



Board of Trustees Meeting

Agenda

KCLS Service Center / Hybrid
Wednesday, November 19, 2025
5:00 PM

Click to join meeting via Zoom

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MWU3M2RkNWYtZGEwNC00NDA0LWEyN2YtMWQ4N2JlOGY3OWM4%40thead.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22ecd4c4ad-646a-442f-aaaa-d05860ad9707%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%221b85d672-b24c-4a2d-ac02-199e878fe899%22%7D)

[join/19%3Ameeting_MWU3M2RkNWYtZGEwNC00NDA0LWEyN2YtMWQ4N2JlOGY3OWM4%40thead.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22ecd4c4ad-646a-442f-aaaa-d05860ad9707%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%221b85d672-b24c-4a2d-ac02-199e878fe899%22%7D](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MWU3M2RkNWYtZGEwNC00NDA0LWEyN2YtMWQ4N2JlOGY3OWM4%40thead.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22ecd4c4ad-646a-442f-aaaa-d05860ad9707%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%221b85d672-b24c-4a2d-ac02-199e878fe899%22%7D)

If you would like to speak during the Public Comment, please email BoardMeetingSupport@kcls.org by 4:00pm on February 28.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes - October 29, 2025
- D. Public Comment

In the interest of time and to allow as many members of the public the opportunity to speak, comments are limited to three (3) minutes if speaking on one's behalf or five (5) minutes if speaking on behalf of a group or organization.

Commenters should refrain from using the public comment period to engage in speech or conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting, including derogatory remarks, profanity, or personal attacks.

- E. **Finance and Facilities Reports**
 - 1. Monthly Finance Report: Donna Zirkle
 - 2. Overview of Levy Resolutions: Donna Zirkle
- F. **Action Items**
 - 3. Approval of Monthly Expenditures
 - 4. Resolution 2025-03: Property Tax Revenue Increase
 - 5. Resolution 2025-04: Property Tax Levy
- G. Staff and Director's Report



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- 6. Tax Increment Financing: John Sheller
- 7. Director's Report: Heidi Daniel
- H. Written Reports: Budget Hearing Q&A
- I. Board Committee Reports
- J. Trustees' Reports
 - 8. Recognition of Trustee Lalita Uppala - 10 Years of Service: Laura Valenziano
 - 9. Resolution 2025-05
- K. Adjournment



King County Library System

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2025 | KCLS Service Center

The meeting is being held in person with remote option via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting ID: 245 253 311 90 -- Passcode: 3gs95Vz7

If you would like to make a Public Comment

please email BoardMeetingSupport@kcls.org by 2:00pm on November 19.

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes—October 29, 2025 ([Attachment A](#))

D. Public Comment

In the interest of time and to allow as many members of the public the opportunity to speak, comments are limited to three (3) minutes if speaking on one's behalf or five (5) minutes if speaking on behalf of a group or organization.

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E. Finance and Facilities Reports

1. Monthly Finance Report: Donna Zirkle ([Attachment B](#))
2. Overview of Levy Resolutions: Donna Zirkle

F. Action Items

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures
2. Resolution 2025-03: Property Tax Revenue Increase ([Attachment C](#))
3. Resolution 2025-04: Property Tax Levy ([Attachment D](#))

G. Staff and Director's Reports

1. Tax Increment Financing: John Sheller
2. Director's Report: Heidi Daniel

H. Written Reports: Budget Hearing Q&A ([Attachment E](#))

I. Board Committee Reports

J. Trustees' Reports

1. Recognition of Trustee Lalita Uppala: Laura Valenziano
2. Resolution 2025-05: Recognition of Lalita Uppala ([Attachment F](#))

K. Adjournment



King County Library System

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

KCLS Service Center/Hybrid | October 29, 2025, 5pm

Present

KCLS Board

Jeffery Guddat
Harish Kulkarni*
Verna Seal
Laura Valenziano

KCLS Staff

Maria Bassett
Angie Benedetti
BJ Colvin*
Heidi Daniel
Lisa Fraser
Chase Gallagher
Angie Miraflor
Dominica Myers
Danielle Perry*
Cecie Streitman
Lisa Yamasaki
Donna Zirkle

**attended remotely*

Motions Approved

1. Board Meeting agenda
2. September 17, 2025 Board meeting minutes
3. Payroll expenditures
4. General Fund expenditures

Call to Order

President Laura Valenziano called the meeting to order at 5:13pm. Verna Seal and Jeff Guddat attended in person; Harish Kulkarni attended online. There was a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Jeff Guddat moved approval of the Board Meeting agenda. Verna Seal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes

Jeff Guddat moved approval of the September 17, 2025 Board Meeting minutes. Verna Seal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Finance and Facilities Report

Finance and Facilities Director Donna Zirkle presented the monthly Finance report as of the end of September 2025. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues were \$87.6M, against the yearly revenue budget of \$150.6M, which was approximately 58%. YTD expenses were \$110.3M, which is 67% of the total expense budget of \$164.6M. CIP expenses YTD at the end of September were \$4.3M, accounting for 34% of the total budget of \$12.5M.

Donna reported on a change in the employer contribution rate for the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and its impact on KCLS' budget going forward. The previous employer contribution rate was 9.53 percent; the new rate is 5.58 percent. The change, made at the state level, will not affect the amount of



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retirement funds employees receive. Implemented midyear, it will result in an estimated \$1.3 million savings in 2025.

Following the regular year-to-date review of revenues and expenses, Donna provided an update comparing the year-end forecast to the original budget. Revenue gains were realized through higher-than-expected investment interest and other financing sources, totaling \$3.9 million. Expense savings, totaling \$7.3 million, resulted from personnel costs, the previously mentioned pension rate changes and unused reserve funds. As a result, KCLS - originally projecting a \$13.9 million deficit - is now expected to close the year with a \$2.7 million deficit.

Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Jeff Guddat moved approval of Payroll expenditures for August in the amount of \$5,437,850.35:

(8/01) Ck#00202477-00202490; 988805337-988806492; (8/15) Ck#00202491-00202504; 995789443-995790588; (8/29) Ck#00202505-00202524; 114544383-114545524. **Verna Seal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Jeff Guddat moved approval of General Fund #0010 expenditures for August in the amount of

\$6,272,374.36: Travel Advances – 1553-1560; (8/14) Ck#5015674-5015722; 1161415-1161570 (8/21)

Ck#1161571-1161684; 5015723-5015724; (8/25) Ck#1161685-1161789; 5015725-5015729; (9/04)

Ck#1161790- 1161862; 5015730-5015731. Voids - 0. **Harish Kulkarni seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Jeff Guddat moved approval of Payroll expenditures for September in the amount of

\$3,629,716.06: (9/12) Ck#00202525-00202535; 121712885-121714040; (9/26) Ck#00202536-00202550;

128891942-128893081. **Harish Kulkarni seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Verna Seal moved approval of General Fund #0010 expenditures for September in the amount of

\$6,944,784.52: Travel Advances – 0; (9/11) Ck#5015732-5015789; 1161863-1162008 (9/15) Ck#1162009-

1162011; (9/18) Ck#1162012-1162119; 5015790; (9/25) Ck#1162120-1162245; 5015791-5015820 (9/30)

1162246-1162339; (10/06) Ck#5015821; 1162340-1162467. Voids – Ck#1162139. **Harish Kulkarni**

seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff and Director's Reports

2026 Preliminary Budget

Executive Director Heidi Daniel and Donna Zirkle presented the 2026 preliminary budget. Donna began by providing a high-level overview of the proposed budget, which is available in full at [KCLS.org/budget](https://www.kcls.org/budget).



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The presentation outlined the strategy behind budget development, major revenue and expense categories, anticipated use of reserves, and the potential need for a levy lid lift in 2026.

The proposed 2026 budget includes revenues of \$166.2 million, reflecting a 1 percent increase over 2025. In developing the proposal, KCLS sought to align expenses closely with prior-year levels despite rising costs from inflation, insurance premiums, and increased demand for digital materials. The majority of KCLS funding, approximately 96 percent, comes from local property taxes.

On the expense side, public services accounts for about 61 percent (\$101.8 million) of projected costs. Administrative and materials-related expenses make up roughly 31 percent (\$52.1 million), while capital investments in facilities and technology represent the remaining 8 percent. Inflation, higher insurance costs, and expanding digital collections are key cost drivers.

Because projected expenses exceed revenues, KCLS plans to use reserve savings to balance the 2026 budget. These reserves were largely generated from savings during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, staff emphasized that relying on reserves is not sustainable long-term and that the system could deplete its reserve funds as early as 2027 without additional revenue.

To address this, KCLS is exploring a levy lid lift in 2026. The current levy rate has dropped from 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2010 to about 24 cents today. A restored rate—up to the allowable 50 cents—would help maintain service levels, hours, staffing, and make capital improvements. A Board decision on whether to pursue a levy lid lift in the August 2026 election is expected at the February 2026 meeting.

The 2026 budget process includes three public hearings between November 3 and November 12, with final Board review and approval scheduled for December 2025. If approved, the budget will take effect in January 2026.

Summer Reading Recap

Director of Library Outreach Programs and Services, Angie Benedetti presented an overview of *Curious Creatures*, KCLS's 2025 Summer Reading program, which is designed to promote literacy, equity, and access by creating reading incentives and opportunities for children from birth through their teen years. As KCLS' largest annual program, Summer Reading encourages early literacy, supports growth outside the school year, and strengthens community connections.

Angie discussed current challenges affecting the program, including declining participation and reading scores among King County students, as noted in the Washington Education Recovery Scorecard.



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Additional issues include inconsistent data collection, a gap between in-library programming and outreach, low adult engagement, and the inability of some community partners to provide summer meals.

To strengthen participation, staff implemented several new strategies, including front-loading incentives and books to create a welcoming start and ensuring all participants register through a single platform, including at outreach events. Adult engagement also increased through the Book Bingo reading incentive program, offered in partnership with the Seattle Public Library and Seattle Arts and Lectures. New community partnerships and expanded staff participation in the Summer Meals program further enhanced outreach.

The program is funded by the KCLS Foundation and aligns with the system's "Curiosity Isn't Quiet" campaign. The visual design incorporates artwork from KCLS's new library card, and the advertising plan emphasizes social media engagement. Partners and sponsors include Libby, Rakuten Kobo, Red Robin, and the Seattle Storm.

A total of 35,578 participants registered for the program, with 15,194 finishers, representing a 30 percent increase in completions from the prior year. The largest participant group was children ages 6–11, followed by ages 0–5 and 12 and older. KCLS hosted 638 Summer Reading programs with a combined attendance of 24,850. Between May 1 and August 31, librarians introduced the program to approximately 32,400 children and teens through classroom and community presentations. More than 6,000 attendees participated in kickoff events across the system.

Survey feedback reflected growing enthusiasm for the program. Of 1,000 survey responses, 90 percent of school-age participants said they would encourage friends to join the Summer Reading program, an increase from 74 percent the previous year. Among families with children ages 0 to 5, 65 percent reported new early literacy skills, 86 percent saw increased joy in reading, and 97 percent of caregivers said they would recommend the program to others.

Looking ahead to 2026 Summer Reading, staff plan to review participant and staff feedback, simplify the registration process, and order materials earlier to improve the customer experience. Planning also includes development of a new teen-focused program to broaden participation.

Director's Report

Executive Director Heidi Daniel referred the Board to her written Director's Report, which detailed several recent programs and activities. She noted that the performance dashboard, also included in the report, shows all key markers progressing as expected.



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Heidi shared photos of the recent refresh of the Valley View Library children's area, which features new carpet, artwork by local artists and an interactive wooden boat structure. She described the redesigned space as a warm, welcoming environment for families, noting that the relatively small updates have made a significant impact. Similar refresh projects are planned for the Sammamish and Auburn libraries, aligned with findings from KCLS' recent accessibility audit.

Board Committee Reports

Trustee Jeff Guddat reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. He recently attended a risk assessment meeting with state auditors in preparation for the upcoming accountability audit, and is scheduled to attend the formal audit entrance meeting that officially began the process in early November. He noted that he will also attend two of the three public budget hearings scheduled for early November.

