

# The Seattle Public Library

## Library Levy Update

[www.spl.org/Levy](http://www.spl.org/Levy)

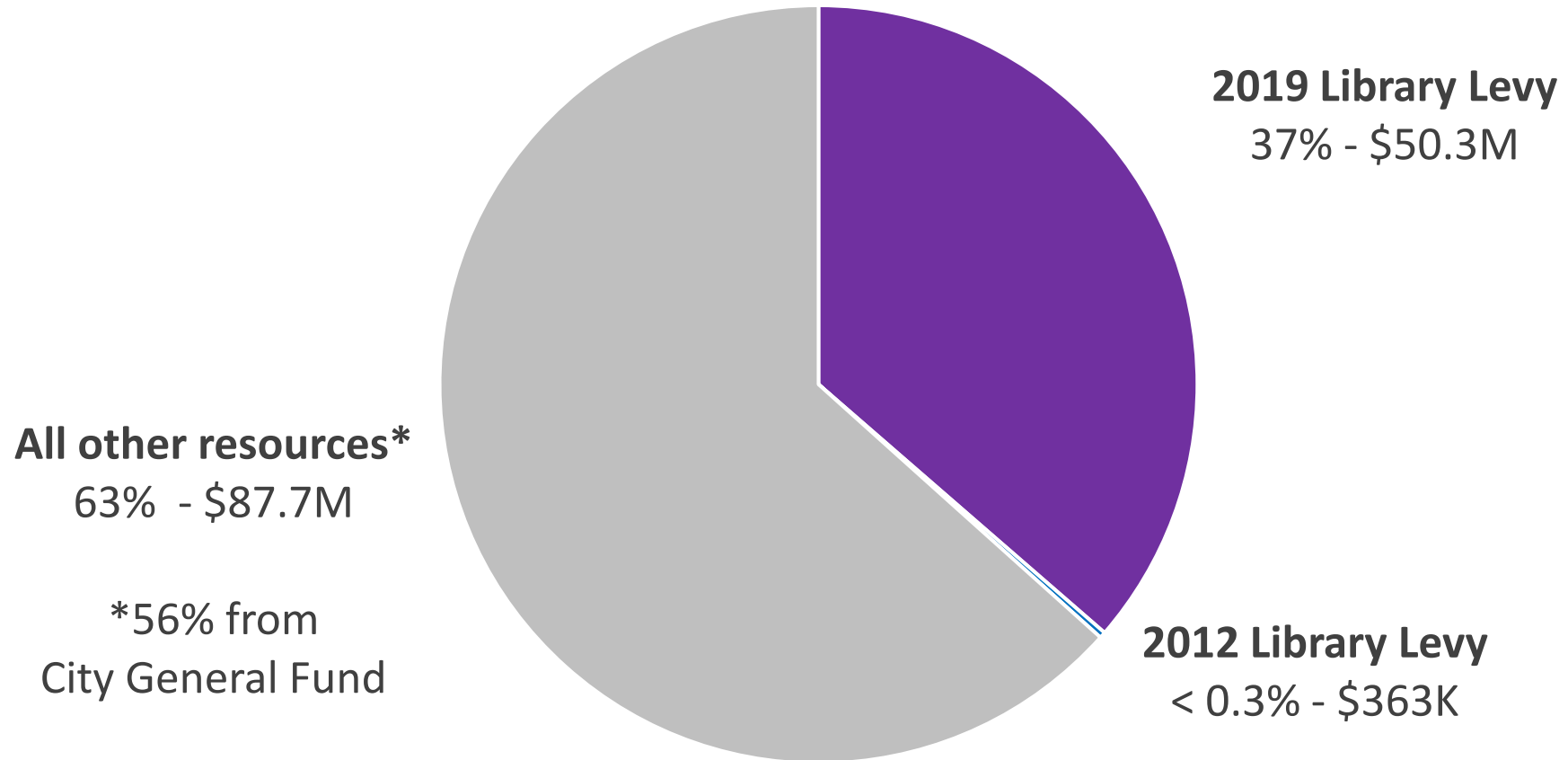
February 2025

# What is the Library Levy?

- 7-year, \$219.1M levy through 2026
- Helps maintain and enhance Library services
- Passed by 76% of Seattle voters in 2019
- Renewal of the \$123M 2012 Library Levy
  - Addressed funding cuts in 2010-2011
  - Preserved existing core services



