

Written Testimony (proposed)  
Restore Funding to Keep Our Libraries Open on Sunday!

**I am a member of the Potomac Library Advisory Committee. I request that the County Council restore \$624,864 to the proposed Library operating budget so that all our County Libraries can remain open on Sunday.**

Eleven of our 23 libraries are already closed on Sunday – much to the disappointment and concern of your constituents. Five are in District 1 (Friedson) - Chevy Chase, Davis, Little Falls, Potomac, Noyes; one is in District 2 (Balcombe) – Poolesville; two are in District 3 (Katz) - Quince Orchard, Twinbrook; and three are in District 4 (Stewart) - Aspen Hill, Kensington, Burtonsville.

**This decision was made without community input or consultation with the local Library Advisory Committee for the affected libraries. There was only limited advance public notice of each closing.**

The County's Fiscal 2027 [Operating Budget for Libraries](#) recognizes that libraries are “the backbone of our community - a place to connect with each other. Our Libraries forge strong, reciprocal relationships with residents, community organizations, and other County departments in service of our shared goals”, and contribute to the County's key priority areas of “thriving youth and families” and “economic development.” The proposed MC Public Schools (MCPS) budget statement recognizes that research and internet resources are made available through the Montgomery County Public Libraries budget.

**Eliminating Sunday hours for half our Libraries is in conflict with both the Library Mission Statement and the County's operating budget goals.**

The Library Mission Statement stresses that libraries are an essential component of a just and equitable community, where all can thrive and grow. The operating budget also identifies the following Library goals:

- Increase participation for all age categories in the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge program by 24.7%.
- Plan programs and robust marketing to celebrate Montgomery County Public Libraries 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Many students, working people, and families with young children rely on the library being open on Sunday when they are home from work and school. Closing our libraries on Sunday denies critical equal access to our libraires' resources that are so important to learning and growth, and support for in-classroom learning.

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**Libraries are an extension of our education system. Restoring \$624,864 to keep all our Libraries open on Sunday is equivalent to only 3% of the \$198.8 million increase proposed for our public schools.**

At our Potomac Library in just a few short hours on three Saturday mornings we collected over 200 signatures on our petition urging the County Council to restore funding to keep our Libraries open on Sunday.

**How ironic that in celebration of our Libraries 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the budget proposes eliminating Sunday hours. We ask each of you to celebrate 75 years of Montgomery County Libraries by restoring \$624,864 to keep all our Libraries open on Sunday.**

Respectfully,

Roger Williams

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[2026 Operating Budget for Libraries](#)

**Mission Statement**

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) provides equitable access to information, ideas, and experiences that spark imagination and expand possibilities for all. The department's libraries are an essential component of a just and equitable community, where all can thrive and grow.

**MCPL'S VALUES**

Discovery - MCPL is a champion of curiosity, exploration, and growth. MCPL supports members of the community to expand their knowledge, learn new skills, spark ideas, and make connections.

Intellectual Freedom - MCPL believes in free, open, and confidential access to ideas and information for all as a cornerstone of a thriving democratic society.

Equity - MCPL believes all residents of Montgomery County deserve equal and inclusive access to all the library's resources, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, education, language, disability, and/or immigration status.

Respect - MCPL strives to treat everyone with kindness, provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, and honor the knowledge and lived experience of all members of the community.

Service - MCPL connects members of the community with the information they want and need, as efficiently as possible. MCPL anticipates and adapts to the changing needs, desires, and expectations of community members.

Community - MCPL is the backbone of the community, a place to connect with each other. MCPL forges strong, reciprocal relationships with residents, community organizations, and other County departments in service of our shared goals.

**County Priority Outcomes**

While this program area supports all eight of the County Result Areas, the following are emphasized:

- **Thriving Youth and Families**
- **A Greener County**
- **Effective, Sustainable Government**
- **A Growing Economy**