



Vision

MPL is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee.

Mission

Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

4:00 p.m.

**Central Library
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

WELCOME & ROLL CALL

4:00 – 4:05

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 – 4:15

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

4:15 – 4:20

1. **Introduction of New Trustee.** President Bria will introduce new Trustee Mary Urbina-McCarthy.

CONSENT AGENDA

4:20 – 4:25

Attachment A, page 3

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2026.**
3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, July 7, 2026.**
4. **Administrative Reports.**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Report
 - c. Statistics
5. **Revised MPL Board Committee Assignments**

REPORTS

4:25 – 4:45

6. **Services & Programs Committee.** Committee Vice-Chair Kathleen Vincent will present the action items from the July 1, 2026 meeting.

Attachment B, page 37
7. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Update.** President Michele Bria will present an update on the work of the ULC Executive Board.

NEW BUSINESS

4:45 – 4:55

8. **FCC-Proposed Rulemaking for the E-Rate Program.** Library Director Johnson will provide a summary of the proposed regulatory changes for the E-rate program, subsequent impacts, and industry response.
9. **Contract Award Recommendation – Central Library Masonry Repair.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns will present a contract award request for the first phase of masonry repairs at Central Library.

Attachment C, page 41

CLOSING REMARKS

4:55 – 5:00

10. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

September 3, 2026 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m

September 22, 2026 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Michele Bria, *President*, Teresa Mercado, *Vice-President*, Michael Morgan, *Financial Secretary*, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Mary Urbina-McCarthy, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson, *Secretary*, Rebecca Schweisberger, *Secretary's Assistant* (414) 286-3021

The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees is an informed, dedicated group of citizens who represent a cross-section of the city of Milwaukee and are committed to supporting, developing, and advancing the library for the benefit of all residents of Milwaukee and others throughout Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and beyond. In their role as advocates and advisors, they serve the library's many patrons, its staff, the common good of the community, and this critical and enduring institution.

Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. More information is available at www.milwaukee.gov/lobby or by calling (414) 286-2238.

Please be advised that members of the Milwaukee Common Council who are also members of this body may attend this meeting. In addition, Common Council members who are not members of this body may attend this meeting to participate or to gather information. A quorum of the Common Council or any of its standing committees may be present, but no formal Common Council action will be taken at this meeting.

Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. Contact the ADA Coordinator at: 414-286-3475 or adacoordinator@milwaukee.gov.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

**Washington Park Branch
Finney Community Room
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold
- STAFF:** Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Melissa Prentice, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack, Nik Kovac
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Sam McGovern-Rowen

Chair Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:15 p.m. on June 23, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustee Mercado attended virtually.

BOARD EDUCATION

1. **Washington Park Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Melissa Prentice gave a brief overview of her professional experience and an introduction of Washington Park Branch. Washington Park Branch opened in 2003, replacing the former Finney Branch. It is the second largest branch and one of the busiest in the MPL system. The expansive windows provide natural lighting, views of the park, and reinforce the connection between the library and the community. The open floor plan allows flexibility to arrange collections and seating. The makerspace and community rooms support a wide range of activities. Green infrastructure includes geothermal heating and cooling and a rain garden. A sculpture titled *Metaphor* is displayed in the lobby and symbolizes the library's role in gathering and sharing knowledge in the community. Washington Park Branch serves a diverse community, with nearly one-third of the residents under age 18. The branch also provides essential technology access, workforce resources, and lifelong learning for all ages. Community engagement and outreach services include Washington Park Wednesdays, neighborhood festivals, school visits, and childcare center outreach. Programs include story times, workforce development, weekly walking club, clothes mending clinic, and partnering with Washington Park Senior Center for a book discussion group. Washington Park Branch recently welcomed a new Children's Librarian, Makerspace Coordinator, and the 2026 Summer Youth Intern. Informational item.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

2. **Budget Outlook.** Budget and Management Division Director Nic Kovac presented an overview of the 2027 budget outlook. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes. Director Kovac shared information about various factors impacting the budget and leading to a gap of \$97M. Director Kovac shared a link and QR code to a survey where community members can learn about

the City of Milwaukee budget and provide input for Mayor Cavalier Johnson as he develops his proposed 2027 City Budget. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Building & Development Committee – June 4, 2026
 - b. Executive Committee – June 10, 2026
 - c. Innovation & Strategy Committee – June 11, 2026
3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, June 2, 2026.**
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 3-31 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

5. **Closing Remarks.** Chair Bria shared information about the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board and requested a volunteer to represent the MPL Board. Trustee Albrecht volunteered to serve as the MPL Board representative on the MCFLS Board. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 23, 2026 was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Budget and Management Division

2027 Budget Overview/Preview for MPL Board

Mission: To empower City leaders with clear financial guidance, strategic insight, and responsible stewardship. Ensuring every dollar supports strong services, sustainable growth, and a thriving Milwaukee.



Briefing for MPL Board: June 2026 - Prepared By: Budget and Management Division

How big is the City Budget?



Two Billion

Seventy-Five Million

Six-Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand

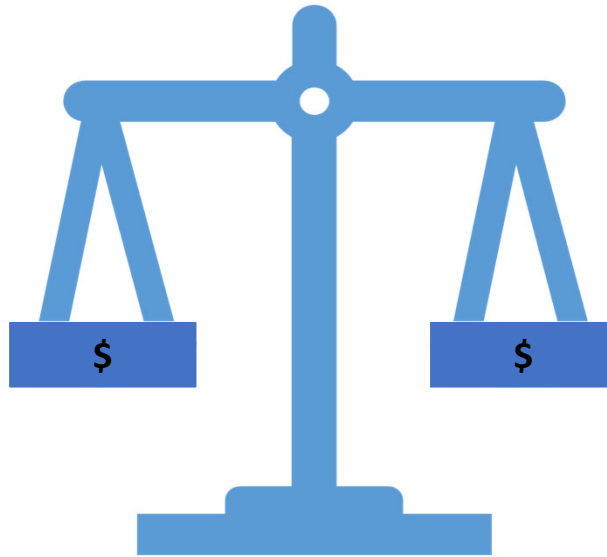
and Seven-Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars

\$2,075,687,722

State Law Mandates a Balanced Budget



**Every Dollar
Spent...**



**... Must Also
Be Received**

Every Year

How is all that money spent in 2026?



