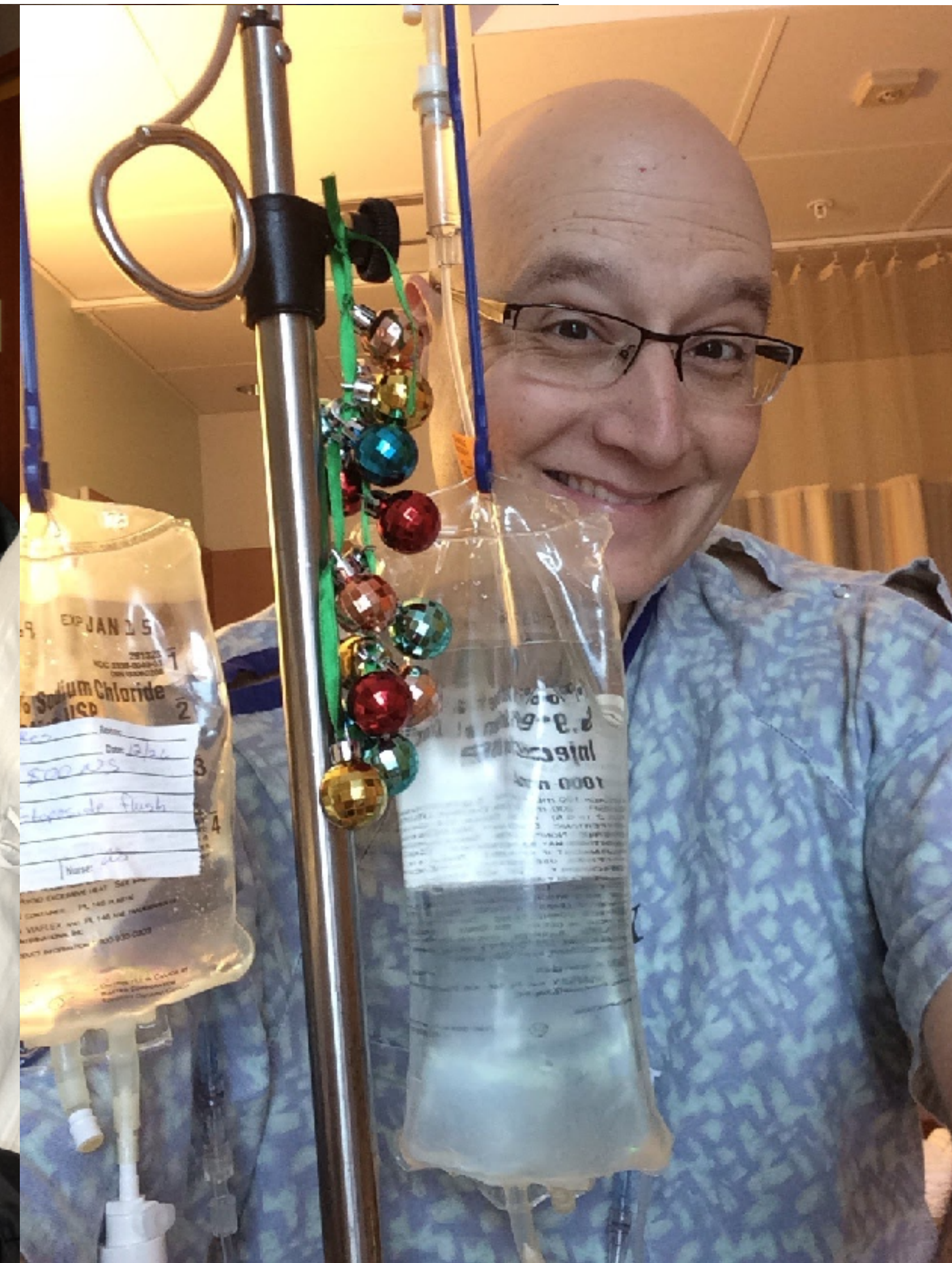
- Racism
- Anti-LGBTQ+
- Social disconnection
- Limiting democratic voices

Under It All

- It all comes down to trust.
 - Challenges can build trust...*if* they are Clear, Consistent, Inclusive, and Transparent
- Efforts to dismiss the expertise of librarians
 - To create political action (gain power)
 - To create change in societal norms and the definition of “merit”



Implications for Health



“To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community.”

“To be a radical positive agent is to fight for your whole community, your values, and for democracy itself.”