



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Whatcom County Library System**  
**January 20, 2026**

Via Teams and Ferndale Library  
2125 Main Street  
Ferndale, WA 98248

**WCLS Vision:** *An engaged community where curiosity is cultivated, literacy flourishes and democratic ideals thrive.*

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1. 9:00 a.m.      **Call to Order.** Quorum determined.
2. 9:05 a.m.      **Open Public Comment Opportunity**  
*This period is set aside for persons wishing to address the Board. Each person may have up to three minutes for this purpose. Written comments may be submitted to [Allyson.McBride@wcls.org](mailto:Allyson.McBride@wcls.org) prior to the meeting.*
3. 9:10 a.m.      **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Meeting Minutes
  - b. Expenditures
  - c. Management Excess Vacation Leave Carry Forward
4. 9:15 a.m.      **Financial Report and Resolutions**
  - a. Finance Committee Report
5. 9:25 a.m.      **Strategic Planning**
6. 9:45 a.m.      **Policy Update**
  - a. Shared Sick Leave Policy 12.55
7. 10:00 a.m.     **One Book, One Coast Partnership Agreement**
8. 10:10 a.m.     **BREAK**
9. 10:20 a.m.     **Staff Reports**
10. 10:50 a.m.    **Performance Measures and Committee Reports**
11. 11:00 a.m.    **Announcements and Adjourn**
  - a. Recognition of Rodney Lofdahl

*Board of Trustees Meetings are open to the public in accordance with RCW 42.30. The Board is currently holding meetings with options for in-person or remote participation. Persons wishing to be provided with an internet link or telephone number to access the meeting are asked to please email [Allyson.McBride@wcls.org](mailto:Allyson.McBride@wcls.org) before 4:00 p.m. Monday, January 19, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to [Allyson.McBride@wcls.org](mailto:Allyson.McBride@wcls.org) prior to the meeting.*



## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/20/2026
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Consent Agenda – Board Meeting Minutes, Monthly Expenditures, Management Leave Carry Forward
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Approval of consent agenda items

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** Move approval of consent agenda items as presented

### Summary:

#### Meeting Minutes

- December 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

#### Expenditures

##### General Fund:

- November 16-30, 2025 payroll: check nos. 1045329736-1045329740 and voucher nos. 564711-564858 totaling \$236,274.11 and December 1-15, 2025 payroll: check nos. 1045530141-1045530147 and voucher nos. 564863-565010 totaling \$253,085.92.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$94,268.25; \$47,789.60 of this is for employee-funded contributions to dental and vision insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, and PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2025-48G: warrant nos. 1268104-1268120 totaling \$39,773.51
- Claim 2025-49G: warrant nos. 1268385-1268397 totaling \$118,032.51
- Claim 2025-50G: warrant nos. 1268622-1268655 totaling \$135,664.24
- Claim 2025-51G: warrant nos. 1269357-1269381 totaling \$53,238.08
- Claim 2025-52G: warrant nos. 1269603-1269618 totaling \$70,573.34

##### Capital Fund:

- Claim 2025-23C: warrant no. 1268121 totaling \$4,123.52
- Claim 2025-24C: warrant no. 1268398 totaling \$77,464.80
- Claim 2025-25C: warrant no. 1268656 totaling \$2,729.61
- Claim 2025-26C: warrant nos. 1269382-1269385 totaling \$95,039.52
- Claim 2025-27C: warrant no. 1269619 totaling \$4,306.03

#### Management Leave Carry Forward

According to the Management Benefits and Leave Policy, accrued vacation leave in excess of 240 hours can be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year with approval from the Board of Trustees. The following vacation balances in excess of the carryover maximum are approved by the Board of Trustees for use in 2026:

- Christine Perkins: 14.5 hours (note that Christine canceled planned time off in December due to the flooding event)

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** Expenditures for approval paid from available 2025 budgeted funds.

**Comments:** The Finance Committee has reviewed the General and Capital Fund claims listed above. They reviewed 3 General Journal entries made in December.

## Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

December 16, 2025

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### Location

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This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at Blaine Library 610 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Blaine, WA, 98230.

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### In Attendance

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**Trustees:** Rodney Lofdahl, Chair; Matthew Santos, Vice Chair; John Miller and Jes Stugelmayer. Absent: Danielle Gaughen, Secretary.

**Staff:** Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager; Dianne Marrs-Smith, Birch Bay and Lynden Library Manager and Friends of the Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) President; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Allyson McBride Records Management Specialist & Executive Assistant; Emma Radosevich, Collection Development Librarian.

**Guests:** Karyna Orcutt and Annika Grande, WA State Auditor's Office

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### Call to Order

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Rod determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., followed by a reading of the WCLS Land Acknowledgement by Christine.

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### Open Public Comment

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No public comment.

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### Consent Agenda

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The Consent Agenda included minutes of the November 18, 2025, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as well as the following:

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- October 16-31, 2025 payroll: check nos. 1044984730-1044984734 and voucher nos. 564396-564544 totaling \$250,948.04 and November 1-15, 2025 payroll: check nos. 1045149599-1045149603 and voucher nos. 564549-564697 totaling \$241,809.41.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$85,519.55; \$44,084.85 of this is for employee-funded contributions to dental and vision insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, and PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).

- Claim 2025-44G: warrant nos. 1266723-1266740 totaling \$38,800.83
- Claim 2025-45G: warrant nos. 1266929-1266947 totaling \$117,131.59
- Claim 2025-46G: warrant nos. 1267048-1267088 totaling \$94,837.55
- Claim 2025-47G: warrant nos. 1267793-1267823 totaling \$71,207.39

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2025-19C: warrant no. 1266741 totaling \$1,177.22
- Claim 2025-20C: warrant no. 1267089 totaling \$1,254.76
- Claim 2025-21C: warrant no. 1267090 totaling \$307.50
- Claim 2025-22C: warrant no. 1267824 totaling \$4,631.91

***Rod moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded. Unanimous board approval.***

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Financial Report and Resolutions: Finance Committee Report

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Karyna Orcutt and Annika Grande from the Washington State Auditor's Office joined the meeting. They introduced the current audit process that is taking place, covering fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Karyna and Annika provided documentation of the current audit scope, including the two separate audits taking place this year. One of the audits is an Accountability Audit, which focuses on compliance and safeguarding of assets. The second audit being conducted is a Financial Statement audit. Annika is meeting with Jackie on a weekly basis. The guests confirmed that they hope to conclude the audits in January, at which point they will offer an exit conference, similar to today's entrance conference. Rod thanked Karyna and Annika for sharing. The guests left the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

Jackie reviewed her report, including the November Notes and Highlights section. She noted that there haven't been significant changes to report on. Jackie attended County Council Committee meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and confirmed that the levy amount resulting from the lid lift was included in the packet that will be presented to the state Department of Revenue.

