

STAFF REPORT

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING DATE: November 19, 2025

DATE: November 18, 2025

TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Jamie Hemingway, Development Officer, Library
775-327-8360, JHemingway@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: David Solaro, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Cash and Non-Cash Donations received by Washoe County Library between July 1 and September 30, 2025, for a combined total of \$376,951.40. [For Possible Action]

SUMMARY

Monetary donations from generous donors in the amount of \$376,951.40 were received by Washoe County Library during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Washoe County Library System Strategic Objective supported by this item:
Stimulate Imagination and Provide Welcoming Spaces

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The Library Board of Trustees, the governing authority of Washoe County Library System, is authorized by Nevada Revised Statutes, Section 379.026 to establish with the County Treasurer/Comptroller, as custodian, a special fund known as the Washoe County Library System Gift Fund (hereinafter Gift Fund). The monies in the Gift Fund must be derived from all or any part of any gift, bequest or devise, including the interest thereon. The gift fund is a separate and continuing fund and no money in it shall revert to the General Fund of the County at any time.

In the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Washoe County Library received monetary donations from generous donors who designated funds for materials and support of specific libraries. The attached document identifies all cash donations totaling \$376,951.40. Upon acknowledgement by the Library Board of Trustees, these funds will be made available for use by Washoe County Library.

FISCAL IMPACT

The reported First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025–2026 donations will increase Gift Funds by \$376,951.40. Monies in the Gift Fund may be used for the construction of new library buildings, capital improvement to existing buildings, special library services or programs, staff development and training, collection development, equipment and furniture and other identified Library purposes.

Gift Fund	Donations
See attached report	\$376,951.40

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Library Board of Trustees acknowledge First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Cash and Non-Cash Donations received by Washoe County Library between July 1 and September 30, 2025, for a combined total of \$376,951.40.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Library Board of Trustees agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to acknowledge First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Cash and Non-Cash Donations received by Washoe County Library between July 1 and September 30, 2025, for a combined total of \$376,951.40.”*

We receive monetary and in-kind donations throughout the year that assist in providing services and materials. These donations are greatly appreciated by the Library Board of Trustees, staff, and the public. The list includes the names of donors from July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

Cash Donations: \$376,951.40

**Anonymous Donations (16)- to (SO) Wishing Well-for as needed total \$635.00
Anthony Spatucci C/O Tahoe Paddle Sports-to (IV)-for as needed \$200.00
Bernard Saunders donation-to (TS/RN)-for books/materials \$100.00
Better World Books – for Materials \$110.13
Better World Books – for Materials \$603.27
Dr. Andal F. donation- to (SS)-for as needed \$5,000.00
Judith Bark Estate donation-to (RN)-for as needed \$369,653.00
Karen Sabo donation-to (SV)-for as needed \$100.00
Mary Barker donation-to (NW)-for as needed \$100.00
Pamela Stearne donation-to (RN)-for as needed \$100.00
Ruth M. Workman donation in honor of Eloise Castledines 100th Birthday-to (RN)-for as needed \$100.00
South Valley Library Bridge Group-to (SO)-for as needed \$250.00**

We strive to ensure that our donors and supporters are recognized accurately. If we have inaccurately not listed you, or if a mistake has been made, please let us know so we can correct it. Thank you!

ACCOUNT**BALANCE**

	.Jul-25	.Aug-25	.Sept-25
GADMINBAGS	\$ 3,669.50	\$ 3,732.50	\$ 3,732.50
GCCERWIN	\$ 66.47	\$ 66.47	\$ 66.47
GSYSPROGRAMS	\$ 2,799.53	\$ 2,799.53	\$ 2,799.53
GSYSHEADPHONES	\$ 4,270.72	\$ 4,283.95	\$ 4,283.95
GSYSINT	\$ 59,351.93	\$ 60,965.26	\$ 62,775.89
GSYSMKT	\$ 18,085.79	\$ 17,713.19	\$ 17,646.47
GSYSREADCAMPAIGN	\$ 20,863.27	\$ 20,863.27	\$ 20,863.27
GSYSFRIENDSTECH	\$ 108,110.58	\$ 107,338.26	\$ 107,146.67
GSYSTRAIN	\$ 8,180.39	\$ 8,100.39	\$ 8,100.39
GSYSWHYMAN	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GIFT-MATERIALS	\$ 79,461.93	\$ 80,175.33	\$ 80,175.33
GIVSMALLWOOD	\$ 22.05	\$ 22.05	\$ 22.05
GNWHOLOCAUST1	\$ 865.38	\$ 865.38	\$ 865.38
GADMIN1	\$ 1,936.03	\$ 1,936.03	\$ 1,936.03
GDUNCAN1	\$ 369.63	\$ 369.63	\$ 369.63
GINCLINE1	\$ 12,609.43	\$ 12,848.78	\$ 11,078.33
GNVALLEY1	\$ 5,435.08	\$ 5,577.68	\$ 5,683.52
GNORTHWEST1	\$ 49,945.80	\$ 49,491.83	\$ 49,814.56
GRENO1	\$ 26,104.36	\$ 26,377.32	\$ 396,495.88
GSENIOR1	\$ 90,488.03	\$ 84,375.32	\$ 84,375.32
GSPARKS1	\$ 29,945.80	\$ 30,400.15	\$ 30,756.88
GSPRINGS1	\$ 22,646.83	\$ 23,186.96	\$ 28,553.07
GSVALLEYS1	\$ 20,285.36	\$ 20,591.19	\$ 18,879.35
GSVIEW1	\$ 65,385.89	\$ 63,455.18	\$ 62,982.35
GSYSREAD	\$ 136.98	\$ 136.98	\$ 136.98
GSYSTEMS1	\$ 136.44	\$ 107.00	\$ 107.00
GTECH1	\$ 1,071.60	\$ 1,071.60	\$ 1,071.60
GVERDI1	\$ 368.22	\$ 368.22	\$ 368.22

