

City of Sacramento
Measure U Community Advisory Commission Report
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2026-01170

6/15/2026

Overview of Measure U Funded Departments and Programs: Library

File ID: 2026-01170

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive, comment, and provide direction.

Contact: Peter Coyl, Library Director & CEO, (916) 264-2920, director@saclibrary.org, Sacramento Public Library Authority

Presenter: Peter Coyl, Library Director & CEO, (916) 264-2920, director@saclibrary.org, Sacramento Public Library Authority

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-FY2026-2027 Proposed Library Budget

3-Presentation

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: As part of its 2026 Workplan, the Measure U Community Advisory Commission requested presentations from departments that are responsible for implementing Measure U funded programs. During this item, the Sacramento Public Library Authority will provide an overview of its services and programs.

Policy Considerations: The Sacramento Public Library Authority is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) established under California Government Code §6500 et seq., with member jurisdictions that include the County of Sacramento and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento. Governance authority over library operations, service levels, and programs rests with the JPA Board of Directors, which is accountable to all seven member jurisdictions collectively. The City of Sacramento's General Fund contribution, which includes Measure U revenue, represents one component of a regional funding structure. Decisions about library service levels and program delivery are made at the Authority Board level, which provides the appropriate forum for operational or programmatic input from any member jurisdiction.

Revenue from Measure U flows into the City's General Fund without restriction and is allocated

across City departments by the City Council. Library funding is not a restricted or dedicated Measure U allocation; it flows through the General Fund as part of the City's overall discretionary budget. The allocation of Measure U resources across city services (including libraries) reflects discretionary choices made by the City Council among competing priorities.

The City of Sacramento is currently facing a \$66.2 million structural deficit in FY 2026/27. As part of its response to that deficit, the City has diverted \$4 million in General Fund and Measure U contributions - spread across FY2025/26 and FY2026/27 - to partially cover rising construction costs for the Martin Luther King Jr. Library remodel and the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library renovation. This diversion has created a \$3.1 million structural deficit on the City side of the library budget, requiring use of fund balance to maintain current operations.

City Council Ordinance 2024-0039, adopted September 24, 2024, outlines the purpose and the powers and duties of the Measure U Community Advisory Commission; specifically, to ensure that the expenditures of City resources reflect Council and community priorities, the commission shall review, report, and make non-binding recommendations on revenue and expenditures of certain funds from the Transactions and Use Tax imposed under Sacramento City Code chapter 3.27 (Sacramento City Code chapter 2.114).

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): This report concerns administrative activities and governmental fiscal activities that do not constitute a "project" as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15378(b)(4) and are not subject to the provisions of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3)).

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: In adopting its 2026 Workplan, the Measure U Community Advisory Commission invited City departments to provide an overview of their Measure U funded programs.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

Background:

The Sacramento Public Library Authority

The Sacramento Public Library Authority is a Joint Powers Authority providing library services to the County of Sacramento and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento. The system operates 28 branches with a total budget of \$69,265,000 in FY 2026-27 and serves more than 1.5 million residents across the region. More than 760,000 people hold library cards, representing 50.4% of residents in the Library's service area.

The City of Sacramento is served by 12 city library locations and the library outreach services staff. City branches account for nearly half of total system traffic.

How the Library Is Funded

Understanding how the Library is funded helps clarify how Measure U revenue fits into the overall picture.

The Library's funding comes from two distinct streams. The first is County property tax revenue held in County Fund 11, which supports library services across the six non-Sacramento jurisdictions and the unincorporated county, representing 59.2% of total revenues in FY 2026-27. The second is the City of Sacramento's contribution, which is made up of two components: a General Fund transfer that includes Measure U revenue, and a voter-approved parcel tax.

The two funding streams (City of Sacramento funds and County Fund 11) are not fungible. County Fund 11 revenues are collected from and obligated to the jurisdictions that contribute them - the County of Sacramento and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and Rancho Cordova. Those funds cannot be redirected to cover City of Sacramento obligations. The City of Sacramento unit is funded entirely by City General Fund and Measure E parcel tax revenues and must stand on its own.

This separation is reflected in how shared costs are allocated across the system. The Library operates a Shared Cost Fund that functions as an internal service fund, collecting common overhead costs for operating and administering the Library organization (including Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Information Technology, and Collection Services) and distributing them to the two operating funds through an annual cost allocation plan. The Library uses a five-year average cost allocation methodology to phase in changes and minimize cost volatility year over year. In FY 2026-27, the total indirect expense within the Shared Cost Fund is \$29,193,000, allocated as follows: County/Cities Fund 58% (\$16,932,000), City General Fund 26% (\$7,590,000), and City Measure E Parcel Tax 16% (\$4,671,000).

Measure U is a general transactions and use tax. Its revenue enters the City's General Fund without restriction and is allocated across city departments by the City Council. The Library receives its General Fund support as part of that overall discretionary allocation. The City's General Fund and Measure U contribution to the Library is a blended figure - the two sources cannot be cleanly

separated, and the Library's budget does not receive a dedicated Measure U line item. Because Measure U is a general tax, the library's funding share reflects Council priorities rather than a protected or restricted allocation.

The voter-approved parcel tax provides a separate, dedicated source of support. On November 5, 2024, Sacramento voters approved Measure E with 74% voter support. Measure E permanently consolidated the two existing library parcel taxes, Measure X (2004) and Measure B (2014), into a single permanent tax with no expiration date, effective July 1, 2025. The parcel tax is projected to generate \$11,000,000 in FY 2026-27.

The Measure E ordinance includes a codified General Fund maintenance-of-effort floor of \$7,635,500. This provision requires the City to maintain at least this level of General Fund support as a condition of the parcel tax. The current General Fund contribution is at that floor with no buffer.

For FY 2026-27, the City's General Fund and Measure U contribution to the Library is \$12,271,661 - the second consecutive year at that level. Combined with Measure E parcel tax revenue and other revenues, total City unit revenues are \$25,014,000 in FY 2026-27. The City's General Fund contribution has been reduced by \$4 million over two fiscal years relative to prior-year levels, diverted to cover rising construction costs for two major capital projects as described below. In addition, the City has eliminated previously projected annual General Fund step-up increases, resulting in a cumulative funding loss to the Library of approximately \$7.7 million over five fiscal years.

Understanding the Cost of Library Services

Library services are resource-intensive in ways that are not always visible. Salaries represent approximately 58.6% of the Library's total FY 2026-27 budget, reflecting the staffing required to operate 12 city locations and 2 bookmobiles across a full service week.

A question that arises frequently is whether expanding digital services reduces costs. The structure of the publishing market makes that assumption worth examining carefully. Libraries do not purchase ebooks and digital audiobooks the way consumers do. They license them, typically on a per-title, per-checkout, or annual subscription basis. Several major publishers restrict library access to new titles or price digital licenses at multiples of the consumer rate. Licenses expire and must be repurchased. The average cost of a library ebook license rose 34% between 2019 and 2024. As digital demand grows, digital costs grow with it. The result is that expanding digital services adds to operating costs rather than substituting for physical collection costs. Sacramento's digital checkouts have exceeded 3 million annually, and the licensing costs associated with that volume are a meaningful and growing part of the Library's budget. Recurring contractually imposed cost increases cannot be absorbed without reducing either digital or physical collections.

FY 2024/25 Community Impact

The Library delivered the following outcomes through its 12 city locations in FY 2024-25.

Total system circulation reached 8.9 million - an all-time high for the Sacramento Public Library. City branches account for nearly half of that total.

Access: More than 150,000 Student Success Cards have been distributed to Sacramento students, providing free library access and removing barriers for school-age residents. The bookmobile program has made 3,090 visits since 2020, extending service to underserved areas. Free public Wi-Fi and device checkout are available at all city locations.

Lifelong Learning: 269 community members have earned Career Online High School diplomas through the Library since 2014. More than 2,850 community members have received job coaching. The Library's database collections have logged 1.5 million sessions since 2020.