Trustees Reports

There were no trustee reports.

Adjournment

Laura Valenziano adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.

Laura Valenziano, President

Jeff Guddat, Secretary



FINANCE REPORT

King County Library System

November 19, 2025

1. GENERAL FUND COMMENTARY

Expenditures in October 2025 were \$13.9M compared to the monthly budget average of \$13.7M and represented 8.4% of the annual budget. Last year, October expenditures were \$12.3M, or 8.0% of the 2024 budget. The year-over-year change in total expenditures is 4.4%.

2. GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURE ITEMS

Supplies

October expenditures of \$210K consisted primarily of \$81K for Operating Supplies, \$41K for Supplies – Program, \$32K for Supplies – Building Maintenance, and \$24K for Supplies - Gas and Oil.

Staff Development

October expenditures of \$191K consisted of Training and Individual Development.

Professional Services

October expenditures of \$473K included \$117K for Facilities, \$113K for Programs, \$106K for Administration, \$66K for Catalogue & Processing, \$52K for Operations, and \$17K for Technology.

Communication & Advertising

October expenditures of \$168K included \$97K for Telephone – Data and Voice, \$65K for Advertising, and \$7K for Postage.

Operating Lease

October expenditures of \$414K primarily consisted of \$362K for Operating Leases, \$35K for Operating Lease – Copiers, and \$17K for Operating Lease – Rental.

Utilities

October expenditures of \$282K included electricity, water, and waste management services.

Repairs and Maintenance

October expenditures of \$1.5M included \$582K for Custodian and Day Porter Service, \$491K for Facilities related Repairs and Maintenance, \$238K for ITS Repairs and Maintenance, and \$146K for HVAC, \$70K for Landscape Maintenance, and \$59K for AMH Repairs and Maintenance.

Reserves

There were no reserve expenditures in October.

Miscellaneous

October expenditures of \$62K consisted primarily of Ad Valorem Refunds and Banking Fees.

Library Materials

October expenditures of \$1.1M included \$539K for Downloadable Material-Licensed & Purchased, \$455K for Books, and \$105K for Non-book Media, Periodicals & Databases.

Capital Investment Program (CIP)

Facilities-CIP

October expenditures of \$1.3M primarily consisted of \$1.1M for AMH Management System, \$106K for Electric/Gas Meter Upgrades, and \$86K for Carpet Replacement.

ITS-CIP

October expenditures of \$344K consisted of \$162K for PC Replacement, and \$137K for Branch Security.

3. GENERAL FUND REVENUE OVERVIEW

October revenues were \$52.3M, which is primarily Property Tax and Investment Interest revenue. October YTD revenues reflect 92.8% of the total budgeted amount. The year-over-year change in total revenue is 1.8%.

4. CASH POSITION OVERVIEW

The cash balance in the General Fund (#001) as of October 31, 2025, was \$158,528,860.

5. INVESTMENT RETURN

The County Investment Pool's preliminary gross rate of return for October 2025 was 4.41%. This was 0.59 percentage points higher than the 90-day T-Bill average rate of 3.82%.

A/P Vendor Payments > \$20,000

OCTOBER 2025

Fund	Vendor	Amount	Description
Personnel			
001	Premera Blue Cross Total	\$ 1,690,267	Medical premiums
001	Public Employ Retire Sys(PERS)-EFT ONLY Total	\$ 872,442	PERS
001	Empowerment Retirement-EFT Total	\$ 327,533	457 retirement plan
001	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Total	\$ 257,188	Medical premiums
001	Department of Labor & Industries Total	\$ 142,486	Quarterly workers comp industrial insurance
001	Delta Dental of WA - Washington Dental Total	\$ 129,911	Dental premiums
001	ConnectYourCare, LLC Total	\$ 92,888	Health care flexible spending account plans
001	WSCCCE, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Total	\$ 77,694	Union dues
001	Standard Insurance Company Total	\$ 38,677	Life and AD&D insurance premiums
001	DayForce US, Inc. Total	\$ 31,385	Payroll HCM billing
001	Employment Security Dept-Unemploy Comp Total	\$ 22,495	Unemployment compensation tax
Buildings			
001	CCS Washington Janitorial Inc. Total	\$ 584,640	Monthly janitorial/day porter/hazmat
001	MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions Total	\$ 308,147	HVAC maintenance/repairs/upgrades
001	Puget Sound Energy (UTILITIES) Total	\$ 147,436	Utilities
001	Southcenter Owner LLC (LEASE) Total	\$ 110,928	Building lease
001	Lake Hills Investments-LK HILLS LEASE Total	\$ 106,883	Building lease
001	Reef Preston LLC/Integrated Real Est Svc Total	\$ 96,890	Building lease
001	Milliken & Company Total	\$ 85,612	Carpet replacement - Auburn
001	Northwest Landscape Services Total	\$ 76,979	Landscape maintenance/repairs - various branches
001	Corti Construction Inc. Total	\$ 62,244	Building repair - various branches
001	Larsons Glass Co. Inc. Total	\$ 54,968	Furnish/install new doors - Federal Way
001	Performance System Integration LLC Total	\$ 52,485	Fire sprinkler system/extinguishers inspection/maintenance - various branches
001	Day & Nite Plumbing & Heating Inc. Total	\$ 28,894	Plumbing repairs/service calls
001	Supply Source Inc - SAMS Total	\$ 27,778	Janitorial supplies
001	Artech Inc. Total	\$ 24,233	Art maintenance and collection management
001	E & L Flooring Services LLC Total	\$ 23,606	Flooring/upholstery repair/maintenance - various branches
001	T&B Products dba C4 Products LLC Total	\$ 21,379	Automatic door parts/maintenance/replacement - various branches
Collections			
001	OverDrive, Inc. Total	\$ 491,553	Downloadable books, audio, video, and music
001	Ingram Library Services Total	\$ 418,514	Print materials including Choice Reads and physical processing
001	Midwest Tape Total	\$ 99,118	Audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, physical processing and the digital subscription to Hoopla for comics, movies &TV and music
001	Mackin Educational Resources Total	\$ 39,931	Children's books, pre-binding children's books and physical processing
Other			
001	Lyngsoe Systems Inc. Total	\$ 1,134,037	Automated materials handling system service, parts & maintenance
001	CDW Government, Inc. Total	\$ 330,119	Computer equip/parts/software
001	Nitro Software Inc. Total	\$ 144,272	Software licenses
001	COPACINO + FUJIKADO LLC Total	\$ 91,368	Professional services - marketing
001	Amazon.com Total	\$ 88,893	Operating supplies
001	U.S. Bank VISA Total	\$ 80,555	VISA charges (supplies/training/advertising/subscriptions)
001	King County Finance (TELECOMM/I-NET) Total	\$ 78,189	I-Net billing KC wide area network
001	Smarsh Inc. Total	\$ 77,069	Email system archiving platform service
001	Ednetics Inc. Total	\$ 71,367	SALTO access control materials & service - various branches
001	Pacific Communications Cabling Total	\$ 69,730	SALTO security upgrade - various branches
001	Homeland Patrol Division Security LLC Total	\$ 57,906	Security service - various branches
001	Johnston Architects LLC Total	\$ 55,000	Professional services
001	Group 4 Architecture Research Planning Total	\$ 36,788	Professional services - project planning
001	Peer Washington Total	\$ 36,667	Professional services for Peers in Libraries grant
001	Toyota of Renton Total	\$ 35,400	Vehicle purchase
001	EMC Research, Inc. Total	\$ 34,250	Consulting fees - Levy Lid Lift
001	Ricoh USA Inc. Total	\$ 32,129	Copier leases
001	Truesec Inc. Total	\$ 30,000	Cybersecurity consulting
001	SDM Consulting, LLC Total	\$ 30,000	Staff training
001	Prosci, Inc.	\$ 22,954	Management training

