

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
of TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025, 3:30 p.m.**

---

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

**Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, Washington  
Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.**

<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	<b><u>TIME (approx.)</u></b>
----------------------	------------------------------

*We acknowledge that we gather on territory that has been the traditional and ancestral homeland to the Lhaq'temish (the Lummi People), the Nooksack People, and other Coast Salish tribes of this region Since Time Immemorial.*

*We honor our shared responsibility to this land and these waters, we commit to learning from Indigenous wisdom, and we strive to repair and deepen our relationships as neighbors and friends.*

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>1. Call to order and introductions</b>   | 1 min |
| <b>2. Approve/modify agenda</b>   | 1 min |
| <b>3. Public comment</b><br>This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments.<br>Remarks will be limited to three minutes.   | 3 min |
| <b>4. Consent agenda (see packet materials)</b><br>All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved in a single motion. A Trustee may ask that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Communications and FYI</b></li><li>• <b>Minutes:</b> May 20, 2025: Regular Board Meeting</li><li>• <b>Library performance &amp; activity measures:</b> May 2025</li><li>• <b>Financial reports</b><br/>Claims: May 2025<br/>YTD report: May 2025</li></ul> | 2 min |
| <b>5. Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Chair</li><li>• Library Board members</li><li>• City Council liaison</li><li>• Friends of Bellingham Public Library</li><li>• Library Director (see packet materials)</li></ul>   | 8 min |

**Time check: 3:45**

<b>6. Strategic Planning (see packet materials)</b>	25 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive Plan presentation: Community Wellbeing and Civic Practices, Sydney Prusak, Planner 2, Planning and Community Development</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Staff Safety and Mental Health/Welcoming Public Space update (see packet materials)</b>	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebecca Judd, Director</li> </ul>	
	<b>Time check: 4:20</b>
<b>8. Budget Planning update (see packet materials)</b>	20 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebecca Judd, Director</li> </ul>	
<b>9. Central Library Renovation update (see packet materials)</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebecca Judd, Director</li> <li>Kristy Van Ness, Trustee</li> </ul>	
	<b>Time check: 4:55</b>
<b>10. New business</b>	3 min
<b>11. Agenda items for next meeting</b>	2 min
	<b>Time check: 5:00</b>
<b>12. Adjourn</b>	

**Accessibility:**

The Bellingham Public Library Board Room is ADA accessible. Elevator access to the upper floor is available at the Central Avenue entrance. If you require a sign interpreter or other accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours' notice. For additional accommodation, contact the Administrative Assistant at 360-778-7220 in advance of the meeting.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Location: Lecture Room, Central Library, 210 Central Avenue**  
**Bellingham, Washington**



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2025 – Bellis Fair Library Branch, 1 Bellis Fair Parkway**  
**Suite 616, Bellingham, Washington – 3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

---

**Board Members Present:** Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness, Kendra Bradford, and Shirin Deylami  
**Board Members Absent:** Deborra Garrett  
**Library Management Staff:** Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Katrina Buckman, Jon McConnel and Jennifer Vander Ploeg  
**FOBPL Representative:** Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaison  
**Guest Speaker:** Christine Perkins, WCLS Director

**Call to order and introductions:** Regular session was called to order at 3:39 p.m. by Chair, Rebecca Craven.

**Approve/modify agenda:** Shirin Deylami moved to approve the agenda. Kristy Van Ness seconded. Motion carried.

**Public comment:** No public comment.

**Consent agenda:** Kendra Bradford moved to approve the April 15, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Shirin Deylami seconded. Motion carried.

**Board Chair report:**

- Rebecca Craven had no items to report.

**Board member reports:**

- Kristy Van Ness attended the Friends of BPL annual meeting. She indicated that it was great to hear about the Ridwell donation of books and applauded the community collaboration. She also recognized Miranda LeonJones' help coordinating the donation.

**City Council liaison report:**

- Hannah Stone was not present

**Friends of BPL report:**

- The Friends of BPL four-day book sale runs May 21 – 24 and many commented on the excellent advertising. The Friends are optimistic and excited to use the proceeds to continue to support Library programs.

#### **Library Director report:**

- Rebecca drew the Board's attention to the incident report in the packet, noting that it was included because the person was issued a 5-year trespass. Any trespass of 5-years or more is required to come before the Board per the Library's Rules of Conduct. The notification is for information and review only; no actions are needed.
- Rebecca noted that personnel expenditures in the budget report are tracking higher than anticipated. She is monitoring this with the City finance department.
- The Washington State Library is responding to a rapidly changing budget situation, as the Board will note from the many articles in the packet. Federal IMLS dollars have been restored to the State Library as of May 13, at least through the current Federal budget year.
- The Literacy Council's Trivia Bee Raised \$18,000. Teams "Overdue for a Win" and "Operation Don't Take Last" represented BPL.
- Summer Reading begins June 1. Rebecca thanked the Friends for donating \$5,000 to purchase new yard and window signs at their May board meeting.
- Questions from Board members:
  - What do Baker & Taylor delays mean for the Library moving forward? Conversation ensued and pointed to the need to issue a Request for Proposals to vendors in this market in 2026.
  - Were the bids for cleaning (Bellis Fair and Barkley) successful? Jen indicated that the successful bid was similar to what we are paying now (slightly under) and includes Tuesdays at Bellis Fair.

#### **WCLS Levy Update**

- Christine Perkins, WCLS Executive Director, presented on the WCLS Levy Lid Lift (*see Attachment #1 at the end of the minutes for WCLS Levy Lid Lift 2025*).
- History and Facts: WCLS is an Independent Junior Taxing District, which includes all of Whatcom County except the portion within Bellingham City limits. Patrons with questions about their property taxes can be referred to the Whatcom County Assessor's Office. There they can see how much they pay annually in property taxes and specifically for the Library. The current rate is \$0.26 per \$1,000 assessed value. RCW.27.12.040 states that the maximum rate is \$0.50 per thousand. Christine noted that the annual rate increase to the levy is limited by 1% (plus a small amount for new construction). This is significantly less than inflation. Since the levy increase is limited, as assessed value (AV) of all property in the county goes up, the levy rate goes down. In 2008 the rate was \$0.35, which was not enough to meet expenses. County residents voted to increase the rate to \$0.44. Property values subsequently went down and the levy was at the cap (\$0.50) for a while; then values went up and the levy rate came down. Due to diligent stewardship and other economic factors, WCLS has been able to sustain operations for 16 years. The levy is, again, not high enough to meet expenses. If the levy is not increased, WCLS will need to start cutting into savings each year. With no change, by 2028, there will not be enough funds in savings to cover operating costs.

- Communication to and from County Residents: To determine the best path forward, WCLS held listening sessions across the county. Listeners suggested getting funding from Whatcom County Council or Bellingham, but staff noted that WCLS is independent from Whatcom County Council and independent from Bellingham. At the listening sessions, WCLS shared the following information with attendees: The current annual budget is approximately \$10 million, 95.1% of which comes from property taxes. This covers an extensive list of services and 168 employees at 10 locations plus the bookmobile and Administrative Services. The average county household (\$600,000 AV) currently pays \$13 per month for WCLS services. The Levy Lid Lift would raise that to \$21 per month. Between 2008 and 2024, WCLS experienced the following increases:
  - +18% growth in population
  - +47% check outs
  - +22% open hours
  - +56% cardholders
  - +90% salaries

Some feedback from the listening sessions included increasing volunteer hours, doing more fundraising, and attempting to secure more state and federal funding. Current volunteer hours, if paid at a fair wage, would account for only \$165,000. Even with substantial increases this would not make a significant impact. Fundraising would also not bridge this wide of a budget gap. State and Federal funding sources are not currently available, nor can they be relied upon as a sustainable source.

- Levy Lid Lift Decision: The WCLS Board of Directors voted to put Proposition 2025-02 on the ballot. The Board is asking for \$0.42/\$1000. (Note: also on the ballot is Sudden Valley Fire District lid lift.) If passed it will be enough to maintain current services: a robust collection, current open hours and services, and help fund building maintenance.
- Role of BPL: BPL staff and board members can remind people that the levy measure will not be on the City ballot, because WCLS is a separate system. (It was noted that there are residents with Bellingham address who do live in the county jurisdiction.) It is also worth mentioning that the current BPL fundraising is not connected to WCLS.
- More information: More details are available at [www.wcls.org/levy](http://www.wcls.org/levy) including lots of information, a video, and a tax calculator. Lynden tribune ran a lengthy [article](#) with a lot of information. Questions: email [wclslevy@wcls.org](mailto:wclslevy@wcls.org).
- Questions from BPL: Board members asked what WCLS will do if the measure does not pass. Christine shared options including: WCLS could go out again in Feb/April/August of 2026 or WCLS could make significant cuts to staff and materials.

### **Staff Safety and Mental Health/Welcoming Public Space update**

- Rebecca Judd shared information relevant to the Staff Safety and Mental Health goal – and specifically advocacy for day shelter space.
- Rebecca met with Todd Donovan from County Council. It was an open 1-hr conversation.
- Rebecca Craven and Rebecca Judd met with Samya Lutz – one of two City representatives on the Housing Advisory Committee. Samya helped clarify where housing funding is currently being allocated. Shelter funding would have to be reallocated or funded by another source.

- Rebecca Judd gave public comment at the May 13 Whatcom County Council meeting. At that meeting, The Whatcom County Health and Community Services department gave updates on 1) The 2024-2025 Severe Weather Shelter (SWS) debrief, 2) The 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan and, 3) the Shelter Sub-Committee of the Housing Advisory Committee recommendations. Impacts to the Library were mentioned, as well as the need for a day shelter.
- There will be an opportunity to provide input for the 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan on June 2 and June 4. The 2026-2030 Homeless Housing Plan Development website also lists "Other Ways to Get Involved" on their website: [2026-2030 Homeless Housing Plan Development | Whatcom County, WA - Official Website](#)
- The new Security Supervisor in Public Works, Cameron Birman, is orienting to the Library and doing great.
- Mayor Lund witnessed an incident outside the children's entrance to the library. Rebecca is following up on this incident and subsequent conversations about ways to improve safety at the library.
- There was a question to Christine Perkins about the number of incidents at WCLS branches. It was acknowledged that it is much less than BPL.

#### **Budget Planning Update:**

- The Official kick-off to the 2026 City budget process was Monday, May 19. Additional instructions to departments will be coming next week.
- Library hours are changing June 1. Central Library hours will adjust to 10 am-6 pm Monday – Thursday and Bellis Fair will add Tuesday 10 am-2 pm.

#### **Central Library Renovation Update:**

- Rebecca Judd brought thank you notes for the Board to sign and send to legislators who supported the Library Capital Improvement Program Grant (\$2,000,000) and the Local and Community Projects grant (\$1,030,000).
- BPL will draft a press release about the State funding when the capital budget is signed by the governor.
- Rebecca Judd and Jon McConnel had a meeting with ITSD. ITSD would like to add the IT-related renovation projects into their project fund. They will do some preliminary estimates for meeting room technology.
- There was a question about matching funds for the fundraising effort. Annette clarified that \$60,000 has already been matched, and there is still \$40,000 more in matching funds available.

#### **Strategic Planning**

- Rebecca Judd noted the revised text in the City of Bellingham Comprehensive Plan text (in the packet). She thanked everyone for their suggestions. All agreed that the updates looked good.

#### **New Business:**

- None

#### **Agenda items for next meeting:**

- WCF staff to attend to talk about fundraising for the Central Library.