Literacy: The Library has served more than 5,000 adult literacy learners since 1984. More than 150,000 books have been provided to Sacramento first graders through the Book First initiative. The Summer Reading program has engaged more than 285,000 readers since 2014.

Civic Engagement: The Library has hosted vote centers and ballot drop boxes for every election since 2014, making library locations a consistent part of the City's civic infrastructure.

Digital Equity: Free computer access, Wi-Fi, and device lending are available at all 12 city locations. Public computer use has totaled more than 548,000 hours since FY 2020.

The Student Success Cards program has been adopted as the California statewide model under SB 321. The Adult New Reader Project, created at Sacramento Public Library in 2022, was adopted statewide by the California State Library.

The FY 2026-27 budget eliminates 13 limited-term Library Assistant positions at city branch locations to mitigate the structural deficit created by the General Fund diversion. This reduction in staffing reflects the direct operational consequence of the capital cost diversion on the City side of the library budget.

Capital Investment in City of Sacramento Library Locations

The City of Sacramento funds capital improvements at city library locations under JPA Section 12(d), which designates the City as the responsible party for capital improvements and capital repairs at city-owned library facilities. Through the California State Library's Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement Program, the City secured state grant funding and committed significant matching funds across five city library projects. Total approved project costs are \$38.3 million, with \$15.2 million in state grant funding and a City of Sacramento commitment of \$23.1 million.

The City's General Fund and Measure U contribution to library operations has been reduced by \$4 million over two consecutive fiscal years (FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27) to partially cover rising

construction and related costs for the Martin Luther King Jr. Library remodel and the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library renovation. This diversion has created a structural deficit on the City side of the library budget, requiring use of fund balance to maintain current operations. The City's capital investment in library facilities and the City's operating contribution to the library are connected: the decision to prioritize construction cost overruns has directly reduced the operating resources available to serve City residents at the 12 city branch locations.

Completed Projects

Three city library projects funded through the California State Library's Building Forward program are complete: major repairs to the Belle Cooleedge Library (exterior tile veneer, roof, and HVAC); major repairs to the Central Library (elevator, HVAC, and roof); and roof and parking lot repairs at the Del Paso Heights Library. Combined project costs totaled approximately \$3.5 million, funded through state grants and City matching funds.

Active Projects

The Martin Luther King Jr. Library, located at 7340 24th Street in South Sacramento, is undergoing its first full renovation in its 54-year history at a total project cost of \$15,800,000. Construction began in March 2025 and the library is projected to reopen in summer 2026. The renovation includes enhanced children's and teen spaces, an expanded community room, quiet study and collaboration areas, seismic upgrades, a new HVAC system, updated restrooms, and installation of an Automated Materials Handling System. The project has transitioned into the operational readiness phase, including furniture, fixtures and equipment installation, collection delivery and shelving, technology setup, and staff preparation.

The North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library is being retrofitted at 1124 Del Paso Boulevard, the former Sacramento News and Review building, at a total project cost of \$19,000,000. The project expands the library from a 4,000-square-foot leased space to a 19,000-square-foot community hub. Construction began in fall 2025 and is projected for completion in 2027 ahead of the June 2027 grant deadline. The new building will include expanded spaces for reading, digital access, and community programming, with dedicated areas for teens and young children and a community meeting room. The project nearly quintuples the library's footprint in North Sacramento, a community with historically limited access to full-service library facilities.

The City also continues to fund its Public Works Measure U Multi-Year Operating Plan at \$400,000 annually, covering deferred maintenance needs under \$20,000 per issue across the eleven library buildings it owns.



Sacramento Public Library

May 28, 2026

Agenda Item 7.1: Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget, Position Control Listing, Fees Structure and Cost Allocation Plan

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board

FROM: Peter Coyl, Library Director & CEO
Johnny Ea, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer
Kurt Baer, Budget Manager

RE: Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget, Position Control Listing, Fees Structure and Cost Allocation Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution 26-31, approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Sacramento Public Library Authority Proposed Budget, Position Control Listing, Fees Structure and Cost Allocation Plan.

FY 2026-27 PROPOSED BUDGET

At the micro-economic level there continues to be a housing shortage in the Sacramento-area which buoys demand even as mortgage rates remain high, causing residential property values to rise. This bodes well for the Authority service areas in unincorporated Sacramento County and the cities within it, excluding Sacramento and Folsom, as 59.2% of its revenues derive from property taxes. At the macro-economic level, the Iran war has severely impacted the global energy market causing higher oil and gas prices and inflation is negatively impacting the Authority and its partners. The City of Sacramento is projecting a \$66.2 million structural deficit in FY 2026-27 and advised the Authority it is keeping its General Fund/Measure U contribution flat at \$12,271,661 for the second consecutive fiscal year. The \$4 million diversion is to cover the City's budget shortfalls due to rising construction and related costs for both the Martin Luther King Jr. Library remodel and the renovation and conversion of the former Sacramento News & Review building into the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library. This reduction in turn causes a \$3.1 million structural deficit in the City side of the budget for FY 2026-27, requiring use of unreserved fund balance to maintain current operations.

The Library continues to increase its presence in Sacramento County's communities as a resource for connecting individuals with social work programs, early learning and school readiness, no-cost family entertainment, job search assistance, after-school homework help, community engagement, adult education and providing reading recommendations with its personal shopper service. More than 760,000 people have library cards, indicating that 50.4% of residents in the Library's service area are registered borrowers.

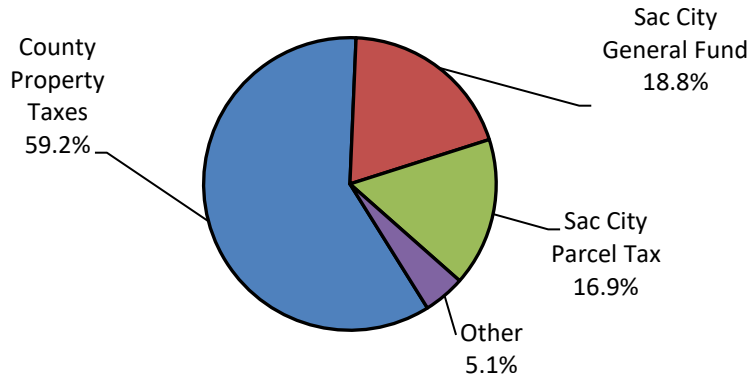
The Library will upgrade and replace a portion of its security and surveillance systems as well as purchase a new Automated Material Handling System (AMHS) for the Carmichael Library to improve system-wide efficiencies. The Library is also replacing its main firewall. To complete the branding initiative begun over the past several years the Library will replace exterior signage. A redesigned website and a new logo were completed in the prior fiscal year.

This budget document highlights the major issues facing the Library while it remains a responsible steward of public funds.

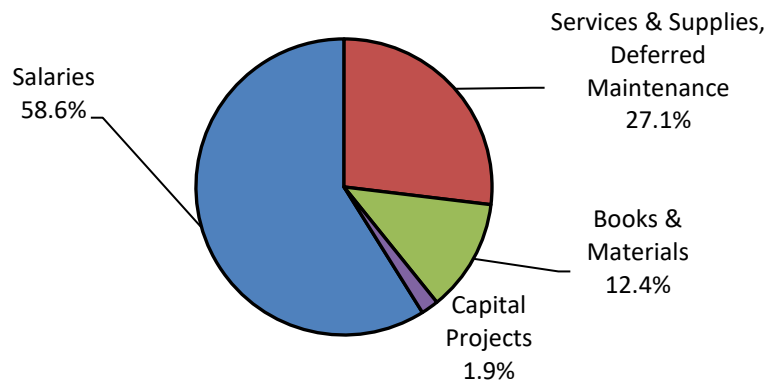
Sacramento Public Library Budget Summary – FY 2026-27

The Authority’s proposed budget for FY 2026-27 for all services, support and operations is \$69,265,000. The following charts provide an illustration of the FY 2026-27 proposed budget.