Total City Budget

\$2.075
Billion

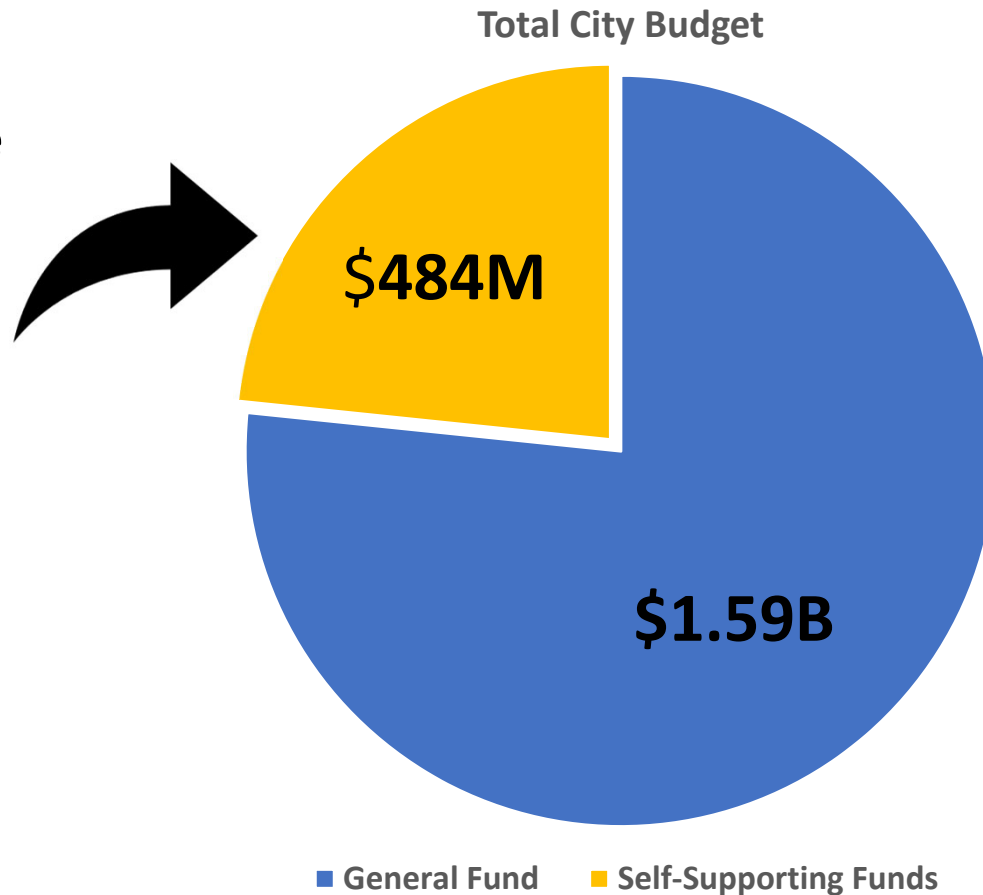
A large blue circle with a thin white border, containing the text "\$2.075 Billion" in white.

23% of it is self-supporting...



Self-supporting means those funds are separate and pay for themselves with independent revenue, like our three big enterprise funds:

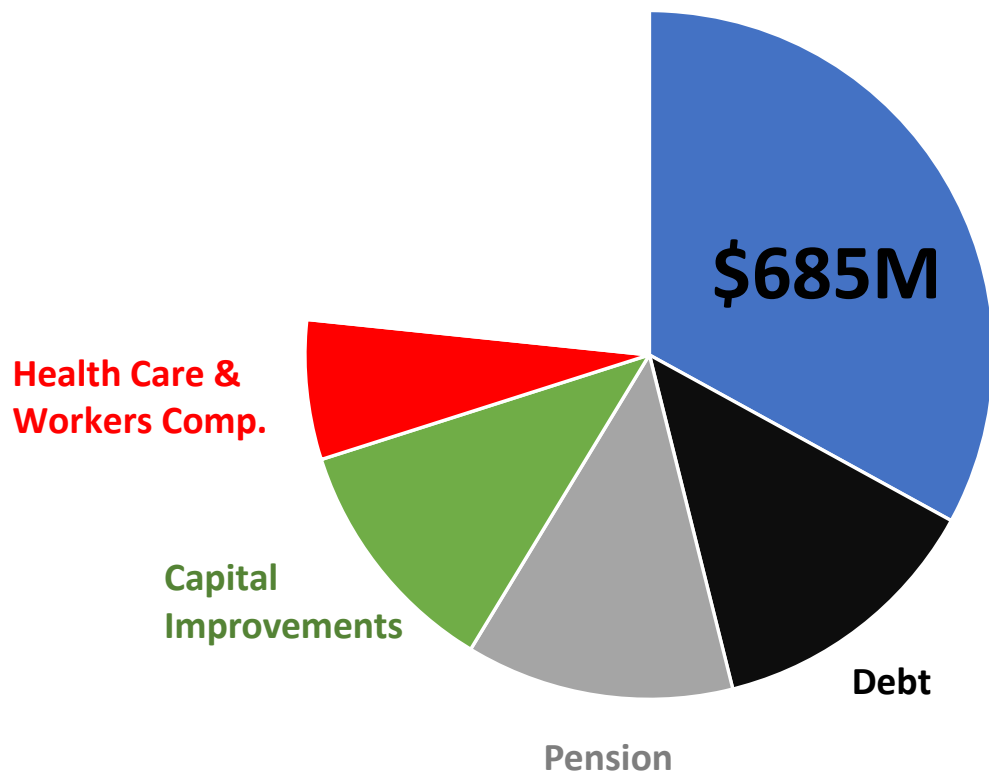
Sewer
Water
Transportation



Here's how most of the general fund is spent:

