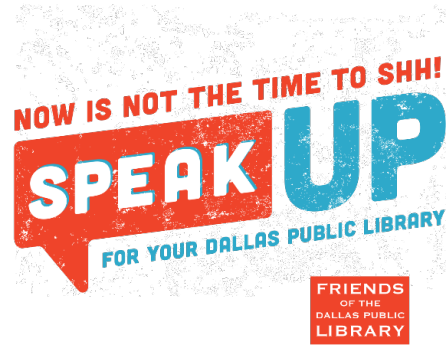


**FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY
2022-2023 PROPOSED LIBRARY BUDGET
INFORMATION & TALKING POINTS
SEE PAGE 2 FOR TALKING POINTS**

August 8, 2022

Dear Library Friends,

This past weekend the Dallas City Manager released his proposed 2022-2023 budget for the City of Dallas, and there is some good news for Dallas Public Library. The proposed budget would provide a 3% increase in funding for our library system, most of which will be used to add 30 new library staff positions allowing for 9 branch libraries to increase their hours of operation to 54 hours per week from the current 40.



On a less positive note, the budget includes a slight decrease in the materials budget from last year which will impact the library's ability to replace aging books, purchase new books, or expand digital offerings to City of Dallas residents.

Overall, the proposed budget is a good start to restoring hours of operation, but we cannot become complacent. All 30 branch libraries need to be open 6 if not 7 days a week to serve the citizens of Dallas.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Sign up to attend and speak at a Budget Town Hall Meeting

We're asking all Dallas library advocates to attend and speak at the upcoming Town Hall Budget meetings scheduled between August 11 and August 25. Recommended talking points are on the following page.

[Follow this link to find your council district](#)

[Follow this link for the list of Town Hall Budget Meetings](#)

[Sign up here and let us know which meeting\(s\) you'll attend](#)

Finish on a positive note: Thank them for allowing you the time to provide your input on the 2022-23 budget and their past support for our public library systems. Their support has helped make our library system what it is today, with their support for improvements, it can continue to meet the needs of our citizens in the future.

Listen and Report Back

Hear something you think we should know about? Let us know what you hear by emailing friends@fodpl.org or call our office 214-670-1458

**FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY
2022-2023 PROPOSED LIBRARY BUDGET**

TALKING POINTS

Our main talking points at the Town Hall Meetings focus on thanking the city and the Dallas City Council for their past support of the library system and for the increases proposed in this year's budget. At the same time, we are asking them to recognize that more needs to be done before the Dallas Public Library system is recognized as one of the best library systems in both the state and the nation.

Our talking points related to next year's proposed budget.

- We appreciate the City Manager proposing more funding to add library staff so more libraries in the city can be open more hours. We hope the Dallas City Council will support this additional funding which will result in 9 branch libraries located in neighborhoods across the city to expand being opened from five to six days per week.
- We hope Council will recognize this as only a good first step. This funding increase only impacts 9 of the 30 libraries in Dallas
- We ask that City Council commit to opening all Dallas Public Library branches for 6-day a week service over the next 2 budget cycles or sooner
- We also want voice our concern that this year's budget does not include any funding increases for materials. Beyond staff, the materials budget is the heart and soul of the library. The cost of materials for our libraries has skyrocketed, which is not recognized in this year's budget. Our libraries are an important community asset that needs adequate investment to continue to serve our residents effectively
- We ask that City Council consider a 5% increase to the Library's materials budget in the upcoming budget

Should you need it, below is great information about today's Dallas Public Library:

- Dallas Public Library with its 30 locations is and will continue to be an important community asset welcoming more than 11 million persons each year in person or online
- Each year more than 25,000 adults benefit from Dallas Public Library's free English language learning, basic reading skills, GED classes, and citizenship courses
- Our library helps boost the local economy by providing workspaces, free internet access, resume assistance and job skills training
- The library hosts free education programs to more than 400,000 and free literacy programs to more than 85,000 children and their caregivers
- Our library is our city's greatest education and workforce development asset, helping bridge the divide between the haves and have-nots by offering mobile hotspots and Chromebooks to residents across the city and computer time in libraries for students as well as job seekers. The SMART Summer Reading program -- which attracts more than thousands of children each year -- helps our young people maintain their education skills over the summer
- Our library system provides access to more than 2.1 million physical items and 1.2 million digital for Dallas residents
- Investing in our public library system is good public policy.
- The public library is one of the few places you can still go without being expected to buy something
- The library preserves history, and more importantly, truth

Questions? Contact the Friends office – friends@fodpl.org or 214-670-1458