

2012 Library Levy

Department Overview

In August 2012, Seattle voters approved a seven-year, \$123 million levy to support, maintain and improve core Library services. The Chief Librarian and the Library Board of Trustees prepare annual progress reports that show how levy proceeds have been used each year.

The 2012 Library Levy allows the Library to increase hours, purchase more books and materials, upgrade public computers and online services, and improve building maintenance. Without the approved levy, the Library would have had to delay important maintenance and public technology investments and make reductions to collections and open hours. The levy supports four priority areas identified through a public process that engaged nearly 39,000 residents: open hours, the collection of books and materials, computers and online services, and building maintenance. As part of this planning process, the Library developed a strategic plan that supports reading, personal growth, education, access to information, empowerment of Seattle's neighborhoods, building partnerships and innovation and five action-oriented service priorities: youth and family learning; technology and access; community engagement; Seattle culture and history; and reimagined spaces.

The 2012 Library Levy supports the following categories of library services (dollar amounts reflect preliminary 2018 allocations). Final 2018 allocations will be determined as part of the 2018 Library Operations Plan.

Hours and Access: The levy provides approximately \$4.4 million in 2018 to increase operating hours (over 2012 levels) at branch libraries and bolster reference services to support patrons at branches and the Central Library. Funding also provides support for operational functions that support open hours, such as security services, technology support and maintenance. Since 2013, levy funds have been used to keep Columbia and Northgate branches open on Fridays. Starting in 2016, levy funds have been used to provide Friday hours at High Point, International District/Chinatown, South Park and University branches.

Collections: The levy provides approximately \$3.3 million in 2018 to add to the variety and depth of the Library's collection to better meet patron demand for material in all formats. The collections component of the levy also funds a significant increase in purchasing of downloadable materials such as e-books, and more copies of popular materials in print, digital and other formats. In 2017, with levy funding, the Library launched Peak Picks, a new collection designed to make more popular, high-interest adult fiction and nonfiction books available to patrons visiting the Library at seven library branches and the Central Library. In late 2017, the Library will expand Peaks Picks to all Library locations and will support it with increased levy funding.

Technology and Online Services: The levy provides approximately \$1.9 million in 2018 to replace and upgrade computers and technology infrastructure that was purchased during the Libraries for All (LFA) capital program, providing users access to up-to-date technology tools and resources. The levy also funds a redesigned website scheduled for rollout in early 2018 and improvements to online services to ensure patrons can successfully find and use online material through the Library's online platform.

Regular Maintenance: The levy provides approximately \$1.5 million in 2018 for regular maintenance to sustain the public's investment in the Central Library and 26 branches that were constructed or remodeled as a result of the 1998 LFA bond measure. Seattle's libraries are among the most heavily used public buildings in the city and require additional resources as they age in order to preserve environments that are safe, clean and welcoming.

Major Maintenance: The levy provides approximately \$4.1 million in 2018 for sustained stewardship of library facilities. Prior to the levy, the Library's capital improvement program (CIP) was largely funded by allocations from

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the City's Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Levy funds have largely replaced REET funding for Library major maintenance throughout the system. REET now provides funding for projects beyond the intended scope of the levy. Included in the levy scope for major maintenance is maintenance necessary for building components such as roofs, floors, finishes, HVAC and mechanical systems. It does not include any funding for new or expanded library space.

Additionally, the levy provides approximately \$4.8 million in 2018 to maintain existing core functions and services at 2012 levels and about \$300,000 annually to support implementation and accountability measures for levy programs and annual reporting to the public on levy outcomes.

The 2012 Library Levy Fund chapter of the budget is used to show the approved uses of the levy. Levy funds to support the Library's operations are transferred to the Library's operating fund and the appropriations are shown in the Library's section of the 2018 Proposed Budget. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) spending for major maintenance is made directly from the Levy Fund and all CIP appropriations are reflected in the Library's section of the Proposed CIP Budget.