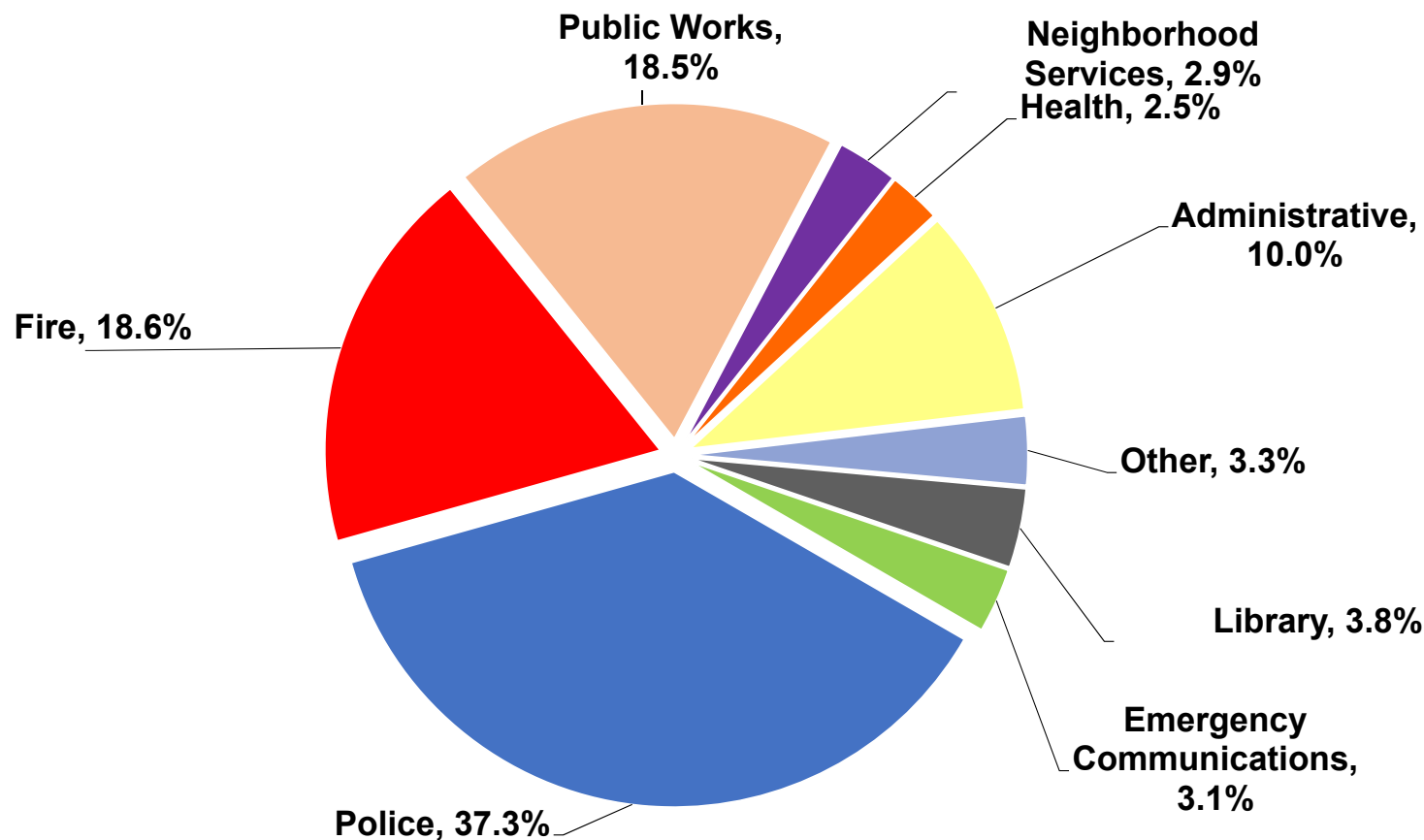


Total City Budget



~33% of the \$2B total budget remains to fund the day-to-day costs of most City departments (excluding enterprise funds)

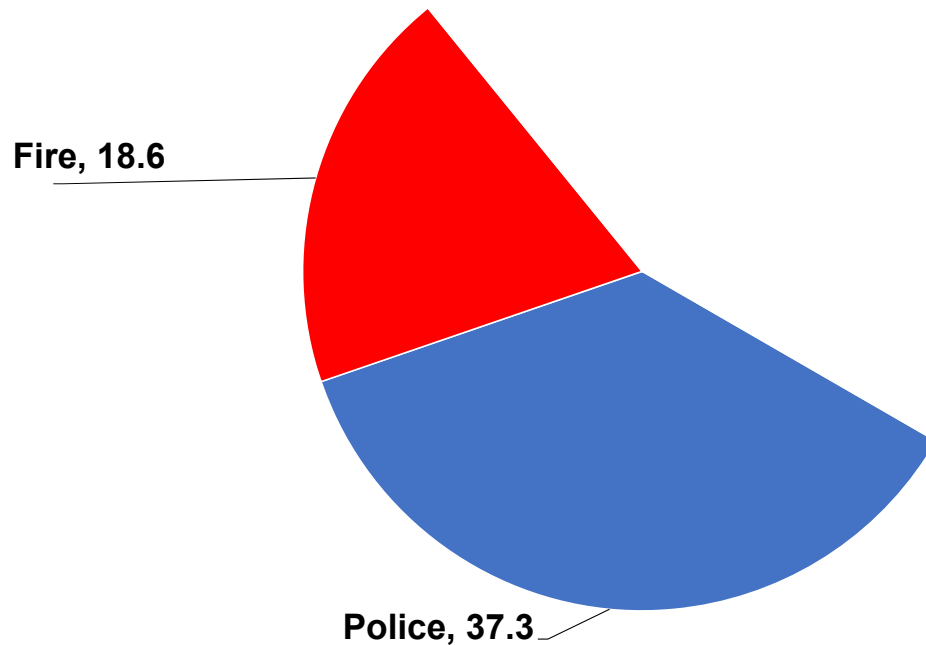
2026 shares of that 1/3 of total budget by department and categories of depts



