
NEWS RELEASE



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New Sumner Pierce County Library headed for August Primary Election

PIERCE COUNTY, Washington – This month, the Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees and the City of Sumner Council passed resolutions to ask voters to fund a new [Sumner Pierce County Library](#). The ballot measure is expected to be in the **Aug. 1 Primary Election**.

“After many years of planning for a new library in Sumner, this formal step is progress in making a possibility a reality,” said Library Executive Director Gretchen Caserotti. “Knowing the library needs to move from the existing building, a new library in the heart of town will make the library more accessible to residents. In addition, studies have shown communities with libraries add to thriving economies and a good quality of life.”

The ballot measure would create a Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) and bonds to construct a new Sumner Library building. The LCFA would be an independent taxing district, separate from the City, the Library System and Pierce County, for the sole purpose of funding a new Sumner Library. The Library System would oversee the building construction, and then manage and operate the Sumner Library.

The Library System estimates the total project cost at \$19 million in today’s market, for an up to 20,000 square foot building. \$15 million of the funding would come from bonds, if voters approve an LCFA and bond ballot measure. In addition, the Library System is committed to contributing \$5 million through a variety of sources, including private donations, which helped to reduce the amount of the bonds.

The City of Sumner purchased 1.67 acres for the new library, which subsequently the Library System bought from the city. The centrally located library, planned for Main Street East, would be inclusive and local, with spaces and services to meet community needs.

With \$15 million in bonds, the homeowner of the average assessed home in Sumner would invest approximately \$10 per month in additional property taxes for the new library. The average home in Sumner has an assessed value of approximately \$514,000.

If voters do not approve the measure, the Library System would look for space to lease to serve as a Sumner Library. The space would be based upon availability and suitability.

The current Sumner Library needs to move because its current location, which the City of Sumner owns, requires costly repairs, is undersized for the population it serves and does not meet current needs, and it is difficult to access. The Library System’s lease in the current Sumner Library building expires in 2024.

In 2019 and again earlier this year, the Library System engaged with thousands of Sumner area residents and heard their ideas for spaces and services in a new library. The spaces and services in a new building would reflect this input and the residences’ needs and values for their community library.

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Residents expressed an interest in a library that would be a multi-generational center for learning, enjoyment and community. The new library would have individual spaces for toddlers to gain literacy skills, for children and families to read and learn, a zone for teens to study and collaborate, places for jobseekers and entrepreneurs to hone their skills, and areas for people of all ages to connect.

More information: sumlib.pcls.us

About the Pierce County Library System

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 655,000 people throughout Pierce County with 19 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than one million books, e-books, audiobooks, movies and other materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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