

Name Kathy Stewart
Office Sought/District Councilmember for District 10
Email Kathy@kathystewartd10.com
Phone Number (214) 632-3643

Do you have a Dallas Public Library card? YES

Over the past 12 months, have you visited a Dallas Public Library location either online or in person? YES

Which DPL locations(s) have you visited? Audelia Road Forest Green

Do you believe that libraries are important and deserve to be supported in the City of Dallas? YES

Dallas Public Library has 29 branch locations in every corner of the city in addition to the Central Library across from City Hall. At present, only one DPL location is open 7 days a week (the Vickery Park location). There are 15 locations open 6 days a week, and the Central Library and 12 other branch locations are only open 5 days per week. Do you support having all 30 locations open 7 days a week beginning in 2024? NO

Library Programs

Dallas Public Library provides GED classes, preschool storytimes, and English Language Learning classes, promotes adult literacy, offers small business support, and free internet access, and assists with resumes, job searches, and job applications FOR FREE to all Dallas residents. These important

programs are nearly all made possible thanks to private funding.

Libraries are an important resource for children. Through private funding, the Dallas Public Library offers FREE preschool programs, such as storytimes, and the summer reading program, and provides computer and Wi-Fi access.

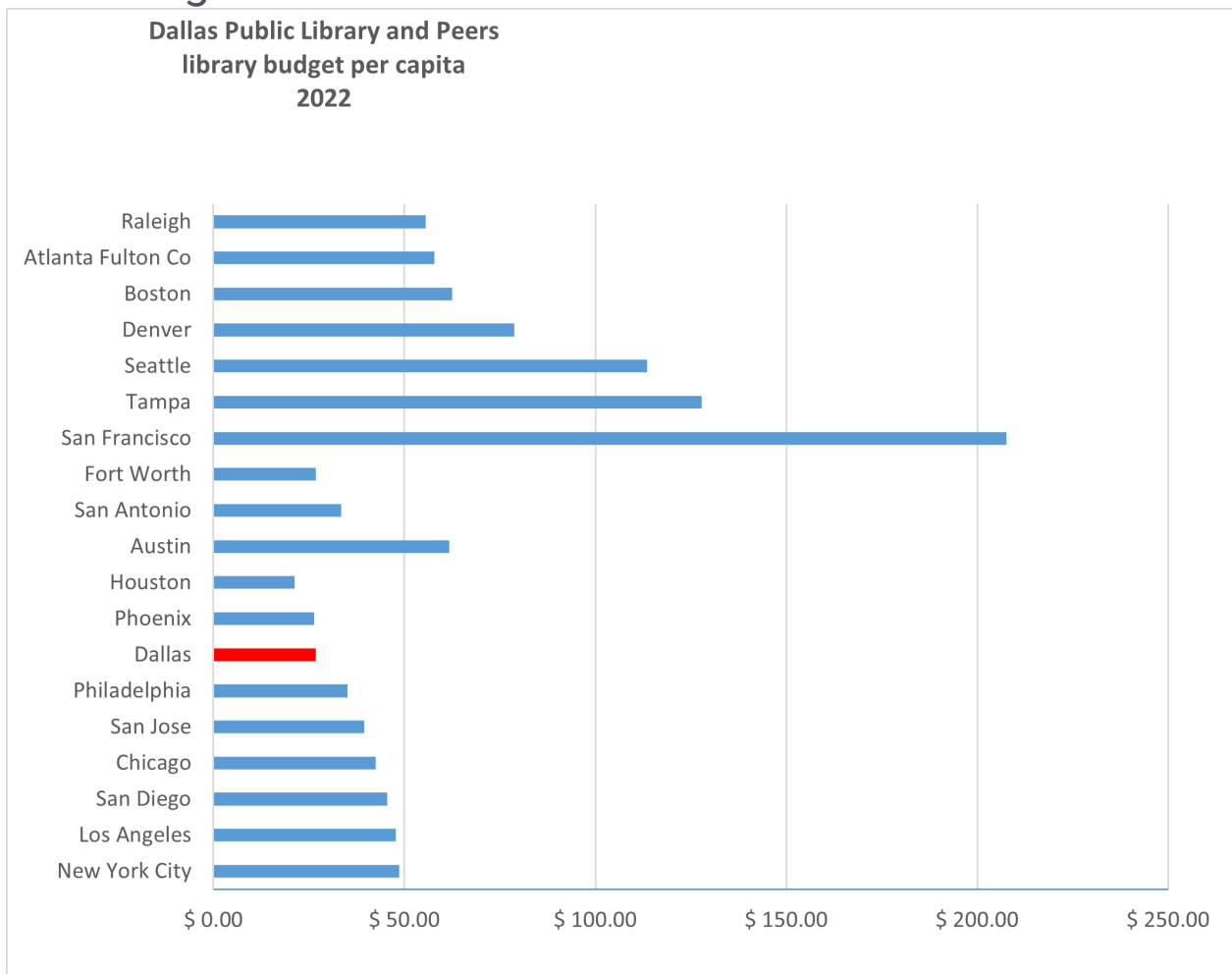
Libraries are also critical resources to Dallas’s adult and senior population; however, funding for adult education and senior programs is limited to private sources.