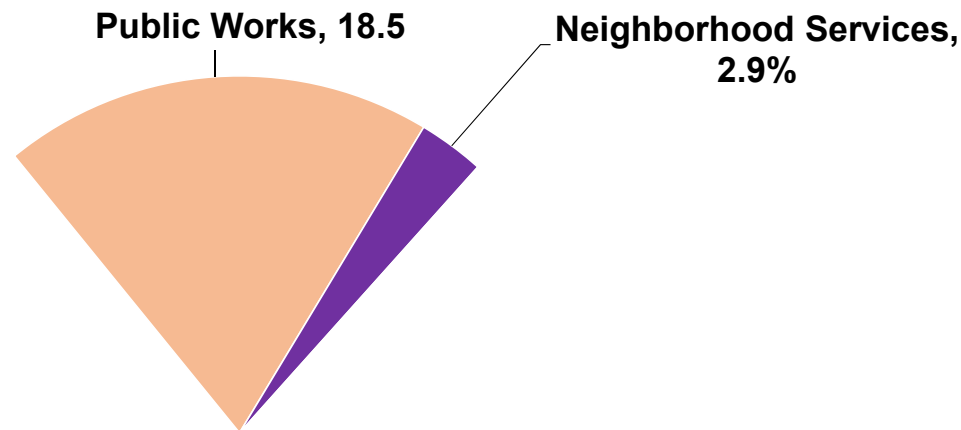
Act 12 Maintenance of Effort Requirements



State law forbids reductions (and in fact mandates increases) to police officers and fire firefighters, so only a small portion of these two departments' budgets (civilian salaries, equipment, and operating costs) can be reduced

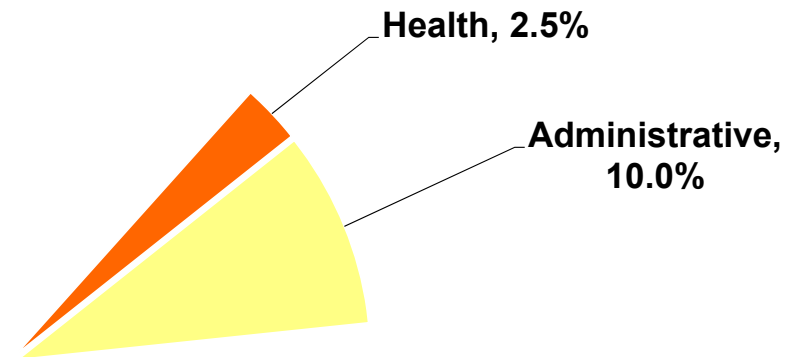


State laws limiting charges for services levels



Most DPW and DNS services are fee, permit, and violation funded, so they can't be cut below those levels without losing the revenue, too

Practical limits on expenditure reductions



Many administrative functions and health services are State mandated, so they can be reduced but not eliminated. The Health Department is also heavily grant-funded, so savings are not always dollar-for-dollar.

