

CITY OF FOLSOM LIBRARY COMMISSION AGENDA REGULAR MEETING FOLSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY 411 STAFFORD STREET, FOLSOM, CA May 18, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, members of the Folsom Library Commission and staff may participate in this meeting via teleconference.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, the City of Folsom is allowing for remote public input during Library Commission meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to participate by e-mailing comments to aklausing@folsom.ca.us. E-mailed comments must be received no later than thirty minutes before the meeting and will be read aloud at the meeting during the agenda item. Please make your comments brief. Written comments submitted and read into the public record must adhere to the principles of the three-minute speaking time permitted for in-person public comment at Library Commission meetings. Members of the public wishing to participate in this meeting via teleconference may email aklausing@folsom.ca.us no later than thirty minutes before the meeting to obtain call-in information. Each meeting may have different call-in information. Verbal comments via teleconference must adhere to the principles of the three-minute speaking time permitted for in-person public comment at Library Commission meetings.

1)	Call	to	Order
-			

2)	Roll Call	Commission Members:	Fred Batt	Julie Moore
			Ann Marie Hutto	Colleen Shannon
			Vijay Jonnalagadda	Jun Zhang
			Dianna Laney	

3) Approval of Minutes

a. April 20, 2021

4) Business from the Floor

5) Reports & Presentations

- a. Summer Reading Program 2021
- b. Monthly Statistics April 2021

6) Old Business

a. Discussion and Recommendations Regarding Library Fines

7) Library Director's Report

8) Commissioner Comments

9) Adjournment

Notice:

As presiding officer, the Library Commission Chair has the authority to preserve order at all Library Commission meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any such meeting f r disorderly conduct, or f r making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, using profunity, or becoming boisterous, threatening or personally abusive while addressing said Commission, and to enforce the rules of the Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and need a disability – related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the library at 916-461-6145. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one-full business day before the start of the meeting.

Any documents produced by the city and distributed to the Library Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Folsom Public Library located at 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, California during normal business hours and online: https://www.folsom.ca.us/city_hall/depts/cnc/library/defaultasp.

LIBRARYCOMMISSION MINUTES Regular Meeting April 20, 2021

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commission Chair Moore.

2) Roll Call

Present: Commissioners: Hutto, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore, Zhang

Absent: Commissioners: Batt, Shannon.

3) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Laney moved to approve the February 16, 2021 Minutes as written. Commissioner Jonnalagadda seconded. Motion carried.

AYES: Commissioners: Hutto, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore, Zhang.

NOES: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Batt, Shannon.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

4) Business from the Floor

None.

5) Reports & Presentations

- a. Library Director Lori Easterwood presented an eBook overview. Library Director Easterwood discussed how the library purchases and shares eBooks in partnership with the Northnet Consortium. eItems are now 20 percent of Folsom's total circulation; however, only 10 percent of the Library's materials budget goes to purchase eItems. Library Director Easterwood demonstrated how expensive eBooks are for libraries to purchase and shared the different eItem purchasing models. Publishers want to limit access to eBook titles at libraries, so the American Library Association advocates for digital access for libraries using their campaign #eBooks For All.
 - Library Director Easterwood responded to comments and questions from the Library Commission.
- b. Library Director Lori Easterwood presented an overview of current and planned book clubs and resources. Currently there are three virtual book clubs offered: our adult book club reads a wide variety of genres, We Read YA Book Club focuses on young adult (YA)

literature, and Teen Book Club is exclusively for teens. Once in-person programs are allowed, a Tween Book Club will be offered again. The library has over 65 Book Clubs in a Bag that can be borrowed; each kit contains eight to twelve books and a discussion guide.

c. Library Director Lori Easterwood presented the February 2021 and March 2021 statistics.

