

The 2019 “Libraries for All” Library Levy renewal is a renewal of the 2012 Library Levy, which restored funding for core Library services that experienced budget cuts during the Great Recession. The 2019 renewal would maintain that restored funding, invest in critical systems needs, and add support for the changing needs and interests of the communities we serve.

The \$219.1 million measure - which includes approximately \$46 million for inflation adjustments - would cost the average household just over \$7 per month, an increase of approximately \$3 per month from the 2012 Library Levy.

The measure will be placed on the Aug. 6, 2019 primary ballot. The measure includes funding for the following areas:

Open Hours

- Preserve open hours and staffing from the 2012 Library Levy
- Add approximately 10,000 new branch hours each year
 - All branches open Sunday at noon
 - All branches open an additional hour Monday through Thursday
 - Delridge, Green Lake, NewHolly and Wallingford branches open Friday
 - High Point, International District/Chinatown and South Park branches open earlier and close later
- Sustain funding for two security officers, originally added using one-time general fund resources in 2019
- Provide educational resources and social service support to at-risk youth

Maintenance

- Carry out preventative maintenance work in our buildings
- Continue funding major maintenance work, such as roof replacements, accessibility improvements, re-carpeting, etc.
- Carry out earthquake retrofit work at the historic Columbia, Green Lake and University branches

Technology

- Replace infrastructure for public internet access
- Replace outdated technology that manages how Library materials are acquired, cataloged and circulated
- Dedicate funding for digital equity offerings, such as mobile hotspots and digital literacy classes
- Maintain and upgrade public technologies
- Maintain and enhance spl.org website

Collections

- Maintain and expand collection of physical and digital materials
- Provide more e-materials, including e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming services
- Eliminate the practice of charging fines on overdue materials
- Maintain and improve “no holds, no wait” Peak Picks collection
- Preserve support for collection and digitization of local history items

Helping Children

- Provide additional support for Library early learning programs for children ages 0 to 5