Jackie confirmed that there have been adjustments made to the 2026 preliminary budget that was presented in November 2025 Board meeting. Whatcom County Library Foundation recently passed their budget which included a small amount of revenue for WCLS; this is now reflected in the 2026 budget. Something to keep in mind is that the County office is inviting those who have had 2025 flood damage to submit claims, which could bring down property evaluations, potentially reducing the 2026 levy which is based on the voter approved rate of \$0.42. Further information will come in the beginning of 2026, and the budget will be adjusted if need be. Jackie reviewed changes to expense items, and the impact of these changes on the ending fund balance. The Capital plan does not include any potential repairs or updates for the Sumas flood damage, a budget update will reflect any expenses added. Rod requested confirmation on whether there are any changes to the schedule of fines and fees. Jackie confirmed that there are no changes and has been this way since the last update in 2021. John complimented Jackie on the details included in the report.

***John moved to approve Resolution No. 12/16/25-20. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

***Matthew moved to approve Resolution No. 12/16/25-21. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

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Policy Updates

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**Hours of Work Policy 12.12** – Jackie presented this policy update, which is revised to include Discretionary Time off in the statement that *use of paid sick, vacation, personal or discretionary time off will not result in an employee exceeding their budgeted hours*. It also includes a provision for how staff without budgeted hours will use this leave.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 12.12 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

**Unpaid Personal Leave Policy 12.21** – Jackie presented this policy update, which is revised to state that employees may retain Discretionary Time Off when taking unpaid leave.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 12.21 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

**Family Medical Leave Policy 12.23** – Jackie and Beth presented this policy update, which was revised to include Discretionary Time Off. The update also removed the 6-month probationary period to use vacation time as there is no longer a wait period for new WCLS employees.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 12.23 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

**Domestic Violence Policy 12.24** – Jackie presented this policy update, which was revised to include Discretionary Time Off in Section D, Item 2: Leave Pay and Accrual.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 12.24 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

**Temporary Adverse Working Conditions Policy 12.45** – Jackie presented this policy update, which now includes Discretionary Time Off as an option for Non-Bargaining Unit employees to use.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 12.45 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

**Public Records Policy 21.01** – Jackie presented this policy update, which clarifies that, in addition to holiday closures, records are not available during other times when Administrative Services is closed to the public, such as weather-related closures.

***Rod moved to approve the updated 21.01 Policy, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

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#### Northfork Update

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Christine informed the Board about an incident that took place at the North Fork Library which included an individual filming other patrons while conducting a first amendment audit.

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#### Flood Update

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Christine presented photos of the Sumas flood impact to the Board. Christine gave thanks to Paul Fullner, Everson and Sumas Branch Manager, Ryan Cullup and Mark Barrett, Facilities Management Coordinator, for

arriving at the Sumas branch before the beginning of the flooding, allowing them to lift many books, furniture and other materials to avoid water damage. WCLS also thanks the staff who came to Sumas on Saturday, December 13, to help salvage books, furniture, IT equipment and more. PPE was provided for all those who assisted with the salvaging process. Christine also thanked Sno-Isle Library System for providing wooden carts for WCLS to load the collection on. After surveillance review, it was recorded that within two hours there was 17 inches of water in the library.

The Board discussed what the next steps should be for renovations as well as what potential solutions for service may look like while we wait for the building to be restored. Christine will begin conversations with the City of Sumas to get some of the Board's questions answered and a better timeline in place.

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#### Break

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Rod adjourned for a break from 10:40 - 10:50 a.m.

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#### Strategic Planning Discussion

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The Board continued discussions around the Strategic Planning Process starting in 2026. Jes agreed that attending community events could have beneficial outcomes and present an opportunity to reach a more diverse range of community members. The group started to discuss potential questions that could be included in a survey for the public. Christine shared a draft version of a 2026 calendar. The Board reviewed the draft and encouraged looking at Whatcom County events that are already scheduled so that WCLS can plan on attending some.

Christine shared an activity with the Board called "No Brainers" that she requested they all take some time to complete before the next meeting in order to help with this planning process. Matthew asked the Board if they would like to determine a Board meeting date in March to fully focus on Strategic Planning. The group agreed to wait until January to plan that date but will be sure to do it then.

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#### Staff Reports: Executive Director

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In addition to her written report, Christine highlighted an article regarding the Llano, TX Library System. The District Court approved allowing the County Board to have control over making decisions around library materials. The Supreme Court refused to look at this decision, which allowed the District Court to move forward with the approval. This article is quite recent so more information will continue to come out regarding the impact this could have on other systems. Christine will continue to monitor, and she will provide the article to the Board.

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#### Staff Reports: Deputy Director

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In the written report, Michael highlighted the Lynden Library. The Lynden branch manager, Dianne Marrs-Smith, attended this Board meeting and had an opportunity to discuss the report. Dianne wanted to highlight that it has been encouraging to see many patrons coming back to the library and increasing engagement. When looking at 10-year review of patron attendance, Dianne confirmed that Lynden is on an upswing, especially after COVID shutdowns. She was also happy to report that Lynden branch staff are doing well.

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#### Staff Reports: Youth Services Manager

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Thom had no further comments on his report.

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## Staff Reports: Community Relations Manager

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Mary had no further comments on her report.

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## Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Performance Measures

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Christine asked the Board if they would like to continue to have Physical Circulation totals broken down between disc materials and all other materials. The Board confirmed that they would like to continue to monitor this information. Physical Circulation stats will continue to be pulled and defined as disc materials and all other materials.

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## Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

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The Personnel Committee reported that John and Rod interviewed three candidates for the open Trustee position. They identified J. Riley Sweeney as the top candidate.

***Rod moved to recommend J. Riley Sweeney to fill the upcoming trustee position vacancy. Seconded. Passed unanimously.***

Rod will send a letter to the Whatcom County Executive sharing the Board's recommendation.

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## Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Whatcom County Library Foundation

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No comments were made.

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## Announcements and Adjourn

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Christine requested that Jes, Matthew and Mary work on finding a marketing committee meeting date in January.

Rod adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

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## Next Meeting

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The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on January 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. online via Microsoft Teams and in person at Ferndale Library, 2125 Main St., Ferndale, WA, 98248.

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Danielle Gaughen, Board  
Secretary

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01/20/2026

Date

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Allyson McBride, Exec. Assistant



## 2025 Incident Reports

- Total of 54 incidents reported in 2025, down from 96 in 2024 and 70 in 2023.
- Most incidents occurred at Ferndale (17), Blaine (14), and Lynden (9).
- Most recurring incidents were patron accidents or illness (14) and harassment or threat to another patron (10).
- Three suspensions and five trespasses were issued in 2025. In 2024, eleven suspensions and five trespasses were issued.

