



Kitsap Regional Library

Q & A ABOUT FUNDING ISSUE

(updated 02/05/07)

Q: WHAT ARE THE FUNDING CHALLENGES FACING KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY?

A: For the last 6 years, the demands for Library service have increased **faster** than the Library's revenues to pay for services. The Library has had a **67% increase** in active Library users and only a **15.5% increase** in operating revenue, since 2001.

Q: WHAT DETERMINES LIBRARY FUNDING?

A: The Library is primarily funded through a separate "regular property tax levy". This Library levy provides about 95% of the Library District's funding. The Library's levy authority limits the amount to fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. This authority is also restricted by a state law (RCW 84.55), established in 2002, that limits the amount that the Library District can levy to no more than 1% over the prior year's levy, plus new construction.

- The 2006 Library Property Tax Levy Rate was \$0.36 per thousand dollars of assessed value.
- The 2007 Library Property Tax Levy Rate is \$0.30 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

Q: WHY DOESN'T THE LIBRARY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO RUN THE LIBRARIES?

A: Costs to meet the increasing demands for basic library services are expected to increase by about 6% a year, while revenues are expected to increase by about 2.5% a year.

Q: WHAT HAS THE LIBRARY DISTRICT DONE TO REDUCE COSTS AND SAVE MONEY?

A: Over the past five years, the Library has implemented numerous cost-saving strategies to reduce the overall cost of providing Library services. These efforts have enabled the Library to serve the growing number of Library users.

- Transition to on-line and self-serve library services
- Reduction of Library senior management staff
- Implementation of a proactive volunteer services program
- Streamlining of library materials processing
- Elimination of LinkNet Email service
- Funding of projects with private donations from the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation and area Friends of the Library organizations
- Development of community partnerships to extend library services at no cost



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Q: WHAT IS DRIVING UP THE COSTS?

A: Library usage, and demands for Library services are the primary factor driving costs up. Since 2001, demands for Library services have increased dramatically:

- Active Library Users – increased 67%
- Circulation of materials – increased 23%
- Number of Public Computers – increased 28%
- Total Library Collection – increased 53%
- Electronic Library Holds – increased 276%
- Library Database Searches – increased 341%

Q: WHAT IS THE LIBRARY DISTRICT DOING ABOUT THE FUNDING PROBLEM?

A: The Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees has directed the Library Director to talk with people about the Library services people value, want and need. Already, the Library has surveyed over 1,000 people, conducted 9 town hall meetings, and engaged 43 community leaders to answer some of these questions.

Currently, the Library is working with a 16-member Community Advisory Committee, is conducting a public survey about Library Funding Priorities and has a series of community meetings scheduled to explore options to manage the funding issue.

Q: HOW ARE LIBRARY DOLLARS SPENT?

A: Kitsap Regional Library works in partnership with local communities to provide library services. The communities provide and maintain the facilities, and KRL provides the services, staff, materials and technology to run each library. Currently, the district owns two of the nine facilities (Sylvan Way, Silverdale).

- Library Staff (Librarians, Circulation, Paging, Collection Management, Administration, etc.) – 64%
- Materials (books, movies, subscriptions, etc.) – 13%
- Technology & Capital – 10%
- Misc. (training, supplies, repair & maintenance, professional services) – 13%

Q: MY COMMUNITY NEEDS A BIGGER (OR REMODELED) LIBRARY? WHEN WILL THIS BE ADDRESSED?

A: Many of the communities in Kitsap are currently discussing building a new library, or making substantial improvements to their current library. Although library facilities are built and maintained by the local community, larger facilities require more infrastructure and staffing from the Library District. Given Kitsap Regional Library's current funding situation, it is necessary for basic library funding to be secured to support county-wide library services BEFORE expanding the demands upon the system by adding additional library facilities or square footage.

*Detailed information about the
Library's Vision 2010 Strategic Plan
and Library Funding is available online at*

www.KRL.org

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