6) Library Director's Report

Library Director Lori Easterwood reported on the following:

- The Library Commission will plan to meet at the library for the next meeting in May. The
 meeting will adhere to all safety guidelines –face coverings and social distancing will be
 required.
- Outdoor Storytimes have been approved and are currently being offered on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. These programs are registration only, with limited capacity.
- The new City/Library website ended up launching in March. Patrons handled the transition to the new site well.
- CENIC high-speed broadband is live now.
- The Friends of the Folsom Library met last week. There is no set date to reopen the Book Store yet.
- The Zip Books program received additional funds from the State Library. The last day to request a Zip Book this fiscal year is May 27. We are still waiting to hear if this program will continue next year. The Zip Books program allows for patrons to request books not available in our catalog, and books are delivered straight to patrons. The library adds Zip Books to the collection once they have been returned.
- Since California will fully reopen its economy June 15, the library will plan to slowly transition back to pre-pandemic service; we will use caution and follow all recommended guidelines to ensure safety. In-person programs will start up again but will likely use a registration model to limit massive crowds.

Library Director Easterwood responded to comments and questions from the Library Commission.

7) Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hutto commented that her question about the safety measures was answered, and she looks forward to gathering in-person for our next meeting.

Commissioner Jonnalagadda mentioned that increasing eBooks available to Folsom patrons is still a concern for him and suggested partnering with other library systems.

Commissioner Laney loved seeing the statistics up and looks forward to seeing programs coming back.

Commissioner Zhang is excited to meet everyone in-person, and he appreciates the volunteers and library staff for all they have done during the pandemic. Commissioner Zhang also mentioned wanting to discuss planned summer programs at the next meeting.

Commissioner Moore stated she would like an update on the status/future of library fines and fees; she is also curious how waiving fines during the pandemic has impacted the budget.

8) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Alicia Klausing

Secretary to the Library Commission

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item No: 5a.

Library Commission Meeting: 05/18/2021

DATE:

May 11, 2021

TO:

Library Commission Members

FROM:

Debbie Centi, Youth Services Librarian

SUBJECT:

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2021

Youth Services Librarian Debbie Centi will present information on the Summer Reading Program 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Centi, Youth Services Librarian

Agenda Item No: 5b.

Library Commission Meeting: 05/18/2021



		Mar 2021	Apr 2021	Apr 2020	YTD 20-21	YTD 19-20	% Change
All items checked out or renewed in Folsom	ı	34,599	31,148	144	257,829	428,519	-40%
Folsom items checked out or renewed system	m wide	35,608	34,165	103	279,386	525,037	-47%
eBook/eAudio items checked out (Overdrive	e & Enki)	5,820	4,712	6,563	61,816	39,173	58%
Self check usage		42%	44%	0%	28%	46%	-39%
Database Sessions (Ebsco, Mango, NYT)**		251	170*	675	5,249	9,465	-45%
Public Computer Sessions		287	362	0	1,882	20,673	-91%
Website Visits		8,631	N/A	5,407	91,248	119,738	-24%
Library visits - In Building & Take-Out Service		8,121	8,079	o	63,908	191,265	-67%
New library cards issued		116	118	109	1,083	3,135	-65%
Reference questions		188	256	40	1,737	16,696	-90%
Number of items loaned to other libraries		6,200	5,562	0	55,832	55,744	0%
Number of items borrowed from other lib	raries	7,410	5,711	0	58,607	49,067	19%
Items added (physical items)		1,277	1,513	418	10,647	12,144	-12%
eItems added - Northnet Consortium		475	777	1,676	5,001	4,968	1%
eItems added - Folsom only		90	161	212	374	586	-36%
Volunteer hours worked:	Shelving	42	34	O	188	749	-75%
VOLUME TO THE WOLLD	Library Programs	0	0	0	0	1,495	-100%
	Miscellaneous	83	70	0	602	1,598	-62%
	Total	125	104	0	790	3,842	-79%
	Total	3	1		,,,,	0,-1-	7,5
Programming (# held/attendance):	Adult	2/12	2/11	1/4	13/81	197/1,825	-93%/-96%
	Teen	1/5	1/10	o	4/43	31/560	-87%/-92%
	Youth	10/3,951	19/3,665	12/11,672	106/ 53,987	492/31,340	-78%/72%
	Outreach	0	0	0	О	51/1,743	-100%
	Tours	0	0	О	o	15/729	-100%
	Total	13/3,968	12/3,686	13/11,676	113/54,111	786/36,197	-86%/49%
Total Items in Collection:			99,247			9.	
Total Items in Digital Collection (Fols	som & Consortium):		55,215				
Total Registered Borrowers:			32,109				
*No April 2021 NYT **All stats have been adjusted aft	er audit						