TOTALS: \$ 632,613.02 \$ 627,219.45 \$ 1,001,086.62

STAFF REPORT

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING DATE: November 19, 2025

DATE: November 18, 2025

TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Jamie Hemingway, Development Officer, Library
775-327-8360, JHemingway@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: David Solaro, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge \$369,653.00 donation for the Downtown Reno Library by the Estate of Judith Bark. [For Possible Action]

SUMMARY

Judith Bark selected the Downtown Reno Library as the beneficiary of her estate upon her passing. Washoe County Library was notified of the \$369,653.00 bequest on August 27, 2025.

Washoe County Library System Strategic Objective supported by this item:

Provide Welcoming Spaces

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The Library Board of Trustees, the governing authority of Washoe County Library System, is authorized by Nevada Revised Statutes, Section 379.026 to establish with the County Treasurer/Comptroller, as custodian, a special fund known as the Washoe County Library System Gift Fund (hereinafter Gift Fund). The monies in the Gift Fund must be derived from all or any part of any gift, bequest or devise, including the interest thereon. The gift fund is a separate and continuing fund and no money in it shall revert to the General Fund of the County at any time.

On August 27, 2025, Heritage Bank notified Washoe County Library that it had been selected by Judith Bark as a beneficiary of her estate upon her passing. Ms. Bark generously bequeathed \$369,653.00 to the Downtown Reno Library. Upon acknowledgement by the Library Board of Trustees, these funds will be made available for use by the Downtown Reno Library.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bequest will increase the Gift Funds for the Downtown Reno Library by \$369,653.00 to a First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025–2026 total of \$396,495.88. Monies in the Gift Fund may be used for the construction of new library buildings, capital improvement to existing buildings, special library services or programs, staff development and training, collection development, equipment and furniture and other identified Library purposes.

Gift Fund	Bequest
GSRENO1	\$369,653.00

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Library Board of Trustees acknowledge \$369,653.00 donation for the Downtown Reno Library by the Estate of Judith Bark.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Library Board of Trustees agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to acknowledge \$369,653.00 donation for the Downtown Reno Library by the Estate of Judith Bark.”*

STAFF REPORT

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING DATE: November 19, 2025

DATE: November 19, 2025

TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Debi Stears, Collection Development Manager
775-327-8349, ddstears@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Select an Option for meeting the Materials-Expenditure Standard Pursuant to the Minimum Public Library Standards as set forth by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records [**For Possible Action**]

SUMMARY

Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records (NSLAPR) requires all Nevada public libraries to annually certify compliance with one of three Minimum Public Library Standards for collection funding. Each year, the Library Board of Trustees must formally select which option Washoe County Library System (WCLS) will use to demonstrate compliance.

This staff report provides updated FY 2025/2026 minimum thresholds for each standard, presents a ten-year trend of WCLS collection funding as a percentage of the adjusted operating budget, and outlines staff's recommended option for compliance.

Washoe County Library System Strategic Objective supported by this item:

Stimulate Imagination , Lifelong Learning, School Support, Celebrate our Diverse Community

(see Goals here:

https://washoecountylibrary.us/files/pdf/WCLS_StrategicPlan_2022-2025.pdf)

PREVIOUS ACTION

- **August 19, 2015:** The Library Board of Trustees set a long-term goal for the Library System to reach the **10% minimum standard (Option III)** for collection funding by FY2017/2018.