	AS	BL	DE	EV	FE	LY	NF	PR	SU	Total
Staff Injury or Illness	1	1	1			2				5
Vehicle Accident										0
Damage/Theft of Patron Property										0
Damage/Theft of WCLS Property	1				1					2
Disruptive Behavior		1					1			2
Graffiti/Damage to Building not owned by WCLS				1	4	2				7
Harassment/Threat to Patron		7		2	1					10
Harassment/Threat to Staff	1	1			3					5
Minor Left After Closing										0
Patron Accident/Injury/Illness		1	2	1	5	4		1		14
Suspicious Activity/Object		2		1	1				1	5
Other*		1			2	1				4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>

*No incidents were reported at Birch Bay, Island, or South Whatcom Libraries, or in Mobile Services*

<b>*Other</b>	BL	FE	LY
Tent set up in parking lot		1	
Suspected gas leak			1
Trespassed patron in the library	1	1	

**2025 Debt Write-Off**

In accordance with policy 20.13 Write-off of Uncollectable Debts, a summary of debts written off in 2025 is provided below. A new write-off reason, transition from youth to adult patron, was added in 2024 per Resolution 06/18/24-05. The 2025 total of \$45,388.96 is up from \$35,985 in 2024.

<b>2025 Debt Write Off</b>	
\$40,312.15	Removal of debt older than six years
\$434.20	ConnectEd accounts cleared annually
\$0.00	Deceased patron accounts cleared
\$0.00	Educator waives
\$4,642.61	Youth to adult transition
\$45,388.96	Total

**2025 Small Works Awards**

In accordance with policy 20.04 Purchasing and Contracting, a list of public works contracts awarded under the Small Works Roster Process is provided to the Board of Trustees annually.

<b>2025 Small Works Awards</b>			
<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Scott Electric	\$36,325.71	9/23/25	Administrative Services Lighting retrofit



## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/20/2026
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Strategic Planning
Prepared By:	Christine Perkins
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Discussion only.

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** N/A

**Summary:**

As we begin our strategic planning process, let's start with WHY we are doing the strategic plan – what are we hoping to accomplish by this effort? Here are some suggestions:

- Provide excellent, relevant service to people in Whatcom County
- Increase number of people who receive value from WCLS services
- Increase number of people who perceive value of WCLS services
- Set WCLS up for maximum approval of next levy lid lift
- Build resilience to withstand emergencies / disasters / financial hardships
- Improve system infrastructure (facilities, staffing, technology) to support big picture goals

Do these goals resonate? Is anything missing? Should any be deleted? Refined?

What is our vision for WCLS in 5 years? 10 years? 20 years?

Next, let's look at the "no brainers" – major projects or goals that seem obvious that we need to include in our next plan.

Finally, let's select a date for our Board retreat to dig into Strategic Planning in earnest.

**Alternatives:** As discussed.

**Fiscal Impact:** TBD.

**Comments:** None



## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/20/2026
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Shared Sick Leave Policy 12.55 Update
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Approval of update to Shared Sick Leave Policy 12.55

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** Approve update to Shared Sick Leave Policy 12.55

**Summary:** This policy update is intended to clarify the language around use of shared sick leave and eliminate components of the policy that are no longer relevant, including reference to the Union Shared Leave Bank. It updates the definition of close relative to mirror the Sick Leave Policy 12.22 and state guidelines. The policy is updated to include discretionary time off as another accrued leave type that must be exhausted before shared sick leave can be used.

The Shared Sick Leave Program predates Washington Paid Family Medical Leave, so the policy is updated to reflect how it is used in combination with the State program.

Lastly, the policy is updated to include a statement clarifying that the intention of the program is to support employees so they can ultimately return to work, and that WCLS reserves the right to request reimbursement if the employee does not return to work (unless failure to return is beyond the control of the employee).

**Alternatives:** Leave policy as is

**Fiscal Impact:** None -- this policy update clarifies how the Shared Sick Leave Program can be used.

**Comments:** none



## SHARED SICK LEAVE POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 12.55

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all WCLS employees.

~~It is in the best interests of Whatcom County Library System to establish a bank of shared leave hours for Whatcom County Library System employees who need paid time off in response to health catastrophes affecting themselves or their close relatives. This leave may only be requested after an employee has utilized all other available paid leave, and has applied for Washington Paid Family & Medical Leave (WPFML), accrued leave, Union Shared Leave Bank while a balance remains, and/or Workers' Compensation as applicable. All paid leave shall be taken simultaneously with FMLA leave when eligible. Shared leave may be used to make up the gap between short- or long-term disability insurance or other coverage (if applicable) or to bring the employee's wages to 100% during their absence from work.~~

~~This Shared Sick Leave Bank replaces the Union Shared Leave Bank once the Union Banked Leave Share Pool balance has been depleted. Union members requesting leave will first access the Union Banked Leave Share Pool if applicable and available. Any future donations of shared sick leave will be made to this Shared Sick Leave Bank.~~

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Shared Sick Leave Program is to be able to help staff members make up for lost wages for a period of time while they are unable to work due to an eligible event that affects themselves or their close relatives, when they do not have other paid leave available to them.

A bank of shared leave hours is established for WCLS employees who need paid time off in response to significant health events or other eligible reasons as outlined in the Sick Leave Policy 12.22 affecting themselves or their close relatives. This leave may only be requested after an employee has utilized all other available paid leave and has applied for Washington Paid Family & Medical leave (WAPFML) and/or Workers' Compensation as applicable. All paid leave shall be taken simultaneously with FMLA leave when eligible. Shared leave may be used to make up the gap between short- or long-term disability insurance or other coverage (as applicable) or to bring the employee's wages to 100% during their absence from work.

This shared sick leave bank replaces the Union shared leave bank.

### DEFINITIONS

*Close relative:* employee's spouse or domestic partner; employee's child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling (including biological, adopted, foster, step or legal guardian); and the child, parent, and sibling of the spouse or domestic partner of the employee. This also includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the employee care for the person, and that individual depends on the employee for care. It does not include an individual who simply resides in the same home with no expectation that the employee care for the individual. ,as further outlined in RCW 49.46.210(2).

*Eligible event:* a significant physical or mental health event or condition affecting an employee or employee's close relative such as extreme illness, injury or other impairment, or a recurring health condition that requires repeated and/or prolonged absences from work, which, without shared leave, would cause the employee to go on extended leave without pay or terminate employment.

*FMLA:* Family Medical Leave Act: federal legislation that provides eligible employees with job-protected leave to attend to qualifying medical events.

*WPFML:* Washington Paid Family Medical Leave: state legislation that provides eligible employees with paid leave for qualifying medical events.

*L&I:* Washington State Department of Labor & Industries, also referred to as Worker's Compensation, which covers injuries sustained while working.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

An employee must have successfully passed their 9-month probationary period and their one-year performance evaluation to be eligible to apply for shared leave. An employee must be unable to work or telework for a period of three days or more, and must first exhaust their own paid sick leave, personal days, ~~and~~ vacation leave, or discretionary time off as applicable.