Revenues



Expenditures



Attached to this report are Summary Schedules (Exhibits A-1 through A-5) that provide an overview of the Authority’s Proposed Budget for FY 2026-27, including detailed summaries that outline anticipated revenues and expenditures for FY 2026-27 (Exhibits A-3 and A-4).

The County/Cities Unit (unincorporated Sacramento County, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and Rancho Cordova) has a projected unreserved fund balance of approximately \$21.3 million at June 30, 2027. Staff is recommending use of fund balance in the amount of \$70,000 to cover one-time expenditures for an Automated Material Handling System (AMHS) at the Carmichael Library, upgrades of security and surveillance systems, and exterior signage.

The City of Sacramento Unit has a projected unreserved fund balance of approximately \$11.8 million combined. Staff is recommending use of fund balance in the amount of \$4,293,000. Approximately \$1.2 million is for one-time expenditures which includes security and surveillance systems, main firewall replacement, exterior signage, and new carpet for the East and West meeting rooms in the Galleria. Approximately \$3.1 million is for a structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures due to the

City of Sacramento’s \$4 million diversion of General Fund/Measure U contributions in FY 2025-26 and FY2026-27 to cover budget shortfalls for two City Library renovation projects as noted above.

Total revenues in all funds are \$65,250,000 reflecting an increase of \$2,167,021 from the amended FY 2025-26 budget. Total expenditures in all funds are \$69,265,000, reflecting a decrease of \$833,347 from the amended budget.

Revenues

Library funding comes from three primary sources:

- Property tax revenues in the County 59.2%
- General Fund/Measure U contrib. from City of Sacramento 18.8%
- Parcel tax on properties in the City of Sacramento 16.9%

The remaining 5.1% of funding comes from fees, investment earnings, Galleria revenues, Central distribution, E-rate reimbursements, and donations. Exhibit A-3 provides revenue details by fund source, with comparisons against the FY 2025-26 amended budget approved in February 2026.

The net result of changes in revenue figures is a total projected increase of \$2,167,021, reflecting the following:

- Property Tax – County of Sacramento \$ 1,530,000
- Sac City Measure E Parcel Tax (*) \$ 616,000
- Galleria \$ (40,000)
- Interest Income \$ 185,000
- Fees \$ 242,339
- Other Revenue \$ (366,318)

Total Revenue Increase:

\$ 2,167,021

Note (*) Parcel Taxes B & X will be consolidated into Parcel Tax E, effective 7/1/25 per Sacramento City Ordinance 2024-0013.

The overall increase in ongoing revenues represents a 3.4% increase from the FY 2025-26 amended budget.

Information from the Sacramento County Assessor’s Office indicates that property values on the assessment roll are expected to increase 3.75% from current-year actuals. Factoring in Teeter delinquencies, the total amount of property taxes available to the Library is anticipated to be \$38,600,000 for FY 2026-27.

The City of Sacramento advised the Library that its FY 2026-27 General Fund/Measure U contribution will remain flat at \$12,271,661. This is the second year of a planned \$4,000,000 diversion to partially fund the Martin Luther King Jr. Library remodel and the renovation of the former Sacramento News & Review building into the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library.

Measure E parcel tax (consolidating Measure B & X) is projected to be \$11,000,000 in FY 2026-27.

Library Galleria income is expected to decrease by \$40,000 in FY 2026-27.

Investment income is projected to increase in FY 2026-27, for a total of \$1,570,000.

Fee revenue is expected to increase to a total of \$242,000.

Other revenues include gifts, donations, grants and miscellaneous funds received by the Library Authority. The Authority's practice is to recognize gifts, donations and grants as they are received during the year, since they are not predictable from a budgetary perspective. As gifts and donations are received and grants are awarded, staff will present them to the Authority Board for inclusion in the FY 2026-27 Budget. This revenue category shows a decrease of \$366,318 because gifts, donations and grants are not included in the budget at this time.

Expenditures

Sacramento Public Library will upgrade security and surveillance systems, purchase a new Automated Material Handling Systems (AMHS) to improve system-wide efficiencies, replace a main firewall and purchase a new backup system, replace carpet in the East and West meeting rooms of the Galleria, and replace exterior signage at 28 libraries.

Overall, the proposed expenditure budget of \$69,265,000 reflects increases in salaries and benefits, deferred maintenance, Central distribution and shared cost allocation and decreases in services and supplies, books and materials, and capital projects from the amended FY 2025-26 budget.

County/Cities Budget Unit

The County/Cities budget unit utilizes property taxes collected in the unincorporated areas of the County and within the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and Rancho Cordova. These funds finance the operation of 16 branch libraries. Additional revenue is realized from fees, interest income, and the Sylvan Oaks cell tower.

As shown in Exhibit A-3, this budget unit has projected County contributions of \$38,600,000, an increase of \$1,530,000 over the amended FY 2025-26 budget. Increases in interest income, fees, and Sylvan Oaks cell tower revenues contribute to a net increase to this budget unit's revenues of \$1,641,000 or 4.3%.

Expenditures in the County/Cities fund in Exhibit A-4 reflect an overall net decrease of \$851,391 or -2.1%, from the amended FY 2025-26 budget, with decreases in services and supplies, books and materials, capital projects and supplemental fund transfer offsetting increases in salaries and benefits, deferred maintenance, Central distribution and shared cost allocation. The proposed budget for FY 2026-27 uses \$70,000 (Exhibit A-2) in fund balance to cover one-time expenditures for an Automated Material Handling System (AMHS) at the Carmichael Library, upgrades of security and surveillance systems, and exterior signage.

City of Sacramento Budget Unit

In 2014 and 2016, voters in the City of Sacramento declared their support for the Sacramento Public Library by passing two parcel taxes, Measure B and X, to support the operation of 11 library branches within the City plus the Central Library. In May 2024 the City Council adopted Ordinance 2024-0013 to consolidate and extend the existing parcel taxes, subject to voter approval. Measure E was added to the Statewide Municipal Election, held on November 5, 2024 and 74% of voters approved the measure. As a result, the ordinance took effect on July 1, 2025. In the meantime, parcel taxes previously collected will be spent first and both Measure B and X will be closed out at the end of fiscal year 2025-26.

The City of Sacramento budget unit utilizes revenue from two sources for FY 2026-27: the City General Fund/ Measure U funding, and Measure E parcel tax. Additional revenue is realized from fees, interest

income, the Library Galleria and Central distribution. As shown in Exhibit A-3, this budget unit projects \$12,271,661 from the General Fund/Measure U, \$11,000,000 from Measure E, and other revenues in the amount of \$1,742,339, for total revenues of \$25,014,000. This is an increase of \$654,339 or 2.7%, from the amended FY 2025-26 budget, with increases in interest income, fees, and Central distribution offsetting decreases in donations and Galleria revenue.

Expenditures in the City's budget unit reflect an overall net increase of \$120,753 from the amended FY 2025-26 budget, with increases in salaries and benefits, deferred maintenance, Central distribution and shared cost allocation offsetting decreases in services and supplies, books and materials and capital projects. The proposed budget for FY 2026-27 uses \$4,293,000 (Exhibit A-2) in fund balance. Approximately \$1.2 million is for one-time expenditures and \$3.1 million is to cover a structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures.

The City advised the Authority it is keeping its General Fund/Measure U contribution flat at \$12,271,661 for the second consecutive fiscal year. The combined \$4 million diversion is to cover the City's budget shortfalls due to rising construction and related costs for both the Martin Luther King Jr. remodel and the renovation and conversion of the former Sacramento News & Review building into the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library. In addition, the City has informed the Library that previously projected General Fund annual "step-up" increases will be eliminated, resulting in a cumulative funding loss of approximately \$7.7 million over five fiscal years. As previously communicated to the Board, the combined \$4 million revenue diversion and elimination of "step-up" increases significantly impacts the Library's overall operations.