Library 2027 Budget Request

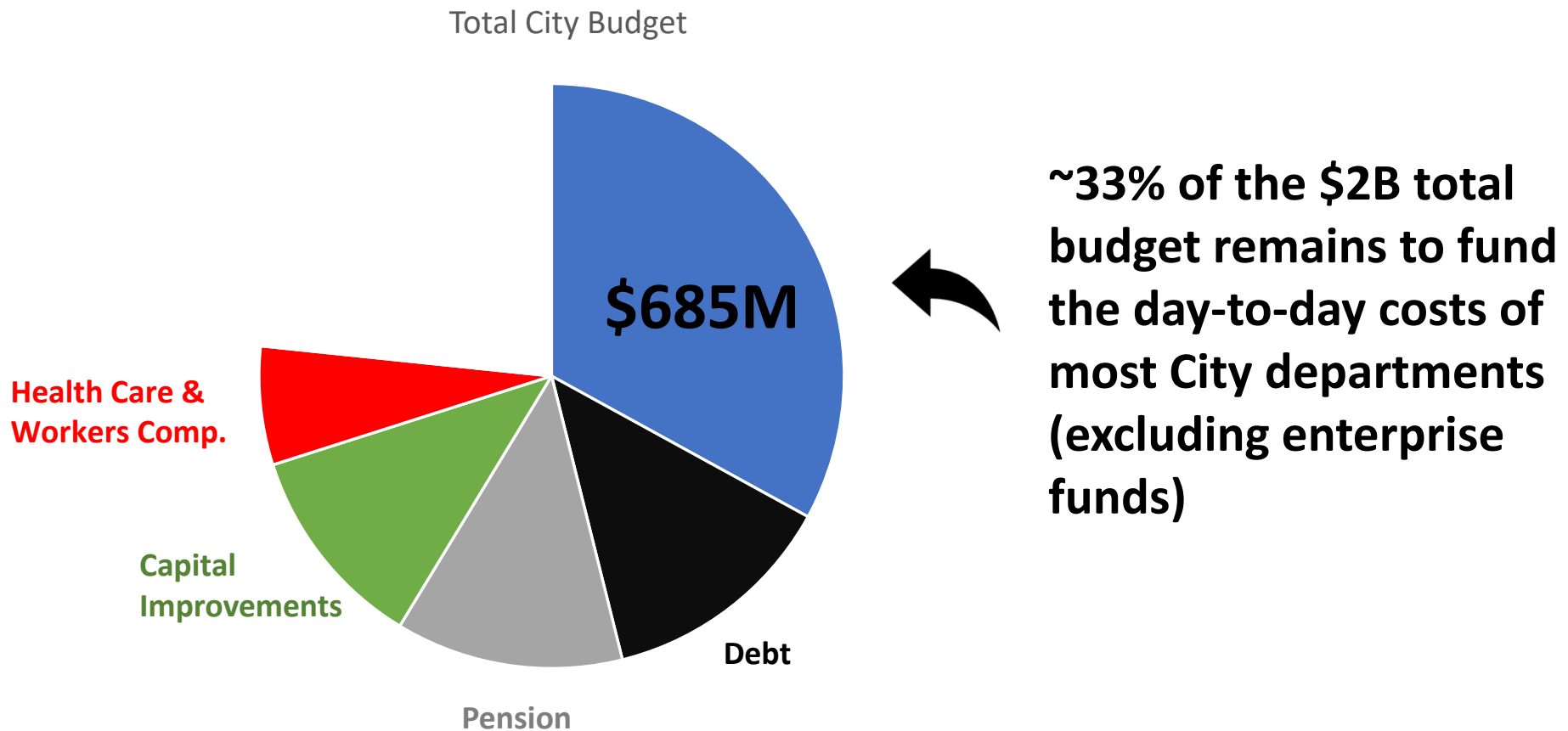


2025 MPL Actual Expenses:	\$32,662,665
2026 MPL Adopted Budget:	\$33,651,471
2027 MPL Requested Budget:	\$36,197,258

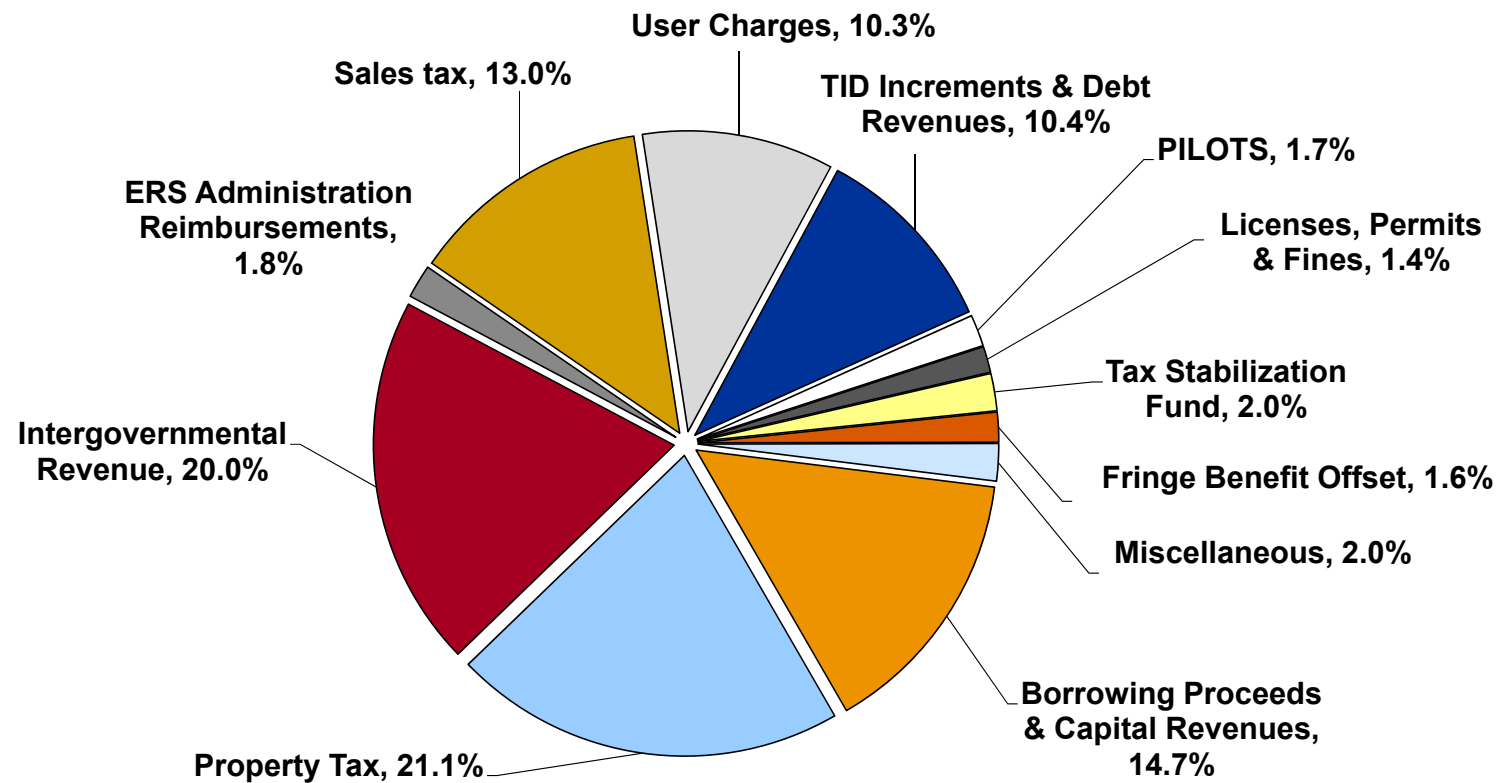
Operating increases largely due to expanded Sunday hours and salary increases

**Capital request also increased from \$3M to \$8.86M
largely due to Proposed New Branch Library**

To review, this is how the general fund is spent:



And this is how the general fund is funded:



The total 2026 general fund is \$1.59 billion.

So how's 2027 looking?



**Every May all departments submit budget requests
We add up the cost of continuing current services,
then subtract projected total revenues...
If expenditures exceed revenues,
then we have a BUDGET GAP.**

In 2027, that gap is \$97 million

How do we close gaps?