- **FY2015–2025:** Although the materials budget has steadily increased, the Library System has not yet been able to reach the 10% threshold due to limited recurring funding.
- **August 17, 2023:** Washoe County Commissioner Andriola expressed support for increasing library funding during an upcoming budget cycle to enable the library to meet the 10% standard.
- **May 7, 2025:** The Library Board of Trustees voted to hold \$1.3 million of the Library's FY25/26 budget in abeyance. As reflected in the meeting minutes, Washoe County Chief Financial Officer Abbe Yacoben outlined the next steps for assessing the library budget. She will propose a plan to the BCC that, if granted, would allocate the 1.3 million dollars centrally in a county fund, giving the board time to investigate the library budget. The board can then vote quarterly, or as desired, to allocate money to the library as the year progresses.
- **October 14, 2025:** The Library Board of Trustees reaffirmed that the 10% minimum standard remains the Board's desired policy target and directed staff to request an above board request as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget process.

BACKGROUND

Nevada's Minimum Public Library Standards for collection spending require each Library Board to annually select one of the following:

Option I – Historical Average Spending

Library meets or exceeds **90% of the five-year average** amounts spent on library materials.

Option II – Percentage of Services & Supplies (S&S)

Library meets or exceeds **30% of the total Services & Supplies** budget spent specifically on library materials.

Option III – Percentage of Total Operating Budget

Library meets or exceeds **10% of the adjusted total operating budget** spent on library materials.

For **FY 2025/2026**, WCLS minimum thresholds are:

- **Option I Minimum: \$1,124,720**
- **Option II Minimum: \$714,385**
- **Option III Minimum: \$1,620,935**

With a current materials budget of \$764,720 WCLS can only meet Option II this year.

ANALYSIS

The Library Board has repeatedly emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong collection budget that keeps pace with community demand, digital content growth, and inflationary pressures from publishers. Over the past decade, WCLS has made consistent progress increasing its materials budget. However, rising personnel and service costs have outpaced these gains, preventing the Library from reaching the 10% benchmark.

Historical Trends in Collection Funding

Fiscal Year	Adjusted Total Budget	Materials Budget	Percentage
FY14-15	\$9,895,527	\$645,320	6.50%
FY15-16	\$10,937,279	\$860,320	7.90%
FY16-17	\$11,807,964	\$884,720	7.50%
FY17-18	\$12,460,440	\$934,720	7.50%
FY18-19	\$11,991,826	\$984,720	7.50%
FY19-20	\$12,857,560	\$1,017,970	7.90%
FY20-21	\$12,708,477	\$856,812	6.70%
FY21-22	\$14,349,798	\$1,014,720	7.10%
FY22-23	\$14,761,412	\$1,014,720	6.87%
FY23-24	\$16,051,780	\$1,414,720	8.81%
FY 24-25	\$17,110,547	\$1,414,720	8.27%
FY25-26	\$16,974,071	\$764,720	4.51%

Key Observations

- For **FY25–26**, the percentage allocated to collections decreased to **4.51%**, the lowest level in the period shown. This reduction is primarily the result of the Library Board’s **May 7, 2025** action to temporarily hold **\$1.3 million** of the Library budget in abeyance to allow for a thoughtful, in-depth review of systemwide operations, branch service models, and long-term planning needs.
- Because these abeyed funds are being held centrally and may be released incrementally over the course of the fiscal year, the materials funding level represented in the current analysis reflects only the amount available at the start of FY25–26. **If the Board elects to release some or all of the abeyed funds later in the year, the materials budget and associated percentages will change accordingly.**
- WCLS remains aligned with the Board’s long-term goal of achieving the **10% standard (Option III)** as recurring funding availability improves, while selecting the compliance option that realistically reflects the current-year budget structure.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Library System's FY25/26 materials budget is \$764,720, which reflects the amount available at the beginning of the fiscal year after the Library Board's May 7, 2025 action to hold \$1.3 million of the Library's budget in abeyance for further review. Based on this budget structure:

- **WCLS meets Option II**
- **WCLS does not meet Option I**
- **WCLS does not meet Option III**

To meet **Option III**, the materials budget would need to reach **\$1,620,935**, requiring a substantial recurring increase in base funding from Washoe County.

If the Library Board elects to release some or all of the abeyed funds later during FY25–26, these figures would change accordingly, and the Library's compliance calculations could be updated at that time. Selecting Option II for FY25–26 has no additional fiscal impact beyond what is already budgeted.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Library Board of Trustees:

Select Option II (30% of the Services & Supplies budget) as Washoe County Library System's Minimum Public Library Standards compliance method for FY 2025/2026, based on the current budget and the funds available at the start of the fiscal year.