# 2024 Total Revised Library Budget: \$138.4M



# What does the Levy fund?



**BOOKS & MATERIALS**



**HELPING CHILDREN:  
LITERACY & ENRICHMENT**



**OPEN HOURS &  
ACCESS**



**TECHNOLOGY &  
ONLINE SERVICES**



**BUILDING  
MAINTENANCE**

# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

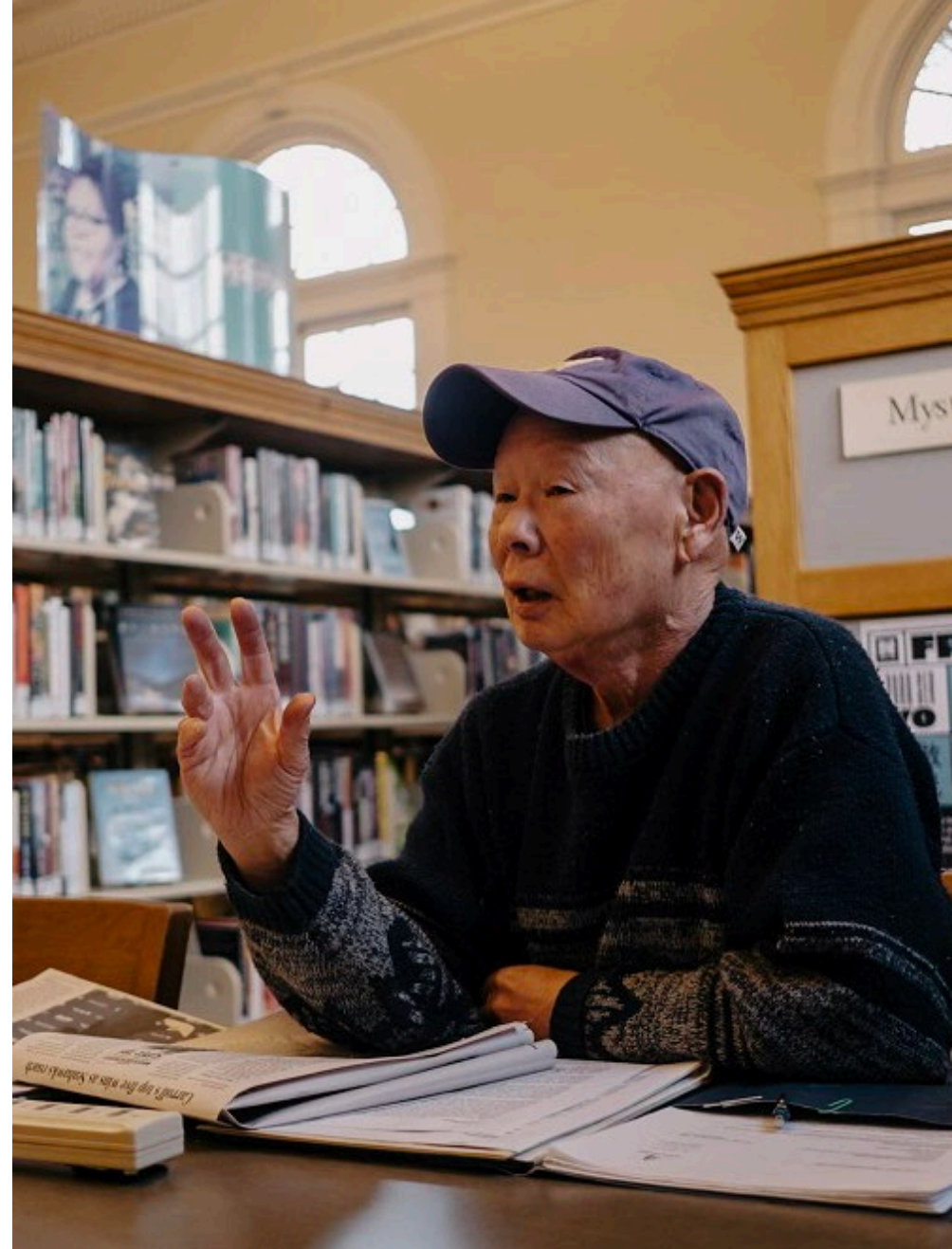
## Collections: Books & Materials



# Accomplishments

## BOOKS & MATERIALS

- One of world's largest e-circulation libraries
  - Checkouts have grown from 3.4M to 5.4M since 2019
- Expanded collections (titles, languages, formats, genres), including Peak Picks
  - Collection has grown from 2.4M to 2.8M since 2019
- Increased language access
- Preserved/digitized local history
- Offered access to digital newspapers, magazines, and streaming options



# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

## Helping Children: Literacy & Enrichment



# Accomplishments

## LITERACY & ENRICHMENT

Supported programs for early learners, students, families, and caregivers

Over 4,000 total programs in 2024

- 2,500 programs for children and youth
- 900 story times at 19 branches in 3 languages
- 300 early learning Play and Learns at 7 branches

Over 100,000 total attendance

- 72,000 attendance for children/youth programs
- 34,000 attendance at story times





# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

## Open Hours & Expanding Access



# Accomplishments

## EXPANDING ACCESS

- Prepared to add more hours in Jan. 2025
- Operated pickup lockers at 7 branches
- Offered fine-free borrowing
- Expanded social service referrals, events
- Increased language access
- Supported community meeting rooms

"I am a solo parent and sometimes we forget to return our books on time. **Not having fees or shame because of late returns has made reading so much more accessible for my daughter.**"



# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

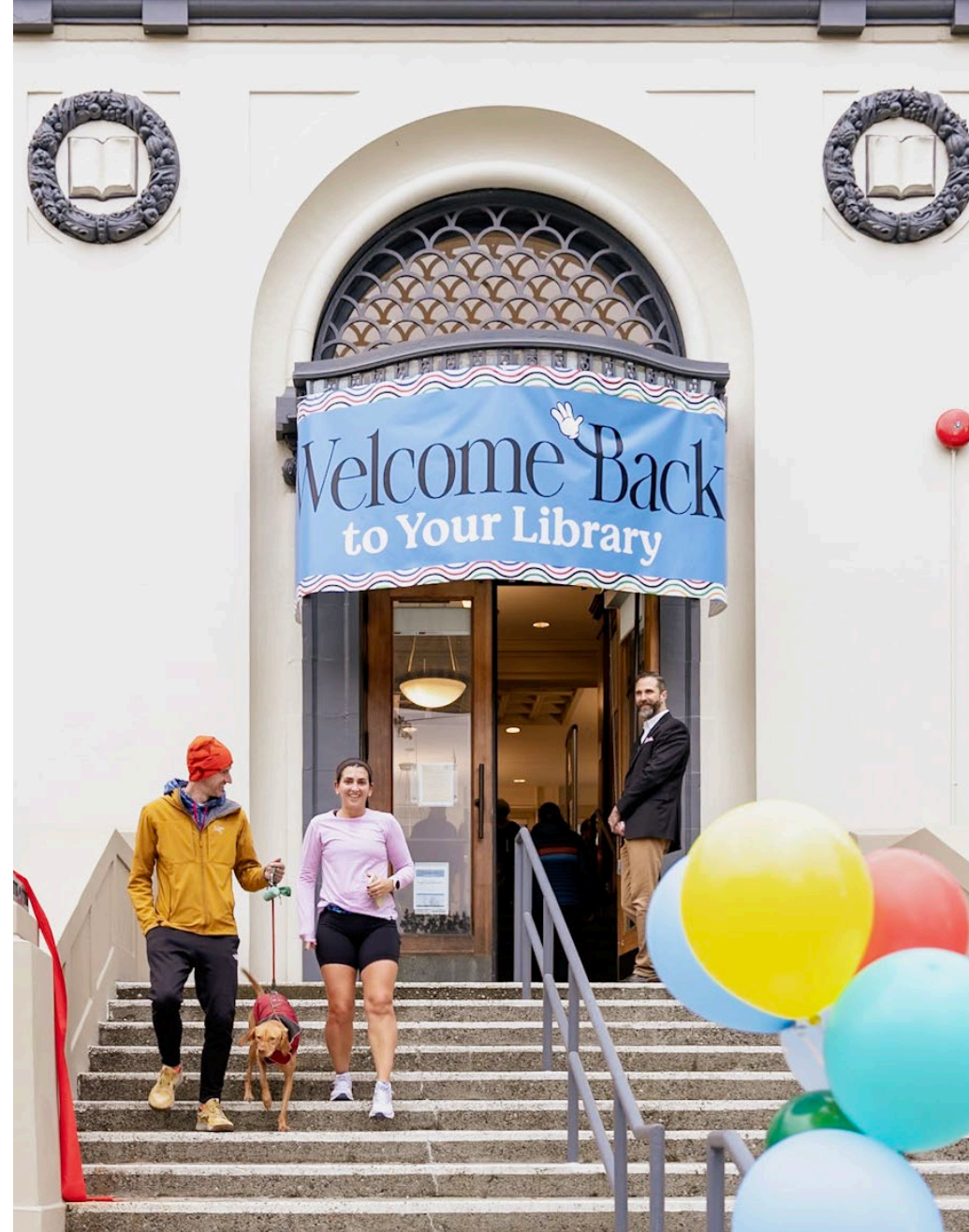
## Building Maintenance



# Accomplishments

## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Major seismic retrofit and remodel
  - Green Lake Branch complete
  - University Branch underway
- Increased climate resiliency
- Major maintenance
- Routine and preventative maintenance



# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

## Technology & Online Services



# Accomplishments

## TECHNOLOGY & ONLINE SERVICES

- Supported:
  - In-building Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi hotspots
  - Public computers
  - Printing, copying, and scanning
- In development:
  - Improved cybersecurity program
  - New Library app
  - New Integrated Library System



# 2024 Library Levy Accomplishments

## Planning for the Future



# Future Needs and Opportunities

## Books & Materials

- Expand digital & physical collections
- Preserve and digitize local history

## Expand Access

- Support open hours
- Increase access to Library resources
  - Book lockers, kiosks, etc.
  - At libraries and at partner sites
- Increase language access

## Literacy & Enrichment

- Increase programming and outreach
  - Classes, workshops, and events that help people learn, grow, and connect
  - Free opportunities for all ages and abilities
  - Supports community needs and interests

## Maintain & Improve

- Buildings and technology
- Security, in person and online



# Community voices

“Thank you for giving us books that will **help us build better communities** and fight unfair policies, and also for giving us the **silly, fun, escapist books** that let us catch our breath for a minute.”

“As a senior on fixed income, books, DVDs, happenings, classes and author talks enrich and sustain. **You enrich a life that otherwise would be awful.**”

“The Northgate Branch is a comfortable place **to read, work, look for a job, and relax** ... I use it all the time. It is an **important part of our community.**”

“Thank you for always being a resource; from my go-to to read to the countless resources you offer for those in need like **free supplies or tutoring program or internet printing access or just being a safe shelter.** You are always **warm and accommodating.**”

# Thank you!