



# Responding to City of Eugene 2023-2025 Proposed Budget

PRODUCED AND DEVELOPED BY THE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE OF EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION AND THE FRIENDS OF THE EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## LIBRARY AT A GLANCE

- Eugene's library is ranked in the top 3% of libraries nationwide for excellence in cost-effective delivery of key services
- 77% of voters said YES to the library levy in 2020
- Materials circulated in 2022: 2,574,268
- Number of 2022 program attendees: 17,228
- Annual physical library visitors: 505,270
- Annual website visitors: 1,134,086

## CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES

- 80% from city general fund
- 17% from levy funds
- 3% from donations

## IMPORTANT DATES

- May 10 Public Comment @ Budget Committee Deliberation, 5:30 Zoom
- May 17 Public Comment @ Budget Committee Deliberation, 5:30 Zoom
- May 24 Public Comment @ Budget Committee Deliberation, 5:30 Zoom
- June 26 Public Comment @ City Council Final Budget Adoption Vote 7:30 Zoom/In-person

## YOUR VOICE IS URGENTLY NEEDED: SPEAK UP TO PRESERVE LIBRARY RESOURCES



### What is happening?

City leaders proposed a \$1.5 billion budget for 2023-2025, with \$30 million (2%) in cuts. If passed, the library will absorb 13% of the city's total cuts: \$4 million biennially.



### How will this affect the library and the community?

The proposal reduces the library's general fund budget by 17%, which is a biennial reduction in 9.2 staff positions and a \$1,868,000 cut to books and materials, databases, and digital services. The budget will spread staff more thinly, increase wait times, reduce availability of materials, and reduce programming.



### Can the library recoup funding, like other city departments, through increasing its revenue?

The library serves the entire community equitably through fine-free services and facility access. It has no revenue stream to make up any losses. It relies on the city's general fund to comprise 80% of its budget, with the voter-approved levy providing just 17%.



### No one likes cuts. Aren't all departments affected?

Other departments will see cuts, but none as significant as the library and police. Downtown safety, sanitation, and programming, as well as services for homeless, will see increases. The library plays a significant role in creating a safe and welcoming downtown environment for all and providing equitable access to information to our community's most vulnerable.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP ADVOCATE:

- 1) Sign up to Testify before the Budget Committee (in person and/or in writing, see left for dates) <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1154/Budget-Committee>
- 2) Email the Budget Committee: [eugene.budget.committee@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:eugene.budget.committee@ci.eugene.or.us)
- 3) Share on your social media and with your friends
- 4) Contact your City Councilor

### Talking Points:

- The Bethel neighborhood has been identified as an area of high need - help the library provide staff and materials for an **Early Literacy Librarian at the Bethel branch with an additional \$125,000.**
- The library is a **key and proven partner in downtown prosperity, safety, sanitation, and programming** that brings children, families, and adults downtown. From crowded Story Times to public bathrooms, from clean air and cooling facilities to civic events - **funding is needed to keep up this high level of service to downtown** without exhausting the remaining staff.
- Our library **reduces economic, technological, and educational barriers** at a critical time, when applications for jobs and government services must be filled out online, **gaps in literacy have widened**, and families are more cost-burdened than ever. Literacy is equity!
- The community's investment in the library pays off both in the **short-term welfare** and in the **long-term prosperity** of its patrons and the greater community. The library provides equitable access to information and resources - the key ingredient of a strong democracy.

To learn more, visit:  
[www.eplfoundation.org/advocacy](http://www.eplfoundation.org/advocacy)