001 WEX Bank-WEX Fleet Universal, Veh gas Total

OCTOBER 2025 Vendor Payments for NOVEMBER Board Meeting
\$ 21,625 Fleet fuel/supplies purchases

001	General Fund
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GENERAL FUND REVENUES

October

	2025				2024				
Revenues Received:	Budget 2025	October Received	YTD Received	% Budget Received	% Budget Received	Unaudited 2024	YTD Received	% Growth Over 2024 YTD	
Property Tax, Current Year	\$ 140,952,257	\$ 51,440,700	\$ 128,663,248	91.3%	92.3%	\$ 135,676,067	\$ 127,228,894	1.1%	
Property Tax, Prior Years	1,678,060	78,768	1,260,789	75.1%	94.6%	1,540,171	1,622,472	(22.3%)	
Other Taxes	363,899	1,365	344,370	94.6%	89.2%	363,821	274,696	25.4%	
Timber & State Shared Revenues	96,681	4	23,117	23.9%	76.9%	109,188	86,951	(73.4%)	
Contracts	565,383	-	295,769	52.3%	33.1%	654,102	256,608	15.3%	
Printing/Photocopies	379,757	40,030	363,893	95.8%	133.0%	373,333	320,243	13.6%	
Damaged Materials/ Fines & Fees	37,709	3,398	32,150	85.3%	26.6%	37,353	31,880	0.8%	
Lost Materials	57,453	5,488	45,161	78.6%	44.3%	57,930	50,077	(9.8%)	
Investment Interest	3,600,000	461,653	4,582,715	127.3%	219.6%	6,001,183	4,392,334	4.3%	
Grants	-	-	-	N/A	3.1%	12,838	13,266	(100.0%)	
KCLS Foundation	1,641,854	181,683	1,199,167	73.0%	93.9%	1,502,401	1,384,764	(13.4%)	
E-Rate	1,000,000	-	417,144	41.7%	48.3%	1,104,743	628,114	(33.6%)	
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	573,448	-	N/A	
Miscellaneous Revenues/Other Financing Sources	262,007	44,056	2,629,883	1003.7%	N/A	1,528,782	1,083,604	142.7%	
TOTALS	\$150,635,060	\$52,257,144	\$139,857,406	92.8%	93.8%	\$149,535,362	\$137,373,903	1.8%	

Credit Card Payments	October Received	% of Month's Payments	YTD Received	% of YTD Payments	% of YTD Payments	Unaudited 2024	YTD Received	% Growth Over 2024 YTD
Damaged Materials/ Fines & Fees	845	24.9%	7,642	23.8%	21.0%	7,759	6,684	14.3%
Lost Materials	1,796	32.7%	16,198	35.9%	41.3%	24,341	20,692	(21.7%)
TOTALS	\$2,641	29.7%	\$23,840	30.8%	33.4%	\$32,099	\$27,376	(12.9%)