^{*}No April 2021 NYT **All stats have been adjusted after audit

OLD BUSINESS Agenda Item No: 6a. Library Commission Meeting: 05/18/2021

DATE:

May 11, 2021

TO:

Library Commission Members

FROM:

Lori Easterwood, Library Director

SUBJECT:

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING

LIBRARY FINES

Library Director Lori Easterwood will review information about the Folsom Public Library's current fee schedule. She will request discussion and recommendations from the Library Commission regarding the Folsom Public Library's fines.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Policy Manual Library Master Fee Schedule
- 2. American Library Association Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity
- 3. California Libraries and Late Fines
- 4. News from the Capitol May 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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Folsom Public Library Policy Manual

Library Master Fee Schedule (Established by Resolution No. 9600)

Section: Circulation Effective: 10/01/2014
Revised: 08/01/2015

LB-1	Adult and Teen books and audio books - Extended Use Fee (Fine)	\$0.25/ day per item - \$5.00 max/item
LB-2	High-Demand Express materials – Extended Use Fee (Fine)	\$1.00/ day per item - \$5.00 max/item
LB-3	Children's books and audio books - Extended Use Fee (Fine)	\$.05/ day per item - \$1.00 max/item
LB-4	DVD's, Music CD's, and specialty kits - Extended Use Fee (Fine)	\$.25/ day per item - \$5.00 max/item
LB-6	Returned check fee	City standard fee (see Finance)
LB-7	Library card replacement	\$ 1
LB-8a	Self service copy charges-(B & W)	\$ 0.15
LB-8b	Self service copy charges - (Color)	\$.50
LB-9	Hold re-shelving fee - per item	\$ 1
LB-10	Interlibrary loan/item (plus add'l lending library fees)	\$3
LB-11	Lost or damaged materials in Folsom collection	Up to cost of item plus \$5.00 processing fee
LB-12	Lost or damaged materials from inter library loan	Up to cost of item, plus charges from lending library, plus \$5.00 local processing fee
LB-13	Referral fee for material and fee recovery services (for accounts with billed overdue materials and total outstanding charges of \$25 or more)	\$ 10



Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity

Whereas monetary fines present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services;

Whereas there is mounting evidence that indicates eliminating fines increases library card adoption and library usage;

Whereas monetary fines create a barrier in public relations, and absorb valuable staff time applying, collecting, and managing dues;

Whereas the first policy objective listed in ALA Policy B.8.10 (Library Services to the Poor) as approved by ALA Council on January 28, 2019, states that the American Library Association shall implement these objectives by "Promoting the removal of barriers to library and information services, particularly fees, and overdue charges";

Whereas ALA Policy B.4.2 (Free Access to Information) "asserts that the charging of fees and levies for information services, including those services utilizing the latest information technology, is discriminatory in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services":

Whereas in Economic Barriers to Information Access, An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, ALA states "All library policies and procedures, particularly those involving fines, fees, or other user charges, should be scrutinized for potential barriers to access;

Whereas libraries will need to take determined and pragmatic action to dismantle practices of collecting monetary fines

Whereas libraries of all types are responsive to bodies, be they school districts, boards of trustees, college and university administration, or government entities and therefore need to be able to make the case to those bodies about eliminating fines; and

Whereas monetary fines ultimately do not serve the core mission of the modern library; now, therefore, be it



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

- adds a statement to the Policy Manual that establishes that "The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services.";
- 2. urges libraries to scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them; and
- 3. urges governing bodies of libraries to strengthen funding support for libraries so they are not dependent on monetary fines as a necessary source of revenue.
- 4. establish a working group to develop information resources, including strategies and tips, for libraries interested in abolishing fines, with a report due to Council at the 2019 Annual Conference

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association Monday, January 28, 2019, in Seattle, WA

Mary W. Ghikas, Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

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California Libraries and Late Fines

Datagathered from April 2021 Outlet update survey and via internet search

Do you charge borrowers for late returns of print materials?