Would you support providing more public funding to programs like these that are mostly privately funded now?

YES

Comparison Library Spending

Below is a graph comparing the Dallas Public Library budget per capita to the top 10 population cities, the major cities and knowledge center cities across the nation.



After now knowing that the Dallas library system is one of the poorest funded per capita among similar size cities and its neighboring suburbs, do you believe that Dallas should increase its library funding on a per capita basis?

YES

Library Statistics

Between October 2021 and September 2022 (Dallas Public Library's fiscal year):

- The Dallas Public Library welcomed 890,000 visitors in person and 5 million virtually.
- Curbside library service has continued
- The library's collection of 2 million items saw heavy circulation with 8.4 million items requested.
- More than 8,000 library programs educated and entertained nearly 138,000 people.
- Library customers logged 44,000 hours of computer time, and more than 20,000 checked out Dallas Public Library's Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks to access the internet
- Library branches served as warming locations during winter storms and air-conditioned cooling centers during the height of summer.

The Dallas Public Library's materials budget to purchase books, media, ebooks/e-audiobooks, and databases has remained essentially flat for the last several years. At the same time, publishers providing these materials continue to increase their costs for both physical and digital materials. Last year, the Dallas City Council approved a \$300,000 increase to the library's materials budget. If elected, will you support additional increases to the materials budget including a \$500,000 increase in the upcoming budget?

YES

Now that you know more about the services provided by the Dallas Public Library, and the financial challenges it faces, if elected, will you commit to continuing to responsibly grow the library's operating budget?

YES

If yes, what are your ideas?

I would look at other cities and see how they have increased funding. I would also listen to advocates such as the Friends of the Dallas Public Library and their ideas for increasing funding.

In your opinion, what is the role of the Dallas Public Library?

Our libraries are the heart of the communities they serve. Years ago, the Audelia Road branch was the place our children enrolled in the summer reading program and enjoyed children's activities. It was where I went for books for me. More recently for me, it has been the place of numerous community meetings. I have listened to City presentations, I have participated in CM McGough's D10 meetings, I have hosted meetings as the Executive Director of the Lake Highlands PID. As the ED, I also worked with the branch manager on community engagement activities. Libraries are a tremendous resource for families and communities. They provide resources in their materials and in the experience of the community coming together. I have been confronted with new ideas and perspectives in the community meetings. Libraries encourage us to grow and to connect with others. They are essential to a good quality of life.

Additional Comments

I would like to add a note about why I answered "no" to the question regarding being open 7 days a week. I am not opposed to the idea in theory - but to make a commitment - I would need more information on the cost and the impact to library staff. I would be open to setting that as a goal and working on a plan to get us to that goal.