

Overview

- The Mayor has submitted a budget to the Assembly that maintains existing funding with no cuts. We are incredibly grateful to receive steady support during this challenging time.
- The proposal for the new alcohol tax fully funds the Library's Community Resource program (1 coordinator, 2 assistants and a peer navigator program) + an early literacy outreach librarian. This is HUGE and will allow the Library to do great things.
- Despite this support, the Library has two great unmet needs, made even more urgent by the COVID-19 crisis: **increased funding for digital materials** (\$100,000) and an **additional IT Coordinator** (\$121,000) to help manage the Library's complex IT needs.

What You Need to Do

- Write an email or testify to the Anchorage Assembly in support of maintaining library funds in the alcohol tax and supporting the two proposed increases for materials and IT.
- Use the sample email below or write your own message – the more personal, the better.
- Take action **between October 27-November 4**.

Need for Materials Budget Increase (\$100,000)

- Due to COVID, there is increased demand for digital materials, which cost 50% to 200% more than a physical book. Also, in 2020 we purchased new online services for distance learners and homeschoolers that will be discontinued in 2021 without additional funding.
- Our entire materials budget for 2021 (including books, media, and digital resources) is \$905K. Ten years ago, it was \$921K, so we are not even keeping up with inflation.
- We lag far behind our peers - Anchorage spends \$3.13 per capita on materials; Fairbanks spends \$6.23 and Juneau \$7.25.

Need for Library IT Coordinator (\$121K)

- Nearly all of the Library's COVID responses have relied on technology (curbside, laptops for checkout, remote book locker and more) and we have only one person on staff with the skillset to do this work, thereby causing delays in desperately needed new services.
- The Library will soon open a remote book locker in South Anchorage and make 50 laptops and 90 MiFis (personal WiFi) available for checkout; we will not be able to support these services without increased IT support.

How to Share Your Opinion

- Send an email to the entire Anchorage Assembly at: wwmas@muni.org
- Sign up to testify by phone at the Oct. 27 or Nov. 4 budget hearings: <http://www.muni.org/departments/assembly/Pages/default.aspx>

Template for Email Message

Dear Anchorage Assembly Members,

Thank you so much for your incredible support of the Anchorage Public Library this year.

[Write about how you have benefited from the Library during COVID-19 or in general].

I'm grateful that the Mayor's budget contains no cuts to the Library and funds much-needed programs through the alcohol tax.

However, despite this support, the Library has two great unmet needs, made even more urgent by the COVID-19 crisis: **increased funding for digital materials** and an **additional IT Coordinator** to help manage the Library's complex IT needs.

I am writing to ask for your support in adding these two items to the Library's 2021 budget at a cost of \$221,000.

- Your Name
Address or Zip Code