Budget Overview

The 2018 Proposed Budget marks the sixth year of the seven-year, voter-approved \$123 million Library Levy. The levy supports four core service areas identified through an extensive public engagement process: open library hours, the collection of books and materials, computers and online services, and building maintenance. The 2018 Proposed Budget includes continued levy support to expand Friday operations for four additional branches: International District/Chinatown, University, High Point and South Park. These branches began operating on Fridays in mid-2016. It also includes \$500,000 for cabling work at the Central Library building. Levy support in the 2018 Proposed Budget includes \$16.2 million for operating support (including use of \$805,370 of prior year carry-forward) and \$4.1 million in 2018 for facilities capital support.

Incremental Budget Changes

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	2018 Budget
Total 2018 Endorsed Budget	\$ 14,905,762
Proposed Technical Changes	
Transfer of Levy Funds to Support Library Operations	\$ 500,370
Total Incremental Changes	\$ 500,370
2018 Proposed Budget	\$ 15,406,132

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Descriptions of Incremental Budget Changes

Proposed Technical Changes

Transfer of Levy Funds to Support Library Operations - \$500,370

This item appropriates additional funds out of the 2012 Library Levy Fund as part of the planned increase of support for Library operations. Changes reflects an increase for cabling at the Central Library.

Expenditure Overview

Appropriations	Summit Code	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
Library Levy Operating	18100-	13,340,239	14,503,161	14,905,762	15,406,132
Transfer Budget Control Level	B9TRF				
Capital	18100	3,076,009	3,673,000	3,772,000	4,072,438
Department Total		16,416,248	18,176,161	18,677,762	19,478,570

Revenue Overview

2018 Estimated Revenues

Summit Code	Source	2016 Actuals	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	2018 Proposed
411100	Property Tax	17,431,905	17,513,077	17,688,208	17,688,207
461110	Interest Earnings	120,629	100,000	50,000	100,000
	Total Library Levy Fund	17,552,534	17,613,077	17,738,208	17,788,207
	Total Revenues	17,552,534	17,613,077	17,738,208	17,788,207
379100	Use of (Contribution To) Fund Balance	1,136,285	563,084	939,554	1,690,363
	Total Library Levy Fund	1,136,285	563,084	939,554	1,690,363
	Total Resources	18,688,819	18,176,161	18,677,762	19,478,570

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Appropriations By Program

Library Levy Operating Transfer

The purpose of the Library Levy Operating Transfer program is to transfer funds to the Library Fund (10410) for library operations. This program is funded by Library Levy dollars (Fund 18100).

	2016	2017	2018	2018
Program Expenditures	Actuals	Adopted	Endorsed	Proposed
Library Levy Operating Transfer	16,416,248	14,503,161	14,905,762	15,406,132
Total	16,416,248	14,503,161	14,905,762	15,406,132

2012 Library Levy Fund Table

2012 Library Levy Fund (18100)

	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018
	Actuals	Adopted	Revised	Endorsed	Proposed
Beginning Fund Balance	9,582,458	5,941,044	10,718,744	4,439,960	3,667,114
Accounting and Technical Adjustments		(938,000)		(805,370)	(805,000)
Plus: Actual and Estimated Revenue	17,552,534	17,613,077	17,638,077	17,738,208	17,788,208
Less: Actual and Budgeted Expenditures	13,340,239	14,503,161	18,243,060	14,905,762	15,406,132
Less: Capital Improvements	3,076,009	3,673,000	6,446,647	3,772,000	4,072,438
Ending Fund Balance	10,718,744	4,439,960	3,667,114	2,695,036	1,171,752
Planning Reserve	-				-
Levy Reserve for Future Use	-	805,370	805,370		
Total Reserves	-	805,370	805,370	-	-
Ending Unreserved Fund Balance	10,718,744	3,634,590	2,861,744	2,695,036	1,171,752