



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Investing in Libraries for All

We understand the changing needs of Seattle's diverse communities and are committed to listening to and meeting those needs. When we invest in our public libraries, we invest in education, opportunity, and equity for the whole community.

From story time to summer learning programs to adult learning classes, The Seattle Public Library advances equity, education, and opportunity for all who call Seattle home. If we are going to build a city of the future, then we must build the libraries of the future, too.

Maintain existing services

Mayor Durkan's plan would fully fund The Seattle Public Library's current services including free access to 2.3 million physical and digital items for more than five million annual visits by Seattle residents.

Increase library hours

While her plan would maintain current investments to support 52-week-a-year operations (1,377 hours a week/71,604 hours a year), it would also add nearly 5,000 operating hours a year for branches across the entire city.

Eliminate overdue fines

Because fines are a barrier to using Seattle's libraries, Mayor Durkan's plan eliminates fines for overdue materials. Research has shown that fines have little impact on if materials are returned on time, and disproportionately impact low-income individuals.

Help close the digital divide

Mayor Durkan's plan would provide funding to replace infrastructure that supports public high-speed internet access, expand SPL's digital collection, and promote digital equity.

Support safer buildings through seismic upgrades

Mayor Durkan's plan would provide funding for seismic retrofits for three of the Carnegie libraries: Columbia, Green Lake, and University branches. It also continues funding to support enhanced daily maintenance and regular preventive maintenance programs.



Investments

Renewing the Library Levy while maintaining only current services would cost **\$167.4M**.

Under Mayor Durkan's plan, making additional investments in equity and opportunity like expanding hours and eliminating fines would cost the average homeowner an additional **\$1.58 per month, for a total of approximately \$7 per month**. With the critical new investments the total Levy cost would be \$213.3M.