- **Impacts of these reductions:**
 - Place further strain on Library operations and is fiscally unsustainable in the long run
 - Cause projected structural budget deficits ranging from \$2.3 million to \$3.9 million per year over the next five years
 - Require use of available fund balances to maintain operations and services; causing current available fund balance to significantly drop from \$15.8 million in FY 2025-26 to a -\$1.5 million by FY 2030-31
 - Significantly impact the Library's ability to fully staff and operate 12 City locations after FY 2029-30
 - Require the Library to actively evaluate the level of service that can be maintained under these financial constraints

Central and North Sacramento-Hagginwood Distributions

The Library's administrative departments, including Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Administration, Information Technology, Collection Services as well as storage and delivery vehicles are housed at the Central Library. The Central distributions allocate 33,868 (or 21%) square feet of the total gross Central building area of 160,000 square feet based on market rental rate per square feet and type of usage. In FY 2026-27, the net transfer in/out will be \$565,000. Of that amount, \$443,000 is charged to the County fund and \$122,000 charged to Measure E fund.

Likewise, 5,000 square feet (or approximately 26%) of the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library's 19,000 square feet will house systemwide Library administrative functions. Market rental rate per square feet and type of usage will be finalized when the renovation nears completion and the Library opens to the public sometime in early 2027.

Shared Cost Budget Unit

The Shared Cost Fund functions as an internal service fund and is determined through a comprehensive cost allocation plan that is updated annually. The fund collects common overhead costs for operating

and administering the Library organization, which are then distributed to the operating funds through the cost allocation plan. The Library uses a 5-year average cost allocation, which phases in the impact of changes over a 5-year period and minimize cost volatility year-over- year. The FY 2026-27 indirect expense within the fund is \$29,193,000. As shown in Exhibit A-4, the total Shared Cost budget is allocated as follows:

• County/Cities Fund	(58%)	\$16,932,000
• Sacramento City General Fund	(26%)	\$ 7,590,000
• Sac. City Measure E Parcel Tax	(16%)	\$ 4,671,000
	Total	\$29,193,000

Revenues of \$120,000 are directly attributed to the fund from cost recovery for IT support to partner libraries using SPL’s Sierra Integrated Library System (ILS).

Capital Projects and Deferred Maintenance

In FY 2026-27 the Library’s total capital improvement budget will be \$1,300,000 system-wide. Of that amount \$500,000 is for an Automated Materials Handling Systems at the Carmichael Library, \$370,000 is for systemwide security camera upgrades, \$250,000 for a main firewall replacement, \$80,000 for a backup system, and \$100,000 combined to finish renovations at the Martin Luther King Jr. and new Elk Grove libraries.

The City of Sacramento continues to fund its Public Works Measure U Multi-Year Operating Plan (MYOP) at \$400,000 annually. The MYOP funds deferred maintenance needs under \$20,000 per issue in the eleven library buildings it owns.

Building Updates

In 2022, the City of Sacramento submitted multiple grant applications to the California State Library Building Forward Library Infrastructure Grant Program. The program, made possible by the Budget Act of 2021 (SB 129), allocated \$489 million in one-time funds to the California State Library to address life-safety and critical maintenance needs of public library facilities throughout California.

Library	Estimated Cost	Project Scope
Belle Cooleedge Library	\$1,805,013	Major repairs to the exterior tile veneer, new roof, and HVAC.
Central Library	\$1,394,898	Major repairs to elevator, HVAC, and roof.
Del Paso Heights Library	\$ 304,605	Roof repairs and parking lot repairs
Martin Luther King Jr. Library	\$15,800,000	Complete major renovation.
North Sacramento – Hagginwood Library	\$19,000,000	Repurpose Sacramento News & Review Building into library

Total approved project costs are \$38.3 million with \$15.2 million in grant funding and a City of Sacramento commitment of \$23.1 million. The Belle Cooleedge, Central, and Del Paso Heights library projects are completed. Construction on the Martin Luther King Jr. Library began in March 2025 and will be completed in summer 2026. Work on the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library has begun and will be completed in 2027.

Construction of the new Elk Grove Library began in February 2025. The former Rite Aid building has been reimagined as a dynamic and modern library space, designed to better serve the community and is scheduled for completion in summer 2026.

The County of Sacramento requested \$1,700,000 in supplemental funding reserves in the prior fiscal year to help cover cost overages for HVAC projects at the Carmichael, North Highlands-Antelope, and Arden-Dimick libraries. The projects were originally funded through the Building Forward Library Infrastructure Grant Program from the California State Library. However, due to supply chain disruptions and rising construction costs overall expenses have significantly exceeded initial estimates. The North Highlands-Antelope and Arden-Dimick projects have begun and will be completed in summer 2026. The Carmichael project will begin in August 2026.

Books and Materials

The books and materials budget is \$8,600,000 (Exhibit A-5). Of the \$8,600,000 materials budget the County/Cities Fund is contributing \$4,988,000 and the City of Sacramento is contributing \$3,612,000 combined.

Budgeted Positions/Position Control

The following changes are proposed to Position Control:

- One (1.0) FTE HR Technician reclassified to HR Partner
- One (1.0) FTE Administrative Analyst reassigned to HR Partner
- Add four (4.0) FTE Librarians
- Add two (2.0) FTE Library Assistants
- Convert four (4.0) FTE Limited-Term Library Assistants to Library Assistants
- Eliminate thirteen (13.0) FTE Limited-Term Library Assistants

The changes to Human Resources are to support organizational staffing, employee relations, and classification and compensation functions. The addition of librarians and library assistants are to support expanded services and operational staffing needs in County libraries. The elimination of Limited-Term Library Assistants is in City libraries to mitigate the effects of the funding diversion and structural deficit. Position Control for FY 2026-27 shows a total of 340.5 FTEs (Exhibit B), which is three (3.0) FTEs less than the Position Control approved in September 2025.

Fee Structure

There are no changes to the Fee structure at this time (Exhibit C).

Ongoing Issues and Future Challenges

Landscape and security costs have significantly increased in recent years, driven by a rise in after-hours incidents and unauthorized access across Library properties. Many locations have experienced repeated issues with encampments, which have caused substantial damage to turf, plants, irrigation equipment, and other landscaping elements. These incidents not only compromise the appearance and functionality of Library grounds but also create safety concerns for staff and patrons. In response, the Library has increased contracted guard hours at multiple high-need locations to deter vandalism, monitor after-hours activity, and enhance the overall safety of Library facilities. As a result, the Library's security budget has doubled over the past few years to adequately address these escalating challenges.

In parallel, there has been a sharp uptick in vandalism and theft targeting the Library's irrigation infrastructure, including broken sprinkler heads, stolen copper piping, and damaged control boxes. These repeated losses have significantly driven up the cost of landscaping repairs and system-wide maintenance, placing additional strain on the Library's operational budget.

To address these challenges and promote long-term sustainability, the Library is actively implementing a multi-phase zero-scaping initiative across various locations. This strategy aims to reduce water consumption, limit the need for continuous landscaping maintenance, and make Library grounds more resilient to damage. By replacing traditional turf and high-maintenance landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, hardscaping, and other low-water features, the initiative supports the Library's broader goals of environmental stewardship, resource conservation, and cost efficiency.

Given the scale and complexity of the improvements required, this work will be carried out over multiple fiscal years. A phased implementation plan allows the Library to align project timelines with available funding, prioritize vulnerable or high-incident locations, and coordinate construction activities to minimize disruption to public services.

Digital content costs are escalating with the average cost of a library eBook license rising 34% between 2019 and 2024. Recurring contractually imposed cost increases cannot be absorbed without reducing either digital or physical collections.

Inflation continues to drive up costs for services and supplies, books and materials, health care and capital projects. CalPERS is amortizing the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) using a 5-year ramp up to reduce employer cost volatility year-over-year. The Library's employer contribution is projected to increase by approximately \$539,000 over the next five years.