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

October

2025

2024

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2025	October EXPENDED	YTD EXPENDED	% Budget EXPENDED	% Budget EXPENDED	Unaudited 2024 EXPENDED	YTD EXPENDED	% Growth Over 2024 YTD
Salaries	\$ 71,822,373	\$ 5,908,824	\$ 57,151,740	79.6%	77.6%	\$ 62,764,738	\$ 52,075,755	9.7%
Benefits	27,765,268	1,871,491	19,093,469	68.8%	71.8%	21,859,992	18,070,286	5.7%
SUB-TOTALS	\$ 99,587,641	\$ 7,780,315	\$76,245,209	76.6%	76.0%	\$84,624,730	\$70,146,042	8.7%
Supplies	2,881,645	209,783	2,183,962	75.8%	90.6%	3,317,458	2,694,833	(19.0%)
Staff Development	1,307,650	190,788	961,933	73.6%	60.4%	748,578	690,978	39.2%
Prof. Services	5,448,484	473,324	4,098,793	75.2%	72.5%	5,029,163	3,829,779	7.0%
Communications	1,507,233	103,609	1,058,327	70.2%	77.9%	1,093,400	822,792	28.6%
Travel	152,802	9,444	95,496	62.5%	53.4%	127,459	98,413	(3.0%)
Advertising	656,625	64,762	554,116	84.4%	33.4%	322,247	167,827	230.2%
Operating Leases	3,406,598	414,467	2,945,502	86.5%	86.6%	3,114,537	2,755,244	6.9%
Insurance	1,200,882	(4,391)	1,121,174	93.4%	92.3%	1,052,563	1,052,363	6.5%
Utilities	2,529,480	282,196	2,178,607	86.1%	81.4%	2,559,058	1,991,070	9.4%
Repairs & Maintenance	15,709,539	1,515,235	13,620,092	86.7%	90.3%	15,468,518	12,511,481	8.9%
Reserve	1,200,000	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	N/A
Miscellaneous	413,010	61,845	700,494	169.6%	146.3%	634,521	546,585	28.2%
Intergovernmental	168,400	3,693	66,757	39.6%	58.8%	170,876	61,019	9.4%
Library Material	15,881,740	1,098,150	12,370,320	77.9%	85.1%	17,221,055	13,119,690	(5.7%)
SUB-TOTALS	\$ 52,464,088	\$ 4,422,904	\$ 41,955,572	80.0%	82.5%	\$ 50,859,434	\$ 40,342,073	4.0%
Facilities - CIP	\$ 7,957,000	\$ 1,343,606	\$ 3,245,373	40.8%	65.4%	\$ 10,143,659	\$ 5,106,807	(36.5%)
ITS - CIP	4,576,801	343,676	2,747,952	60.0%	90.9%	3,780,445	\$ 3,354,891	(18.1%)
SUB-TOTALS	\$ 12,533,801	\$ 1,687,281	\$ 5,993,326	47.8%	73.6%	\$ 13,924,104	\$ 8,461,697	(29.2%)
TOTALS	\$ 164,585,530	\$ 13,890,500	\$ 124,194,107	75.5%	77.9%	\$ 149,408,268	\$118,949,813	4.4%

KING COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION 2025-03 PROPERTY TAX REVENUE INCREASE (RCW 84.55.120)

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the King County Rural Library District (the “District”), has properly given notice of the following public hearings held to consider the District’s budget for the calendar year 2026 pursuant to RCW 84.55.120:

November 19, 2025 by Videoconference and in person

WHEREAS, the Board of the District has met and considered its budget for the calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the District is a taxing district with a population of more than 10,000; and

WHEREAS, the District’s actual regular property tax levy amount in 2025 was \$140,932,257; and

WHEREAS, the highest allowed regular property tax levy that the District could collect in 2025 was \$140,479,618, which is an amount that is exclusive of refunds and abatements collected in 2024; and

WHEREAS, under state law, the District is permitted to increase its highest allowed levy by the lesser of 1% or inflation, which is defined as the percentage change in the implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States as published for the most recent twelve-month period by the bureau of economic analysis of the federal department of commerce by September 25th of the year before the taxes are payable; and

WHEREAS, inflation is currently 2.44%, which is greater than 1%, resulting in a maximum 2026 levy amount for the District of \$141,884,414; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the District, after such hearings and after duly considering all relevant evidence and testimony presented, has determined that the District requires an increase in property tax revenue from the previous year, in addition to that resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property, construction of electrical generating wind turbine, solar, biomass and geothermal facilities, any increase in the value of real property within tax increment finance areas, and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, in order to discharge the expected expenses and obligations of the District in its best interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of the District that an increase in the regular property tax levy is hereby authorized for the 2026 levy in the amount of \$1,404,796, which is a percentage increase of 1.00% from the previous year. This increase is exclusive of additional revenue resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property, construction of electrical generating wind turbine, solar, biomass and geothermal facilities, any increase in the value of real property within tax increment finance areas, any increase in the value of state assessed property, and any additional amounts resulting from any annexations that have occurred and refunds made.

Adopted at a regular and open public meeting of the KCLS Board of Trustees on the 19th day of November, 2025, with a quorum present and the following Trustees voting: Laura Valenziano, Jeff Guddat, Crystal Goodwin, Harish Kulkarni, Srini Raghavan, Verna Seal, and Lalita Uppala.

Attest,

Laura Valenziano, Board President

Jeff Guddat, Board Secretary

Crystal Goodwin, Trustee

Harish Kulkarni, Trustee

Srini Raghavan, Trustee

Verna Seal, Trustee

Lalita Uppala, Trustee

**KING COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION 2025-04
PROPERTY TAX LEVY
(RCW 84.52.020)
NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the King County Rural Library District (the “District”) as follows:

The Board of the District hereby certifies that the attached form includes a true and complete estimate of the property tax levies for the District for 2026.

Adopted at a regular and open public meeting of the KCLS Board of Trustees on the 19th day of November, 2025, with a quorum present and the following Trustees voting: Laura Valenziano, Jeff Guddat, Crystal Goodwin, Harish Kulkarni, Srinu Raghavan, Verna Seal, and Lalita Uppala.

Attest,

Laura Valenziano, Board President

Jeff Guddat, Board Secretary

Crystal Goodwin, Trustee

Harish Kulkarni, Trustee

Srinu Raghavan, Trustee

Verna Seal, Trustee

Lalita Uppala, Trustee

By Ordinance 2152 of the Metropolitan King County Council, Taxing Districts are required annually to submit the following information regarding their tax levies for the ensuing year as part of a formal resolution of the District's governing body.

THE KING COUNTY ASSESSOR HAS NOTIFIED THE GOVERNING BODY OF
King County Library System THAT THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY
 LYING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SAID DISTRICT FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2026 IS:

	\$	605,315,176,202
REGULAR (STATUTORY) LEVY (AS APPLICABLE):		
EXPENSE FUND	\$	143,489,683
- LID LIFT NAME	\$	
- LID LIFT NAME	\$	
- LTIF		27,886
RESERVE FUND	\$	
NON-VOTED G.O. BOND (Limited)	\$	
REFUNDS (Noted on worksheet)	\$	584,905
TOTAL REGULAR LEVY	\$	144,102,474

EXCESS (VOTER APPROVED) LEVY: (Please list authorized bond levies separately.)		
G.O. BONDS FUND LEVY	\$	
G.O. BONDS FUND LEVY	\$	
G.O. BONDS FUND LEVY	\$	

SPECIAL LEVIES (INDICATE PURPOSE AND DATE OF ELECTION AT WHICH APPROVED, EXCEPT LID LIFTS):		
	\$	
	\$	
TOTAL TAXES REQUESTED:	\$	144,102,474

THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE LISTING OF LEVIES FOR SAID DISTRICT FOR TAX YEAR 2025 AND THEY ARE WITHIN THE MAXIMUMS ESTABLISHED BY LAW.