**Meeting adjourned** at 5:02 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – Central Library – 3:30 p.m.**

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

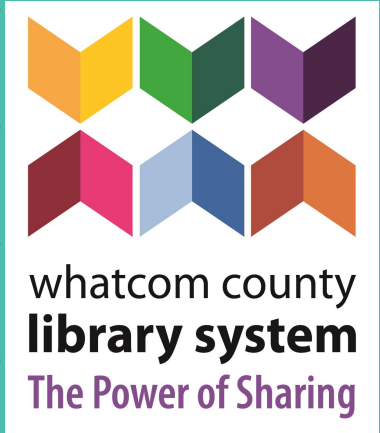
Library Director, Library Board of Trustees

Attachments:

- Attachment #1: WCLS Levy Lid Lift 2025

DRAFT





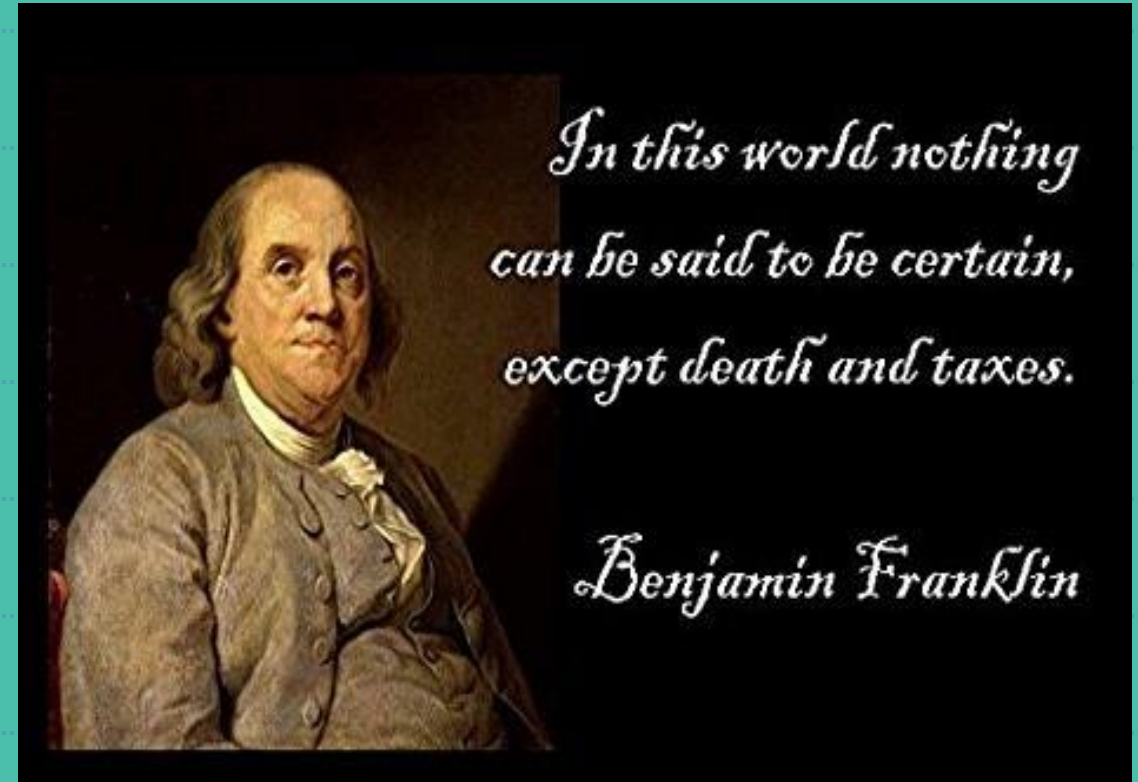
# WCLS Levy Lid Lift 2025

May 20, 2025  
Meeting Minutes Attachment #1

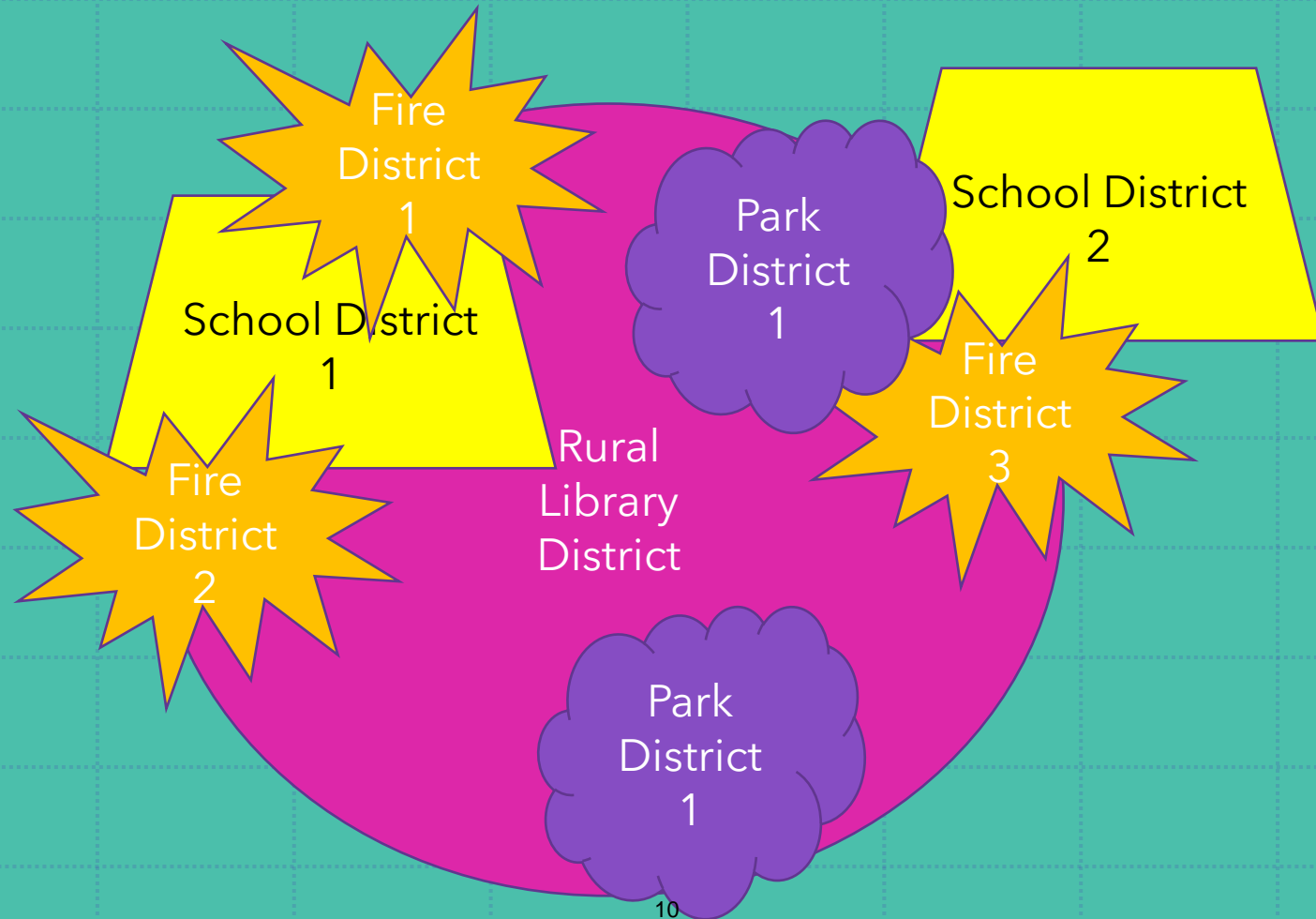


# Today's Agenda

- **Levy and Levy Lid Lift Basics**
- **WCLS Budget Review**
- **Role of BPL**



# Taxing Districts



# Cost Per Household

## Whatcom County Assessor & Treasurer - Property Search

Taxing Jurisdiction					
Owner:					
% Ownership: 100.0000000000%					
Total Value: \$500,919					
Tax Area: 3055 503 R L F21 BBWS BBBPR					
Levy Code	Description	Levy Rate	Appraised Value	Taxable Value	Estimated Tax
BBWSB	BIRCH BAY WATER-SEWER BOND	0.0000000000	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$0.00
CFL	CONSERVATION FUTURES	0.0230520536	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$11.55
FCZDL	FLOOD CONTROL ZONE	0.1059224782	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$53.06
FD021AX13	FIRE #21 LTGO2012	0.0000000000	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$0.00
FD021EXP	FIRE #21 EXPENSE FUND	0.7641462375	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$382.78
PRD002	BLAINE-BIRCH BAY PARK & REC EXPENSE	0.0500000001	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$25.05
PRD002CI	BLAINE-BIRCH BAY PARK & REC CAP IMP	0.0300000007	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$15.03
PRD002RF	BLAINE-BIRCH BAY PARK & REC RESERVE FUND	0.0199999995	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$10.02
PTBOND	PORT OF BELLINGHAM GO BOND	0.0137802545	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$6.90
PTGEN	PORT OF BELLINGHAM GENERAL FUND	0.1139916840	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$57.10
PTRDA	PORT OF BELLINGHAM RDA	0.0001983539	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$0.10
RDDIV	COUNTY ROAD DIVERSION	0.0410839750	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$20.58
RDGEN	COUNTY ROAD FUND	0.8360740380	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$418.81
RLIBGEN	RURAL LIBRARY	0.2585219245	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$129.50
SD503B	BLAINE SCHOOL #503 BOND	0.4837934787	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$242.34
SD503CP	BLAINE SCHOOL TECH & CAPITAL PROJECTS	0.0000000000	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$0.00
SD503MO	BLAINE SCHOOL #503 ENRICHMENT	0.8632262601	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$432.41
WA1	STATE SCHOOL PART 1	1.5071435009	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$754.96
WA2	STATE SCHOOL PART 2	0.8108282856	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$406.16
WCCE	COUNTY CURRENT EXPENSE	0.5876517319	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$294.37
WCCI	CHILDRENS INITIATIVE	0.1681898915	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$84.25
WCCT	COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH	0.0124999999	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$6.26
WCDD	COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY	0.0124999999	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$6.26
WCER	COUNTY ELECTION RESERVE	0.0058528688	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$2.93
WCVR	COUNTY VETERANS RELIEF	0.0112500000	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$5.64
WCEMS	WHATCOM COUNTY EMS	0.2208348495	\$500,919	\$500,919	\$110.62
Total Tax Rate:		6.9405418663			
Taxes w/Current Exemptions:					\$3,476.68
Taxes w/o Exemptions:					\$3,476.68

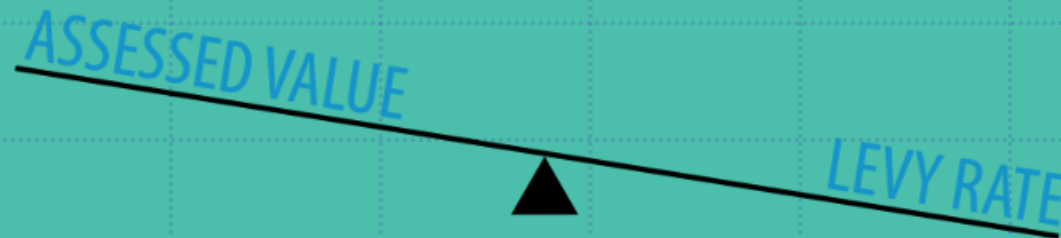
# State laws governing library districts

- **RCW 27.12.040** Rural library districts – Establishment – Proposed Maximum Levy Rate

***Sets maximum levy rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed value.***

- **RCW 84.55.010** Limitations on regular property taxes – Limitations prescribed

***Limits levy increases to 1% unless voters approve a larger increase.***



# Calculating the levy rate and levy amount




**Year 1:** Voter-approved levy rate x (assessed value of all property in district/1,000) = levy amount

$$\text{LEVY RATE} \times \text{AV} = \text{LEVY}$$

$$\$0.42 \times (\$10,000,000 / 1,000) = \$4,200 \text{ levy aka total tax collected}$$

**Year 2:** Board of Trustees can choose to increase levy by up to 1% over Year 1

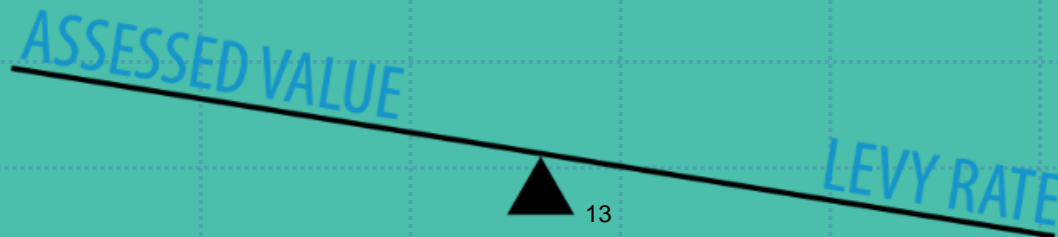
$$\$4,200 \times 1.01 = \$4,242 \text{ levy}$$

- If AV decreases, levy rate goes up 
- If AV stays the same, levy rate goes up 
- If AV increases, levy rate goes down 

