



April 11, 2025

## Sec. of State Hobbs blasted for Trump Admin's. \$3.9M grant cuts to WA. libraries!



Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs speaks during a news conference at which the state attorney general announced a federal lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's executive order attempting to overhaul elections in the U.S., in Seattle, Friday, April 4, 2025. Credit: AP Photo/Manuel Valdes via [The Columbian](#).

### WA libraries sound alarm after feds cancel \$4M grant: 'Downright cruel'

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs blasted the Trump administration's decision to nix the annual \$3.9 million grant supporting Washington's libraries.

Excerpt from the [Tacoma News Tribune](#) via [The Columbian](#):

News that the federal government yanked a \$3.9 million grant from the Washington State Library didn't sit well with Secretary of State Steve Hobbs.

In an April 6 Instagram reel, Hobbs said that the freedom of speech and freedom to read are being undermined through policies and cuts at all levels of government – including through the recent termination of grants to states from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal agency.

Hobbs was especially blunt in a video posted a couple days prior that also takes aim at the IMLS grant cancellation.

"If last week was a s\*\*\* show," Hobbs said in that reel, "this week was a four-alarm dumpster fire – filled with burning s\*\*\*."

Washington received its written notice of grant termination on April 1 from IMLS Acting Director Keith Sonderling. "This grant is unfortunately inconsistent with IMLS' priorities," the notice read in part.

McClatchy emailed Sonderling seeking comment but did not receive a reply.

The way Hobbs sees it, the scrapping of the multi-million-dollar, library-supporting grant "couldn't come at a worse time." And it will lead to "devastating consequences," particularly for rural and small institutions, he said.

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