POSSIBLE MOTION

"Move to approve Option II as Washoe County Library System's compliance method for the FY 2025/2026 Minimum Public Library Standards for collection funding."



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, October 15th 2025

5:30 P.M.

DOWNTOWN RENO LIBRARY 301 S. Center St, Reno NV 89501

Library Trustees:

Ann Silver, Chair

Lea Moser, Vice Chair

Gianna Jacks, Trustee

Tami Ruf, Trustee

Marie Rodriguez, Trustee

0) Salute to the Flag led by Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro.

1) Roll Call [Non-Action Item]

- Present: Chair Silver, Vice Chair Moser, Trustee Jacks, Trustee Ruf.
- Trustee Rodriguez joined at 5:44pm.

2) Land Acknowledgement [Non-Action Item]

- Read by Vice Chair Moser.

3) Public Comment –Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]

- Jody Baden: Founder of the News Literacy Community Initiative. Read a quote about totalitarianism. Advocated for media literacy education and offered partnership with the library during News Literacy Week. Emphasized nonpartisan, community-focused programming.
- Laura Wetherington: Supported Assistant County Manager's budget recommendation. Emphasized libraries as essential services, especially for vulnerable populations, and the importance of staff input. Shared a personal story about the Downtown Library.
- William Puchert: Addressed 1st amendment auditor and questioned his presence at the meeting. Criticized past board decisions and alleged political bias. Opposed potential closure of the Downtown Library.
- Joni Hammond: Advocated for removing "vulgar" books from children's sections. Cited Supreme Court precedent and child protection concerns.
- Krysta Flanagan: Thanked County staff for their work putting together the proposed budget. Encouraged trustees to advocate boldly for library funding and to "aim high" in budget negotiations.
- Luran Fallon: Spoke as a Quaker in support of LGBTQ+ inclusion. Quoted the library's own collection development policy to support diverse materials.

- Cate Salim: Appreciated staff input in budget creation and emphasized the need for staff, not volunteers, at Senior Center. Opposed the suggestion to eliminate the Assistant Library Director position. Called for transparency from the board and requested they retract their suggestion.
- Drew Ribar: Alleged swearing at board meetings is acceptable due to a Supreme Court case. Criticized board rules on public comment and alleged censorship. Accused county employees of interfering with his speech. Opposed library funding and called for digital-only services.
 - [Chair Silver reminded Ribar throughout his comment to face the board, not the public]
- Victoria Peechatt: PhD student. Praised the library's educational role and spoke against book banning. Advocated for maximum funding to support youth and community programs.
- Jessica Braun: Graduate student who emphasized the library's role in equitable access. Opposed budget cuts and supported full funding.
- Janet Butcher: Argued that "banned books" is misleading. Called for removal of explicit content from children's sections.
- Sandee Tibbett: Shared appreciation for staff and board members and supported Solaro's staffing model. Suggested reducing hours at low-traffic branches to support others. Questioned if there was an Assistant Director prior to Stacy McKenzie.
- Eithne Barten: Highlighted Sierra View Library's diverse programming and community service. Supported maintaining full library services.
- Cliff Nellis: Opposed explicit content in children's sections. Called for the privatization of the library and a balanced library director.
- Rosie Zuckerman: Praised libraries as public institutions not driven by profit. Opposed running libraries like businesses.
- Stacey Spain: Advocated for libraries as essential infrastructure, the same as roads and fire protection. Emphasized their role in serving at-risk populations and

child development. Thanked the board and asked them to focus their efforts on serving the entire community.

4) Board Comment [Non-Action Item] – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity, Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or Workshops

- Chair Ann Silver acknowledged the seriousness of deciding the budget and suggested the possible need for additional meetings.
- Vice Chair Moser thanked Jody Baden for her presentation and requested more information. Spoke on the importance of finding the right director and how she would utilize public comment on the subject.
- Trustee Jacks shared public engagement materials and showed off her library bag. Emphasized the importance of public comment and encouraged the public to contact board members directly. Noted that the Speak Up portal is only for the BCC. Mentioned that comments sent directly to board members are not part of the meeting packet. Addressed accusatory comments sent to her email. Mentioned the importance of libraries for the homeschool community. Emphasized that all trustees pay attention during the meeting and take notes.

5) Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from the Special Library Board meeting on October 1st, 2025 [For Possible Action].
 - Trustee Rodriguez raised concerns about a name that was not called at the previous meeting. She claimed a public commentor had written down her name but was never called. Requested to see the sign-in sheet from October 1st.
 - On motion by Trustee Ruf, seconded by Chair Silver, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Trustee Jacks voting no, the meeting minutes from October 1, 2025 were approved.