 (AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE)

11/17/2025
 (DATE)

KING, PIERCE & SNOHOMISH Preliminary Worksheet 10.30.2025

TAXING DISTRICT

King County Library

2025 Levy for 2026 Taxes

IPD: 1.02440

A. Highest regular tax which could have been lawfully levied beginning with the 1985 levy (refund levy not included).							
Year	2025	140,479,618	x	1.01000	=	141,884,414	
		<small>Highest Lawful Levy Since 1985</small>		<small>Limit Factor/Max Increase 101%</small>			
B. Current year's assessed value of new construction, improvements, and wind turbines, solar, biomass, and geothermal facilities in original districts before annexation occurred times last year's levy rate (if an error occurred or an error correction was made in the previous year, use the rate that would have been levied had no error occurred).							
	6,383,640,040	*	0.24520	÷	1,000	=	1,565,269
	<small>A.V.</small>		<small>Last Year's Levy Rate</small>				
C. Tax Increment finance area increment AV increase (RCW 84.55.010(1)€) (value included in B & D cannot be included in C)							
	113,726,680	*	0.24520	÷	1,000	=	27,886
	<small>A.V.</small>		<small>Last Year's Levy Rate</small>				
D. Current year's state assessed property value less last year's state assessed property value. The remainder is to be multiplied by last year's regular levy rate (or the rate that should have been levied).							
	7,052,123,389	-	7,052,123,389	=	0		
	<small>Current Year's A.V.</small>		<small>Previous Year's A.V.</small>				
	0	*	0.24520	÷	1,000	=	0
	<small>Remainder from Line D</small>		<small>Last Year's Levy Rate</small>				

E.	1 st Year Lid Lift & Limit Factor > 1%					
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F.	Regular property tax limit:	A+B+C+D+E	=	143,477,569
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Parts G through I are used in calculating the additional levy limit due to annexation.

G. To find the rate to be used in H, take the levy limit as shown in Line F above and divide it by the current assessed value of the district, excluding the annexed area.							
	143,477,569	÷	605,315,176,202	*	1,000	=	0.23702
	<small>Total in Line F</small>		<small>Assessed Value Less Annexed AV</small>				
H. Annexed area's current assessed value including new construction and improvements, times the rate in Line G.							
	0	*	0.23702	÷	1,000	=	0
	<small>Annexed Area's A.V.</small>		<small>Annexation Rate</small>				
I.	Regular property tax limit including annexation	F+H	=	143,477,569			

J.	Statutory maximum calculation						
Only enter fire/RFA rate, library rate, & firefighter pension fund rate for cities annexed to a fire/RFA or library or has a firefighter pension fund.							
	0.50000	-		+	0.00000	=	0.50000
	<small>District base levy rate</small>		<small>Fire Rate</small>		<small>Library Rate</small>		<small>Firefighter Pension Fund</small>
	605,315,176,202	*	0.50000	÷	1,000	=	302,657,588
	<small>Regular Levy AV</small>		<small>Reg Statutory Rate Limit</small>				<small>Statutory Amount</small>

K.	Highest Lawful Levy For This Tax Year (Lesser of I and J)	=	143,477,569
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L.	New highest lawful levy since 1985 (Lesser of I minus C and J, unless A (before limit factor increase) is greater, then A)	143,449,683
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M.	Lesser of J and K	143,477,569
N.	Refunds	584,905
O.	Total: M+N (unless stat max)	144,062,474
P.	Levy Corrections Year of Error: _____ Did the district cause the error?	
	1. Minus amount over levied (if applicable)	0
	2. Plus amount under levied (if applicable)	0
Q.	Total Allowable Levy	144,062,474

R.	Tax Base For Regular Levy	
	1. Total district taxable value (including state-assessed property, and excluding boats, timber assessed value, and the senior citizen exemption for the regular levy)	605,315,176,202
S.	Tax Base for Excess, Voted Bond Levies and Sr Exempt Lid Lifts	
	2. Excess AV	590,983,921,447
	3. Plus Timber Assessed Value (TAV)	145,444,507
	4. Tax base for excess and voted bond levies (2+3)	591,129,365,954

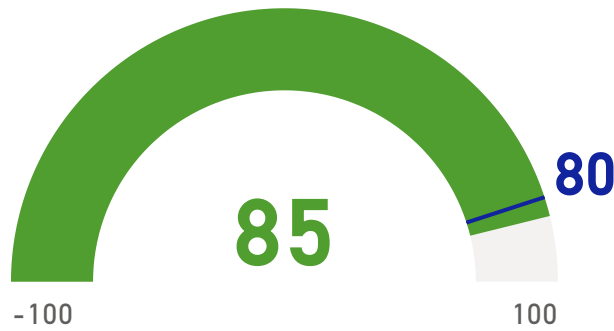
T.	Increase Information	
	1. Levy rate based on allowable levy	0.23799
	2. Last year's ACTUAL regular levy	140,932,257
	3. Dollar Increase over last year other than New Construction (-) Annexation	952,157
	4. Percent Increase over last year other than New Construction (-) Annexation	0.67561%



Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

3-month rolling values for our KPIs: Net Promoter Score, the percentage of patrons who learned something new at a KCLS program, and the percentage of patrons who felt a sense of connection at a KCLS program.

