



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Libraries, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee

### Agenda

Thursday, February 27, 2025

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Maritza Rivera, Chair  
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Vice-Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Member  
Cathy Moore, Member  
Mark Solomon, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8804; [Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov](mailto:Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov)

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Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Libraries, Education, and Neighborhoods**  
**Committee**  
**Agenda**  
**February 27, 2025 - 9:30 AM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall , 600 4th Avenue , Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/libraries-education-and-neighborhoods>

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This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Details on how to provide Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>

Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the Public Comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Please submit written comments to all Councilmembers four hours prior to the meeting at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

**D. Items of Business**

**1. The Seattle Public Library Annual Levy Update**

*Supporting*  
*Documents:* [Presentation](#)

**Briefing and Discussion**

**Presenter:** Tom Fay, Chief Librarian, Seattle Public Library

**E. Adjournment**



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Inf 2637, **Version:** 1

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The Seattle Public Library Annual Levy Update

# The Seattle Public Library

## Library Levy Update

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

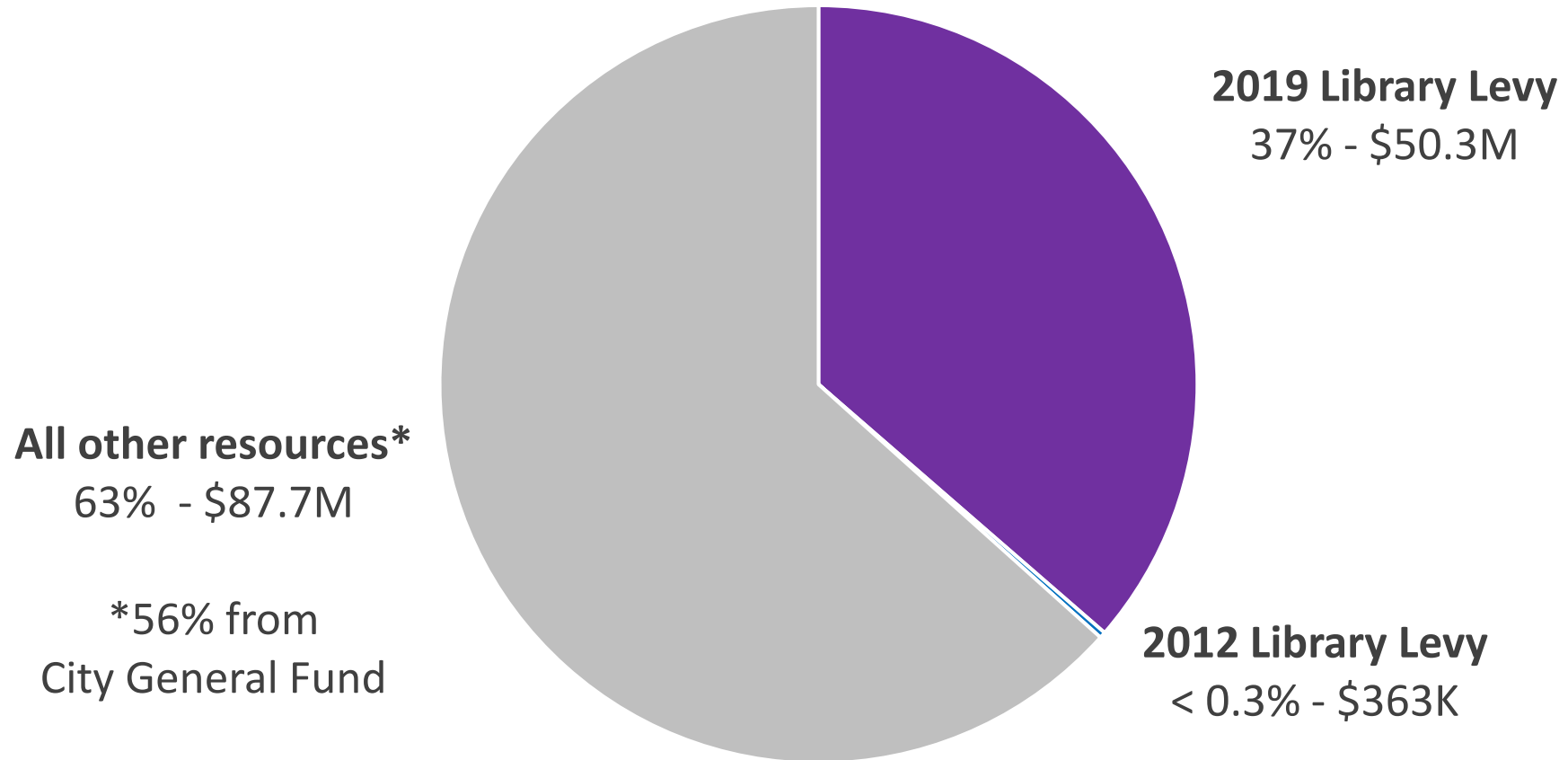
February 2025

# 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

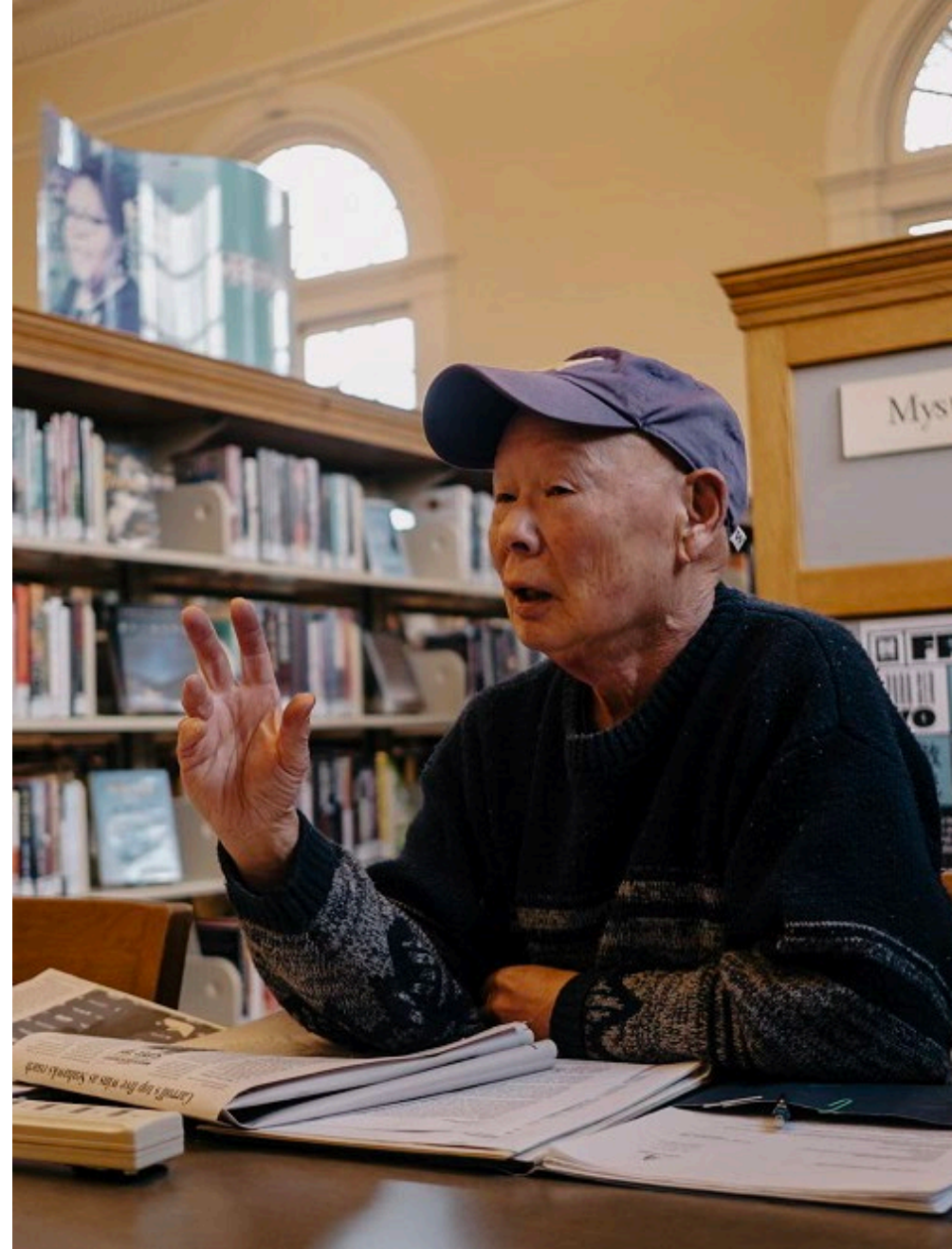
## Collections: Books & Materials



# 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

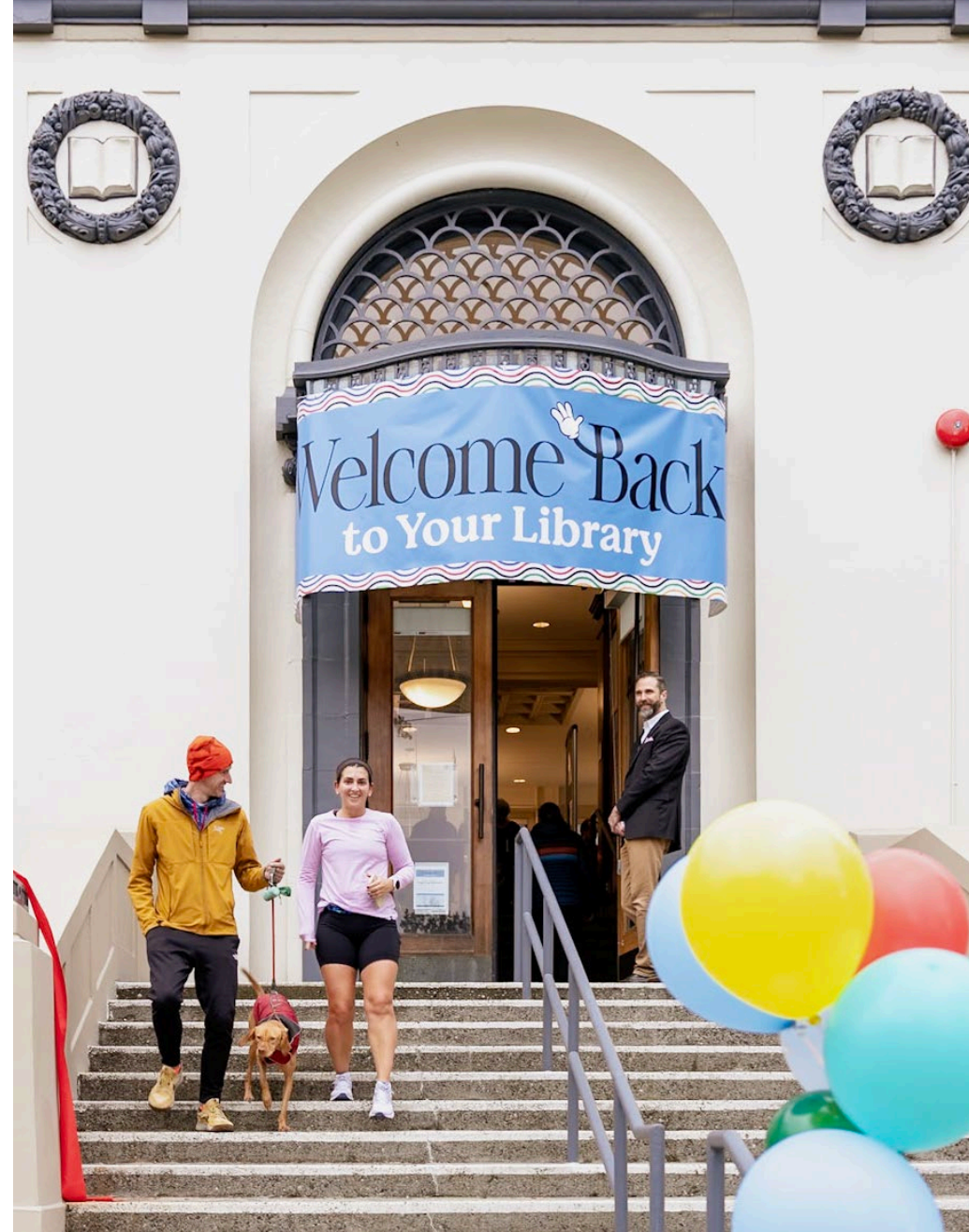
## Building Maintenance



# 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!

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

February 2025