6) General Business

a) Presentation of a video (approximately 10 minutes) outlining a day in the life of a full-service library branch at the Washoe County Library System. [Non-Action Item for Information Only]

- Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro introduced a short documentary created by library staff showcasing daily library operations across the branches. The video highlighted programming, outreach, community engagement, as well as the smaller but important daily tasks that are often overlooked.

b) Discussion between the Library Board of Trustees and the Office of the County Manager outlining the budget needed for staff to operate the locations, times, and days of the Library system for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) as identified by the Board at the meeting held October 1, 2025 and possible direction to the Office of the County Manager staff related to Budget needs for the Washoe County Library System. [For Possible Action]

- Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro reviewed the staffing models for FY27 with budget projections. His projected model included hours for Duncan/Traner, Verdi, and Senior Center, along with all currently vacant positions being filled. Solaro further explained that staffing costs account for most of the library budget and included projected increases due to the bargaining agreement.
- Solaro outlined other budgetary costs including administration, services and supplies, and the collections budget. He noted the static nature of rent costs for the North Valleys and Sierra View libraries in the projected budget due to uncertainty in rent changes.
- Solaro reminded the board of the October 1st meeting and their declaration that library programming was essential. Mentioned phone call with Vice Chair Moser related to programming. Noted that a deeper discussion can be had regarding programming when a new director is hired and the strategic plan is outlined.

- Solaro recommended maintaining the FY26 base budget for FY27 and for the board to submit a separate above-base request to the BCC for the 10% collections budget. Expressed his confidence that the board has done what the BCC asked by reviewing library services and determining the right course.
- Trustee Rodriguez asked if the current vacancies will be filled and if closures will stop. Solaro confirmed.
- Trustee Ruf clarified the budget amounts and asked if the new director will be allowed to ask for more if needed. Solaro confirmed that they will be able to request more funding through the standard budget process. Trustee Ruf asked about the Verdi library hours. Solaro noted his recommendation for a Tuesday – Thursday schedule for partnership libraries. Hours can be adjusted.
- Chair Silver stated that the conclusion to these budget talks have brought them back to the beginning and questioned why they went through this multi-month process. Solaro shared he had the same question but understands that the BCC heard public comments regarding library operations and wished for the Library Board to undergo a process to determine if the current structure was working for the community. Solaro stated that this full circle process seems to confirm that the current library operations are working well and puts the board in a good position to work with a new director.
- Trustee Jacks stated that she did not feel confident in making a decision, and believed more study needed to be done by the board. Referenced pie chart showing how library users utilize library resources such as print vs digital materials. She would like to see more data about user count, ebook vs physical, service hours per staff members, and check out frequency vs staff numbers. Expressed opinion that the libraries are overstaff and overspent, and that budget cuts are necessary. Stated that population growth does not mean that the workload for librarians increases.
- Trustee Rodriguez thanked staff for the video. Mentioned her visits to every branch except for the partnerships, and shared her appreciation for how they

operate and how busy the branches are. Recalled Spanish Springs's birthday celebration. Expressed her view that the proposed budget is thorough and a reasonable request.

- Trustee Ruf asked Trustee Jacks for clarification of her viewpoint regarding the budget. Jacks stated she would like to see staffing cut. Ruf stated she is against cutting staff and voiced her support for the proposed budget.
- Vice Chair Moser thanked Solaro and library staff for their work. Shared support for Solaro's proposed budget. Expressed the board's need to avoid "getting into the weeds" and to trust staff going forward.
- Trustee Jacks asked if the new director will be able to adjust the budget. Solaro stated that the proposed budget will become the baseline for future budget discussions and the new director may request changes as needed.
- Chair Silver questioned why the hybrid option wasn't chosen if it was only one thousand dollars more. Solaro stated that the difference was a million dollars, not one thousand. Chair Silver asked if the hybrid model was more of what staff indicated. Solaro confirmed, and stated that it was based on the board's original choice of Option A.
- Chair Silver stated that there would be no layoffs or branch closures.
- Trustee Jacks expressed concern that the board hadn't spent enough time researching options based on Washoe County's budget deficit. Stated again her belief that the budget needed to be "slashed".
- Chair Silver questioned what would have happened if WC1 had passed; would the money have meant more staff? Solaro stated that they wouldn't be having the conversation if WC1 had passed because there wouldn't have been any budget issues.
- Vice Chair Moser stated that she learned a lot about library operations throughout the exercise of creating the budget and proposed a motion to vote on the budget Solaro presented.