Net Promoter Score



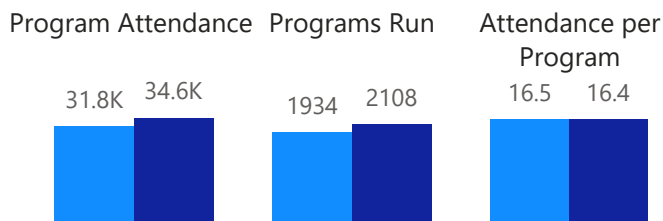
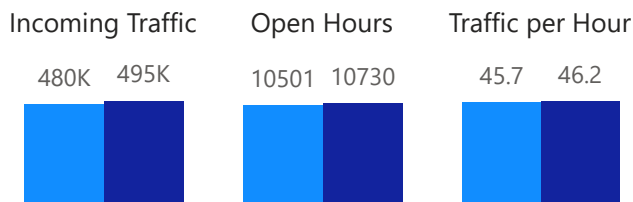
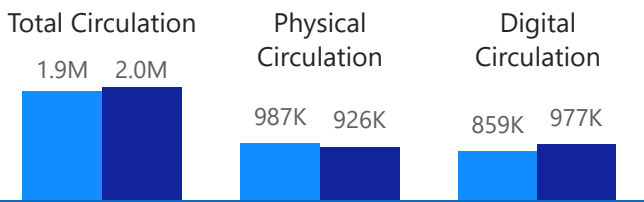
Learned Something New



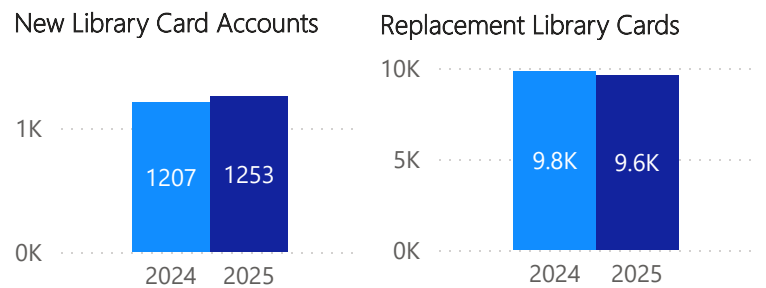
Felt Sense of Connection



System Usage - 2024 vs 2025



Cards & Accounts



Active Patrons & Market Penetration

Active Households include all addresses with at least one active patron. Market penetration is the number of active households against the total households in the KCLS service area. Active cardholders count patrons with library card activity in the given timeframes.





King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

KCLS Service Center | November 3, 2025, 1pm

Budget Hearing Q&A Recap

Q: The high cost of insurance was mentioned in the budget presentation, which type of insurance does this refer to?

A: Year over year, KCLS has seen a 10% increase in overall insurance coverage for its buildings and an average 9% increase in the cost of employee medical insurance plans KCLS offers.

Q: Regarding the levy lid lift, if the maximum lift would be \$0.50, and KCLS is currently at \$0.24, is leadership using a stair-step approach to the different levels?

A: Yes. KCLS has modeled funding scenarios at \$0.35, \$0.40, \$0.45 and \$0.50. The goal is to identify a funding level that not only maintains current service levels but also allows the System to meet community needs as efficiently as possible. Ideally, KCLS would not need to return to voters for another levy for at least eight to 10 years.

Q: The budget presentation mentioned that KCLS is seeking patron input through a survey. I've only seen the survey advertised on the website. Will it be promoted more broadly, such as through social media?

A: The patron survey is conducted every two years and is just one of several ways KCLS gathers community input. It is currently featured on the website and will also appear in the October and November newsletters and on social media. In addition, KCLS is conducting interviews with key stakeholders across the county, holding informal meetings with community groups such as library Friends, and carrying out formal polling to assess levy support and understand what matters most to voters.



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Covington Library | November 5, 2025, 6pm

Budget Hearing Q&A Recap

Q: What is the status of the reserve fund created by the COVID closures? How much is it?

A: \$40 million

Q: What are some of the ways you will reduce the budget, if cuts become necessary?

A: The two most significant areas for potential reductions are weekend operating hours (to allow focus to remain on after-school and evening hours for students and families) and the materials collection. Additional savings could come from extending maintenance intervals for library buildings and delaying the replacement or refresh of public computers.

Q: I'm concerned that there are not enough programs for Hispanic families.

A: Heidi agreed that more Spanish-language programming would be beneficial and offered to connect the patron with KCLS staff who can help address the concern: Dominica Myers, Director of Equity and Social Impact; Angie Benedetti, Director of Library Outreach Programs and Services; and David Wright, Regional Manager.

Q: I want to make sure library leaders are aware of the large financial constraints on taxpayers in King County, especially as many groups are going out for levies now.

A: Heidi reassured the patron that KCLS is sensitive to the financial pressures throughout the county and is advocating only for the services most important to the community, such as after-school programs for children and multilingual services. She noted that KCLS continues to closely monitor collection data, particularly as digital checkouts are expected to soon outpace physical ones—despite digital materials being substantially more expensive. The system is also working to strengthen reciprocal borrowing agreements to maximize access and is managing rising building maintenance costs as many facilities approach their 20-year mark.

Q: Can I retake the patron survey now that I have more information?

A: Probably not



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Covington Library | November 5, 2025, 6pm

Q: During COVID there was substantial fire damage to the Kent Library. Would KCLS benefit from additional security to reduce damage caused by vandalism?

A: KCLS is looking into adding external security cameras, especially in locations with high numbers of incidents.

Q: Could KCLS replace the existing sprinkler systems with one like Halon that wouldn't cause water damage?

A: That would be very expensive system-wide.

Q: What is the headcount and FTE for the entire system?

A: In 2026 the projected headcount is 1,059, and the FTE is 846.5

Q: How is the FTE broken down between frontline, administrative and maintenance teams?

A: Referred to diagram in Donna's presentation. Offered to email more specifics.

Q: For the sake of efficiency, can we standardize some parts (for instance HVAC)?

A: KCLS is currently working with Johnston Architects to standardize certain elements across its buildings, including carpet, furniture and paint. Five scalable design palettes will be available for selection. The long-term plan also includes standardizing mechanical systems. The ultimate goal is to protect KCLS assets and reduce the need for facility closures.

Q: Can we go back to using a substitute pool?

A: Through diligent management, the number of closures due to absences has been drastically reduced.



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Newport Way Library | November 12, 2025, 6pm

Budget Hearing Q&A Recap

Q: Why are digital copies of books so much more expensive than print copies?