The 2026 was \$101 million

It was closed with the three Rs:

- 1) Reductions \$28M**
- 2) Revenues \$38M**
- 3) Reserves \$35M**

**Current trends indicate that revenues won't increase as much in 2027,
so greater reductions in services are likely**

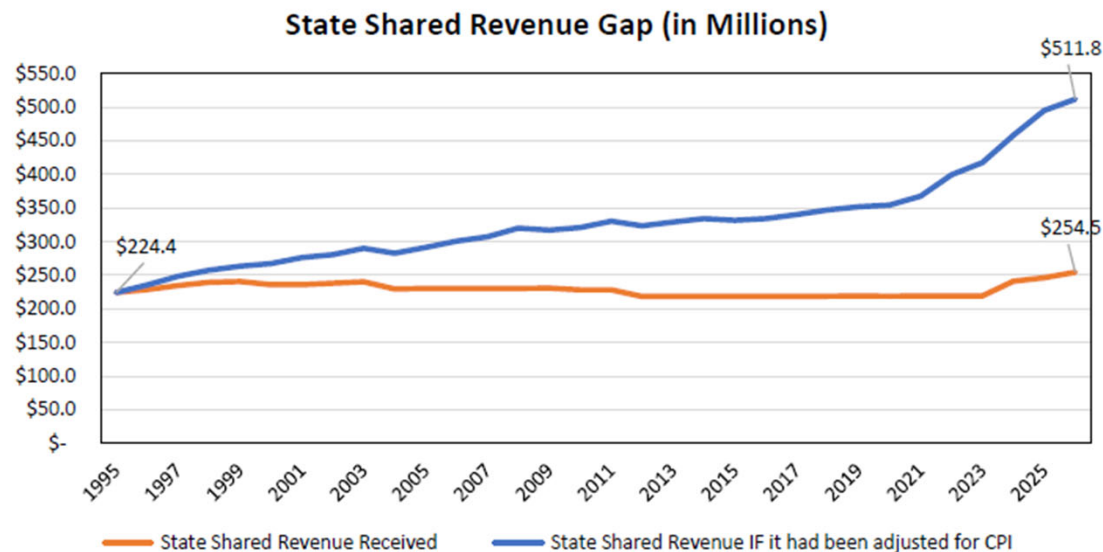
Why are the gaps still so big?



Two Big Reasons:

1) State Shared Revenue was frozen 1996-2023

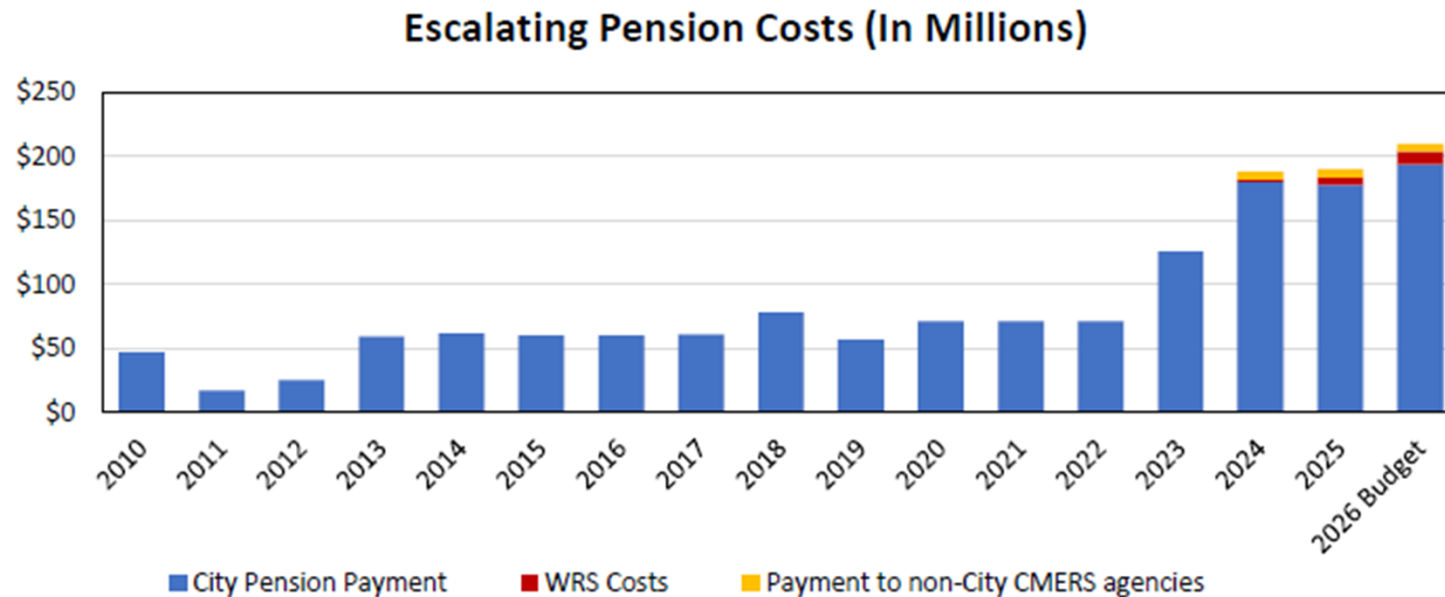
more than \$250M lost annually adjusted for inflation



Why are the gaps still so big?

2) Increasing Pension Obligations

was covered by Pension Fund 20 years ago, now > \$200M



Why wasn't the sales tax enough to close the gaps?



Act 12 did generate more than \$200M annually via the 2% city sales tax, and included a \$20M+ increase in State Shared Revenue which now increases annually with overall statewide collections.

These increases in revenue reduced the size of the gaps from their prior peaks in the early 2020s, but it didn't make up for the prior freezes over three decades and Act 12 increased pension and public safety costs.