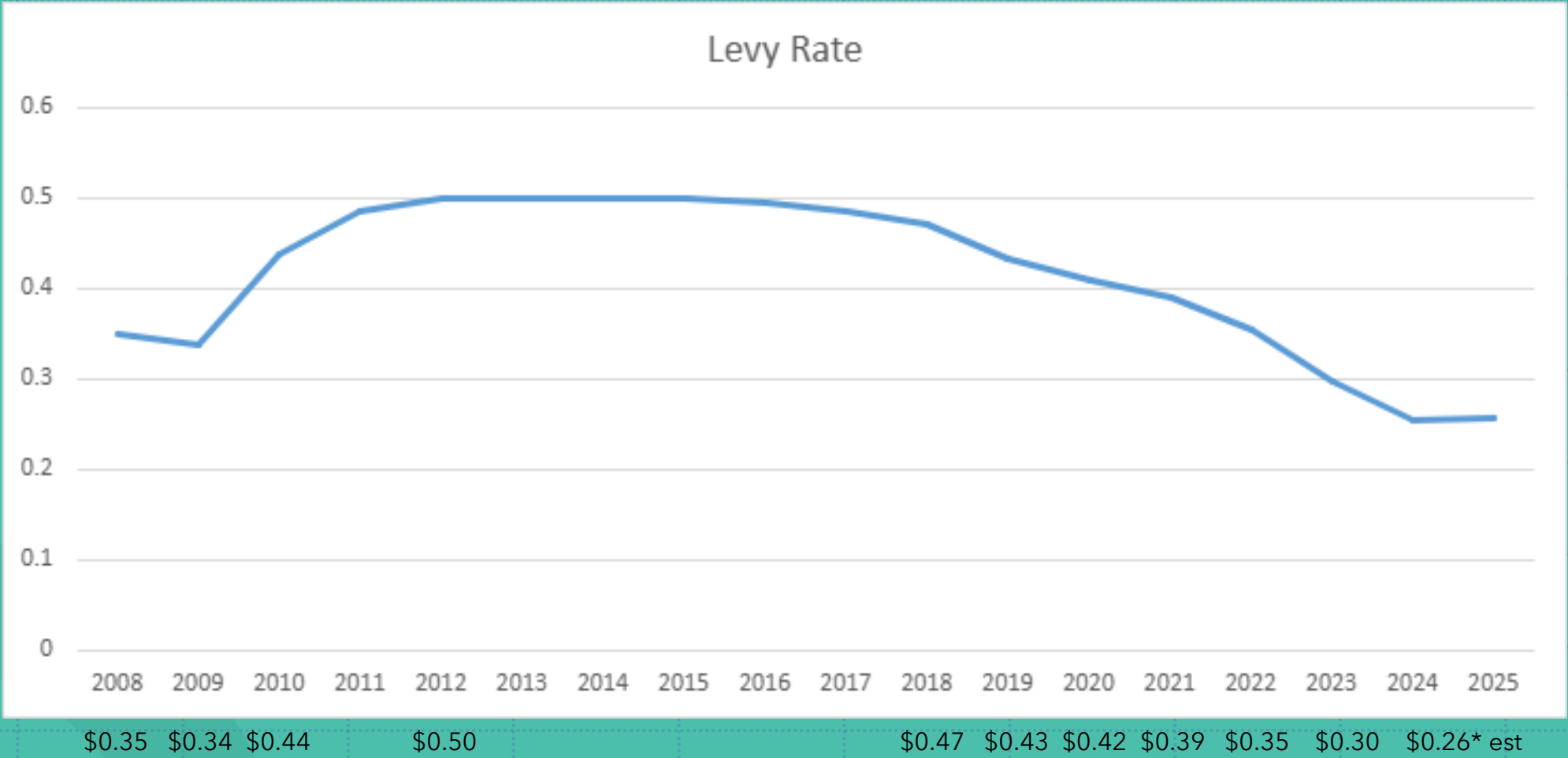
$$\$4,242 / (\$9,000,000 / 1,000) = \$0.47$$

$$\$4,242 / (\$10,000,000 / 1,000) = \$0.424$$

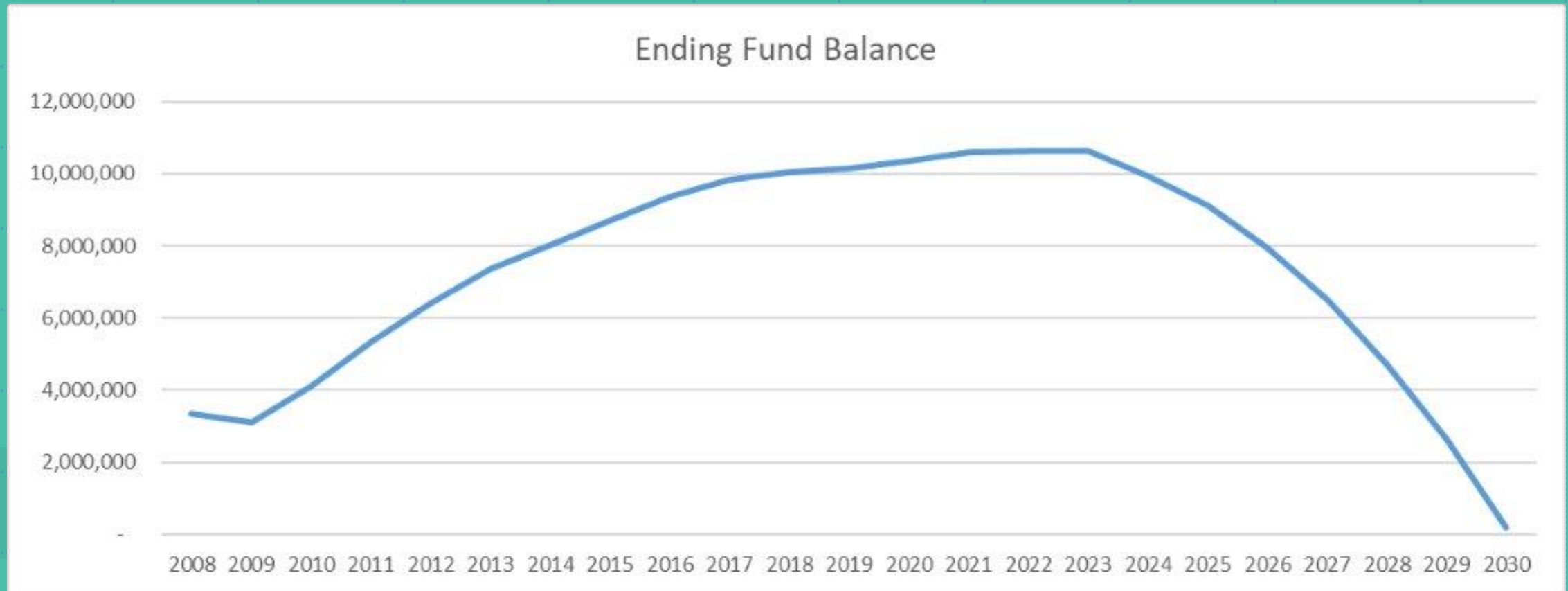
$$\$4,242 / (\$11,000,000 / 1,000) = \$0.385$$



# WCLS Levy Rate History



# WCLS Ending Fund Balance History





# Operating Budget Projections

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	10,612,545	9,932,448	9,120,543	7,962,674	6,497,149	4,715,035	2,609,360	175,718	(2,586,995)	(5,675,693)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	10,517,581	10,678,381	10,906,124	11,197,760	11,510,427	11,847,585	12,213,37	12,612,744	13,051,624	13,537,111
<b>Total Expense</b>	10,967,678	11,490,286	12,063,993	12,663,285	13,292,541	13,953,260	14,647,015	15,375,457	16,140,322	16,895,535
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	9,932,448	9,120,543	7,962,674	6,497,149	4,715,035	2,609,360	175,718	(2,586,995)	(5,675,693)	(9,034,117)
<b>Net Income</b>	(450,097)	(811,905)	(1,157,869)	(1,465,525)	(1,782,114)	(2,105,675)	(2,433,642)	(2,762,713)	(3,088,698)	(3,358,424)
<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	(230,000)									



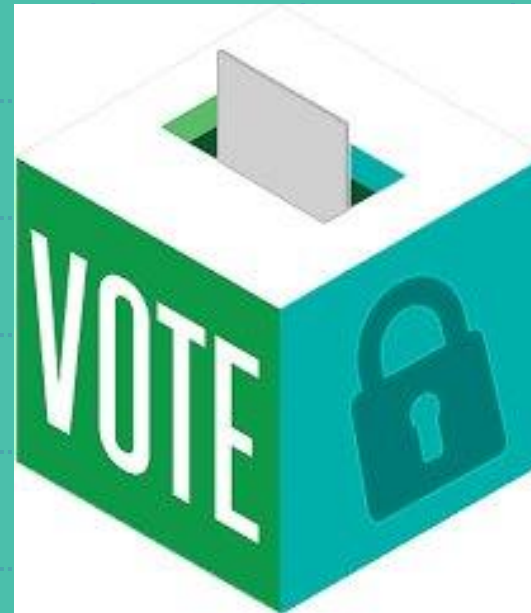
2025 Materials Budget \$1,275,000 - Even if don't purchase ANY new materials in 2027 and every year after that, still in a deficit

# Budget Listening Sessions

- February – March 2025 held 11 listening sessions
- Gathered suggestions



**Decrease services**



**Increase revenue**

# Whatcom County Rural Library District

- **Independent junior taxing district**
- **Not part of Whatcom County government**
- **Separate from Bellingham Public Library**



Bellingham Public Library (BPL) is a separate system funded by taxpayers who live within the city limits of Bellingham. Its budget is approved by the Bellingham City Council as part of the city's overall annual budget. Unlike WCLS, which is an independent junior taxing district, BPL is a department of the City of Bellingham.

# Cost of Services

**2025 Tax Revenue: \$10.1 million**

***Library collection:*** 670,000 physical and digital items to borrow

***Technology:*** computers, Internet, WiFi, printers

***Locations:*** 10 +1 on the way (Birch Bay) and a Bookmobile

***Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, interior maintenance***

***Staff:*** 168 employees

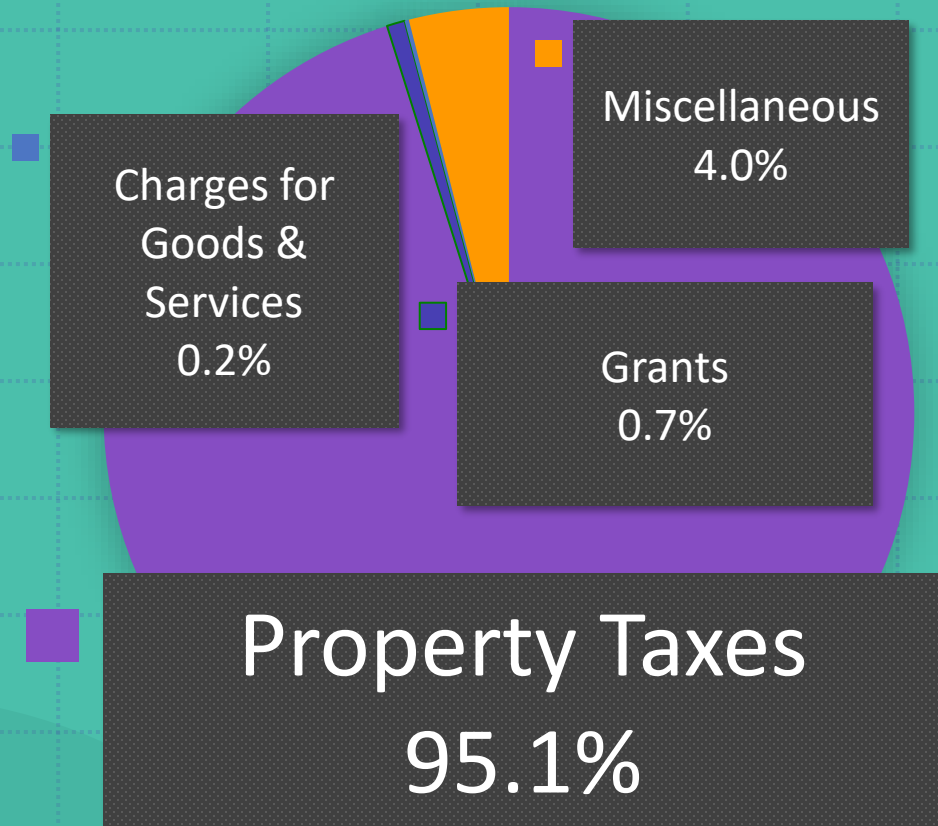
***Public Services:*** research assistance, youth services, meeting rooms, programs and events, homebound delivery

***Support Services:*** HR and payroll, accounting, IT services, facilities, maintenance and fleet, community relations and marketing