A: Publishers limit how libraries can purchase digital materials. Instead of buying them outright, KCLS leases digital titles through a distributor, such as OverDrive, at a substantially higher cost than individual consumer purchases. Typically, these leases must be renewed after 25 checkouts.

In the past, libraries faced restrictions on when they could access new digital releases, but that situation has improved. KCLS and libraries nationwide continue to advocate for a more sustainable long-term model through legislation.

Despite the higher costs, digital materials offer important benefits by allowing libraries to reach patrons who might not otherwise have access to the collection.

Q: Does KCLS automatically order books in audio form?

A: KCLS follows the same selection criteria for audiobooks as it does for physical and digital copies and monitors patron demand closely when making purchasing decisions.

Q (Suggestion): KCLS should inform the public about the additional costs associated with digital items so patrons who don't really need them can choose other versions.

A: Thank you for the suggestion. Digital checkouts have the greatest budget impact when a title has a high number of holds, since that often requires KCLS to purchase additional copies. Despite the higher costs, KCLS takes pride in being a national and global leader in digital circulation. The high cost of digital books for libraries is a nationwide issue, and some smaller library systems have already had to suspend digital checkouts.

Q: Are e-books more expensive than audiobooks?

A: E-audiobooks are very expensive, even compared to standard e-book editions. For audio formats, e-audio is now the primary option, as publishers are no longer releasing most titles on CD. CD players have become uncommon and are no longer included in most new vehicles.



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Newport Way Library | November 12, 2025, 6pm

Q: Would it help to share cost details with patrons—for example, showing the price differences among print, digital, and audio versions of the same book? Could KCLS also track borrowing in monetary terms and limit borrowing once patrons exceed their tax contribution?

A: KCLS can continue to improve how it communicates the cost differences among formats to help raise awareness. However, the library provides equitable access to resources for all patrons, regardless of individual tax contributions.

Q: KCLS is a very robust system, but I was surprised by how much of my property taxes are allocated to libraries.

A: KCLS is a large system, operating 50 library buildings across a wide geographic area. Maintaining these facilities, along with an 11-million-item collection and staff to support them, represents significant ongoing costs. KCLS works to take advantage of economies of scale so patrons can access more resources than if each local library operated independently. The system also maintains reciprocal agreements with neighboring library systems to further maximize access to materials.

Q: If I lived in an area that does not border King County, could I still take advantage of reciprocal agreements?

A: Yes. KCLS maintains reciprocal agreements with a few library systems that do not directly border King County. These agreements were originally established when patrons needed to travel to pick up materials, so proximity was a practical consideration. With the growth of digital collections, reciprocal partnerships can now extend to systems farther away. That said, KCLS continues to prioritize serving King County residents.

Q: Is the levy lid lift inevitable? If so, what is the process?

A: It is not inevitable; it depends on what the community wants from its library system. If patrons want KCLS to maintain current hours, services, and collections, additional funding will be needed, as expenses are expected to outpace the 1 percent annual increase the system is allowed to collect under current law.



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Newport Way Library | November 12, 2025, 6pm

The decision to pursue a levy lid lift rests with the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director will determine whether to recommend a levy to the Board, which then decides whether to place the measure on the ballot and in which election. KCLS has not asked voters for a levy lid lift in 15 years.

Q: Are other library systems across the country experiencing the same funding challenges? Does KCLS negotiate with publishers in collaboration with other large library systems?

A: Every state has different funding mechanisms, but many library systems nationwide are facing similar financial challenges. KCLS works to negotiate favorable pricing with publishers and vendors such as OverDrive. As one of the largest library systems in the United States - and a leader in several areas - KCLS participates in many national discussions focused on improving access and affordability. The system continually evaluates available options and products to determine the best fit for materials and subscription databases.

Q: If KCLS goes to the public for a vote, and the Marketing budget is \$4 million, does that include funds to educate the public about the benefits of the levy?

A: KCLS is permitted to conduct only an informational campaign, and the \$4 million Marketing budget includes funds for that purpose. Staff cannot advocate for or against the levy. A separate political action committee (PAC) would be responsible for managing the actual levy lid lift campaign and voter advocacy efforts.

Q: I don't understand—if property values keep increasing, why doesn't KCLS receive more funding?

A: Even if a property's assessed value increases—for example, by 10 percent—KCLS is limited by state law to collecting only 1 percent more in total property tax revenue each year. As a result, when property values rise, the levy rate decreases.

Q: Wouldn't it be better to change the formula, so agencies aren't capped at a 1 percent annual increase?

A: Yes. KCLS encourages community members to advocate at the state level for a change to this law. The 1 percent cap affects not only libraries, but also other public agencies such as fire departments.



King County Library System

Public Budget Hearing

Newport Way Library | November 12, 2025, 6pm

Q: Why has the increase in the budget not resulted in more staff working at the libraries?

A: The majority of personnel costs in the budget continue to be for front-line staff. While overall expenses have increased, those costs largely reflect rising wages, benefits, and inflation rather than an expansion of staff positions.

Q: Why can't KCLS send surveys to all residents to learn which services they consider most important?

A: KCLS is not able to send surveys to every registered voter, but a patron survey is currently available on the KCLS website, and all community members are encouraged to participate. In addition, staff regularly engage with communities through outreach and informal conversations to better understand local priorities and what residents want from their library system.

**KING COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

RESOLUTION 2025-05

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

WHEREAS Lalita Uppala has served on the King County Library System Board of Trustees for ten years and has steadfastly upheld the organization’s mission, vision, and values; and

WHEREAS, she has supported the principles of Intellectual Freedom, advocated for equitable library services for all, and has been instrumental in shaping the future of library service in King County; and

WHEREAS, she has dutifully governed the King County Library System in good faith and has been a prudent steward of public funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Library System Board of Trustees recognizes **Lalita Uppala** for her leadership and service to KCLS and expresses its profound appreciation on behalf of staff and all members of the library community.

Signed this 19th day of November 2025.

Laura Valenziano, President

Jeff Guddat, Secretary

Srini Raghavan, Trustee

Harish Kulkarni, Trustee

Verna Seal, Trustee

Crystal Goodwin, Trustee

Lalita Uppala, Trustee