- Chair Silver emphasized that there will be no layoffs or branch closures and that current vacancies will be filled. Asked when they have to go to the BCC to request the additional 10%. Solaro was unsure and stated that historically requests go to the BCC in February or March to be included in the process for adoption.
- On motion by Trustee Rodriguez, seconded by Trustee Ruf, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Trustee Jacks voting no, the budget as written in Solaro's staff report was approved to be presented to the BCC.

7) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]

- Shari Sanders: Emphasized that libraries are absorbing the burden of defunded social services and must be kept open. Thanked Solaro and library staff.
- Cliff Nellis: Reiterated opposition to LGBTQ+ content and public employee protections. Restated opinion that the library should be privatized. Pointed out a t-shirt in the library staff's video that said "Death Saves" and questioned the reference.
- Cate Salim: Urged adherence to Robert's Rules and questioned why the updated bylaws were not on the website.
- Drew Ribar: Called board members "communists" and mentioned threats he has received. Advocated for digital-only services.
- Krysta Flanagan: Clarified "Death Saves" as a Dungeons and Dragons reference.
- Eithne Barton: Thanked the board for going through the exercise to understand how the library operates and advocate for a full budget. Spoke to the importance of libraries for human connection.
- Janet Butcher: Asked about board preparation and questioned where the wording for the motion was taken from. Requested meeting decorum be discussed.
 - Trustee Jacks answered that the wording was in Solaro's staff report that was provided in the meeting packet.

8) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item]

- Collections Development Manager Debi Stears announced that the library's primary vendor, Baker & Taylor, was going out of business. Informed the board and the public of resulting delays in book arrivals and asked for patience. Emphasized that her staff are working to identify new vendors and maintain the same level of service quality.

9) Adjournment

- Chair Silver adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

SOLARO'S
PRESENTATION FROM
OCT 15th

Submitted for
inclusion in the record

Washoe County Library Board of Trustees

Plan for successful
budget recommendation
to the Board of County
Commission



WASHOE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
www.washoecountylibrary.us

WASHOE
COUNTY
LIBRARY

Washoe County Library System

Mission: To connect people with information, ideas, and experiences to support an engaged community, one person at a time.

Vision: All Washoe County residents benefit from the library's support of literacy and self-education

From the October 1, 2025, Library Board of Trustees meeting

LBOT provided direction to proceed with providing actual budget numbers to the staffing models proposed as Staff Option A and Hybrid Option for the library system and bring the entire budget forward for discussion at the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on October 15, 2025.

Conclusions from past meetings:

- Current operation of the library system is effective.
- All options reviewed to increase operating times and/or days at full service branches increases staff needs.
- Reducing or closing partnership libraries (Verdi, Senior Center, Duncan/Trainer) does not translate to like for like hours at full service branches.
- It is unlikely that large changes in the operating locations, days, and hours of the Washoe County Library System is possible without increasing funding.

Washoe County Library Branch Costs

Branch Specific Costs					
Branch	Current Cost	Staff Option A	Hybrid Option	Staff Option A vs. Current	Hybrid vs. Current
Downtown Reno	\$ 1,259,700	\$ 2,284,912	\$ 1,606,973	\$ 1,025,212	\$ 347,274
Incline Village	\$ 870,655	\$ 1,082,433	\$ 966,268	\$ 211,778	\$ 95,613
North Valleys	\$ 1,316,206	\$ 1,459,032	\$ 1,620,996	\$ 142,826	\$ 304,790
Northwest	\$ 1,725,888	\$ 1,746,140	\$ 1,746,140	\$ 20,252	\$ 20,252
Sierra View	\$ 1,511,846	\$ 1,375,460	\$ 1,375,460	\$ (136,386)	\$ (136,386)
South Valley	\$ 1,653,181	\$ 2,110,921	\$ 1,742,019	\$ 457,740	\$ 88,838
Spanish Springs	\$ 1,553,448	\$ 1,873,090	\$ 1,873,090	\$ 319,643	\$ 319,643
Sparks	\$ 1,538,060	\$ 1,558,280	\$ 1,558,280	\$ 20,221	\$ 20,221
total	\$ 11,428,984	\$ 13,490,268	\$ 12,489,227	\$ 2,061,285	\$ 1,060,243

Current costs for personnel are escalated with known contractual increases to July 2026.

Washoe County: Fiscal Sustainability

Option Costs			
	Current Cost	Staff Option A	Hybrid Option
Branch Cost	\$ 11,429,000	\$ 13,490,000	\$ 12,489,000
Administrative Cost	\$ 3,552,000	\$ 3,552,000	\$ 3,552,000
Services/Supplies	\$ 1,607,000	\$ 1,607,000	\$ 1,607,000
Current Titles	\$ 1,360,000	\$ 1,865,000	\$ 1,765,000
Total*	\$ 17,948,000	\$ 20,514,000	\$ 19,413,000

*Current costs for personnel are escalated with known contractual increases to July 2026. Total current cost is not the current budget.

