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Kanawha County Public Libraries



November 4, 2014
Levy Election
Information

On November 4, The public libraries of Kanawha County

- Kanawha County Public Library (KCPL)
- South Charleston Public Library (SCPL)
- Nitro Public Library (NPL)

will be participating in a Levy Election which is sponsored for them by the Kanawha County Board of Education.



Frequently Asked Questions

How long will funding from the levy be available to libraries in Kanawha County?

The levy is good for five (5) years beginning in July 2015.

How much funding will public libraries in Kanawha County receive?

From the estimated first year total levy amount of \$3,265,280, the breakdown will be:

- Kanawha County Public Library \$2,986,800
- South Charleston Public Library \$227,480
- Nitro Public Library \$51,000

Will any of the levy money go to the Kanawha County Board of Education?

No, the Board of Education is sponsoring the levy for Kanawha County public libraries but will not receive any of the money from the levy. Kanawha County public libraries do not have the authority to run a levy on their own and need the Board of Education to sponsor the levy for them.

Will there be any other countywide levies on the November 4 ballot?

No, there will be no other countywide levies on the ballot.

Last year, library patrons checked out and downloaded 1,149,438 items from Kanawha County public libraries.

How will the public libraries use the levy money?

Your public libraries share a goal of providing exceptional information and educational resources to the community and the **128,760 library cardholders they serve**. Each library is unique and has different needs and priorities for using levy funds.

Kanawha County Public Library: Levy funds will replace the approximate 40% of the budget lost due to a recent West Virginia Supreme Court decision. KCPL has a Main library in Charleston, and branches in Clendenin, Cross Lanes, Dunbar, Elk Valley, Glasgow, Marmet, in Riverside High School, St. Albans, Sissonville and a Mobile Library (bookmobile). *(For more information, contact alan.engelbert@kanawhalibrary.org)*

Nitro Public Library: Levy funds will allow NPL to make needed ADA improvements, including modifications to the entrance and restrooms. Carpet and flooring will be replaced, and computers and other technology will be replaced and upgraded. New materials will be purchased, and programming will be expanded. If funding allows, parking lot improvements will be made, and a storage building will be added. *(For more information, contact lynn.godby@kanawhalibrary.org)*



South Charleston Public Library: Levy funds will be used to create additional space for teens and adult reading, and dedicated space and additional computers for technology training classes. An outreach program for homebound patrons and an offsite location will be explored. More library materials and programs will be provided to patrons, and download stations for easier access to digital materials will be added. *(For more information, contact patricia.brown@scpl.wvnet.edu)*

What happens if the levy does not pass?

If the levy does not pass, the South Charleston Public Library and Nitro Public Library will not be able to make needed improvements. A failed levy will have more serious consequences for Kanawha County Public Library.

If the levy election fails, Kanawha County Public Library will be forced to cut its budget by 40%. With a reduction this substantial, Kanawha County Public Library will have to:

- Close multiple branches, reduce hours at the remaining locations and limit bookmobile service.
- Cut spending on all library materials including books, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and all downloadable items, such as e-books and music.
- Cut spending on quality online resources for students, teachers, job seekers and businesses.
- Cut staff positions. KCPL has already reduced staff by not filling positions as they became vacant. A failed levy will result in further staff reductions.



If the levy election succeeds, Kanawha County Public Library will be able to keep all library facilities open and operating, maintain the library materials budget, restore Sunday hours and reinstate the West Virginia Book Festival.



As a homeowner, how much will the levy cost me?

*For someone who owns a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 and a vehicle with an assessed value of \$15,000, a **successful levy election would result in an increase of \$16.22 per year in taxes.** (Source: Kanawha County Assessor's Office)*

That's less than \$1.36 a month.



Will any of the money from the levy go toward building the new KCPL library?

No, money from the levy **will not** be used for construction of the planned new Kanawha County Public Library Main Library building or to build or remodel Branch libraries. Levy funds will only be used to pay for operational costs such as staff, books and other materials, heat, light, insurance, supplies, etc.

**The levy election will take place on
November 4, 2014.**

**Absentee ballots will be available at dates
specified by the Kanawha County Clerk's office.**

Early voting begins

October 22 and ends November 1.

**For voting information, contact the Clerk's office
at 304-357-0130.**

How do Kanawha County public libraries help people in Kanawha County save money?

A library enriches the lives of those who use its services, and that powerful impact cannot easily be measured in dollars. However, the chart below shows how much money community members saved last year by using services provided by Kanawha County public libraries.

Kanawha County public library service used last year	Cost if purchased	Total saved	
Items checked out			
359,041	Hardcover Books	\$20.00	\$7,180,820
83,260	Paperback Books	\$7.00	\$582,820
249,768	Children's Books	\$12.00	\$2,997,216
65,941	Audio Books	\$50.00	\$3,297,050
229,343	DVDs	\$15.00	\$3,440,145
42,391	Music CDs	\$15.00	\$635,865
16,650	Magazines	\$5.00	\$83,250
6,818	Newspapers	\$1.00	\$6,818
Items downloaded			
21,476	eAudiobooks	\$20.00	\$429,520
74,750	eBooks	\$15.00	\$1,121,250
Classes and events attended			
4,158	Attended by 67,464 children, teens and adults	\$8.00	\$539,712

**In just one year,
Kanawha County public libraries
saved community members
a total of
\$20,314,466!**

Kanawha County public libraries provide access to premium online databases and research tools, as well as millions of downloadable items.