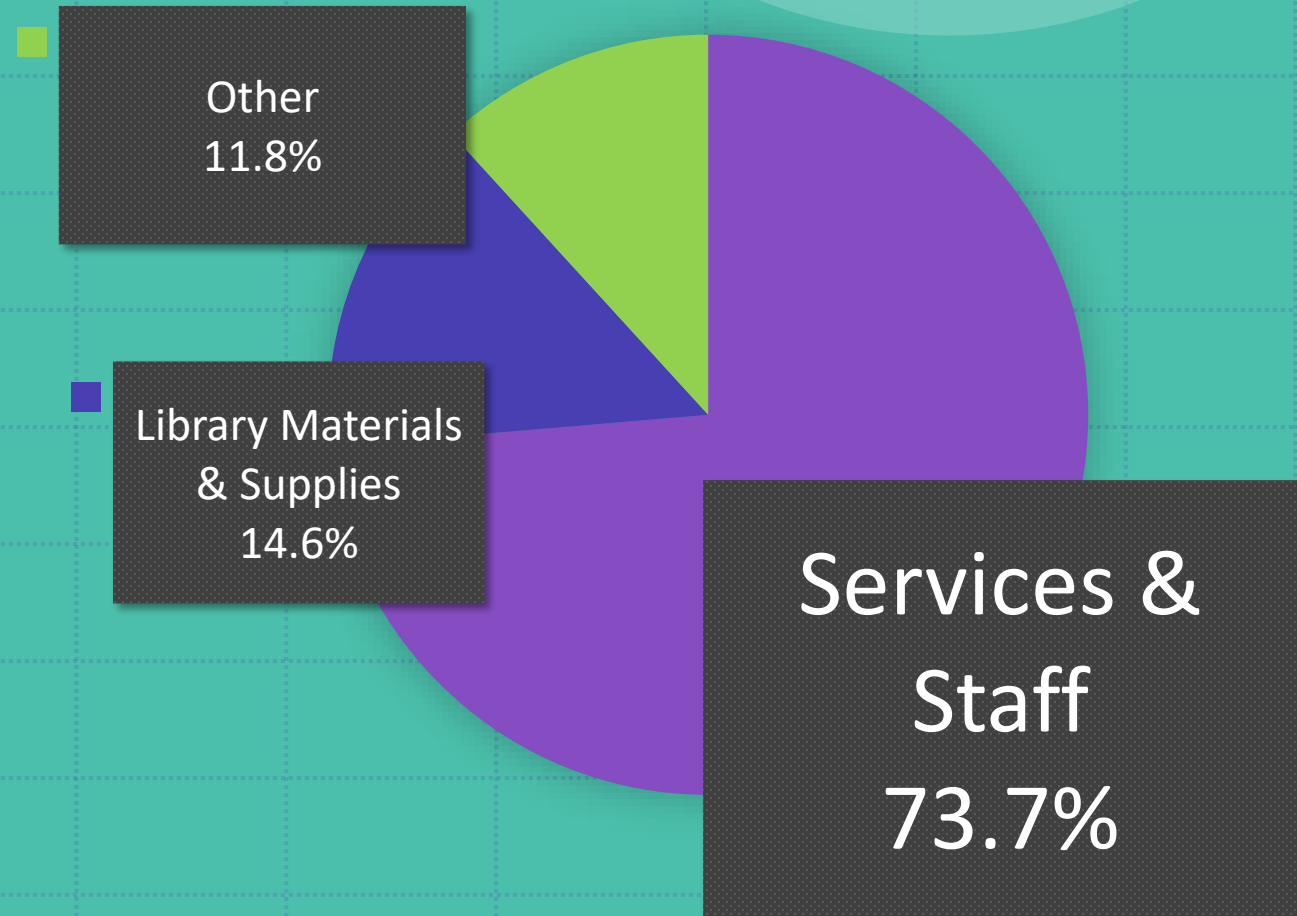
**DOES NOT INCLUDE:** capital projects



# Revenue



# Expenditures



# Cost for Average Household

- **\$600,000 Assessed Value of Property / 1,000 = 600**

**x \$0.26 levy rate = \$156 per year = \$13 per month**

**x \$0.42 levy rate = \$252 per year = \$21 per month (+\$8 per month)**

**\*\$0.50 levy rate is the max allowed by law.**

- ***A household with modest library use gets >\$1,200 per year in value.***

# Changes Over Time

	2008	2024	GROWTH
Library District Population	118,947	140,730	+18%
Annual Open Hours	19,279	23,614	+22%
Items Checked Out	1,441,375	2,114,479	+47%
Library Cardholders	39,624	61,993	+56%
Minimum Wage	\$8.55/hour	\$16.28/hour	+90%

**Voters last approved a Levy Lid Lift in 2009 - to \$0.44 per \$1,000. Levy rate is now \$0.26 per \$1,000. Revenue is insufficient to sustain current open hours and level of service.**



# Operating Budget Projections

- **WCLS has been operating at a deficit since 2023, depleting reserves**
- **Deficit is projected to top \$1.1 million in 2026 due to inflation and \$1.5 million in 2027**
- **Even if WCLS completely eliminated materials budget, will still need to cut open hours and services to balance the budget if additional revenue is not secured**
- **By 2028, WCLS will not have sufficient funds to cover cashflow**

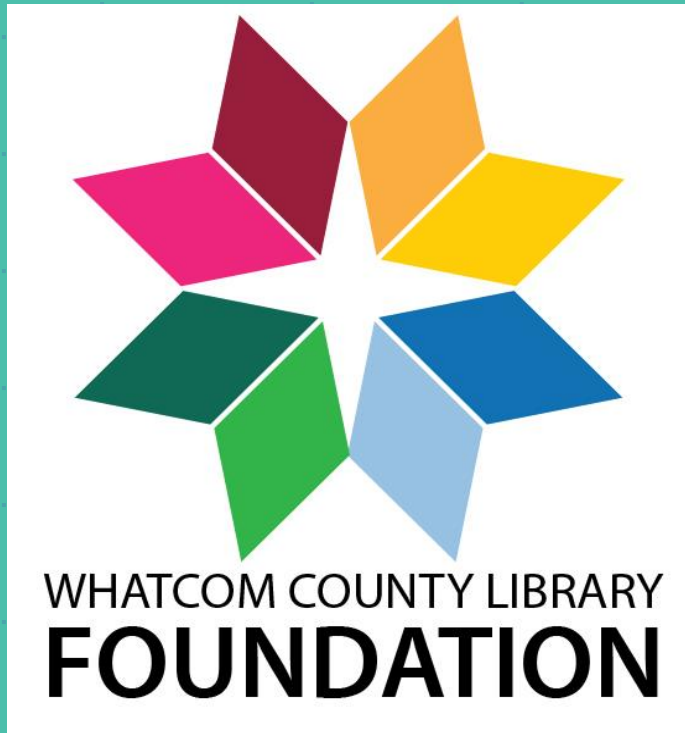
# Use of Volunteers



**Volunteers provided  
10,279 hours of service  
to WCLS in 2024!**

**At \$16.28 / hour, that's  
a \$167,342 value!**

# Private Fundraising



**Friends of the Library groups**

# State or Federal Funding



**WASHINGTON**  

---

**Secretary of State**

**Washington State Library**



# Ballot Language

## **WHATCOM COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT PROPOSITION NO. 2025-02 LEVY LID LIFT**

The Board of Trustees of the Whatcom County Rural Library District adopted Resolution 3/18/25-04 concerning its regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to restore its regular property tax levy to \$0.42 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2026 to provide stable funding for the continued operation, maintenance and development of public libraries and library services in Whatcom County. The resulting dollar amount of the 2026 levy would be used for the purposes of computing subsequent levy limitations as provide by RCW 84.55. Should this proposition be approved?

YES.....☐

NO.....☐



# Cost for Average Household

Home Value*	Current Monthly Cost	Proposed Increase	New Monthly Cost	Current Yearly Cost	Proposed Increase	New Yearly Cost
\$400,000	\$9 +	\$5 =	\$14	\$104 +	\$64 =	\$168
\$600,000	\$13 +	\$8 =	\$21	\$156 +	\$96 =	\$252
\$800,000	\$17 +	\$11 =	\$28	\$208 +	\$128 =	\$336

\* The average cost of a home in Whatcom County is \$600,000.

If approved, the measure "lifts" the levy rate **one time** and sets the new levy amount. After that, the **1% cap applies** and the levy may only increase up to 1% each year. The levy rate will fluctuate based on the overall assessed value of property in the district.

# If the levy proposition passes

- Maintain current open hours and services
- Continue supporting a robust collection of current and relevant library materials, including physical and digital items, with reasonable wait times and online/streaming resources
- Protect community investment by addressing deferred maintenance and facilities needs
- Create seed money for library building projects (for matching grants)



# If the levy proposition fails

- Reduce investment in library materials, including physical and digital items, increasing wait times for popular items
- Cut staff, reduce open hours and eliminate some services, which may include closing branches one or two days a week
- Defer building maintenance and limit facilities repairs to emergencies
- Eliminate seed money for library building projects (unable to assist with matching grants)

# Role of BPL

- **Remind public that our interlocal agreement allows reciprocal use of each other's buildings, collections and services - but we are two separate entities and only county residents outside city limits will vote on and pay for the WCLS levy.**
- **Let people know that fundraising for Central Library is a BPL project, not a WCLS project.**
- **Point people to [www.wcls.org/levy](http://www.wcls.org/levy) for more information.**
- **Email [wclslevy@wcls.org](mailto:wclslevy@wcls.org) if you have questions.**

# Questions?

Christine Perkins

Executive Director

[christine.perkins@wcls.org](mailto:christine.perkins@wcls.org)



whatcom county  
**library system**  
The Power of Sharing

## Bellingham Public Library - Performance & Activity Measures, 2025

	May		Year to Date		YTD comparison 2025 with 2024
	2025	2024	2025	2024	
<b>Holdings</b> - Number of materials in the library's collection					
Physical copies added to the collection	1,667	2,488	8,209	9,909	-17.16%
Electronic copies purchased by BPL	128	203	607	709	-14.39%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	(6,907)	(356)	(12,938)	(2,051)	530.81%
Total physical holdings			182,320	181,348	0.54%
Total electronic holdings available to BPL			168,906	157,028	7.56%
<b>Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)</b>			<b>351,226</b>	<b>338,376</b>	<b>3.80%</b>
<b>Circulation</b> - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity					
<b>Central Library</b>					
Adult	39,198	39,829	195,924	203,779	-3.85%
Youth	37,918	40,201	200,207	201,091	-0.44%
<b>Sub-Total Central</b>	<b>77,116</b>	<b>80,030</b>	<b>396,131</b>	<b>404,870</b>	<b>-2.16%</b>
<b>Fairhaven Branch</b>					
Adult	4,866	5,111	24,597	24,686	-0.36%
Youth	2,961	2,525	13,767	12,027	14.47%
<b>Sub-Total Fairhaven</b>	<b>7,827</b>	<b>7,636</b>	<b>38,364</b>	<b>36,713</b>	<b>4.50%</b>
<b>Barkley Branch</b>					
Adult	4,391	4,621	22,856	23,048	-0.83%
Youth	4,682	3,885	24,271	19,552	24.14%
<b>Sub-Total Barkley</b>	<b>9,073</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>47,127</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>10.63%</b>
<b>Bellis Fair Branch</b>					
Adult	1,208	1,239	6,378	6,214	2.64%
Youth	1,807	1,730	10,145	9,372	8.25%
<b>Sub-Total Bellis Fair</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>16,523</b>	<b>15,586</b>	<b>6.01%</b>
<b>Bellingham Technical College</b>					
Adult	38	53	225	168	33.93%
Youth	5	3	36	31	16.13%
<b>Sub-Total BTC</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>31.16%</b>
<b>Whatcom Community College</b>					
Adult	194	160	940	746	26.01%
Youth	32	35	122	166	-26.51%
<b>Sub-Total WCC</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>16.45%</b>
<b>Western Washington University</b>					
Adult	304	231	1,498	1,028	45.72%
Youth	77	100	348	412	-15.53%
<b>Sub-Total WWU</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>28.19%</b>
<b>Sub-Total Physical</b>	<b>97,681</b>	<b>99,723</b>	<b>501,314</b>	<b>502,320</b>	<b>-0.20%</b>
<b>Online Services</b>					
Kanopy	2,156	1,664	10,247	9,601	6.73%
WA Anytime Library Overdrive	41,344	40,896	205,274	204,619	0.32%
Overdrive Magazines	7,802	5,963	38,627	32,909	17.38%
<b>Sub-Total Online</b>	<b>51,302</b>	<b>48,523</b>	<b>254,148</b>	<b>247,129</b>	<b>2.84%</b>
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>148,983</b>	<b>148,246</b>	<b>755,462</b>	<b>749,449</b>	<b>0.80%</b>
<b>Holds Activity</b>					
Items placed on hold shelf	49,495	51,646	257,601	262,492	-1.86%
<b>Services</b>					
<b>Persons Visiting</b> - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries					
Central Library	33,819	31,028	165,971	149,236	11.21%
Fairhaven Branch	3,326	3,159	16,793	15,733	6.74%
Barkley Branch	2,544	2,478	12,820	12,783	0.29%
Bellis Fair Branch	1,839	1,742	10,268	10,963	-6.34%
<b>Total Persons Visiting</b>	<b>41,528</b>	<b>38,407</b>	<b>205,852</b>	<b>188,715</b>	<b>9.08%</b>
<b>Website Visits</b>					
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org	42,167	40,151	211,170	213,777	-1.22%
<b>Bibliocommons Visits</b>					
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons	26,802	38,359	129,117	162,482	-20.53%
<b>Total Website Visits</b>	<b>68,969</b>	<b>78,510</b>	<b>340,287</b>	<b>376,259</b>	<b>-9.56%</b>
<b>Computer Usage</b> - Number of sessions					
<b>Central Library</b>					
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)	3,083	2,963	17,439	15,709	11.01%
Childrens (3 terminals)	105	54	429	328	30.79%
Fairhaven Branch (6 terminals)	179	215	1,164	1,186	-1.85%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	122	144	645	813	-20.66%
Bellis Fair Branch (4 terminals)	139	122	655	657	-0.30%
<b>Total Computer Sessions</b>	<b>3,628</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>20,332</b>	<b>18,693</b>	<b>8.77%</b>
<b>New Borrowers Registered</b>					
Central Library	531	600	2,935	3,131	-6.26%
Fairhaven Branch	27	43	176	168	4.76%
Barkley Branch	18	34	132	138	-4.35%
Bellis Fair Branch	32	36	212	267	-20.60%
<b>Total New Borrowers Registered</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>3,455</b>	<b>3,704</b>	<b>-6.72%</b>
<b>Programs</b> - Library sponsored or co-sponsored educational, recreational, or cultural programs					
Programs	108	92	584	506	15.42%
Attendees	2,536	2,091	12,288	11,991	2.48%
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>2,634</b>	<b>-2.66%</b>