## **LEAVE ALLOWANCE**

- Full-time staff may be granted up to a maximum of 960 hours of shared leave during their lifetime at WCLS.
- The maximum number of hours a part-time staff may be granted is pro-rated based on their regular budgeted hours.
- The use of shared sick leave, when combined with other leave types including accrued paid leave, Washington Paid Family Medical Leave, Family Medical Leave, Workers Compensation, unpaid personal leave or any other leave type, cannot result in an absence that exceeds nine consecutive months.

## **ELIGIBLE REASONS FOR USE**

An eligible event (as defined above) affecting the employee or an employee's close relative's physical or mental health condition that precludes the employee's ability to work or telework will be considered an eligible reason to apply for shared leave.

## **CERTIFICATION**

WCLS may require certification from a licensed health care provider or other authority to verify the qualifying reason for leave. Staff members requesting leave must be prepared to provide a statement from a health care provider verifying the nature and expected duration of the condition.

## **RETURN TO WORK**

Shared sick leave is donated by WCLS staff with the intention of supporting colleagues through a difficult time in order to get them back to work rather than forfeit their position. A staff member who does not return to work after use of shared sick leave may be required to reimburse the shared sick leave pool, unless failure to return is beyond the control of the staff member.

## CONDITIONS

1. Employees with a total of less than 240 hours of sick leave (prorated for part-time staff) may donate no more than 10% of their accrued leave. Employees with a total of more than 240 hours of sick leave (prorated for part-time staff) may donate up to 20% of their accrued leave. In either case, donating employees must retain at least forty hours of sick leave.
2. Employees who are separating from employment in good standing with WCLS may choose to donate up to 10% of their accrued sick leave at the time of separation to the shared sick leave bank using the [Accrued Sick Leave Donation Form – Separating Employees](#). Donated leave will reduce the employee's leave balance that is retained by the Library for one year from their date of separation, and will not be reinstated to the employee if they return to employment.
3. The Human Resources Manager will solicit paid leave donations to the shared sick leave bank whenever the pool balance dips below forty hours.
4. No differentiation will be made between the salary level of the donor and the recipient for purposes of donation or payment of salaries for leave recipients.
5. Employees wishing to donate leave shall send an [Accrued Sick Leave Donation Form – Current Employees](#) to the Human Resources Manager or designee.
6. The minimum donation is four hours.
7. No employee shall be coerced, threatened, intimidated, or financially induced into donating leave.
8. Donations to, and requests for leave from, the Shared Sick Leave Program shall be confidential. An employee requesting shared leave may choose to make their identity known, at their discretion.
9. Per IRS guidelines, donors give in general to the shared sick leave bank and may not specify which employee may receive their donated hours.
10. Per IRS guidelines, employees who deposit leave may not claim an expense, charitable contribution, or loss deduction in the amount of deposited leave.

11. This Leave may only be requested after an employee has utilized all other available paid leave, and has applied for Washington Paid Family & Medical leave (WAPFML) and/or Workers' Compensation as applicable.

12. All paid leave shall be taken simultaneously with FMLA leave when eligible.

11-13. Requests to receive shared leave shall be submitted to the Human Resources Manager using the [Shared Sick Leave Request Form](#) as soon as possible. The minimum amount of shared leave that may be requested is four hours. The Executive Director will review all requests and make the final decision to approve or deny such requests. In the event a union member's request may be denied, the Executive Director will consult with the Union President before making a final determination.

~~12.14.~~ The Payroll ~~Specialist-Administrator~~ shall apply shared leave hours to employees who have been approved for shared leave. Use of donated shared leave shall be based on the recipient's scheduled hours.

~~13.15.~~ A full-time employee may receive a maximum of 960 hours of leave under this Shared Sick Leave Program during their tenure at WCLS. Maximum eligibility for part-time employees will be pro-rated based on their budgeted hours.

~~14.16.~~ In the event that there are insufficient donations to meet the shared sick leave requested, the remaining hours in the shared sick leave bank shall be applied to employees on a first-requested, first served basis, based on date of request.

~~15.17.~~ Benefit coverage during shared leave will be determined by the terms and conditions of the applicable provider contracts, including retirement. Holiday leave will continue to be paid; sick leave ~~and vacation, and discretionary time off~~ will not be accrued on hours of shared sick leave applied.

~~16.18.~~ The provisions of this policy are a supplement to, and do not supersede any applicable provisions in the current bargaining agreement.

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**RELATED POLICIES:** [Unpaid Leave Policy 12.21](#); [Sick Leave Policy 12.22](#); [Family and Medical Leave \(FMLA\) Policy 12.23](#).

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#### APPROVALS AND UPDATES

Date	Action	Reviewer	Approved By	Approval Signature
March 15, 2022	Adopted.	-	Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees	/s/ Marvin Waschke
April 19, 2022	Revised.	-	Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees	/s/ Marvin Waschke
<u>January 20, 2026</u>	<u>Revised.</u>	<u>Jackie Saul</u>	<u>Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees</u>	<u>/s/ Rodney Lofdahl</u>





## SHARED SICK LEAVE POLICY

**POLICY NUMBER: 12.55**

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### SCOPE

This policy applies to all WCLS employees.

All

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Shared Sick Leave Program is to be able to help staff members make up for lost wages for a period of time while they are unable to work due to an eligible event that affects themselves or their close relatives, when they do not have other paid leave available to them.

A bank of shared leave hours is established for WCLS employees who need paid time off in response to significant health events or other eligible reasons as outlined in the Sick Leave Policy 12.22 affecting themselves or their close relatives. This leave may only be requested after an employee has utilized all other available paid leave and has applied for Washington Paid Family & Medical leave (WAPFML) and/or Workers' Compensation as applicable. All paid leave shall be taken simultaneously with FMLA leave when eligible. Shared leave may be used to make up the gap between short- or long-term disability insurance or other coverage (as applicable) or to bring the employee's wages to 100% during their absence from work.

This shared sick leave bank replaces the Union shared leave bank.

### DEFINITIONS

*Close relative:* employee's spouse or domestic partner; employee's child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling (including biological, adopted, foster, step or legal guardian); and the child, parent, and sibling of the spouse or domestic partner of the employee. This also includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the employee care for the person, and that individual depends on the employee for care. It does not include an individual who simply resides in the same home with no expectation that the employee care for the individual.

*Eligible event:* a significant physical or mental health event or condition affecting an employee or employee's close relative such as extreme illness, injury or other impairment, or a recurring health condition that requires repeated and/or prolonged absences from work, which, without shared leave, would cause the employee to go on extended leave without pay or terminate employment.

*FMLA:* Family Medical Leave Act: federal legislation that provides eligible employees with job-protected leave to attend to qualifying medical events.

*WPFML:* Washington Paid Family Medical Leave: state legislation that provides eligible employees with paid leave for qualifying medical events.

L&I: Washington State Department of Labor & Industries, also referred to as Worker's Compensation, which covers injuries sustained while working.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

An employee must have successfully passed their 9-month probationary period and their one-year performance evaluation to be eligible to apply for shared leave. An employee must be unable to work or telework for a period of three days or more, and must first exhaust their own paid sick leave, personal days, vacation leave, or discretionary time off as applicable.