\$ per day, per item

Lagation	Taa.	Adult VA/Toon Childro			
Location	Answer	Adult	YA/Teen	Children	
A. K. SMILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.20	0.20	
ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY	no				
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY	no	-			
ALHAMBRA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.15	
ALPINE COUNTY LIBRARY/ARCHIVES	no				
ALTADENA LIBRARY DISTRICT	no				
AMADOR COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.10	0.10	0.10	
ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
AZUSA CITY LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.30	0.00	0.00	
BANNING LIBRARY DISTRICT	yes	0.25	0.25	0.20	
BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
BELVEDERE-TIBURON LIBRARY	no				
BENICIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
BEVERLY HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00	
BLANCHARD/SANTA PAULA PUBLIC					
LIBRARY DISTRICT	no				
BRAWLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.10	0.10	0.05	
BUENA PARK LIBRARY DISTRICT	no				
BURBANK PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.30	0.30	0.15	
BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
BUTTE COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
CALABASASCITYLIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
CALAVERAS COUNTY LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.20	0.20	0.20	
CAMARENA MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.15	0.15	0.05	
CAMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.20	0.20	
CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.10	0.10	
CERRITOS PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.15	0.15	0.15	
CHULA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.30	0.30	0.10	
CHOLA VISTA FOBEIO LIBITARI	yes		0.50		
CITY OF COMMERCE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.25	0.00	
COALINGA-HURON LIBRARY DISTRICT	yes	0.50	0.50	0.50	
COLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.10	
COLUSA COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY	no				
CORONA PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
CORONADO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.05	0.05	
COVINA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25	
	1,	5.25	0.23	0.23	

CROWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.00	0.00
DALY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.00	0.00
DEL NORTE COUNTY LIBRARY				
DISTRICT	no			
DOWNEY CITY LIBRARY	yes	0.15	0.15	0.15
EL CENTRO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
EL DORADO COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
EL SEGUNDO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children			
ESCONDIDO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.10
FOLSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.05
FRESNO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
FULLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.25	0.00
GLENDALE LIBRARY, ARTS & CULTURE	no			
GLENDORA LIERARY & CULTURAL				
CENTER	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
GOLETA VALLEY LIBRARY	no			
HARRISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY	no			
HAYWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
HEMET PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.50	0.50	0.50
HUMBOLDT COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.15
IMPERIAL COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.10	0.10	0.10
IMPERIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.15	0.15	0.15
NGLEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.10	0.10
INYO COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.20	0.20
IRWINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
KERN COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.50	0.50	0.50
KINGS COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
LA COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.30	0.15	0.15
LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
LARKSPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
LASSEN LIBRARY DISTRICT	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
LODI PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.10
LOMPOC PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.35	0.15	0.15
LOOMIS LIBRARY & COMMUNITY				
LEARNING CENTER	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
LOS GATOS LIBRARY	no			
MADERA COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	no			
MARIPOSA COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
MENDOCINO COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.10	0.10
MENLO PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00

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RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.10
ROSEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00
SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00
SAN ANSELMO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes			
SAN BENITO COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.15
SAN BERNARDINO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.15	0.25
SAN BRUNO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.00	0.00
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.10
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.10	0.00	0.00
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CITY LIBRARY	no			
SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SAN LUIS OBISPO CITY-COUNTY				
LIBRARY	no			
SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBRARIES	no			
SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.10	0.00
SAN RAFAEL PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00
SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SANTA CLARA CITY LIBRARY	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.25	0.00
SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARY	no			
SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes			
SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00
SANTA FE SPRINGS CITY LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
SANTA MARIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.25	0.25	0.15
SAUSALITO PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SHASTA PUBLIC LIBRARIES	yes, but not for children	0.25	0.00	0.00
SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SIGNAL HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes	0.35	0.15	0.15
SIMI VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
SISKIYOU COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.20	0.20
SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY	yes	0.20	0.20	0.10
SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY	no			
SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC	no		_	
LIBRARY	no			
ST. HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY	no			
	yes	0.25	0.25	0.25
STANISTATIS COUNTY FREE TIRPARY		0.4.7	0.23	0,23
STANISLAUS COUNTY FREE LIBRARY STUCKTUN-SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY	yes			
	yes	0.25	0.10	0.10
STUCKTUN-SAN JOAQUUN COUNTY			0.10	0.10
STUCKTUN-SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.10	0.10