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Library Trustees**

**MAY 2025 CLAIMS**

LIST OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2025, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	VENDOR	AMOUNT
<b>Materials, Equipment and Supplies</b>		
Key duplicates	Accurate Lock & Security	19.13
Books; DVDs; supplies	Amazon	3,832.03
Books	Baker & Taylor	10,721.22
Periodicals	Bellingham Herald	927.50
Security uniforms	Bergen & Company	173.20
Retirement gathering supplies	Canva	60.50
Water (Barkley & Bellis Fair Branches)	Clearwater	10.63
Patron barcodes	Computype	931.84
Periodicals	Everett Daily	250.29
Books	Ingram Library	806.09
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	1,502.19
Retirement gift	Mud Bay	53.14
Vehicle fuel	Nelson-Reisner Distributor	218.13
Office supplies	ODP Business Solutions	410.37
Patron supplies	Officesupply.com	75.86
Special board meeting meal	Old World Deli	344.87
Periodicals	Seattle Times	811.20
Barkley bathroom repair	Talbot Services LLC	85.84
Security uniforms	Tommy the Tailor	180.00
Retirement gathering supplies	Walgreens	26.12
Receipt tape	WCP Solutions	430.55
Books	WSU Press	30.36
<b>Materials, Equipment &amp; Supplies Sub Total</b>		<b>\$21,901.06</b>
<b>Services and Interfund Charges</b>		
Barkley Branch cleaning (2 months)	Action Cleaning	1,444.22
Bellis Fair Branch cleaning	Advantage Building Services	1,477.66
Signage	Applied Digital Imaging	358.61
Hotspot service	AT&T	18.24
Preprocessing	Baker & Taylor	3,300.68
Digital subscription	Bellingham Herald	455.99
Bellis Fair Branch lease	Bellis Fair Mall Territories	5,357.00
Pest management	BioBug	147.15
Natural gas service	Cascade Natural Gas	7,774.61
Banking & credit card fees	City of Bellingham Interfund	27.20
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	20,635.92
Facilities allocation (Central & Fairhaven)	City of Bellingham Interfund	79,950.00
Fleet Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,510.00
IT Service allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	24,260.83
Postage	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,376.61

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Library Trustees**

**MAY 2025 CLAIMS**

Qualified Energy Conservation Bond sinking fund	City of Bellingham Interfund	2,275.59
Radio Communications Allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	685.76
Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,430.72
Technology replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,784.76
Telecom Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,009.37
Playbook ad	City of Bellingham Parks department	1,125.00
Water/Sewer/SSW service (Central & Fairhaven)	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,378.35
Copies	Copiers Northwest	19.85
Printing	Copy Source	119.90
Alarm system monitoring	Guardian Security	176.10
Oregon Library Association conference	Hilton Hotels	1,772.82
Graphic Design	Katrina Lyon Design	132.50
Copier leases and copies	Kelley Create	2,446.94
Trauma-informed Librarianship webinar	Library Journal	261.00
Preprocessing	Midwest Tape	226.38
eBooks, eAudiobooks	Overdrive Inc	5,692.00
Bellis Fair internet service	Pogozone Wireless	367.49
Electricity service	Puget Sound Energy	8,365.07
Waste disposal service	Sanitary Service Company	1,351.99
Digital subscription	Seattle Times	39.92
Signage	Signs Plus Inc	545.31
Oregon Library Association travel reimbursements	Staff	716.94
Barkley Branch operating costs	Talbot Services LLC	533.33
Microfische machine lease	Technology Unlimited	340.08
Borrower notices	Unique Management	305.00
Hotspot service (2 months)	Verizon Wireless	2,560.64
Scheduling software	WhenToWork	1,700.40
B&O Taxes	WSDO Revenue	6.18

---

**Services and Interfund Charges Sub Total    \$201,464.11**

---

**Gift Fund**

Books; Teen programming	Amazon.com	402.63
Books	Baker & Taylor	386.52
Summer Reading card printing	Capitol City Press	2,043.96
Books	Center Point Large Print	105.82
Learning Together Forum supply	Community Food Co-op	5.99
Summer Reading graphic design	Katrina Lyon Design	250.00
Summer Reading card translations	The Language Exchange	143.00
BCDs	Midwest Tape	605.83
Digital Media	Overdrive Inc	3,239.29
Salmon Release program	Whiteswan Environmental	300.00

---

**GIFT FUND OUTLAYS Sub Total    \$7,483.04**

---

**Total General Fund claims    223,365.17**

**Total General Fund & Gift Fund claims    230,848.21**



City of Bellingham

Library - Budget to Actual - General Fund

May 2025 41.7% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
<b>Revenues</b>				
Grants	0	0		
Print and Copy Fees	6,963	15,000	8,037	46%
Lost, Damage & Non-resident Borrower Fees	4,678	16,100	11,422	29%
Fairhaven Auditorium Rental Fees	0	5,000	5,000	0%
Miscellaneous Revenues	548	0	(548)	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>12,189</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>23,911</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Salaries and Wages	1,436,530	3,369,234	1,932,704	43%
Personnel Benefits	590,502	1,368,283	777,781	43%
Physical Materials, Equipment and Supplies	97,997	307,932	209,935	32%
Services, Digital Materials and Interfund	1,182,075	2,672,160	1,490,085	44%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,307,104</b>	<b>7,717,608</b>	<b>4,410,505</b>	<b>43%</b>

Library - Budget to Actual - Gift Fund

May 2025 41.7% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
<b>Revenues</b>				
Donations	63,839	150,000	86,161	43%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>63,839</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>86,161</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Gift Fund expenses	23,648	50,000	26,352	47%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>23,648</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>26,352</b>	<b>47%</b>



## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR June 17, 2025**

Budget instructions for 2026 were distributed to all City departments on May 28 and include the following guidelines for addressing the budget gap in the General Fund:

- Evaluate all open positions to ensure they are still consistent with departmental needs and priorities;
- Consider how existing resources could be reprioritized to address new needs and priorities;
- For ALL General Fund departments, submit options to reduce your budget by 5% and 10%. Please clearly explain how reductions would impact service levels and any short and long term implications.

A draft document is included in this month's packet for discussion and direction. The deadline for submission is July 11, 2025. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

## **WELCOME & INCLUDE**

**Service Highlights:** Public Services staff, and our partners at Lake Whatcom Center, work conscientiously every day to meet patron needs. A few particular call-outs go to Public Services Clerk Siena Clayton, who went above and beyond to support a very frustrated caller with Libby, and Public Services Clerk Karen Kupka, who suggested the great idea of uploading our digital signage slide show to the Public Services Knowledge Base for easy access. Gwen Evans, a Lake Whatcom Center HEART specialist, went the extra mile (literally) to transport a patron from the Library to Didgwalic Wellness Center. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

**Welcoming New Library Assistants:** The recent Library Assistant staffing process wrapped up at the end of May. We held a week of interviews which resulted in job offers to fill our current vacancies (4) and a healthy list of candidates that we can draw from for the next six months. New Library Assistants will be starting training in the last week of June. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Operations)

**Congratulations to Arbor:** Arbor Hoff has accepted the internally-posted 30-hour clerk position. Arbor has worked at Bellingham Public Library for over four years and has contributed to many teams and projects, including the Staff Learning Day Committee, Outreach Services Specialist coverage, and the testing of our new Collection Review processes. They work collaboratively and independently at all of our locations and enthusiastically engage in customer service and the promotion of Library ethics and standards. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

**Security Team Transfer to Public Works:** Tim Kelley, Dani Sheldon, Rudy Cortez, Jett Williams, and Reo Maruyama will transition to Public Works on June 16, 2025. Their service has been invaluable over their collective 20-years working for the Library. This shift to Public Works reflects the importance of the work they do daily to keep the Library a safe and welcoming shared public space, as well as the need for a more centralized approach to security for the City. Security staff will continue to work in and around the Library buildings. The team, as well as their supervisor, Cameron Birman, will collaborate closely with Library staff to enforce Rules of Conduct in our spaces. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

**Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist II Training:** Michelle Becker attended a Washington State Health Care Authority-sponsored training for individuals who work with people in crisis. This 2-day Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist II Training introduced the EDGE approach to de-escalation, developed and presented by Growth Central Training and certified by the National Anger Management Association. Presenters taught specific crisis intervention tools to increase confidence in de-escalation and promote staff wellness. Participants then had an opportunity to practice using the techniques with actors and specific scenarios. The training was very relevant to the work we do in the Library. Michelle has received a life-time certification as a Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist II. Cameron Birman plans to attend later this month. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

## ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

**Outreach Services:** There has been a pause in place on Outreach Services since January. During this time, Library staff have gathered feedback from Activity Directors at the assisted-living facilities and nursing homes BPL was previously supporting and coordinated internally to provide some alternate options for residents. Eight of the facilities, including Alderwood Park, Avalon (formerly St. Francis,) Chuckanut Ridge (formerly Rosewood Villa), Mt Baker Care Center, North Cascades, Orchard Park, Sapphire at Woodway, and Summit Place have opted to start a rotating collection of about 50 items which will be delivered to them quarterly. Many of the large print books and audiobooks which will make up these collections are currently shelved in our closed stacks area and will be much more visible and accessible in this program. The first collections are scheduled for delivery on July 8 and 9. Thanks so much to Bethany Hogle, Katie Bray, Jon McConnel, Amy Lathrop, and Alison Kuiken for their time and expertise in making this service a reality! (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

**Hours Adjustment:** The addition of hours at the Bellis Fair Branch Library has gone very smoothly and has been warmly received by Bellis Fair patrons. The change in hours at Central has resulted in more consistent coverage of open hours, as well as greater capacity to work on new tasks such as collection review. (Katrina Buckman, Head of Public Services)

## READ & LEARN



**Summer Reading has begun!** Summer Reading began June 1. Children's and Teen Services staff have largely been conducting class visits off-site this year. Collectively, staff promoted Summer Reading and suggested titles to read to all Bellingham School District 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the entire student bodies at Alderwood, Columbia, Cordata, Happy Valley, Lowell and Wade King Elementaries. Staff also visited Parkview Elementary and a handful of preschools and daycares. Thank you Ali Kubeny, Bernice Chang, Jennifer Lovchik, Lesley Norman and Mande Palmer for inspiring Bellingham students to read this summer! (Bethany Hogle, Deputy Library Director)

**Book Club Social, Nov. 15:** The BPL Adult Programming committee is finalizing plans for a Book Club Social event on Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 am – noon at Hotel Leo in downtown Bellingham. This is an opportunity for the Library and patrons to share book club joy. The community will be invited to meet local authors, gather new title suggestions, and capture ideas to enrich their book group gatherings.

Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be provided at this free event. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

## INFORM & INVOLVE

**Whatcom Youth Pride Tabling:** On Saturday, May 31, Children's Services Librarian Ali Kubeny and Teen Services Librarian Jennifer Lovchik tabled at the Whatcom Queer Youth Pride Festival at Bellingham High School. Despite the rain, they issued library cards, connected with and gave out booklists, stickers and other cool swag to well over 150 youth and allies. This event continues to be a highlight of the year for both Ali and Jennifer. (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)



**Pride IN Bellingham:** The [Bellingham Pride Parade](#) is scheduled for 11 am - 1 pm on Sunday, July 13. This year, BPL has been invited to march with the City of Bellingham team with our banner, streamers, and enthusiasm. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

**Library Night with the Bellingham Bells:** Bring your library card for free entry to the Bellingham Bells game on Thursday, June 26! Gates open at 5:30pm with a 6:30pm first pitch. This is our third year of collaborating with the Bellingham Bells for a Summer Reading / Library night and we look forward to another very successful evening. Thank you to the Bellingham Bells! (Bethany Hoglund, Deputy Library Director)

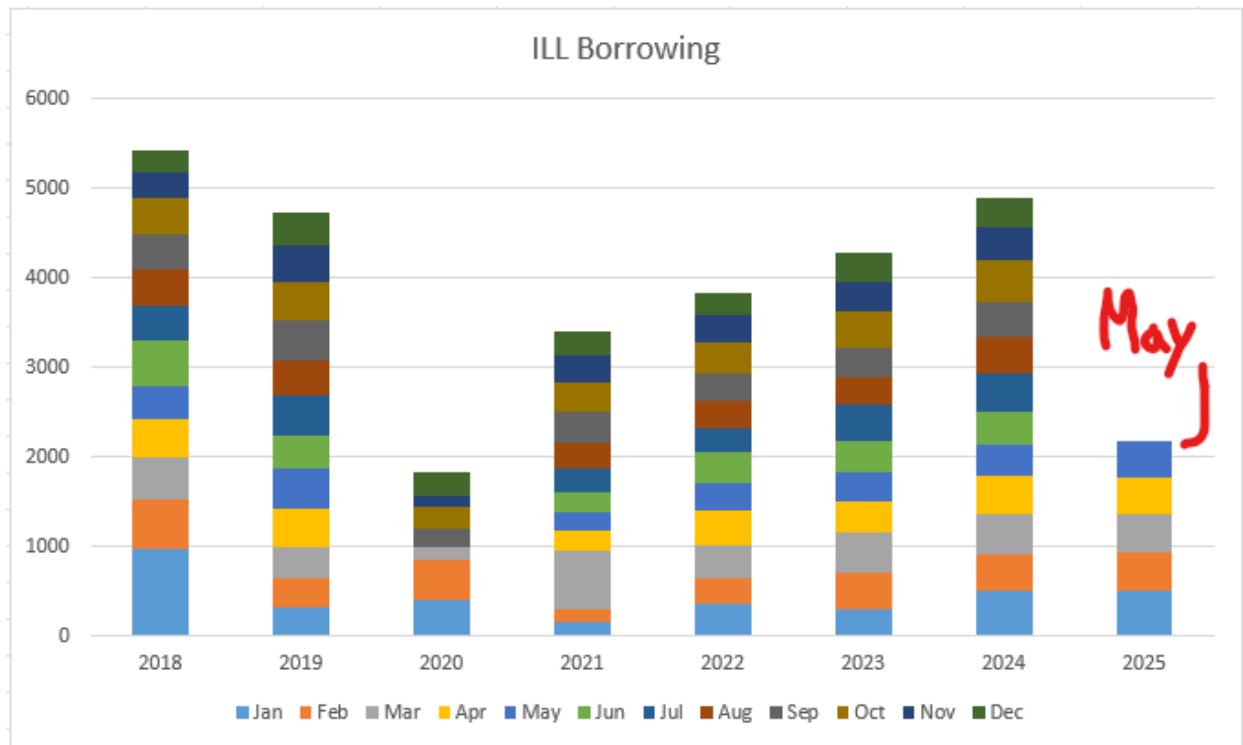
**Media Relations:** On June 11, Bellingham Public Library issued a news release announcing the inclusion of \$3.03 million in 2025-27 Washington State capital funding for the Bellingham Central Library Renovation. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

## THRIVE & GROW

**AED Replacement:** We recently received new AEDs (defibrillators) for all locations except Bellis Fair. We were operating with several different models which made it challenging to maintain the machines (supplies were no longer available for some of them). We're very appreciative of Public Works' willingness to purchase new machines to ensure that we have current safety equipment in our buildings. At Bellis Fair, AEDs are available at several locations inside the mall and maintained by Bellis Fair management. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Operations)

**Item Request Change Update:** After one month with a limit of 5 item requests per patron per month, Interlibrary Loan borrowing is still up for the month and the year. Item request submissions were down 10% from April, from 680 to 611, and over the first 10 days of the month the average of requests per day was down 24%, from 25 to 19. However, item requests that became ILL requests were still up year-over-year. In May 2024 our ILL Specialist initiated 355 borrowing requests, versus 409 this May, an increase of 15%. This means that the change in the quota had a greater impact last month on Selectors' purchasing activity than it had on ILL staff borrowing activity. Prior to the pandemic we had additional FTE to help

with ILLs, which is why the higher numbers in 2018 and 2019 were sustainable. If current trends continue, additional service cuts to ILL will be necessary to match current staffing levels. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)



**Baker & Taylor Update:** Negotiations with publishers have concluded, and Baker & Taylor has communicated that they expect their troubles with timely fulfillment will resolve. Cancellations have now returned to normal levels. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Judd



**City of Bellingham**  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

June 17, 2025 Library Board of Trustee Meeting

---

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND CIVIC PRACTICES CHAPTER OVERVIEW

---

**TO:** *Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees*  
**FROM:** *Sydney Prusak, Planner II*  
*Planning and Community Development*  
**SUBJECT:** *Community Wellbeing Chapter Discussion*  
**DATE:** *June 17, 2025*

---

### **Background**

Comprehensive plans are used by communities to establish a vision for the future and provide a framework for building toward that vision. Bellingham’s plan update, which occurs once a decade, is known as the “Bellingham Plan”. Proposed chapters are currently being reviewed by City Boards and Commissions. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing later this summer to make a formal recommendation to City Council for plan adoption by end of the year. The [Summary of Proposed Changes](#) provides an overview of the proposed updates.

On June 5, staff released a package of material that covers the proposed final chapter of the plan: Community Wellbeing and Civic Practices. “Community Wellbeing” and “Civic Practices” had previously been proposed as two separate new chapters, but they have since been combined into one. That material is available on [Engage Bellingham](#).

This new chapter strengthens the City’s commitment to equity and belonging through community partnerships and civic practices. It covers topics related to health and wellbeing, belonging and safety, arts and culture, equity and inclusion, community engagement, and tribal relations. The chapter aims to improve access to social services, nutritious and affordable food, community gathering spaces, personal enrichment opportunities, and City decisions. Community wellbeing is achieved when all residents can meet their basic needs, feel safe, connect with others, and engage with City government.

Planning staff will give an overview of the proposed chapter to the Library Board and highlight topics of interest for discussion.

### **Community Wellbeing Chapter: Significant Proposed Ideas**

The most significant proposed changes and ideas for this chapter relate to the following topics.

1. *Consolidation of information from other chapters* | Many of the policies in the proposed chapter exist throughout the 2016 comprehensive plan. These policies relate to food systems and access, opportunities to gather, arts and culture, supporting community partners, increasing activity, and community engagement. Additionally, many of the Library, Museum, and Theatre's priorities have been consolidated under this chapter.
2. *New concepts for this chapter* | Most of the policies are new concepts for Bellingham's comprehensive plan. However, these concepts exist in City work, projects, and partnerships. They have been elevated to the comprehensive plan level to reiterate our commitment to making Bellingham a more welcoming, safe, and inclusive community. The new topics include:
  - *Community Health* | This chapter identifies the socioeconomic determinants of health and includes policies on how to leverage partnerships and reduce barriers to improve health outcomes.
  - *Equitable Civic Practices* | This chapter includes policies to increase representation and engagement from historically under-invested and marginalized communities in Bellingham's civic practices
  - *Tribal Relations* | This new goal amplifies the important relationship the City has with local tribes and the indigenous community. This goal opens the discussion for future collaboration between the tribes and the City, encouraging respect, understanding, and recognition.

#### Attachment 1: Draft Goals and Policies

Policy ID (existing)	Amended Policy (resolved)	Potential Change
<u>Goal CW-1</u>	Confront systemic and regional community health and wellbeing issues through ample social services, a resilient food system, and interactive programming.	New
Policy H-52	Foster and support partnerships and approaches that have proven to be successful in * Reducing food insecurity, homelessness, and other issues that are detrimental to community health; and * Promoting positive health and wellbeing outcomes.	Minor Amendment
<u>Policy CW-A</u>	Reduce barriers to establishing healthcare, childcare, grocery stores, and educational uses through permissive land use and navigable permitting and review processes.	New
Policy H-26	Leverage public safety resources and partnerships to continue to support the goals in the Whatcom County Justice Project Implementation Plan (JPIP), including strategies to address substance-use challenges, behavioral health issues, childcare, therapeutic courts, and a wide range of other urgent community needs.	Minor Amendment
<u>New Policy CW-B</u>	Collaborate with Whatcom County to further their actions and plans in providing and promoting health and community services, regional parks and recreation, and a sustainable regional food system.	New
Policy ED-51	Consider the importance of local and regional food systems assets and infrastructure in policy decisions, encouraging locally-based food production, processing, distribution, and consumption, such as through community gardens, urban farming, and farmers and seafood markets.	Minor Amendment
Policy LU-81	Encourage access to a diversity of nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food by exploring opportunities to support, incentivize, or encourage the location of food purveyors and urban food production near residential areas and transit, especially in low-income and underserved areas.	Major Amendment
<u>New Policy CW-C</u>	Promote and encourage food waste reduction and food recovery initiatives as part of a healthy and resilient local food system.	New
Policy LU-40	Encourage activity for all ages and abilities through parks and recreation, educational and cultural programming, active transportation, and other city amenities.	Major Amendment
Policy LU-89	Consider the experience and changing needs of residents as they age through universal design approaches, accessible facilities, and social opportunities and programming.	Major Amendment
<u>Goal CW-2</u>	Foster community vitality, reduce loneliness, and promote a positive sense of belonging through safety and connection.	New
<u>New Policy CW-D</u>	Further a culture of support and belonging within Bellingham that aspires to be more understanding, respectful, and accountable to those who experience marginalization and exclusion.	New
Policy LU-87	Support and encourage a variety of flexible and adaptive gathering spaces for the community to come together and strengthen connections, including spaces for all ages, abilities, cultures, identities, and traditions.	Major Amendment
<u>New Policy CW-E</u>	Provide and support programming and safety of large community gatherings within the City Center.	New
<u>New Policy CW-F</u>	Continue implementing proactive safety strategies, such as community-oriented policing, bike patrols and community paramedics, to support safe neighborhoods.	New
<u>New Policy CW-G</u>	Maintain support for incarceration diversion strategies, such as alternative response programs or other outreach teams, throughout our community.	New
<u>New Policy CW-H</u>	Work to decrease public health risks, social tensions and environmental impacts related to unauthorized encampments by leveraging resources to promote safety and wellbeing, balancing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness with those of nearby residents and businesses.	New
<u>New Policy CW-I</u>	Continue to prioritize bold actions and innovative thinking to ensure a thriving future for Downtown Bellingham, providing opportunities for all community members to live, work, or play.	New
<u>Goal CF-5-Policy CW-J</u>	Foster lifelong learning and social interaction opportunities for all ages through City programs and partnerships that support a curious, informed, and resilient community.	Major Amendment