### **LEAVE ALLOWANCE**

- Full-time staff may be granted up to a maximum of 960 hours of shared leave during their lifetime at WCLS.
- The maximum number of hours a part-time staff may be granted is pro-rated based on their regular budgeted hours.
- The use of shared sick leave, when combined with other leave types including accrued paid leave, Washington Paid Family Medical Leave, Family Medical Leave, Workers Compensation, unpaid personal leave or any other leave type, cannot result in an absence that exceeds nine consecutive months.

### **ELIGIBLE REASONS FOR USE**

An eligible event (as defined above) affecting the employee or an employee's close relative's physical or mental health condition that precludes the employee's ability to work or telework will be considered an eligible reason to apply for shared leave.

### **CERTIFICATION**

WCLS may require certification from a licensed health care provider or other authority to verify the qualifying reason for leave. Staff members requesting leave must be prepared to provide a statement from a health care provider verifying the nature and expected duration of the condition.

### **RETURN TO WORK**

Shared sick leave is donated by WCLS staff with the intention of supporting colleagues through a difficult time in order to get them back to work rather than forfeit their position. A staff member who does not return to work after use of shared sick leave may be required to reimburse the shared sick leave pool, unless failure to return is beyond the control of the staff member.

### **CONDITIONS**

1. Employees with a total of less than 240 hours of sick leave (prorated for part-time staff) may donate no more than 10% of their accrued leave. Employees with a total of more than 240 hours of sick leave (prorated for part-time staff) may donate up to 20% of their accrued leave. In either case, donating employees must retain at least forty hours of sick leave.
2. Employees who are separating from employment in good standing with WCLS may choose to donate up to 10% of their accrued sick leave at the time of separation to the shared sick leave bank using the [Accrued Sick Leave Donation Form – Separating Employees](#). Donated leave will reduce the

employee's leave balance that is retained by the Library for one year from their date of separation, and will not be reinstated to the employee if they return to employment.

3. The Human Resources Manager will solicit paid leave donations to the shared sick leave bank whenever the pool balance dips below forty hours.
4. No differentiation will be made between the salary level of the donor and the recipient for purposes of donation or payment of salaries for leave recipients.
5. Employees wishing to donate leave shall send an [Accrued Sick Leave Donation Form – Current Employees](#) to the Human Resources Manager or designee.
6. The minimum donation is four hours.
7. No employee shall be coerced, threatened, intimidated, or financially induced into donating leave.
8. Donations to, and requests for leave from, the Shared Sick Leave Program shall be confidential. An employee requesting shared leave may choose to make their identity known, at their discretion.
9. Per IRS guidelines, donors give in general to the shared sick leave bank and may not specify which employee may receive their donated hours.
10. Per IRS guidelines, employees who deposit leave may not claim an expense, charitable contribution, or loss deduction in the amount of deposited leave.
11. This Leave may only be requested after an employee has utilized all other available paid leave, and has applied for Washington Paid Family & Medical leave (WAPFML) and/or Workers' Compensation as applicable.
12. All paid leave shall be taken simultaneously with FMLA leave when eligible.
13. Requests to receive shared leave shall be submitted to the Human Resources Manager using the [Shared Sick Leave Request Form](#) as soon as possible. The minimum amount of shared leave that may be requested is four hours. The Executive Director will review all requests and make the final decision to approve or deny such requests. In the event a union member's request may be denied, the Executive Director will consult with the Union President before making a final determination.
14. The Payroll Administrator shall apply shared leave hours to employees who have been approved for shared leave. Use of donated shared leave shall be based on the recipient's scheduled hours.
15. A full-time employee may receive a maximum of 960 hours of leave under this Shared Sick Leave Program during their tenure at WCLS. Maximum eligibility for part-time employees will be pro-rated based on their budgeted hours.
16. In the event that there are insufficient donations to meet the shared sick leave requested, the remaining hours in the shared sick leave bank shall be applied to employees on a first-requested, first served basis, based on date of request.

17. Benefit coverage during shared leave will be determined by the terms and conditions of the applicable provider contracts, including retirement. Holiday leave will continue to be paid; sick leave vacation, and discretionary time off will not be accrued on hours of shared sick leave applied.
18. The provisions of this policy are a supplement to, and do not supersede any applicable provisions in the current bargaining agreement.

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**RELATED POLICIES:** [Unpaid Leave Policy 12.21](#); [Sick Leave Policy 12.22](#); [Family and Medical Leave \(FMLA\) Policy 12.23](#).

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#### **APPROVALS AND UPDATES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Approval Signature</b>
March 15, 2022	Adopted.	-	Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees	/s/ Marvin Waschke
April 19, 2022	Revised.	-	Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees	/s/ Marvin Waschke
January 20, 2026	Revised.	Jackie Saul	Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees	/s/ Rodney Lofdahl



## Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/20/2026
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	One Book One Coast Partnership Agreement
Prepared By:	Christine Perkins
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Recommendation or Request:** Authorize Executive Director to sign Partnership Agreement Between LA County Library and WCLS For One Book, One Coast Project.

**Suggested Motion for Consideration:** Move approval to authorize Executive Director to sign Partnership Agreement Between LA County Library and WCLS for One Book, One Coast Project

**Summary:** Los Angeles County Library is coordinating the inaugural “One Book, One Coast Project” to coincide with National Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month in May 2026. They have invited library systems along the Pacific Coast of the United States to participate. Since WCLS’s libraries in Point Roberts and Blaine (and our bookmobile stop in Birch Bay) represent some of the northern-most coastal libraries in the contiguous United States, we want to be part of the action!

LA County Library has done the heavy lifting: selecting a book; securing a commitment from the author to speak, and designing collateral material to advertise the program. They ask that all partners complete a partnership agreement and agree to these terms: promote the selected book and event, purchase copies of the book to loan to local borrowers, and host at least one event in support of the project. These activities can occur within our pre-established budget for 2026. WCLS Adult Programming Coordinator Claire McElroy will be our project lead.

We will publicly announce the book and author at the Whatcom READS keynote event at the Mount Baker Theatre on March 13. The livestream of the One Book, One Coast author talk will be May 31.

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** Allocate some collection expenditures to purchase copies of the book to circulate.

**Comments:** None

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
LA COUNTY LIBRARY AND \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR ONE BOOK, ONE COAST PROJECT**

This Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, by and between **LA County Library**, hereinafter referred to as "Library", and \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as "Partner", collectively referred to as "Parties" or individually referred to as "Party".

In consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions set forth herein, the Parties hereto and each of them do agree as follows:

- 1.0 AUTHORITY:** Library may enter into this Agreement under the delegated authority granted by the County of Los Angeles "County" Board of Supervisors to the County Librarian, or designee, on October 21, 2025, to execute one-year agreements with public or private entities in support of the Library's mission with no cost to the County.
- 2.0 PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agreement is to establish the terms and conditions under which the Partner will participate in the One Book, One Coast Project where the Partner will promote a specific book to its jurisdiction.
- 3.0 TERM OF AGREEMENT:** The term of this Agreement will begin upon execution and expire in one (1) year from execution, subject to Section 6.0.
- 4.0 AMENDMENTS:** This Agreement may be amended by written mutual consent of the Parties, approved as to form by County Counsel.
- 5.0 CONSIDERATION:** Consideration is the public benefit derived from Partner's participation.
- 6.0 TERMINATION:** This Agreement may be terminated for the convenience of either Party by giving ten (10) business days written notice of termination to the Section 21.0 recipient. The terms of this Agreement will survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.
- 7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES: LIBRARY**
  - 7.1 Library will select a specific book to be utilized for the One Book, One Coast Project.
  - 7.2 Library will host a live event with the selected book author at a designated location ("Author Event").
  - 7.3 Library will provide a programming toolkit, which includes book discussion questions, instructions for live streaming the Author Event, additional thematic programming ideas, companion book lists, and a Reading Guide (pdf) for printing by the Partner.
  - 7.4 Library will provide a marketing toolkit, which includes branding guidelines, original One Book, One Coast logo, flyer templates and design guidelines.
  - 7.5 Library will provide an evaluation form for Partner to collect statistics.
- 8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES: PARTNER**
  - 8.1 Partner will participate in the One Book, One Coast Project, including promoting Library's selected book and hosting a live event for Library's selected book ("Partner Event").
  - 8.2 Partner will fund the purchase, distribution and programming of the selected book.
  - 8.3 Partner will designate one staff member as a point of contact, who will coordinate with Library regarding the terms of this Agreement, including without limitation each Party's designated responsibilities.
  - 8.4 Partner will host at least one Partner Event between April 1, 2026, and May 31, 2026, to promote/support the One Book, One Coast Project.

- 8.5 Partner will promote the One Book, One Coast Project through print and digital channels, including marketing individual programs and the larger reading program via media, including but not limited to printable flyers and posts on social media.
- 8.6 Partner will provide program statistics and evaluations for any hosted events.
- 8.7 Partner will provide Library with the proposed location, date, time, and schedule for the live Partner Event. All the aforementioned are subject to Library approval, including any changes.
- 9.0 INDEPENDENT PARTNER STATUS:** This Agreement is not intended, and shall not be construed, to create the relationship of agent, servant, employee, partnership, joint venture, or association, as between the Library and Partner. The employees and agents of one Party shall not be or construed to be, the employees or agents of the other Party for any purpose whatsoever.
- 10.0 COPYRIGHTS:** For the term of this Agreement, Library grants permission for Partner to use the LA County Library Logo for marketing of the program. Use and reproduction of the Library logo will be in accordance with LA County Library Marketing and Communications specifications.
- 11.0 GOVERNING LAW AND FORUM:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Any litigation with respect to this Agreement shall be conducted in the courts of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.
- 12.0 NON-EXCLUSIVITY:** Nothing herein is intended nor shall be construed as creating any exclusive arrangement with Partner. This Agreement shall not restrict County from acquiring similar, equal or like goods and/or services from other entities or sources.
- 13.0 SEVERABILITY:** If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof is held invalid, the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in effect and not be affected thereby.
- 14.0 WAIVER:** No waiver by the County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any other breach or of such provision. Failure of the County to enforce at any time, or from time to time, any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver thereof.
- 15.0 NOTICES:** All notices shall be directed to and made by the following representatives of the Parties:
- To the County: Contract Services Unit  
ContractServices@library.lacounty.gov
- To the Partner: Email
- 16.0 ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This Agreement contains the entire Agreement between the Parties, hereto, no addition or modification of any terms or provisions shall be effective unless set forth in writing, signed by Parties.

SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the Library and Partner have executed this Agreement, as of the day, month, and year first above written.

LA COUNTY LIBRARY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Skye Patrick, Ph.D. C  
County Librarian and Director

\_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON  
County Counsel

By:  \_\_\_\_\_ 1/12/26  
Casey Yourn Date  
Sr. Deputy County Counsel

CONTRACTS/Development/PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS/One Book One Coast/One Book One Coast NCP 12.31.2025.docx



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## **COMMUNITY**

The Friends of the Sumas Library are resourceful, community-minded, and mission-driven. They are in the process of finding an alternative location for their Sprint Adult Social event / fundraiser. Save the date for March 14 (Pi Day) to eat pie and bid on some auction items to benefit the library. Location TBA.

## **ACCESS**

At the moment, we are serving the Sumas community with a holds pickup lockbox. Sumas staff have been temporarily relocated to the Everson Library and they bring books back to the lockbox several times a week. We will be meeting with Sumas Mayor Bosch next week to talk about plans moving forward.

## **RESOURCES**

We recently received notice that Collection Services Manager Lisa Gresham will be retiring as of June 1. We will begin recruiting her replacement soon, to maximize the time available to onboard the new person with Lisa on hand to answer questions.

## **EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

This month we welcome Harman Kaur, our new Punjabi Cultural Liaison, to the Ferndale Library. Harman has library experience working at the Bellingham Public Library as a Library Assistant. She is fluent in Punjabi and English and has worked as an IT Systems Administrator and a Java-based web application developer. We're excited to see what partnerships she can foster with the local Punjabi community.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Thanks to the solar panels installed by the Friends of the Deming Library, our expenses for electricity at that location have been greatly reduced – usually we pay only the nominal minimum fee for service. Not only do the solar panels save money, they also reduce the library's impact on the electric grid.

**Christine Perkins**, Executive Director

LOCAL Yearlong closure set during renovations at Bellingham library's downtown building  
By Robert Mittendorf December 27, 2025 3:02 PM

The Bellingham Herald

Bellingham Public Library's downtown location will close for a year during a long-awaited renovation project slated to start next year, city officials announced earlier this year. An \$8.5 million remodeling effort will start in late summer or fall of 2026, Library Director Rebecca Judd told the City Council during a presentation on the 2026 budget in October. It's the second part of a modernization plan that began in 2020, when the building was closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

An exact date for next year's closing hasn't been set. "At that time, we will be closing the Central (Avenue) library to the public while we do the construction — the interior construction — and we will be expanding hours at our three branch locations. So we'll have additional hours," Judd told the council. Bellingham Public Library Executive Director Rebecca Judd stands outside the downtown branch's lower level in 2024.