Washoe County: Staff Recommendation

Based on the work reviewed and discussed with the Library Board of Trustees, Library staff, and comment provided by the community, staff is recommending that the Library Board of Trustees request a FY 27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) library budget equal to the approved FY 26 adjusted budget from the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners.

In addition – a separate above base request of a current titles budget equal to 10% of the total operating expenditure should be requested during the normal Washoe County budget process.

It is apparent through completion of the work in September and October that the Library System is efficient and effective for our community.

Thank you

Dave Solaro, Arch, P.E.
Assistant County Manager
dsolaro@washoecounty.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT
DOCUMENTS from
OCT 15th MEETING
Submitted for
inclusion in the record

Janet Butcher for the Record

The whole “banned books” narrative is a flat-out lie.

It is a weaponized talking point used to shame parents into silence. No one is banning books. We’re asking a simple question: should graphic pornography, scenes describing rape, incest, and oral sex between minors be sitting on public county library shelves, in reach of children paid for by hardworking taxpayers? That’s not censorship, that’s basic decency. There’s a world of difference between protecting freedom of speech and handing explicit sexual material to children under the banner of “literacy.”

The real question everyone should be asking is this: why are these adults so desperate to keep this kind of material in front of children? What kind of person fights harder for a child’s access to sexual content than for their safety, literacy, or moral development? Protecting kids isn’t “book banning.” It’s moral clarity and it’s long overdue. We must protect the hearts and minds of our children. It is not “Bullying” as stated by one of the Washoe County Library Trustees at another County held meeting.

The “banned books” talking point is a story line put forth by the ALA (American Library Association). Why does our county Library and staff have to play along lock step with this? Is our county Libraries funded by ALA or our tax dollars? There have been displays created by the Librarians at various branches supporting this fallacy and a whole page in the Library Explorer magazine – where do they get the time to create these banned/challenge book displays or the cost of the page?

I am also handing in an attachment as I did not want to read it out loud, as we are gaveled down and / or the meeting recessed because the adult tender ears are offended by what the children are exposed to.

I do want to thank the Trustees for their hard work in attempting to reign in the efficiency of the budget and only hope that there is not a behind the scenes collaboration between one of the political parties and the Washoe Board of County Commissioners. The chair of the Washoe BBC may have alluded to this at the October 14, 2025 commission meeting.

This week, the American Library Association (ALA) is celebrating “Banned Books Week” and claiming that the *freedom to read is under attack*.

Here’s the truth:

No one is banning books.

Every single one of the so-called “banned” books can be purchased online, checked out by adults, or found in public libraries.

**BANNED
BOOKS
WEEK**

OCT. 5-11, 2025



**CENSORSHIP
IS SO 1984**

**READ
FOR YOUR
RIGHTS**

ALA OPS BOOKS
1507 MAR 2025 - 1000000

What parents are asking for is simple — stop putting pornographic and sexually explicit books into children’s hands in taxpayer-funded schools.



Take *Flamer* — ranked the 10th most challenged book in the nation. It’s being pushed on kids in school libraries with your tax dollars. Inside you’ll find quotes like:

“Hey, Navarro, suck any good dicks lately? Hahahahaha”

“What’s wrong, Navarro? I thought you like a big sausage in your mouth! Haha!”

That’s not “literature.” That’s filth marketed to minors and every parent has a right to be outraged.

We need your help to expose it.

If you see a “Banned Books” display in your local school or library this week:

- **Snap a photo.**
- [Upload it here](#)

Help us show America what’s really being promoted to kids.

Visit TakeBackTheClassroom.com to see the obscene books being uncovered nationwide and join the effort to Let Children Be Children.

Together, we can reclaim the classroom — one library shelf at a time.



I want to express my appreciation to the staff for their diligence and to the trustees for their commitment to our library system. Their leadership and sound decision-making are establishing a solid foundation for the ongoing success of our libraries. Through their prudent management of community interests and fiscal obligations, they are ensuring our facilities remain valuable resources for education and engagement throughout our community, both now and in the future. The dedication and foresight demonstrated by all involved is highly commendable, and I am confident their efforts will continue to enhance our library system's positive influence. Thank you.

Mr. Solaro's staff report presents a comprehensive framework and a clear direction for implementing a demand-driven staffing model. The Ideal Schedule establishes an efficient foundation by allocating 418 weekly branch hours without incurring additional personnel costs and achieving a targeted 4% reduction in low-traffic branches. This approach enables the strategic reallocation of resources extending evening hours at higher-demand locations such as South Valleys and Northwest Reno, while maintaining alignment with the Strategic Plan's emphasis on literacy and community access, all within existing staffing levels. The baseline total of \$17,948,000, with the addition of \$299,000 for titles, represents a manageable and efficient fiscal approach.