2027 City Budget Survey



**Now that you know
what we know...**

Please take this survey:



Engage.Milwaukee.gov/budget

**And tell Mayor Cavalier Johnson
how you would close this \$97M gap.**

MCFLS Board Meeting Summary: July 7, 2026

The Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board of Trustees met via Zoom on July 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Key Reports and Actions

- **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC):** In June, LDAC formally approved removal of digital signatures for patron accounts and updated the user agreement to reflect this change. LDAC reported on discussions of MPL's proposal for centralized OverDrive support, MCFLS's offer to repurpose iPad Minis for multi-factor authentication at member libraries who use shared email logins, a decline in use of public computers by adults, and the recruitment for a new director for North Shore Library.
- **MCFLS Finance & Personnel Committee:** MCFLS's 2025 audit report was presented by representative from Kerber Rose Accountants, who served as MCFLS's auditors for the first time in 2025. The findings were largely positive and unchanged from past years, though MCFLS and Kerber Rose identified some slight tweaks in accounting as a result of MCFLS's 2025 transition to QuickBooks. The board had questions about the electronic resources budget line which showed a high deficit in 2025. This is a result of how MCFLS and MPL collaborate on the OverDrive Advantage account for the County: MCFLS purchases OverDrive credits for the advantage fund at end of the fiscal year, and MPL pays MCFLS for these early in the following fiscal year.
- **2027 County budget request:** Director Hesper is requesting \$100,000 from the County for 2027, an increase of 33%. Hesper has been attempting to connect with County Executive's office representative, Kyle Ashley, to get advice about how MCFLS can improve the odds of getting the increased request approved. This has so far not been fruitful. Hesper presented the full budget request documents, including the Racial Equity Budget Tool required by the County.
- **Updated Proposal for promotion of member libraries on MCTS buses:** Steve shared the design of the internal and external signs created by MCFLS Marketing Coordinator Deb Marrett, to be installed on 50 buses and 30 buses respectively. They include the MCFLS-owned FindMyLibrary.org URL, with a QR code on the internal signs, that directs people to a directory of all County libraries.

Administrative and Staffing Updates

- **Director report:** Included note that MPL is working to install Neil Albrecht to the MCFLS board, pending approval by County Executive's office.
 - Steve is taking part in the E-book legislation working committee for Wisconsin to assist libraries in handling the high cost of digital materials. Legislation exists or is in progress in several states already.
 - MCFLS is the fiscal agent for library systems statewide participating in InfoSec digital safety training for staff, and has recently negotiated to increase coverage for virtually the entire state. MPL is covered by the City of Milwaukee's contract with InfoSec.
 - Board member Howard is done at end of September and steps off the board at that time. Steve will also be working with the County Executive's office to fill this position in a timely manner.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM via Zoom

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
June 30, 2026**

2026

2025

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,698,143	\$ 16,505,996	50.5%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 92,000	\$ 38,942	42.3%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 24,783	53.9%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 1,028,000	\$ 309,485	30.1%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 16,879,206	49.8%

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 15,257,858	46.3%
	\$ 94,000	\$ 35,157	37.4%
	\$ 50,000	\$ 27,973	55.9%
	\$ 927,000	\$ 270,604	29.2%
	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 15,591,592	45.9%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,412,775	\$ 9,770,321	50.3%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,735,750	\$ 4,192,885	48.0%
Total	\$ 28,148,525	\$ 13,963,206	49.6%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 9,137,022	46.8%
	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 3,503,433	39.8%
	\$ 28,332,167	\$ 12,640,455	44.6%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 116,550	\$ 37,489	32.2%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 27,133	\$ 14,341	52.9%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 913,744	\$ 532,344	58.3%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 348,084	\$ 137,654	39.5%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,530	\$ 5,720	60.0%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 3,908	29.6%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 119,342	\$ 32,284	27.1%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 394,200	\$ 334,925	85.0%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 688,500	\$ 459,376	66.7%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 125,000	\$ 146,491	117.2%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 151,874	\$ 67,114	44.2%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 120,916	\$ 11,999	9.9%
Total	\$ 3,028,073	\$ 1,783,645	58.9%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 115,700	\$ 39,741	34.3%
	\$ 18,000	\$ 9,498	52.8%
	\$ 886,500	\$ 363,073	41.0%
	\$ 278,956	\$ 99,403	35.6%
	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,939	21.1%
	\$ 13,200	\$ 1,580	12.0%
	\$ 86,600	\$ 64,904	74.9%
	\$ 357,920	\$ 256,772	71.7%
	\$ 861,520	\$ 913,658	106.1%
	\$ 46,000	\$ 100,634	218.8%
	\$ 152,112	\$ 39,143	25.7%
	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
	\$ 2,937,608	\$ 1,889,961	64.3%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,946,000	\$ 925,454	47.6%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 359,534	\$ 92,375	25.7%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 148,311	\$ 25,111	16.9%
Total	\$ 2,453,845	\$ 1,042,940	42.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 768,067	40.7%
	\$ 220,824	\$ 67,184	30.4%
	\$ 337,042	\$ 120,354	35.7%
	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 955,605	39.1%

Other Departmental Appropriation

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 12,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,000	\$ 9,504	86.4%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>MLK Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ 9,084	39.5%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 141,700	\$ 70,827	50.0%
Total	\$ 233,700	\$ 89,415	38.3%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 11,600	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	0.0%
	\$ 76,000	\$ 27,000	35.5%
	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 138,900	\$ 69,438	50.0%
	\$ 278,600	\$ 105,571	37.9%

Total City Expenses	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 16,879,206	49.8%
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	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 15,591,592	45.9%
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**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
June 30, 2026**

2026

2025

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 1,059,814	89.9%		\$ 1,033,100	\$ 1,004,123	97.2%
ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26	\$ 263,150	\$ 247,521	94.1%		\$ 233,550	\$ 157,804	67.6%
Total	\$ 1,441,850	\$ 1,307,335	90.7%		\$ 1,266,650	\$ 1,161,927	91.7%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 172,000	\$ 72,152	41.9%		\$ 167,000	\$ 121,941	73.0%
Programming	\$ 75,000	\$ 17,534	23.4%		\$ 53,000	\$ 16,047	30.3%
Training	\$ 27,000	\$ 4,323	16.0%		\$ 26,000	\$ 11,539	44.4%
Marketing*	\$ 91,000	\$ 11,611	12.8%		\$ 45,000	\$ 434	1.0%
Contingency	\$ 4,000	\$ 37	0.9%		\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
Board Development	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%		\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
Strehlow 50+	\$ 8,000	\$ 384	4.8%		\$ 8,000	\$ 1,312	16.4%
Fundraising Feasibility Study**	\$ 86,000	\$ -	0.0%		\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Hot Spots	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%		\$ 295,000	\$ -	0.0%
4T Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%		\$ 689,773	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 466,000	\$ 106,040	22.8%		\$ 1,293,773	\$ 151,657	11.7%