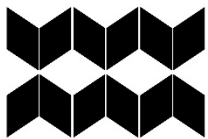
Construction is expected to be finished by the summer of 2027, Judd said. This second phase of construction will include a complete renovation and expansion of the downstairs, adding space to the children's section and making it more open and welcoming, Judd said. Mayor Kim Lund said that members of the public will be able to see the design and comment on it before it's finalized. "We're really trying to make (downstairs) the place for children and families," Lund told the council. A meeting room used for special events and public gatherings will be retained as part of the new design, Judd said. Also slated for remodeling is the second-floor staff area. The project includes repairs for the heating system, and adds air conditioning to public spaces. During construction, hours will be expanded at the library's three branches in Fairhaven, Barkley Village and Bellis Fair mall, Judd said. City officials have been discussing ways to offset the temporary loss of the library as a community gathering place, especially for those without a home, Lund told the council. "In many meetings, across different departments, there's been hours of conversation about that," she said.

Funding for the renovation project includes a \$3 million award from the state Legislature, \$2 million in real estate excise tax funds and \$3.5 million private funding. About \$1.5 million of private funding still needs to be raised, Judd said. Bellingham's library system is among the most popular in the state, with 360,000 visitors through September this year., according to previous Herald reporting. Patrons borrowed a total of 1.4 million books and other items from the library collection so far this year, Judd said. More than half of all

Bellingham residents have used their library card at least once in the past three years, and one in four Bellingham residents has used their library card in the last three months.

Read more at:

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article312577941.html#storylink=cpy>



whatcom county  
**library system**

## Deputy Director Report

January 2026

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### ACCESS

The site of the Bookmobile location in Wickersham, formerly a church, was sold to an LLC in December. After unsuccessful attempts to communicate with the new owners, we have relocated Bookmobile services to Acme. Fortunately, our staff began making plans for possible changes when the property was listed for sale in October. After a review of possible alternative locations in the area, the Acme Presbyterian Church located at 2054 Valley Highway was identified as a location best able to provide space for parking and restrooms for staff use. Leadership at the church has agreed to be a host location for Bookmobile services and voiced support for WCLS values including intellectual freedom. This same site hosted the bookmobile years ago, so there is a sense of happy nostalgia to see it return. We will continue to communicate with the Wickersham community about how to best serve them.

### RESOURCES

WCLS has partnered with the Washington State Library to provide access to [professional certifications](#). Patrons may take online courses, practice exams, and proctored certification exams to gain skills and build their resume. After two months, 33 WCLS patrons have started a program. Of those, 1 proctored exam has successfully been approved. Certifications of interest to WCLS patrons include CompTIA, MS Office Specialist, IT Specialist, and QuickBooks.

### STEWARDSHIP

The ever-increasing costs of printer toner has been squeezing our supplies budget. Jackie did a cost analysis and discovered that changing our approach to leasing printer/photo copier machines may end up saving money, particularly in our busiest libraries. The units installed at Blaine, Ferndale, and Lynden libraries at the end of December are larger, designed for heavier use, and have toner cartridges that last longer. When replacement toner is needed, or if something goes wrong with the machine, staff may phone the vendor directly and a local technician will respond. Early reports from staff indicate these units print faster and are working well.

**Michael Cox**

Deputy Director

COMMUNITY/RESOURCES



The January-May edition of *Explorations* is on the streets. It features a budget update, library resource “ads” and more than 100 free events. The issue was sent to county mailboxes. It is also available at WCLS branches and [online](#).

The cover story shares The Library Game adventure of Dan Oliva, a local teacher who is among the first to earn the game’s Library Legend status. Dan posted his experience on Instagram and tagged WCLS, which enabled us to contact him for the story.



Patron stories come to us in a variety of ways. For instance, South Whatcom Manager Liz Andre contacted Mary Vermillion last year with the news that patron Scott Lambridis (*at left*) used our interlibrary loan service (ILL) to complete a six-year odyssey to read a book from every country in the world. That's 201 countries, including two that were formed after he started the challenge. We recently shared Scott's story on social media and on the [news section of our website](#).

There are endless patron stories that demonstrate how the library system serves, entertains, creates value and builds community. We do our best to collect and share these stories via social media, news releases, *Explorations*, presentations and our podcast. We're grateful to patrons who let us tell their stories and to our colleagues who give us ideas. These personal experiences demonstrate the breadth of library services in a compelling way. We can tell people about library services, but it's incredibly powerful when we can actually show local, personal impact. Patron stories also help people picture themselves at the library, and we love that!

#### Book Reviews

- *The Northern Light*, Dec. 10, 2025, [Blaine book review: "Solito"](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 12, 2025, [Review: 'Busted' by Dan Gemeinhart](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 19, 2025, [WCLS library staff choose their favorite reads from 2025](#)

#### Media Coverage

- *Lynden Tribune*, Dec. 2, 2025, [Community Calendar for Dec. 3, 2025](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Dec. 4, 2025, [Building community, one blossom at a time at Blaine Senior Center](#)
- *My Bellingham NOW*, Dec. 8, 2025, [Whatcom County, consultants available to help residents with water adjudication paperwork](#)
- *Visit Bellingham*, Dec. 9, 2025, [Whatcom READS Announces 2026 Programs](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 11, 2025, [Lynden churches repurposed as emergency flood shelters for evacuees](#)
- *Whatcom News*, Dec. 11, 2025, [Whatcom schools and other closures and opening delays announced Thursday](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 11, 2025, [What to expect from Whatcom Reads' 18th season \(PDF Attached\)](#)
- *Whatcom News*, Dec. 12, 2025, [Whatcom schools and other closures and opening delays announced Friday | Whatcom News](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 19, 2025, [Year in Review: Point Roberts Library](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 19, 2025, [2025 Year in Review: A Look Back at the Year That Just Was](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 19, 2025, [Year in Review: Point Roberts Taxpayers Association](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Dec. 23, 2025 [How to ring in 2026 in Whatcom and Skaqit counties](#)

- *The Northern Light*, Dec. 30, 2025, [2025 Year in Review: Blaine Public Library](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Dec. 30, 2025, [2025 Year in Review: Friends of Birch Bay Library](#)
- *Salish Current*, Dec. 5, 2025, see clip below

**Library art.** Whatcom County Library System staff members present "Art Off the Clock: A Group Exhibit by Library Staff" at the Deming Library through Dec. 31.

- *All Point Bulletin*, Dec. 31, 2025, see clip below

**Point Roberts Book & Movie Discussion Group:** Monday, January 19, 2 to 4 p.m., library. Info: [wcls.org](http://wcls.org).

**PR Book Club:** Wednesday, January 28, 6 p.m., PR Library. For this month's title, call 360/945-6545. Info: [wcls.org](http://wcls.org).

Thank you to Point Roberts Press publishers Louise Mugar and Pat Grubb for their years of award-winning local journalism. The couple recently announced their retirement. Their publications, including *The Northern Light* and *All Point Bulletin*, have been turned over to a non-profit news organization. We are grateful for their consistent coverage of library and community news.