The City of Sacramento is facing a projected \$66.2 million structural deficit for FY 2026-27. The \$4 million General Fund/Measure U diversion over two years combined with the elimination of "step-up" increases places a strain on Library operations and is fiscally unsustainable in the long run. This will require the Library to actively evaluate the level of service that can be maintained under these financial constraints.

Staff will present a Final Budget for FY 2026-27 at the September 24, 2026, Authority Board meeting. This Final Budget will include updates on funding from the County, City of Sacramento and the State of California, as well as refinements to expenditure amounts.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution 26-31, adopting the FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget, Position Control Listing, Fees Structure and Cost Allocation Plan for the Sacramento Public Library Authority.



Sacramento Public Library

Measure U Community Advisory Commission

June 15, 2026
Version 01





Sacramento Public Library

Where curiosity meets community.



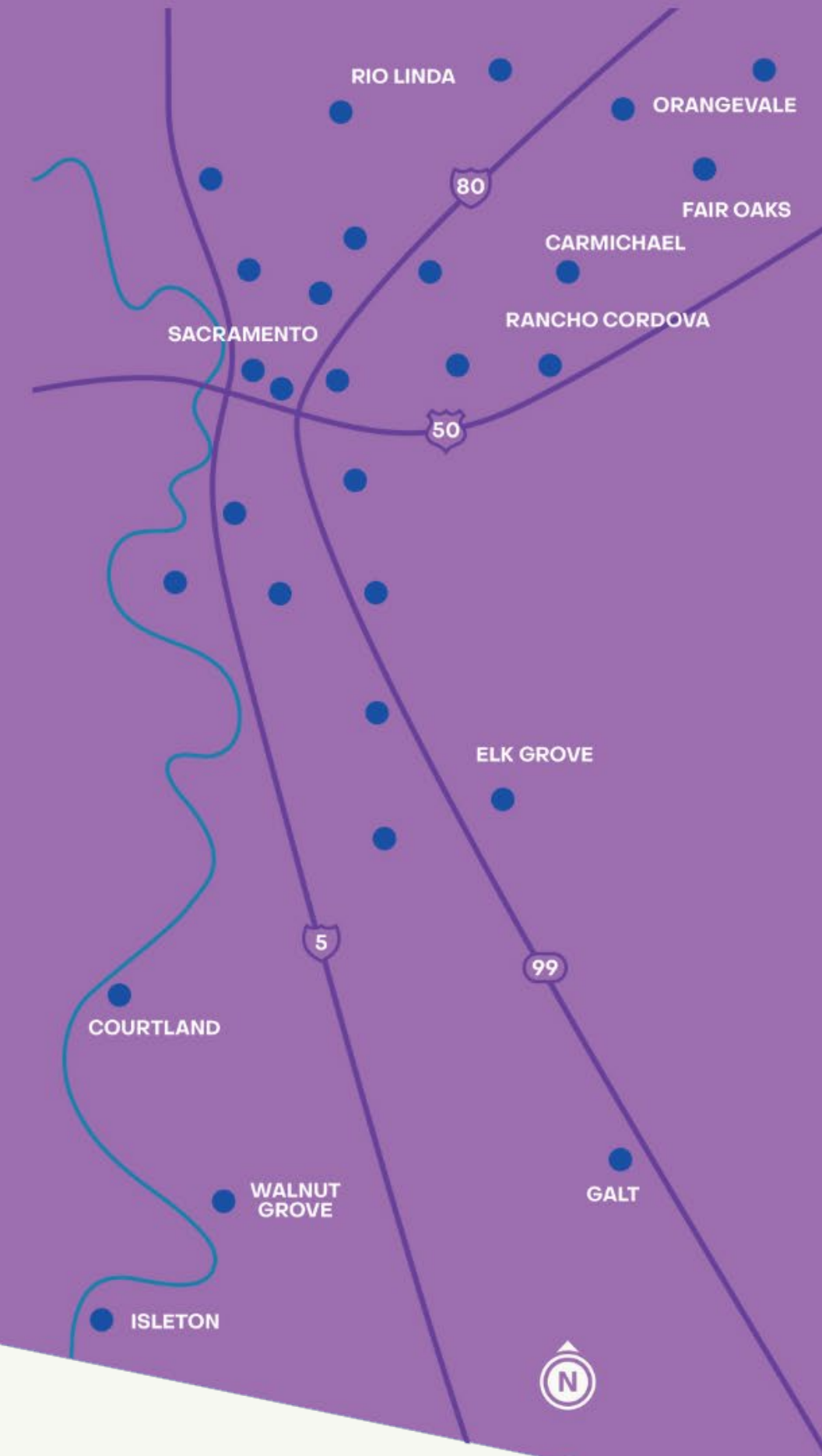


Sacramento Public Library is...



4th largest library system in CA

- Serves 1.5 million residents
- 28 branches in the County of Sacramento and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento
- Mobile outreach team
- +400 staff members



Our Vision

Sacramento Public Library is the go-to resource connecting our thriving communities. Everyone is respected, welcomed and represented.

Our Mission

Sacramento Public Library supports our diverse communities' aspirations to learn, connect, and grow.

Equity Statement

Sacramento Public Library affirms all members of the community have the right to achieve their full potential and greatest aspirations, notwithstanding status or identifiers, such as race, as a predictor of life outcomes.

We recognize Sacramento's history of racism and the history of systemic racism within libraries in the United States. We commit to represent our diverse community, provide equitable access to resources, and actively support anti-racism. We will listen and work with our communities to identify and address barriers to library resources due to institutional and structural racism.

Sacramento Public Library welcomes the inherent responsibility to shape policies, allocate resources, implement programs, issue directives, and to otherwise advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our Values

Community

We believe that we can make a difference when we work together. We actively listen and intentionally respond to our diverse community. We convene and collaborate with partners for the benefit of all.

Access

We work proactively to provide access to resources that help everyone in our community achieve their goals. We support every person's freedom to choose for themselves what they read and learn.

Equity & Inclusion

Everyone should feel that they belong at the library. We amplify the voices of people and communities who experience systemic barriers. We are always learning, unlearning, and relearning to make library services more inclusive for all.

Positive Impact

We believe that library services are life-changing. We strive to make sustainable decisions that support a thriving library, community, and planet.

Trustworthiness

We are good stewards of public resources. We act with integrity in our partnerships and services.



Strategic Focus

- Livelong love of learning and reading
- Inclusive neighborhood hubs
- Collaboration for equity
- Youth empowerment



By the numbers



4.1M

Physical circulation



4.8M

Digital circulation



8.9M

Total circulation



Program attendance

154,054

People attended library programs



Building welcoming spaces



Colonial Heights Library restoration

Estimated completion: early 2026



North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library retrofit

Estimated completion: early 2026



Martin Luther King, Jr. Library renovation

Estimated completion: summer 2026

Spreading the joy of reading

Summer Reading

23,577

Readers

259,927

Books read

2.8M

Minutes read



Empowering youth

Lunch at the Library

64

Teen interns

11,000

Meals served

13

Branches



“Thank you SO MUCH for giving me this opportunity to learn and grow! I’ve felt so supported in my time working here, and I hope to come back next summer!”
— Teen intern



Browse & Borrow





Where curiosity meets community.

Find your next read

Search:

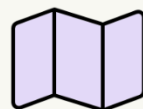
Search the catalog...