THOUSAND OAKS LIBRARY	yes		0.25	0.25	0.05
TORRANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.30	0.30	0.30
TRINITY COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	yes		0.10	0.10	0.10
TULARE COUNTY FREE LIBRARY	no				
TULARE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.25	0.25	0.25
TUOLUMNE COUNTY LIBRARY	yes		0.20	0.20	0.10
UPLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.25	0.25	0.25
VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY	no				
VICTORVILLE CITY LIBRARY	no				
WATSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.10	0.10	0.10
WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.25	0.25	0.25
WILLOWS PUBLIC LIBRARY	no				
WOODLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes, but not for children		0.25	0.00	0.00
YOLO COUNTY LIBRARY	no				
YORBA LINDA PUBLIC LIBRARY	yes		0.20	0.20	0.20
YUBA COUNTY LIBRARY	yes		0.25	0.25	0.10
Yes Total	103	56.0%			
No Total	61	33.2%			
Yes, but not for children Total	18	9.8%			
unknown	1 0.5%				

News from the Capitol - May 8, 2021

Sunday, May 9, 2021

TO:

CLA Members/ Systems/ Network Contacts

FROM:

Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists

RE:

News From the Capitol

SENATE DEMOCRATS "BUILD BACK BOLDLY" PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPOSAL: A "Once-A-Generation" Funding Package Being Elevated at State Capitol

The California State Senate Democrats have unveiled a massive new funding package that they are proposing as part of this year's 2021-22 State Budget negotiations. Entitled, "Build Back Boldly: Senate Democrats Budget Priorities for 2021-22 and Beyond," the proposed plan capitalizes on the state's larger than anticipated Budget surplus, combined with the financial benefits of the federal relief package. "Build Back Boldly" lays out a roadmap in the areas of health and welfare, public education, and the environment, etc. for a "once-a-generation opportunity for California to make bold transformative progress as the economy rebounds from the COVID-19 crisis."

Included in the Senate Democrats' "Build Back Boldly" proposal, is a "Public Libraries Package" which includes a very significant \$1 billion for Public Library Infrastructure and Technology investments. The plan reads as follows:

*\$1 Billion for Public Library Infrastructure and Technology Investments

- -Fund public library facilities upgrades and modernization projects
- -Expand broadband deployment and public access to libraries through new fiber optics and technology investments.
- -Procure new technology devices (IPADs, Tablets) for library users to "check out technology" and for hotspot lending programs.

A second piece of the Senate Democrats' proposal reads:"Eliminate library debt and provide ongoing sustainable funding for Public Libraries." The goal of this part of the Plan is to eliminate library patron fines and fees for things such as overdue books. The Senate Democrats feel that these fines and fees tend to disproportionately affect those who can least afford to pay them. Recently the Senate Budget Committee asked CLA to launch a quick survey, in order to get a sense of the fines/fees from 2019 as well as the approximate number oftotalfines/fees owing "on the books" at the public library. Special thanks to all of you who participated in the survey. Your answers were very helpful to the Senate Budget Committee. The State Librarian also conducted a survey on this issue, as well as the infrastructure needs of public libraries, in order to assist the Senate Budget Committee.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance will soon be reviewing the Public Library Package and the State Librarian is expected to testify. We continue to work actively with the Senate Budget Committee and the Senate President pro Tem's office on this exciting proposal to provide much needed funding to public libraries. While the Assembly and the Governor will also have to weigh in on the Public Library Plan, CLA is encouraged and appreciates the leadership of the Senate Democrats. The 2021-22 State Budget must be passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor by June 15. We will keep you informed as more details evolve, and will alert you if it appears letters to legislators will be helpful in the next few weeks.