**Mary Vermillion**

Community Relations Manager

Collection Size	Physical	Electronic	Total
	295,992	422,215	718,207

Circulation	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
Physical Circulation					
Blaine	14,539	12,295	163,430	154,078	-5.7%
Bookmobile & Outreach	4,096	6,602	53,237	70,905	33.2%
Deming	8,184	7,859	90,064	91,452	1.5%
Everson	8,507	8,810	105,862	100,715	-4.9%
Ferndale	29,967	26,824	381,519	349,833	-8.3%
Island	1,808	1,843	20,279	21,223	4.7%
Lynden	34,634	31,886	437,399	416,695	-4.7%
North Fork	3,670	3,749	45,541	41,855	-8.1%
NWIC	6	21	107	245	129.0%
Point Roberts + PRX	1,830	1,893	26,890	28,115	4.6%
Sumas + SLX	2,333	765	29,854	27,685	-7.3%
South Whatcom	7,034	7,858	91,577	98,062	7.1%
NDX	4,427	3,926	41,952	46,455	10.7%
Physical Circulation Total	121,035	114,331	1,487,711	1,447,318	-2.7%
Disc materials: DVDs, CDs	25,527	23,370	310,732	282,163	-9.2%
All other materials	93,648	87,361	1,160,496	1,127,463	-2.8%
Digital Circulation					
eBooks/eAudiobooks	35,932	37,041	433,521	445,529	2.8%
eMagazines	5,122	6,254	57,228	70,991	24.0%
eMusic	12,917	11,934	121,618	136,077	11.9%
Streaming Video	3,489	2,970	33,358	39,315	17.9%
Digital Circulation Total	57,460	58,199	645,725	691,912	7.2%
Grand Total	178,495	172,530	2,133,436	2,139,230	0.3%

Visitors (Door counts)	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
Blaine	6,475	6,351	84,912	82,437	-2.9%
Deming	2,579	2,715	32,770	32,598	-0.5%
Everson	3,122	3,221	38,694	41,540	7.4%
Ferndale	11,038	10,532	151,880	146,144	-3.8%
Island	310	1,197	13,859	21,145	52.6%
Lynden	10,382	10,210	136,345	138,647	1.7%
NDX	284	328	3,809	3,887	2.0%
North Fork	1,521	1,645	22,142	22,779	2.9%
Point Roberts + PRX	1,071	1,263	18,493	17,846	-3.5%
Sumas + SLX	955	1,329	13,933	16,199	16.3%
South Whatcom	2,633	2,902	36,953	39,818	7.8%
Total	40,370	41,693	553,790	563,040	1.7%

New Borrowers	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
	458	431	7,623	6,768	-11.2%



Interlibrary Loan	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
Borrowed from BPL	12,303	10,544	143,561	135,837	-5.4%
Lent to BPL	23,241	23,270	260,602	263,694	1.2%
Borrowed: other libraries	597	551	7,557	6,981	-7.6%
Lent: other libraries	590	469	7,038	6,506	-7.6%

Electronic Resources	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
WCLS.org Sessions	34,472	41,665	456,569	465,397	1.9%
Bibliocommons Sessions	84,531	103,786	1,166,677	1,087,306	-6.8%
Internet Sessions	3,520	3,515	43,929	48,043	9.4%
Wifi Clients / Sessions	6,628	6,706	85,367	93,649	9.7%

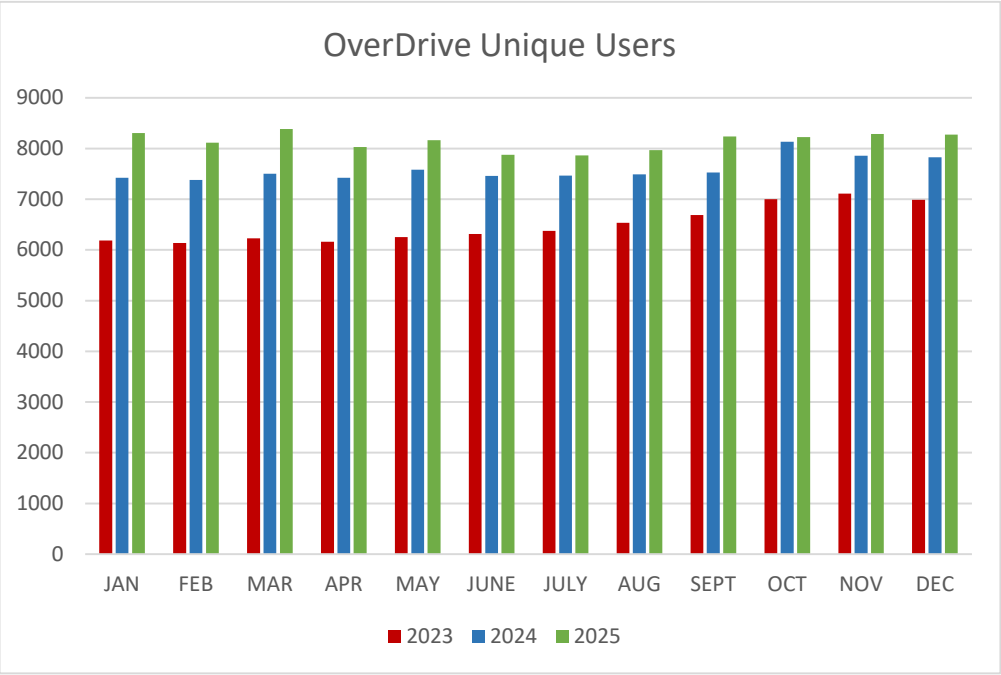
Activities	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	YTD % chg
Programs					
Adults	59	80	859	1,326	54.4%
Teens	33	33	301	414	37.5%
Children	70	67	1,092	968	-11.4%
Total	162	180	2,252	2,708	20.2%
Attendance					
Adults	590	886	10,648	13,081	22.8%
Teens	638	419	11,206	10,119	-9.7%
Children	1,764	1,763	32,894	29,243	-11.1%
Total	2,992	3,068	54,748	52,443	-4.2%

Notes/Corrections:

Issue with Kanopy stat tracking by title, so we now track Plays. Previous Year streaming video stats in 2025 Board Report will be inconsistent with 2024 Board Report

## OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS

WCLS service population represents approximately 16.5% of the total population of all 44 consortium members. In December, 17% of the total unique users were WCLS cardholders and 18% of the total consortium checkouts were by WCLS cardholders. Titles with the most WCLS holds (report run on 1/14/26) were *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans (eAudio - 149 holds), *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman (eAudio - 128 holds), *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid (eAudio - 117 holds), *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins (eBook - 112 holds) and *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans (eBook - 106 holds).



## DATABASE USAGE

Database use was low across all databases in December, not uncommon with the holiday season, and also likely exacerbated by Whatcom County flooding events. Strongest usage came from information sources linked to current events and the economy - Consumer Reports, Newsbank and Value Line. Newsbank publications with the most items retrieved were *The Seattle Times* (17,052), *Bellingham Herald* (15,565), *Cascadia Daily News* (931), *The Atlantic* (166) and *Duluth News Tribune* (82); patrons also accessed news from such faraway locations as London, Tokyo, Edinburgh and India.