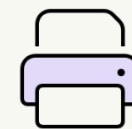
Catalog
 Website



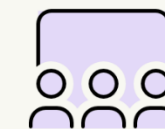
Get a Library Card



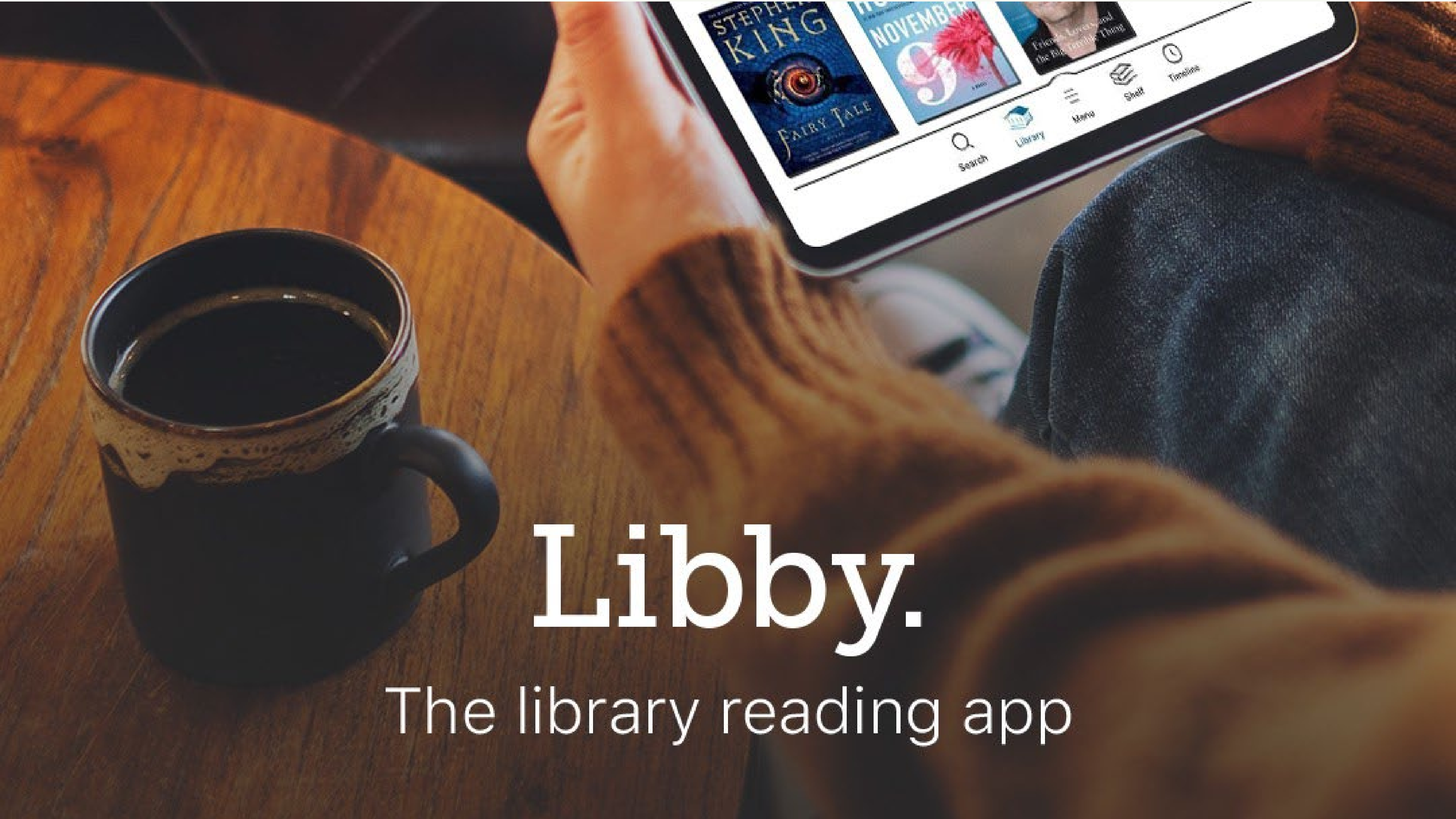
Find Branches and Hours



Mobile Printing



Reserve a Room [↗](#)



Libby.

The library reading app

News

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

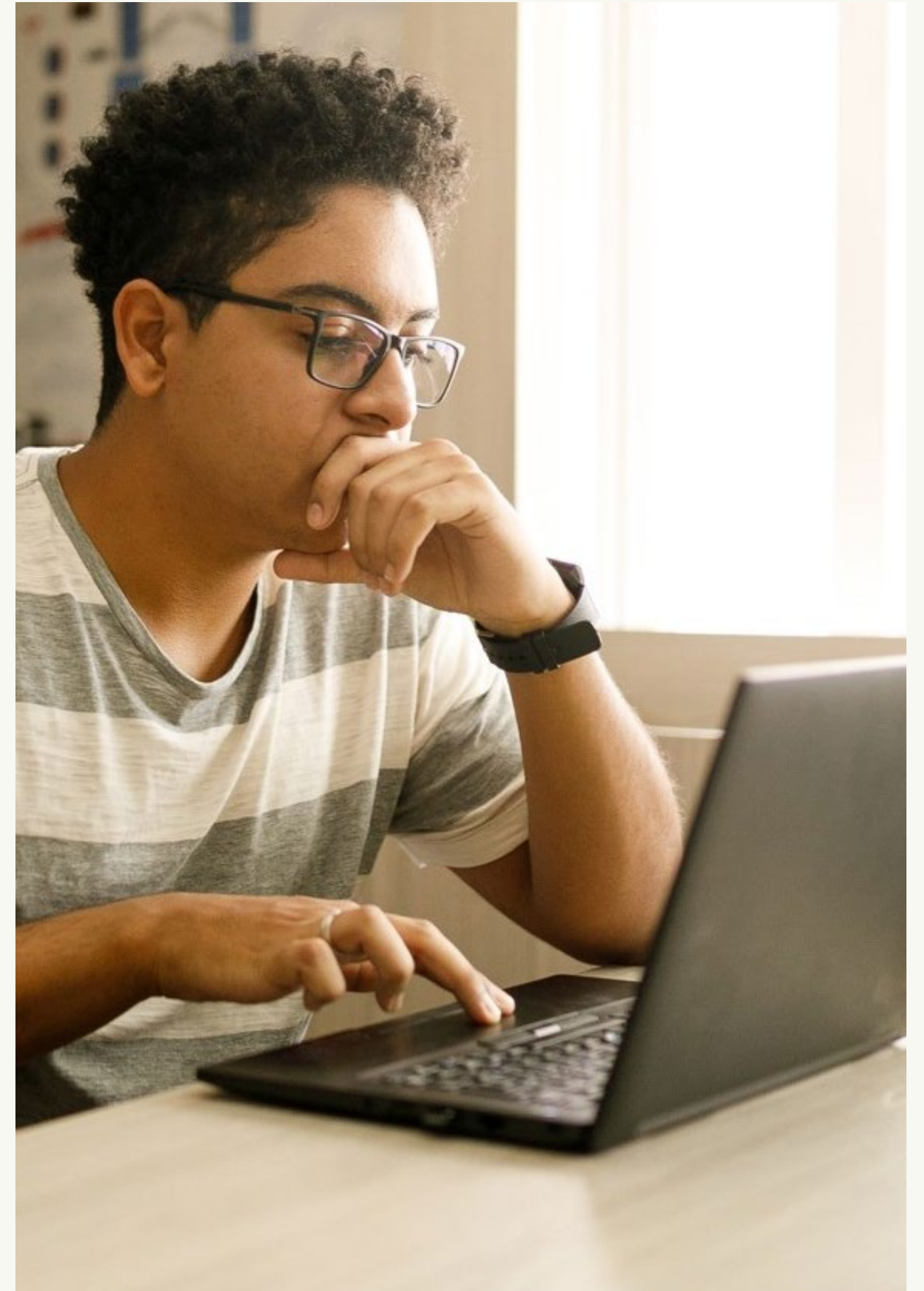
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The New York Times

