

# FACTS about Sonoma County Library's possible funding renewal

*"Libraries are safe and welcoming places with qualified librarians where children can read and learn"* — Erika Thibault, Library Director

Our Library is a cornerstone institution for our quality of life in Sonoma County. Our youth, seniors, community groups and schools all rely on our Library to provide books, educational programs and a safe place to gather.

## Continuing funding with a tax renewal will:

1. Support youth reading, homework and literacy programs
2. Keep qualified librarians and staff
3. Maintain books, materials, library facilities and digital collections

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The independent Sonoma County Library Commission is considering placing a sales tax renewal measure on the November 2024 ballot. If adopted, the measure would continue the Library's dedicated funding stream - which originally passed as Measure Y in 2016.

# 40%

Nearly 40 percent of all Library funding comes from this source. A new measure would keep this funding in place, with all dollars going toward our local libraries. There are no new taxes with a renewal.



## Our Library Means So Much to Our Community:

- 15 libraries, most open 7 days a week
- 2.7 million physical check-outs last year
- 1.3 million digital check-outs last year
- 1.2 million In-person visits last year
- 119,000 attendees to our programs last year
- 730 state and county park passes to lend
- 1,800 lendable devices that increase internet access
- Bilingual website, outreach and collections
- BiblioBus with 38 stops in March alone
- 47 percent of Sonoma County residents are Library card holders
- A safe place for children, teens and community groups serving all ages

## Q What is this I'm hearing about a new Library tax?

The Sonoma County Library Commission is exploring placing a sales tax renewal measure on the ballot. If adopted, the measure would continue the library's dedicated funding stream, which originally passed as Measure Y in 2016.

## Q Who decides on the sales tax renewal and when would it be?

It would be a countywide measure placed on the November 2024 ballot, requiring two-thirds support for passage.

## Q Why do we need this tax for our Library system?

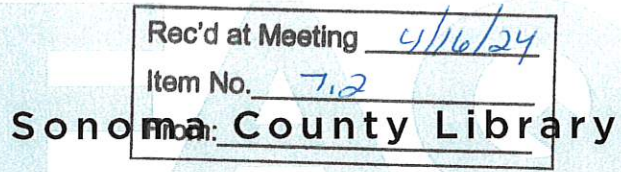
Currently 40% of all Library funding comes from this source. Originally passed in 2016, the current funding will expire after 10 years and Library administrators have to start planning now if we lose this funding.

A new measure would keep the funding in place, with all dollars going towards our local libraries. There are no new taxes with a renewal.

## Q How would the Library spend the money if the measure passes?

### *Continuing funding with a tax renewal will:*

1. Support youth reading, homework and literacy programs
2. Keep qualified librarians and staff
3. Maintain books, materials and digital collections, and modernize libraries
4. Continue senior, disabled and children's services
5. Protect hours seven days a week



## Q What happens if the tax renewal fails?

If the Library loses 40% of its funding, we are looking at severe staff and program cuts, which will likely lead to reduced hours at branches, like we had in 2014-2015. Our Library system and free services would have to shrink substantially.

## Q If cities and county provide the branch buildings, what does the Library pay for?

The Library pays for all the books and other collections, all the staff and systems used to share those collections with the public, and is continually investing in improving library branches and technology, such as free high-speed WiFi and laptops to lend.

## Q My local branch is old and outdated. Will this measure fix it?

Yes, if the Library knows future funding is secured, we can further invest in supporting and modernizing libraries. This requires years of advance planning, and it is critical that we know if this tax measure will continue to support the Library system so we can invest in facilities, technology and other public amenities.

## Q How do I get involved?

Great question! For more information, please contact us at [libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org)



Please contact us with questions at:  
[libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org](mailto:libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org)  
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