To better meet our community's needs and provide a more balanced service, I propose further reduction in operating hours for our low traffic locations. Because the North Valleys branch has less traffic compared to other locations, I suggest closing it 30 minutes or 1 hour earlier, Monday through Saturday. The hours saved could then be reassigned to the Verdi branch, ensuring it continues to offer 9.5 hours of service each week. I believe it is vital to have the Verdi branch open to accommodate the students who are released early from school on Wednesdays.

In alignment to avoid any new hires, I strongly recommend that the board considers the integration of a floating staffing pool to support our highly popular youth and senior programs. Implementing a floating staffing pool would help address any existing gaps caused by limited personnel. This targeted allocation of resources would enhance operational efficiency and enable us to provide programming where it best serves our community.

Trustees, please approve the Ideal Schedule with some minor adjustments for Verdi.

Who was Jeff Scott's assistant prior to Stacy McKenzie?

FTR

Budget items: Active users per librarian, broken down by in-person vs. digital. Service transactions per staff member (checkouts, reference questions, program attendance, digital logins). Hybrid service metrics, like total circulation (digital + physical), digital resource usage, and program participation per staff hour.

This would align staffing with actual demand instead of assuming every new resident increases librarian's needs equally. The library's FY26 usage numbers alongside the FY27 staffing report, it becomes clear that just comparing population growth to the number of librarians doesn't really tell the whole story. A big part of the reason is that library use is changing.

In Washoe County, almost the exact same share of people are using the library online-only (41.3%) as those who only check out physical items (41%), and another 17.5% are doing both. That means more than half of our patrons are engaging digitally in some way.

If a new family moves into the county and they're probably digital-only users, they don't automatically add to the workload at a physical branch the way an in-person checkout does. Every new resident does not mean the library needs more staff.

What really drives staffing needs are the hours the branches are open and the kinds of services that are being offered. The FY27 report shows that the biggest changes in staff requirements come when hours are extended into evenings or weekends, or when "full service" programming is added on top of basic circulation. That's why looking at service hours per staff member, or the number of physical checkouts and digital transactions compared to the staff who support them, is a more accurate way to understand how much work librarians are actually handling. Population growth versus librarian count oversimplifies what's really happening in Washoe County's library system. Let's look at how many patrons are using the library in person versus online, and what kinds of programs are being offered. (see Explore magazine)

Volunteers – approx.: 100 volunteers. The new library director should have the capability of auditing this branch of discussion.

Regarding Verdi who are requesting limiting VERDI hours due to long commute, etc

Library Director Search – update needed on next agenda (or call special meetings)

Public Input: We need more public input. If you have questions or comments about any library issues, please contact any trustee asap. See the website for each trustee bio and email address. If you use the Washoe County SPEAK UP PORTAL it does not reach the Library Board but rather the County Commissioners.

FTR
10/15/25

I don't know Dr. Justine Overton from UNR.

Public Comments by this person in 2024 against me are false. I tried to contact her multiple times for any clarification.

TRUSTEE JACKS
OCT 15, 2025

FTR
10/15/25

October 15, 2025

Library Board of Trustees of Washoe County
Meeting. Downtown Library [Location]

For the Record:

I may have to look at electronics to keep notes and
reference materials distributed only electronically.
Please do not take this as a sign of disrespect
towards any speaker, at any time.

Thank you for being here tonight. Please send
you're your public comments regarding Washoe
County Libraries to me at:

GJacks@WashoeCounty.Gov

Gianna Jacks, Trustee



For public comment

From Jenny Ouyang <[REDACTED]>
Date Tue 10/14/2025 6:36 PM
To Schubach, Siera <SSchubach@washoecounty.gov>

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting a public comment for funding public libraries.

My name is Jenny Ouyang. I'd like to first thank the library board for their hard work and time. I grew up with little access to books (my family could not afford them) and my childhood public library was the place where I could read all the books in the world. I spent my teenage years volunteering at the library with the children's librarian, helping to organize children programs and shelving thousands of books. Now I have children of my own, and we go to the library to check out books, attend children's programs, and find community. Thank you librarians for taking me in when I needed a quiet place to study, for finding yet another dinosaur book for my son, and for promoting literacy. The library is a vital resource and an important third space for all. It's time to fund the library consistent with Nevada standards. Please send a budget to the Board of County Commissioners that allows our libraries to continue operating fully funded. Thank you.

Best,
Jenny

--

Jenny Ouyang, PhD
[REDACTED]