NewsBank^{inc.}

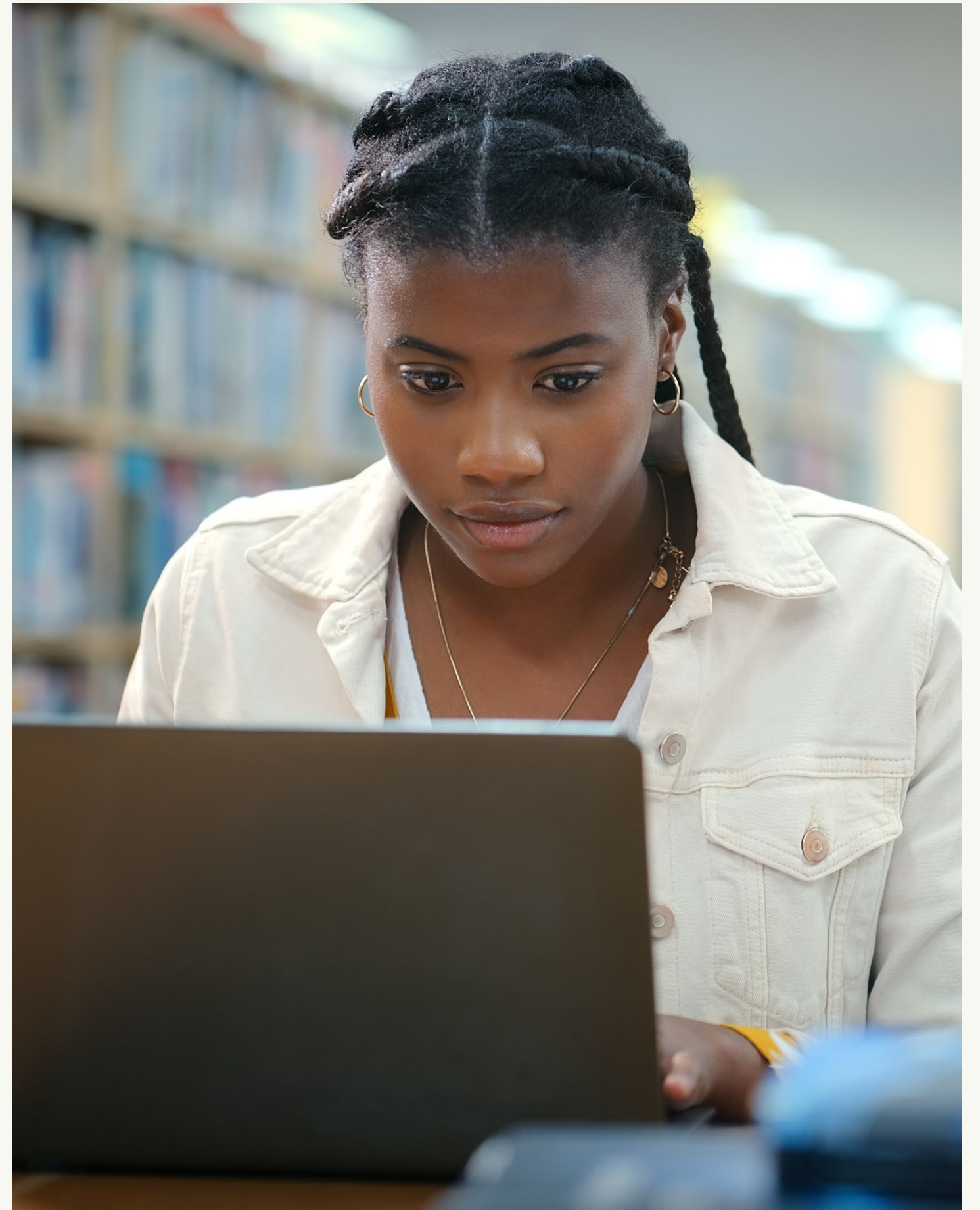
GROUND
News

60
MINUTES



Research Tools

- African American Experience: The American Mosaic
- Britannica School
- CultureGrams
- EBSCO academic journals
- National Geographic



Language Learning

- Mango Languages
- Bluebird
- Pronunciator



Hobbies

- Craftsy
- Chilton Auto Repair and Maintenance
- Freegal music streaming
- Kanopy, IndieFlix movie streaming
- New York Times Cooking and Games
- Qello concerts





Services



Specialty Checkouts

- Book group kits
- Board and video games
- Seeds
- Cake pans (Pocket Greenhaven & Rio Linda)
- Parks and museum passes (Crocker Art Museum, Fairytale Town, Sacramento Children's Museum, Sacramento History Museum)
- Library of Things (Arcade, Fair Oaks, Valley Hi)-North Laguna)



Sacramento Room

Explore local history and visit our archives.
You'll find:

- Yearbooks
- California collection
- Rare books
- Photographs
- Maps
- Ephemera



Makerspace

Get creative with free access to:

- 3D Printers

Arcade, Colonial Heights, Central, Del Paso Heights, Nonie Wetzel Courtland, Martin Luther King, Jr., Valley Hi-North Laguna

- Graphic design software

Arcade, Central

- Sound mixing software

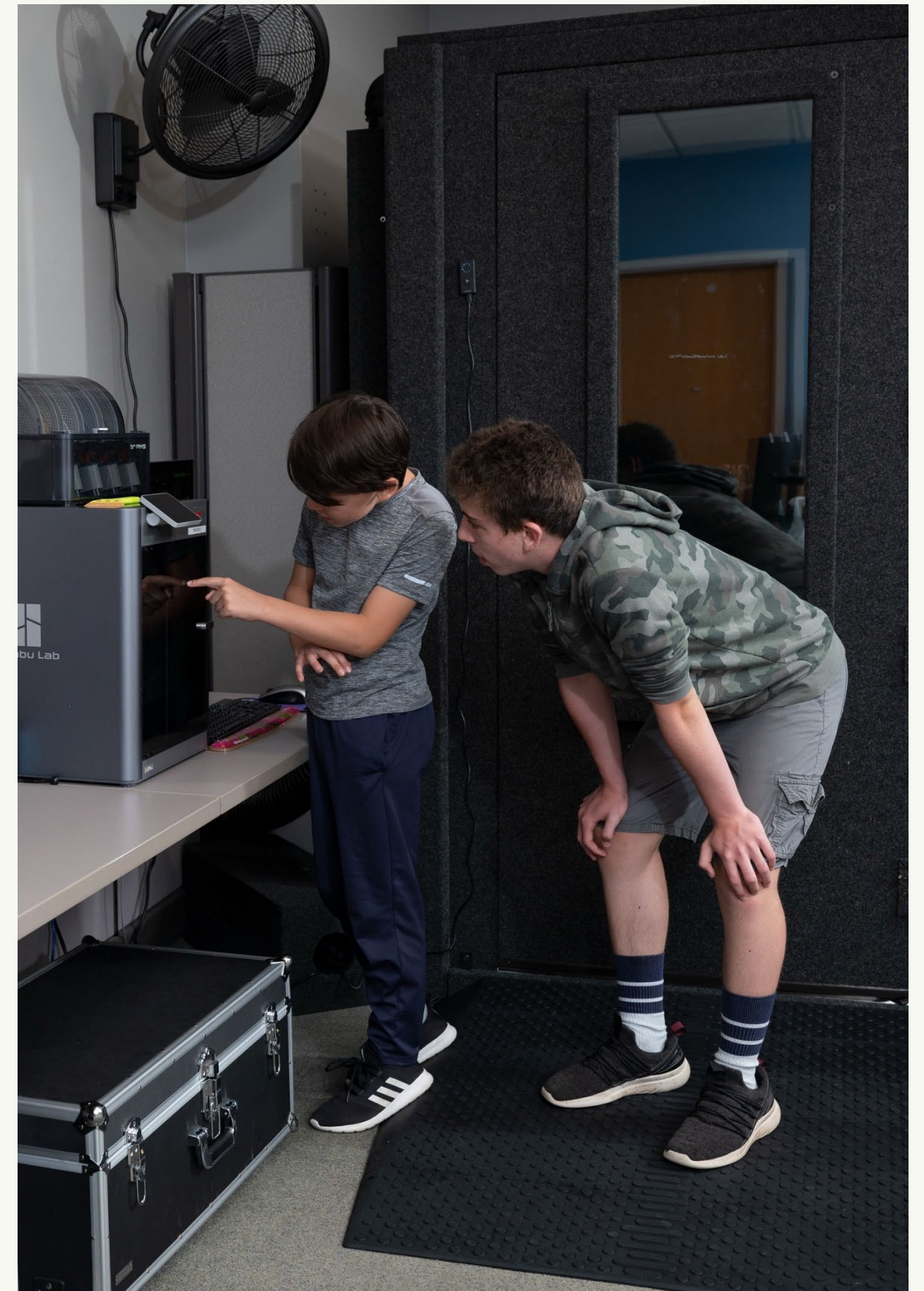
Central, Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Musical instruments

Central

- Sewing machines

Arcade



Adult Literacy

- We offer free one-one-one personalized instruction by trained volunteers
- Sacramento County residents 18 and older, or 16 and older and not still enrolled in high school.



