



The Seattle Public Library

**LIBRARIES
FOR ALL**

*A Plan for the Present,
a Foundation for the Future*

The Seattle Public Library Library Levy Service Components

Council Special Committee on the Library Levy
March 23, 2012

Why a special levy for the Library?

- Library has exhausted restructuring/efficiency cuts; reduced hours and collections funding
- Current funding is not covering base operations
- We have invested in a high quality library system -- that investment is at risk
- CBO projects \$5 million General Fund cut in 2013
- Further budget cuts will mean severe service cuts

What could a \$5M GF cut mean to Seattle library users?

- Closing 5 branch libraries and reducing current \$5 million Collections budget by 50%

OR

- Closing all 26 branches and the Central Library on Fridays year-round (in addition to current hours reductions) and cutting Collections by 50%

AS WELL AS

- Increasing visibility of low maintenance service levels and increasing deferred capital maintenance

Programmatic goals

- Provide stable funding for core operations and preserve LFA capital investment
- Restore, maintain and improve essential public library services
- Provide services that the public requested
- Support implementation of Library's Strategic Plan – position the Library to the future

Public input on Library services

- 2010 - Strategic Plan process (33,000 survey comments) and other public input
- January 2012 - packed public meetings at Central Library, Beacon Hill and Northeast branches
- Dec 15, 2011 – Feb 5, 2012 - public comments submitted online and on paper; 4,700 responses, over 14,000 separate comments
- Civic Leaders Workshop – huge civic pride and support for libraries

Four essential components of a Library Levy

- 1. Keep libraries open** when patrons need them
- 2. Provide a robust collection** of books and materials
- 3. Improve computer and online services**
- 4. Maintain library buildings** for the next generation

Four key Library service components

average annual levy spending on
restored and improved services

Service Area	Amount
Hours and Access	\$ 3.8 million
Collections	2.5 million
Technology	1.5 million
Facilities Maintenance	3.7 million
Levy administration	0.2 million
Total	\$ 11.7 million

Open hours - \$3.8 million

- Eliminate one-week closure
- Add Sunday hours to five-day branches
- Convert Northgate and Columbia to seven-day service
- Restore in-person patron assistance and programming to 8 smallest branches
- Strengthen branch management and support for programming and partnerships
- Add staffing at Central Library for high demand services (Quick Info, computer access, Seattle Room)

Collections - \$2.5 million

- Increase new titles by 14% per year
- Increase investment in e-content by 45%
- Buy more copies of popular materials
- Increase the number of holds/patron from 25 to 50
- Add resources to digitize the Seattle Room's special collections and make available online

Technology - \$1.5 million

- Replace and upgrade public computers and technology infrastructure
- Increase resources to improve capacity to search, find and use online material and services
- Upgrade and replace public printers and copiers
- Add audio-visual capability to branch meeting rooms to expand programming and use

Facilities Maintenance - \$3.7 million

- Fully fund a major maintenance (CIP) program for all facilities as they age from LFA renewal
- Increase staffing and non-labor resources to maintain, repair and clean libraries
- Regularly replace worn furniture and provide specialized cleaning

How does the Levy relate to the Library's Strategic Plan?

The Levy supports core library services Seattle residents want and the capacity to achieve our mission:

The Seattle Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.

Strategic Opportunities

Enhanced Open hours make possible:

- Neighborhood programming tailored to local needs and interests
- Partnerships with educators and schools
- Reaching out to involve new users in building community around books
- Civic conversations using libraries as the hub
- Maximizing access to meeting rooms, computers and study areas

Strategic Opportunities

A strong collections budget makes possible:

- A comprehensive digital collection that is among the best in the country
- Rapid response to continued demand for material in multiple formats
- Creating, collecting and digitizing unique local history to make it readily available to anyone

Strategic Opportunities

Sustainable technology funding makes possible:

- Major improvements to simplify online searches, whether patrons want to discover and reserve books or download e-content
- Online platforms where librarians, individuals and organizations can exchange knowledge and talk about books
- Partnerships with e-publishers to make more digital material available and simpler to use

Strategic Opportunities

Maintenance improvements support:

- Maintaining libraries as enriching neighborhood anchors by ensuring that all 27 buildings are functional and comfortable as buildings age
- Making Library buildings more flexible and responsive to evolving patron priorities

How does the potential levy relate to the Library's strategic goals?

Assuming ongoing city commitment to core funding, a special levy avoids further service cuts and stabilizes Library funding

Increases opportunities for the Library to make a difference in the lives of Seattle residents – truly be the City's Classroom