

# Library Funding Statement of Legislative Intent – Funding Options

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The Seattle Public Library

# Public Library Governance and Funding in Washington

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Public Libraries limited to municipal libraries or five types of library districts:

- 1) Intercounty Rural Library District
- 2) Island Library District
- 3) Partial-county Rural Library District
- 4) Regional Library
- 5) Rural County Library District



# Washington Libraries Serving Over 250,000

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Five Library Districts and one Municipal Library:

- Fort Vancouver Regional Library District - 3 counties
- King County Library System
- Pierce County Library System
- Sno-Isle Libraries - 2 counties
- Timberland Regional Library - 5 counties
- The Seattle Public Library



The Seattle Public Library

# Library Service in Largest Washington Cities

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Five Library Districts and one Municipal Library:

- Seattle – population 602,000 – municipal library
- Spokane – population 205,500 – municipal library
- Tacoma – population 203,400 – municipal library
- Vancouver – population 164,500 – library district
- Bellevue – population 120,600 – library district



The Seattle Public Library

# 2010 Per Capita Spending for Local Libraries

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Washington public libraries are well-funded compared to public libraries in most other states.

- For public libraries serving over 250,000  
2008 mean expenditure nationally was \$37.23  
2008 per capita spending in Washington was \$52.05

Based on adjusted Census population numbers and adjusted 2010 operating budgets, 2010 per capita local spending:

- The Seattle Public Library: \$85.93
- King County Library System: \$71.82



# Public Library Governance and Funding Nationally

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- 53% of libraries received 90% funding from local sources  
29% of libraries received 80-89% funding from local sources
- Of 96 libraries funded by taxes, 53 had no taxing authority, 30 could levy, and 21 could levy bonds
- 53 libraries received dedicated property taxes  
47 received general fund appropriations
- 74 libraries received gifts from Friends of the Library  
65 received grants from Foundations
- 69% had authority to adopt budget, 46% had total control over expenditures



# Potential Funding Options

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- 1) Special Taxing District: Amend RCW 27.12 to create Municipal Library District
- 2) Special Taxing District: Amend or duplicate RCW 35.61 to include libraries
- 3) Base funding commitment from City General Fund with levy lid lift for excess funds
- 4) Earmark portion of existing tax or revenue source
- 5) Local option sales tax
- 6) Increase revenues to General Fund



# Seattle Lid Lift Capacity