Policy ID (existing)	Amended Policy (resolved)	Potential Change
<a href="#">New Policy CW-K</a>	Amplify the adopted Library and Museum standards and policies as Bellingham grows, to ensure the City continues to support personal and community enrichment and be welcoming and easy to access for all.	New
<del>Policy LU-88</del> <a href="#">Goal CW-3</a>	Promote and celebrate Bellingham's arts and culture.	Minor Amendment
<a href="#">New Policy CW-L</a>	Support our community's commitment to arts and culture and our Downtown Arts District.	New
Goal CF-6	Involve artists and creative workers in integrating art into public places and events that celebrate Bellingham's diverse identities.	Minor Amendment
<a href="#">New Policy CW-M</a>	Integrate indigenous culture and history into the community dialogue, art installations, and event programming, recognizing and respecting its importance in the region.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-N</a>	Foster curiosity and joy about our world by continuing to support and expand access to creative and interactive opportunities at the Museum, Library, and in the broader arts community.	New
Policy CF-64	Promote cultural awareness and education for all ages through City programs, partnerships, communication, and ongoing fulfillment of the Parks & Recreation, Museum, Library, and Theatre missions.	Major Amendment
<a href="#">Goal CW-4</a>	Expand and strengthen equity and inclusion throughout the City's civic processes and practices.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-O</a>	Develop and implement a strategic plan to guide the City's work in building a more equitable and welcoming Bellingham for all.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-P</a>	Promote community understanding about racism's impact on health and wellbeing, working with local organizations to further Bellingham as an anti-racist community.	New
Objective PRO-5h	Foster inclusion and diverse representation in the City workforce, particularly for first responders and others that interact with the public, including through training opportunities, accessible hiring and appointment processes, and a supportive workplace culture.	Major Amendment
<a href="#">New Policy CW-Q</a>	Foster community representation in City decision-making, by evaluating opportunities to tailor the appointment process and reduce barriers to achieve a diverse perspective and representative set of advisory groups.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-R</a>	Provide inclusive guidance and resources to welcome residents of all backgrounds as they interact with the City, supporting them in navigating complex processes with greater ease.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-S</a>	Proactively reduce barriers to make City services and facilities more accessible, available, and easily navigable, ensuring access to all.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-T</a>	Explore and quantify disparities in both beneficial and detrimental impacts of past, current, and proposed City practices. Consider factors such as access to infrastructure, city services and programs, and housing and economic opportunity.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-U</a>	Identify under-invested and marginalized communities and direct resources to reduce disparities between areas and populations.	New
<a href="#">Goal CW-5</a>	Foster a welcoming environment for outreach and engagement by inviting and enabling community members to be involved in City government.	New
Policy CF-21	Continue implementing systems and strategies to inform the community of City processes and provide meaningful opportunities for public engagement.	Major Amendment
<a href="#">New Policy CW-V</a>	Build community trust and foster transparency in City decision-making processes.	New
Policy T-34	Proactively reduce barriers to engagement for community members across a continuum of needs and abilities, prioritizing access, accessibility, ease of use, and cultural sensitivity.	Major Amendment
<a href="#">New Policy CW-W</a>	Coordinate and balance community engagement efforts, ensuring outreach is sensitive to social context and overall community capacity.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-X</a>	Strive to tailor community outreach strategies, considering an achievable range of engagement levels before identifying the appropriate approach methods to meet specific project needs and address community expectations.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-Y</a>	Continually evaluate effectiveness of engagement strategies to reach populations that may be most impacted by the City decision(s) under consideration.	New

Policy ID (existing)	Amended Policy (resolved)	Potential Change
Policy LU-64	Focus resources to increasing involvement by under-represented and historically-marginalized community members.	Minor Amendment
Policy LU-65	Foster a culture of service among City staff, supporting and enhancing their roles as City ambassadors.	Major Amendment
Goal CW-6	Strengthen relationships and engagement processes with tribal nations and indigenous community members through informed practices that respect tribal sovereignty and honor treaty rights.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-Z</a>	Provide and prioritize opportunities for City staff to learn about appropriate engagement practices, and tribal governance, culture, and history.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-AA</a>	Actively listen to tribal nations to better understand their needs and priorities; utilize this input to inform and refine City processes in closer alignment with their interests.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-BB</a>	Uphold City government relationships and protocols with tribal governments, prioritizing early and ongoing consultation or communication about City plans, projects, and processes.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-CC</a>	Elevate the important relationship between tribal leadership and the City's elected executive.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-DD</a>	Standardize internal protocols, improving consistency and centralization of tribal engagement processes Citywide.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-EE</a>	Welcome and seek opportunities to build relationships and greater connection with the indigenous community, both for the public and between tribal and City leaders.	New
<a href="#">New Policy CW-FF</a>	Support enhanced community awareness, recognition, and understanding of tribal nations and indigenous cultures through culturally appropriate actions that are responsive to tribal input.	New



# Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness by Expanding Shelter Capacity



Library Board  
June 17, 2025  
Item #7  
Staff Safety & Mental Health

## What this Objective Means

- Provide more individuals in need of temporary housing with access to a safe and supportive shelter environment.
- Provide both basic needs and enhanced services such as case management.
- Have shelter programs tailored and accessible to specific populations at all stage of homelessness.

## Indicators of Success

- Reduction in unsheltered homelessness.
- Improved health outcomes for survivors of homelessness.
- Stability while waiting for permanent housing opportunities.

## Programs in Whatcom

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS).
  - 5 units for families.
  - 16 for singles.
- YWCA Family Shelter – 19 units.
- Lydia Place Emergency Hotels for Families – 56 beds.
- Opportunity Council Emergency Hotels – 40 beds.
- Northwest Youth Services PAD – 8 beds.
- Lighthouse Mission Ministries – 300 - 400 beds.
  - 100 night by night beds.
  - 200-300 continuous stay beds for up to 90 days.
  - Addition of 20-30 beds in severe weather.
- Lake Whatcom Center - 8 beds.
- Homes Now Not Later! – 45 beds.
- Lummi Stepping Stone – 51 beds.
- HUSLY Northwest Youth Services – 4 beds.
- Lummi Victims of Crime – 40 beds.
- Recovery Café Day Shelter.
- Road2Home – 35 beds.
- Sun House – 10 beds.

## Proposed Strategies

### Maintain Current Shelters Specific to Subpopulations

- Shelter for people fleeing domestic violence.
- Families with Children and women-focused shelters.
- Youth shelter.
- Clean and sober recovery housing.
- Youth and young adult day shelter.
- Goal \$20,000 per bed per year.
- WCHCS is currently funding 118 beds.

### New: Expand Tiny Home Villages

- Develop for specific population as a continuous stay shelter.
- Goal \$20,000 per bed per year.
- Currently funding 0 beds.

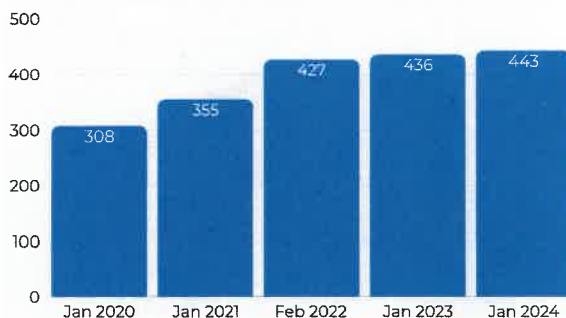
### New: Congregate Shelter

- 200+ beds.
- Low barrier.
- Secular.
- Day shelter option.
- Capacity for surge during severe weather events.
- Goal \$20,000 per bed per year.
- WCHCS is currently funding 0 beds.

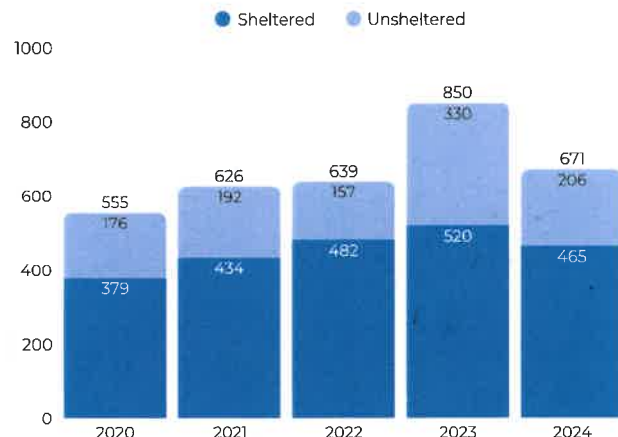
### New: Increase 5-15 Bed Capacity for Severe Weathers Shelters

- Goal to fund \$100 per bed per night.
- WCHCS currently funding 95 beds.

## Emergency Shelter Households Served, Point in Time 2020-2024



## Point in Time Count, 2020-2024





---

---

**MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** COB BUDGET TEAM

**FROM:** REBECCA JUDD, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** POTENTIAL SCENARIOS FOR 5% AND 10% OPERATING BUDGET REDUCTION

**DATE:** JULY 11, 2025

---

<b>2025 Reductions currently included in budget:</b>		
• Library Materials		\$125,000
• Branch Specialist III (frozen)	May-Dec 2025	\$70,000
Total		\$195,000

**2026 5% Budget Reduction Scenario:**

5% on \$7,717,608 budget \$385,000

**Identified available reductions:**

• Freeze Outreach Specialist II vacancy		\$101,273
• Additional expected savings from frozen Branch Specialist III	Jan-Apr portion	\$35,000
• Utilities & supplies savings related to Central Library renovation	Estimated July-Dec 2026	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$156,273</b>

**Additional options:**

- Explore offering voluntary hours reductions to identified positions

**Impacts**

Reductions to open hours and services to be determined potential \$150,000

- Close Library System at 2 pm on Saturdays, freeze positions as they become vacant through attrition

Reduction to Central Library and Bellis Fair Branch Library open hours estimated \$100,000

**2026 10% Budget Reduction Scenario:**

10% on \$7,717,608 budget \$770,000

**Consider options from 5% scenario plus,**

**Additional options:**

- Close Library System on Sundays, freeze positions as they become vacant through attrition

**Impacts**

Reduction to Central Library and Bellis Fair Branch Library open hours estimated \$125,000

- Close Library System to public on Mondays, freeze positions as they become vacant through attrition

Reduction to Library open hours across the System estimated \$225,000

For Immediate Release

June 11, 2025

### **Bellingham Public Library Secures State Funding for Renovation**

Bellingham Public Library has secured capital funding of \$3.03 million in the 2025-2027 Washington State budget for the Bellingham Central Library Renovation. The allocation represents a \$2 million [Library Capital Improvement Program](#) (LCIP) grant, as well as \$1.03 million in Local & Community Projects (LCP) funding, both administered by the WA State Department of Commerce.

"We are incredibly grateful to all of our local legislators for their assistance in advocating for these critical dollars," said Bellingham Public Library Director, Rebecca Judd. "This includes 42<sup>nd</sup> district legislators Representative Joe Timmons, Representative Alicia Rule, and Senator Sharon Shewmake, as well as 40<sup>th</sup> district legislators Representative Alex Ramel, Representative Debra Lekanoff, and Senator Liz Lovelett."

"Our public libraries play an invaluable role in serving our community. I'm thrilled that my legislative colleagues and I were able to secure state funding to support this renovation project," said Timmons, who championed the project. "Once complete, the Bellingham Central Library will be better equipped to meet the growing and diverse needs of local residents, making a tangible impact for years to come."

The state funds will be matched with City of Bellingham funds and private donations to enable the [Bellingham Central Library Renovation](#) project to move forward with phase 2. The vision is to revitalize the Central Library's aging ground floor into a space for children and teens that is modern, safe, clean, inviting, age appropriate, and ADA accessible. Updates are also needed for the main floor help desk, upper floor staff areas, and the building's HVAC system.

"We are grateful for this funding, which will help us create a more enjoyable and accessible library experience for families and children. These improvements will ensure our library continues to be a welcoming place that cultivates growth, learning, and connection," said City of Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund.

The Bellingham Central Library was constructed in 1950 to serve Bellingham's population of 35,000 people. It was remodeled in 1985 for a population of 47,000 people, with an expected 25-year life span (ending in 2008). Forty years later, the same building is now serving a population of nearly 100,000 people and receives more than 500,000 visits per year. The library went through a significant remodel of the main floor in 2019-2021 which brought that floor up to more modern standards. Phase 2 continues the work on the ground floor and staff mezzanine to create a more functional library.

"For over twenty years, our community has debated the need for an updated facility that reflects the high value Bellingham residents place on education, stories, access, and opportunity. Now, at last, we are on a path to renovate our mid-Century building for a new generation," explains Judd.

In a parallel effort, Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom Community Foundation have also secured \$1.9 million towards a \$3.5 million goal for [private community donations](#) to the Central Library Renovation Project. More than 200 donors have participated. Additional fundraising is ongoing.

Project design is set to resume in 2025, with construction anticipated in 2026 – 2027.