Career Online High School (COHS)

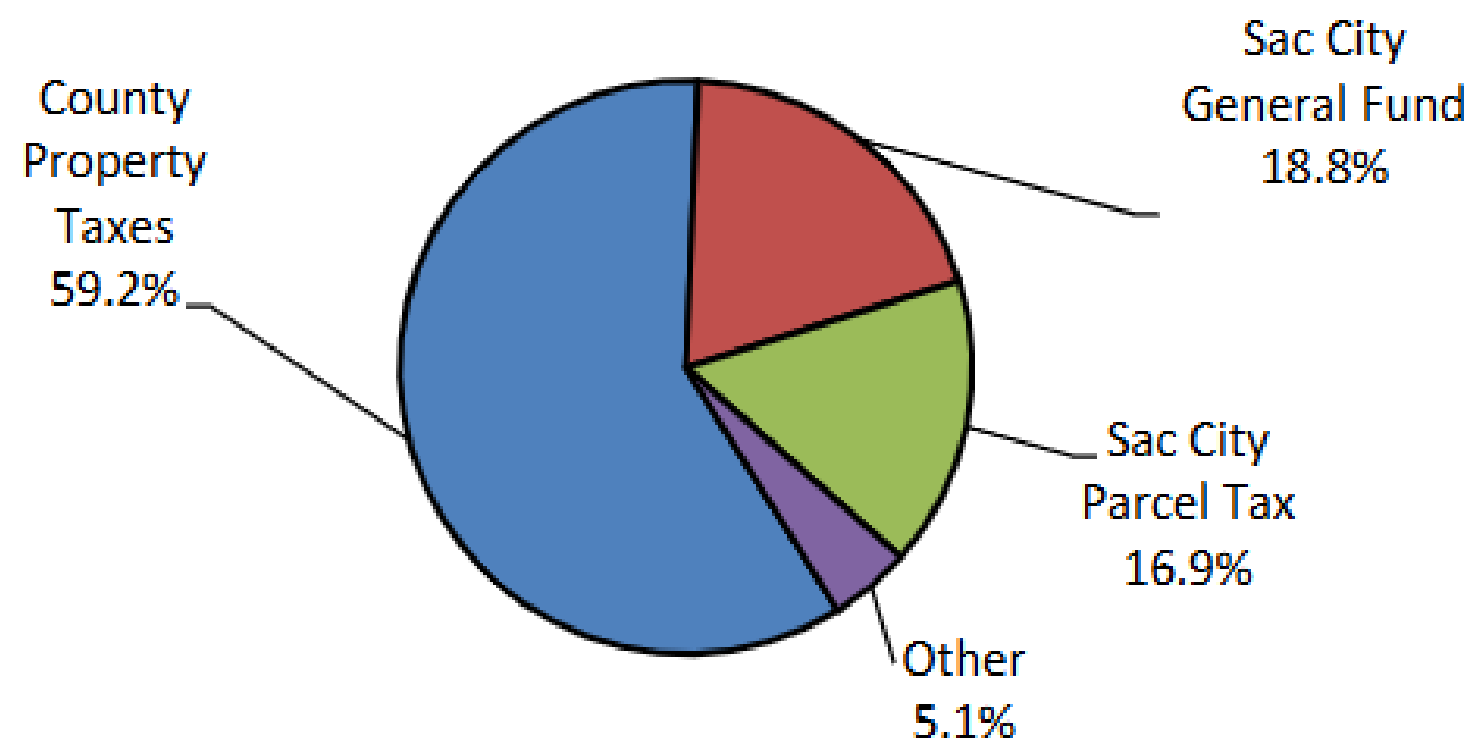
Earn your high school diploma through the library and Career Online High School:

- Free, flexible, 100% online program
- Earn your diploma
- Earn an entry-level career certificate in one of several high-demand career path options. T

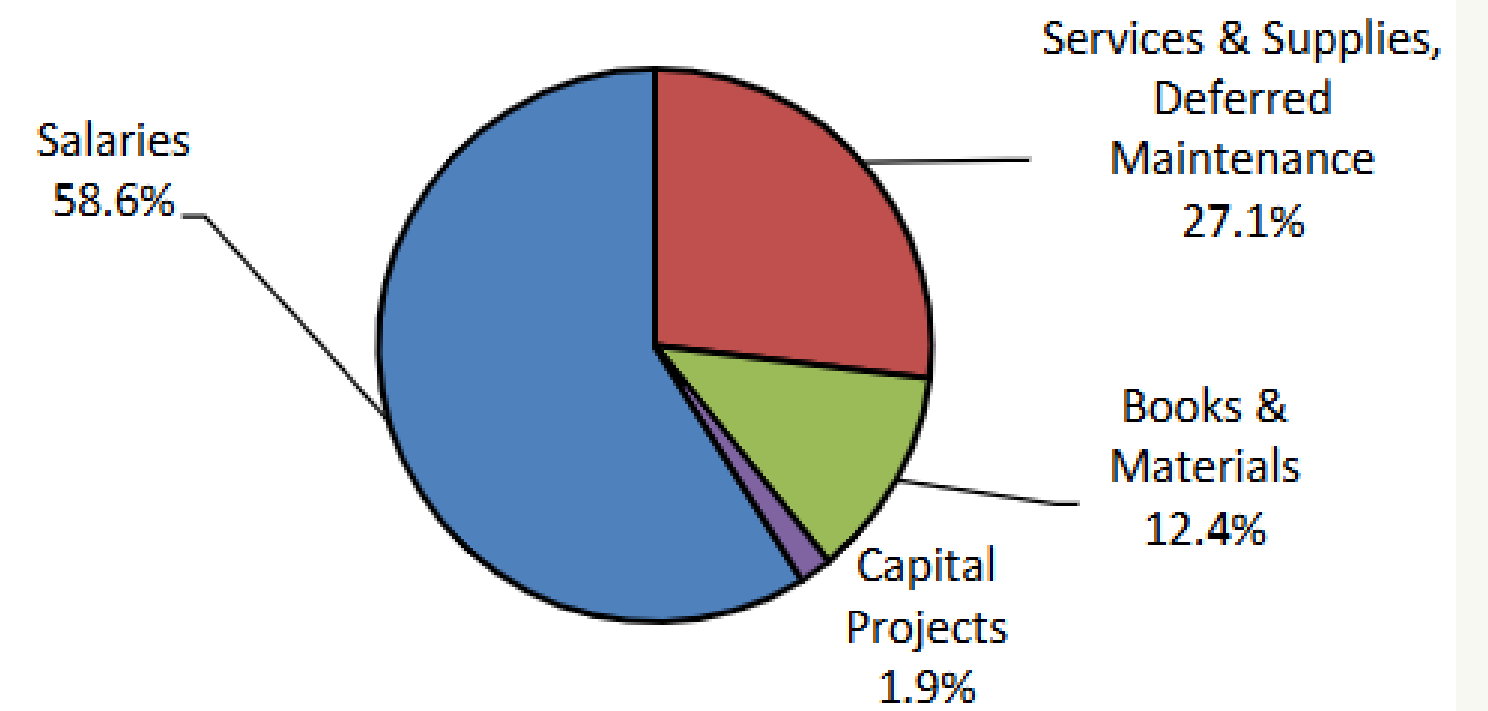


FY26 Budget

Revenues



Expenditures



Thank you!

