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The Seattle Public Library

June 29, 2012

Library closed Wednesday, July 4
All locations of The Seattle Public Library and the book drops at the Central Library will be closed on Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4.

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

You can help the Library by donating money, books and time.

Your gifts...

DONATE MONEY

Your gift to The Seattle Public Library Foundation helps the Library serve the community above and beyond what tax-based funding provides. Thanks to donations from individuals, businesses and foundations, the Library can provide more and better:

- Books and other items
- Technology resources, including free public access to computers and the Internet
- Services for those with special needs
- Programming for children, teens, and adults

Learn more about The Seattle Public Library Foundation and become a donor.

help us...

DONATE BOOKS

A great way to support your Library and clean-up your home or office bookshelves is to donate your used materials to the Friends of The Seattle Public Library. The Friends will re-sell your donations at their semi-annual Book Sales. Proceeds from the sales help sponsor Library projects and activities not covered by the Library's operating budget. Plus, you can become a member of this grassroots organization dedicated to promoting Seattle's Library system, an essential institution of our community.

Learn more about the Friends of The Seattle Public Library, and become a member.

grow.

DONATE TIME

Volunteers are important partners in the Library's mission to provide patrons with knowledge and information that support lifelong learning. The Library is fortunate to have over 350 volunteers providing assistance with services for patrons, hosting community events and maintaining attractive collections.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities.

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LEVY AT A GLANCE

In response to the people of Seattle, on Feb. 22, 2012, the Library Board approved specific service recommendations for a potential levy addressing the four essential priorities:

- Keep libraries open
- More books and materials
- Improve computer and online services
- Maintain buildings

The levy will also address the city Budget Office's estimated $5 million cut to the 2013 Library budget.

Proposed Levy Funding for Library Services (in millions)	
Estimated Allocation of Levy Proceeds	**Average Annual Levy Amount**
Improve Open Hours & Services	3.8m
Improve Collections	2.5m
Improve Technology	1.5m
Improve Maintenance:	
- Improve Daily Maintenance	1.5m
- Improve Major Maintenance	2.2m
Preserve Current Core Service Level	5.6m
Levy Administration	0.2m
Total	$17.3m

June 29, 2012

A PLAN FOR THE PRESENT, A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

PROPOSED 2012 LIBRARY LEVY

Read the plan

STAY INFORMED
Sign up for our email list to stay informed!

Questions? Contact the Library or call us at 206-386-4636.

- $122.6 million over seven years (about $17.3 million annually)
- 15 cents per $1,000 of assessed value
- $52 per year for median home owner

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KEEP LIBRARIES OPEN

HOURS = ACCESS

In community discussions, people told us they wanted more equitable and consistent hours systemwide. Under this proposal, all libraries would be open on Sundays and two branches - one each in north and south Seattle - would expand from five-day to seven-day operations.

Impact of cuts
Reduced city revenues and continued economic decline have resulted in cuts to all areas of operations, including access to Library buildings, resources and staff. Since 2009, 190 hours a week of service systemwide have been cut - the equivalent of closing four branches. The results:

- 15 branches operate only 35 hours a week and are closed Friday and Sunday
- Eight branches have no on-site reference staff
- The public lost an average of 90 hours free Internet access a day, systemwide
- The community lost access to meeting rooms in 11 neighborhoods

In addition, the Library has shut down for an entire week for four consecutive years -- all branches and book drops were closed, people couldn't place items on hold and most services were unavailable.

In 2013, we face additional cuts. The city Budget Office has told the Library to prepare for an estimated $5 million cut to the 2013 Library budget. A reduction of that size will impact patron services. For example, the 2012 Library budget for books is $5 million, and the annual cost of operating a large, heavily used branch library open seven days a week is approximately $1.2 million.

Proposed funding for open hours:

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$26.9 million (about $3.8 million annually) 22% of levy

What the levy means for open hours:

- Restore 6,551 open hours per year
  - Eliminate annual one-week shutdown of entire Library system
  - Add Sunday hours to 15 branches now operating only five days a week, meaning all libraries will be open on Sundays
  - Add access in north and south Seattle by restoring seven-day-a-week service at the Columbia and Northgate branches
- Restore on-site reference staff at the eight branches that lost it in 2010
- Restore 1,613 hours each week of free Internet access, systemwide
- Address anticipated cuts in the 2013 budget
- Add Central Library staff to assist with demand of people who need help with computer literacy
- Increase security staff to help ensure safety and to enforce Library behavior rules systemwide
- Add a librarian to help people research local history in the popular Seattle Room at the Central Library

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