Bellingham Public Library (BPL) is a department of the City of Bellingham. It has 4 branches and serves nearly 100,000 residents who live within the Bellingham city limits. Bellingham Public Library is a separate organization from Whatcom County Library System (WCLS), which has 10 branches and serves more than 140,000 residents outside of the City limits.

## Press Releases

### Larsen Requests Nearly \$37 Million for 15 Local Projects in Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Bill

[Share on Facebook](#) [Share on X](#) [Print this Page](#) [Share by Email](#)

**Washington, May 29, 2025**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) has requested \$36,763,695 for 15 local projects in the Fiscal Year 2026 spending bill. Larsen submitted the requests to the House Appropriations Committee as the Committee begins work on legislation to fund the federal government.

“My priority in shaping spending bills is to invest in Northwest Washington communities,” said Larsen. “I will continue to work closely with community leaders and stakeholders to secure critical funding to create more jobs, build better infrastructure and improve vital services residents rely on.”

The spending bill will include earmark funding for community projects that local leaders and stakeholders identified as critical to their communities. Larsen [secured more than \\$19.3 million for 15 Northwest Washington projects in the Fiscal Year 2024 spending package](#), which was signed into law in March 2024.

#### Northwest Washington Community Project Funding Requests

Larsen requested the following earmarks to invest in Northwest Washington communities:

##### Investing in a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and More Accessible Transportation System

- **Community Transit’s Bus Replacement Project:** This project will enable Community Transit to purchase two battery electric buses with chargers to replace diesel buses that are beyond their expected useful life. (\$3,000,000)
- **City of Lynden’s Pepin Flood, Agriculture, Salmon and Safety Transportation (FASST):** This project will complete design and support construction of a new channel for Pepin Creek, and complete design and construction of the Pepin Parkway Bridge. (\$2,448,000)
- **Snohomish County’s Everett Intermodal Yard and Curve Improvements:** The project will improve rail shipping capability, safety, and reliability for freight and intercity passenger service at the Everett Intermodal Yard. These improvements will benefit both BNSF freight trains and Amtrak Cascades service. (\$2,000,000)

##### Investing in Community Services

- **City of Anacortes’ Community Event Center:** The project will support final design and construction for a central event space to host large-scale tourist-oriented events, local nonprofit events and private rentals located near the Anacortes waterfront and downtown. (\$3,000,000)
- **Lopez Island Family Resource Center’s Food Center:** This project will construct a mixed-use food center, including a community kitchen, shared farm stand, rental spaces, and gathering areas for pop-up shops, in addition to a home base for the San Juan Food Hub and local food bank. (\$2,500,000)



- **City of Edmonds' Food Bank and Community Engagement Space:** This project will support an expanded facility for Edmonds Food Bank, including increased food bank space, a commercial kitchen, an urban garden and community meeting spaces. (\$2,000,000)
- **City of Bellingham's Bellingham Central Library Renovation:** This project will support exterior renovation of the Bellingham Central Library, including updated windows, upgraded main and children's entrances, and a refreshed plaza. (\$2,000,000)
- **Whatcom County and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County's (DVSAS) Douglas Building Preservation:** This project will support the renovation of a building used by DVSAS to serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. (\$1,510,295)
- **Whatcom County Sheriff Office's Portable Radio Replacement Project:** This project will support the purchase of new portable radios to replace outdated radios that are failing, allowing deputies to communicate clearly with dispatch and each other. (\$600,000)
- **Orcas Senior Center's Roof Replacement:** This project will repair the failing roof of the facility, ensuring seniors can continue to access services. (\$165,000)

#### **Investing in Education and Workforce Development**

- **Edmonds College and Latino Educational Training Institute's (LETI) Incubator for Family Success:** This project will establish a comprehensive community center that includes a cultural retention and arts center, vocational school, commercial kitchen, deli-specialty store and child care circles. (\$4,250,000)
- **Western Washington University's (WWU) Shannon Point Marine Center Research Vessel:** This project will support acquisition of a new research vessel for WWU marine and coastal science educational and research activities. (\$1,490,400)

#### **Investing in Critical Infrastructure**

- **Port of Everett's South Marina Terminal Replacement Project:** The project will replace the existing Dock 1 in the South Marina that has exceeded its useful life with a new structure that will provide greater utility capacity to serve potential small cruise and passenger ferry service. (\$5,000,000)
- **Port of Edmonds' North Portwalk and Seawall Reconstruction:** This project will repair the Port's seawall, which is urgently needed to protect the Port and surrounding community from flooding and extreme weather. The project will also create new public use spaces for recreational activity and replace the boardwalk to improve public access and increase economic development for the businesses on and surrounding the port. (\$4,000,000)
- **Island County's Recycling and Reuse Station:** This project will build a new solid waste transfer station that will significantly enhance the efficiency of the county's waste management processes, reducing costs for local rate payers and mitigating associated impacts to public health, safety and the environment. (\$2,800,000)

## **What Northwest Washington Community Leaders and Stakeholders Are Saying**

**Community Transit CEO Ric Ilgenfritz on the Bus Replacement Project:** "Community Transit ensures that people of all walks of life can easily and reliably get from where they are to where they want to be. In order to live up to this mission, it's critical that buses are maintained and replaced according to schedule. We are grateful to Rep. Larsen for prioritizing the Bus Replacement Project, enabling us to serve customers with lower pollution buses that benefit everyone in Snohomish County."

**Lynden Mayor Scott Korthuis on the Pepin Flood, Agriculture, Salmon and Safety Transportation (FASST) Project:** "The Lynden FASST project (Flood, Agriculture, Salmon, Safety and Transportation) is a significant investment in infrastructure for the city to provide housing opportunities in what is a difficult area of the city to develop. With the support of Representative Larsen on this project, we will continue to develop the needed infrastructure in this area of the city and provide a variety of housing types. We greatly appreciate Representative Larsen moving this project forward and investing in Lynden."

**Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers on the Everett Intermodal Yard and Curve Improvements Project:** "We are grateful for Congressman Larsen's support for this vital rail project. If we receive the funding, the renovated intermodal yard will allow us and our rail partners to continue a sustainable and low impact operation for our residents, ensuring public health and safety are prioritized."

**Anacortes Mayor Matt Miller on the Anacortes Community Event Center project:** "We are deeply grateful to Congressman Larsen for championing the Anacortes Community Event Center project. His support for this waterfront facility—developed in partnership with the Port of Anacortes—reflects a strong commitment to strengthening our community, our economy, and our shared public spaces. This proposed investment will help create a vibrant gathering place for residents and visitors alike, and we appreciate the Congressman's leadership in moving this vision forward."

**Lopez Island Family Resource Center Executive Director Barbara Schultheiss on the Lopez Food Center Project:** "The Lopez Food Center believes that a thriving local food system and strong economy are essential to a healthy, sustainable life here on Lopez. The construction of the food center will create a vital central gathering place—that will provide a much needed new space for the food bank; increase sales of local farm products with space for a communal farm stand and the San Juan Food Hub; creates opportunities for food businesses to grow/expand with storage, commercial kitchen and event space; and, provide critical trainings and supports for food businesses. This shared facility will increase efficient food production and distribution and support the health and well-being of Lopez Island residents by increasing access to nutritious food and hands-on opportunities in the local food economy."

**Edmonds Mayor Mike Rosen on the Edmonds Food Bank and Community Engagement Space Project:** "We greatly appreciate the leadership of Rep. Larsen to support the Edmonds Food Bank. We know that many people in our community are struggling with food insecurity, and sadly the numbers are increasing, so this funding request is vitally important."

**Edmonds Food Bank Executive Director Casey Davis on the Edmonds Food Bank and Community Engagement Space Project:** "We are incredibly grateful to Representative Larsen for continuing to advocate for our community. As the need for food assistance continues to rise and other critical funding sources are eliminated, this \$2 million request is vital to help us build a new facility that meets the

growing needs of the individuals we serve in a respectful and efficient way. A new food bank and community engagement space will allow us to provide not only nutritious and culturally relevant food, but also deeper connection, dignity, and resources for long-term stability for our entire community. We cannot do this alone, we need the strength of continued partnerships to make this vision a reality."

**Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund on the Bellingham Central Library Renovation Project:** "Our library is a well-loved institution that gives community members opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. We are grateful for Rep. Larsen's request for funding, which would help us make the library more accessible, comfortable, and welcoming, especially for families and children."

**Whatcom County Health and Community Services Co-Health Officer Dr. Amy Harley on the DVSAS Douglas Building Preservation Project:** "Whatcom County Health and Community Services is pleased to support the rehabilitation of the Douglas Building, the home of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS) in Bellingham, Washington. The Douglas building is used to provide critical counseling, legal support, and children's programs for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation, and is an essential part of the continuum of care for this vulnerable population. The Douglas Building, however, is more than a building – it's a lifeline for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Whatcom County. Investing in its rehabilitation will ensure that DVSAS staff can continue to provide high-quality, trauma-informed care in a safe and trusted location, where individuals and families can begin the process of healing with dignity and respect."

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County on the DVSAS Douglas Building Preservation Project:** "Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS) extends its deepest gratitude to Congressman Larsen and his team for their efforts in prioritizing funding to preserve our downtown support center. Securing this vital funding guarantees continued access to essential services for individuals experiencing domestic or sexual violence, ensuring survivors have a lifeline to safety and immediate access to crisis services. Congressman Larsen's commitment to preserving our downtown support center ensures everyone in our community has access to safety and support, now and for years to come."

**Whatcom County Sheriff Donnell "Tank" Tanksley on the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department Portable Radio Replacement Project:** "Great training and bullet-proof vests aren't all that keep our Patrol Deputies safe. Portable radios ensure deputies can communicate hazards, status and needs in the field. During the upcoming World Cup - with matches in Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. - increasing traffic through Whatcom County, it is vital that radios are interoperable with international agencies. Our current portables are not. We are grateful to Congressman Rick Larsen for his support of this essential need."

**Orcas Senior Center Board Member John Ehrmantraut on the Orcas Senior Center Roof Replacement Project:** "As Chair of Orcas Senior Center, I can't stress enough how critical it is to replace our aging roof—not just to protect the building, but to safeguard the essential services and sense of community this space provides to Orcas Island residents. This center is a cornerstone of our island community, and protecting it means protecting the people who rely on it every day."

**Edmonds College President Dr. Amit Singh on the LETI Incubator for Family Success Project:** "Edmonds College is committed to our partnership with LETI in supporting first generation immigrants and their success. This resource center will empower individuals and families by providing assistance with

everything from navigating social services to pursuing higher education. I am very thankful to Representative Larsen for his ongoing support of LETI and Edmonds College."

**Founder & CEO of Latino Educational Training Institute Rosario Reyes on the LETI Incubator for Family Success Project:** "We deeply appreciate Representative Larsen's support for LETI's Incubator for Family Success and are grateful to Edmonds College for joining us as a vital partner in this initiative. This new center will serve as a lasting community hub for Latino and low-income families in Snohomish County—a place to celebrate culture, host life events, and access essential services. With dedicated offices and classrooms, LETI will continue advancing its mission to empower Latino families through education, business development, family health, and support for financial advancement."

**Western Washington University President Sabah Randhawa on the Shannon Point Marine Center Research Vessel Project:** "Western Washington University appreciates Representative Larsen's efforts to include funding for a new research vessel at Shannon Point Marine Center as part of the FY26 budget. If funded, this investment will significantly enhance our ability to study the Salish Sea and surrounding coastal ecosystems while expanding hands-on research opportunities for Washington's next generation of scientists."

**Port of Everett CEO Lisa Lefeber on the South Marina Terminal Replacement Project:** "The reconstruction of Dock 1 will bring new commercial opportunities to the Everett waterfront, including possible passenger-only ferry service and small regional cruise visits for the first time to the area. This investment in transportation infrastructure will benefit jobs and recreation, therefore investing in our economy. The Port of Everett appreciates Congressman Larsen's support of this infrastructure investment."

**Port of Edmonds Commission President David Preston on the North Portwalk and Seawall Reconstruction Project:** "We are grateful to Representative Rick Larsen for his continued support of the North Portwalk and Seawall Reconstruction Project. The Port will utilize funds to advance our project into its third and final phase. Vital repairs to the marina seawall will protect the Port and the surrounding area from flooding, erosion, and storm surges. At the same time, the improvements to the Port's boardwalk will enhance the public's use and experience on the waterfront."

**Chair of the Board of Island County Commissioners Jill Johnson on the Island County Recycling and Reuse Station Project:** "We are incredibly grateful for Representative Larsen's leadership and support for Island County. Federal funding for the Island County Recycling and Reuse Station will improve upon and expand the county's waste removal and recycling capacity, directly enabling growth and increasing environmental resiliency."

###