*2026 Trust - Marketing budget includes \$45,000 in carryover

**Funded by proceeds from sale of former Forest Home Branch Library

Foundation Contributions

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 358,716	\$ 58,454	16.3%		\$ 281,497	\$ 15,437	5.5%
Programming	\$ 1,315,914	\$ 213,901	16.3%		\$ 1,660,809	\$ 475,185	28.6%
Total	\$ 1,674,630	\$ 272,355	16.3%		\$ 1,942,306	\$ 490,622	25.3%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327157170 dated 05/29/26 and maturing 06/29/26 at a rate of 1.40%...\$275,000

Director's Report June 2026

Director Johnson and team participated in several community engagement events including District 10 Ald. Sharlen Moore's Town Hall at the Capitol Branch regarding the Midtown development, and two of Mayor Johnson's 2027 Budget open houses at Zablocki and Atkinson branches.

Johnson and EOS manager Jenna Hart-Wisniewski attended the Mayor's MPS/City Kid's Cabinet kick-off. The group reflected on accomplishments and learnings from the first year and discussed goals for year two.

The work continues on high priority initiatives including the fundraising feasibility study, the OneMPL service philosophy staff development effort and a refresh of MPL's strategy documents. Johnson is working to get all three projects as close to completion as possible before mid- August.

In support of the WTBBL team, Johnson met with National Library Service consultant Madison Bolls as part of their annual review process.

Johnson submitted award nominations for consideration by the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Policy Forum. Announcements are expected in the fall.

Johnson provided orientation for the newest Trustee of the MPL Board, Mary Urbina-McCarthy, MPS Deputy Assistant, who is filling the seat of the MPS Superintendent, Dr. Brenda Casselius.

Johnson and team completed a thorough visual communications audit and visits for all twelve branch locations.

Johnson's engagement with community stakeholders is ongoing and she attended the Westown and Rotary board meetings. She also attended the Urban Libraries Council's virtual meetings of the ULC Executive Directors, and the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition virtual member meetings. The SHLB meetings are particularly important while it leads the advocacy efforts on behalf of its members and the industry as a whole in response to an FCC proposal to potentially end the E-rate program. See the upcoming July board meeting minutes for a more detailed description of the issue as it was presented to the MPL Board of Trustees.

Summary of **VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS** (for Board Report):

June 2026

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

An Evening with Lisa See - Author of Daughters of the Sun and Moon. Milwaukee Public Library and Boswell Book Company welcomed New York Times bestselling author Lisa See for a fascinating evening to discuss her newest novel, *Daughters of the Sun and Moon*. In this latest book, See draws on the vibrancy and turmoil of post-Civil War Los Angeles to tell the story of three Chinese women who managed to survive and, eventually, thrive, despite all odds. Attendees enjoyed a fascinating presentation by the author, and got to meet her afterward with a special book signing opportunity. Attendance: 253

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Know Your Money 2.0. On June 20th in the Business Commons the first of a three-part community wellness series kicked off with Know Your Money 2.0, a one-of-a-kind financial literacy and AI learning experience. Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and Anthem brought together nine expert speakers and an AI educator navigator for live demonstrations and real conversations over the course of three hours in the Business Commons of Milwaukee Public Library. Participants learned about library financial resources, banking and investing basics, budgeting, fraud protection, estate planning and health insurance basics. The series will continue in August with Know Your Mind 2.0: What Makes Us Human in the Age of AI? and Know Your Health 2.0. Attendance: 47

Magnificent Machines of Milwaukee: A City's History of Innovation and Enterprise. On Saturday June 6 Mr. Thomas Fehring gave presentation based on his book of the same name. Mr. Fehring's presentation explored industry along the Milwaukee River in the 19th and 20th centuries, including the Burnham's brickyard, inventions like Christopher Shole's QWERTY keyboard, and the city's history of machining and manufacturing more broadly. Attendance: 16

Managing Your Landscape with Pollinators in Mind [Virtual]. Hosted by gardening expert Melinda Myers. You can have a landscape that you and the pollinators will enjoy with a few changes to your garden and landscape maintenance. Melinda will cover pollinator-friendly plant care to keep your containers, gardens and landscape healthy and looking its best throughout the year. Then, attendees can explore ways to manage weeds, diseases and insect pests without chemicals that are harmful to your plants and visiting pollinators. Attendance: 123

MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

Civic Bite & Celebration Community Meal w/ Mayor Johnson. It's Civic Season! The Civic Season series is designed to help participants to think critically about the complexities of our collective past and present, and imagine expansively about what we would like the next 250 years to hold for our community. MPL's offering of Civic Season is the *Civic Bites* program - a monthly series crafted to bring community members closer to the people who keep our city running. Mitchell Street Branch celebrated 250 years since America's founding by offering a community meal themed around Independence Day. Special guest, Mayor Cavalier Johnson, was interviewed by Chef Sharrie to provide community members with an inside look at the highest level of government office in the City of Milwaukee. While questions were tailored to better understand the Mayor's role and tasks in conjunction with other city departments, attendees had the opportunity to directly ask the Mayor questions as well. The meal included: Sweet & Smoky Beef Brisket, Halal Beef Burgers, Beef Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Amish Potato Salad, Fresh Watermelon, Lavender Lemonade and Triple Berry Cheesecake Cupcakes. During the Mayor's interview, Mexican Street Corn Dip with Tortilla Chips kept attendees' hunger at bay until the meal was served. The program was well received and positive feedback by community members proved this offering was needed. Attendance: 46

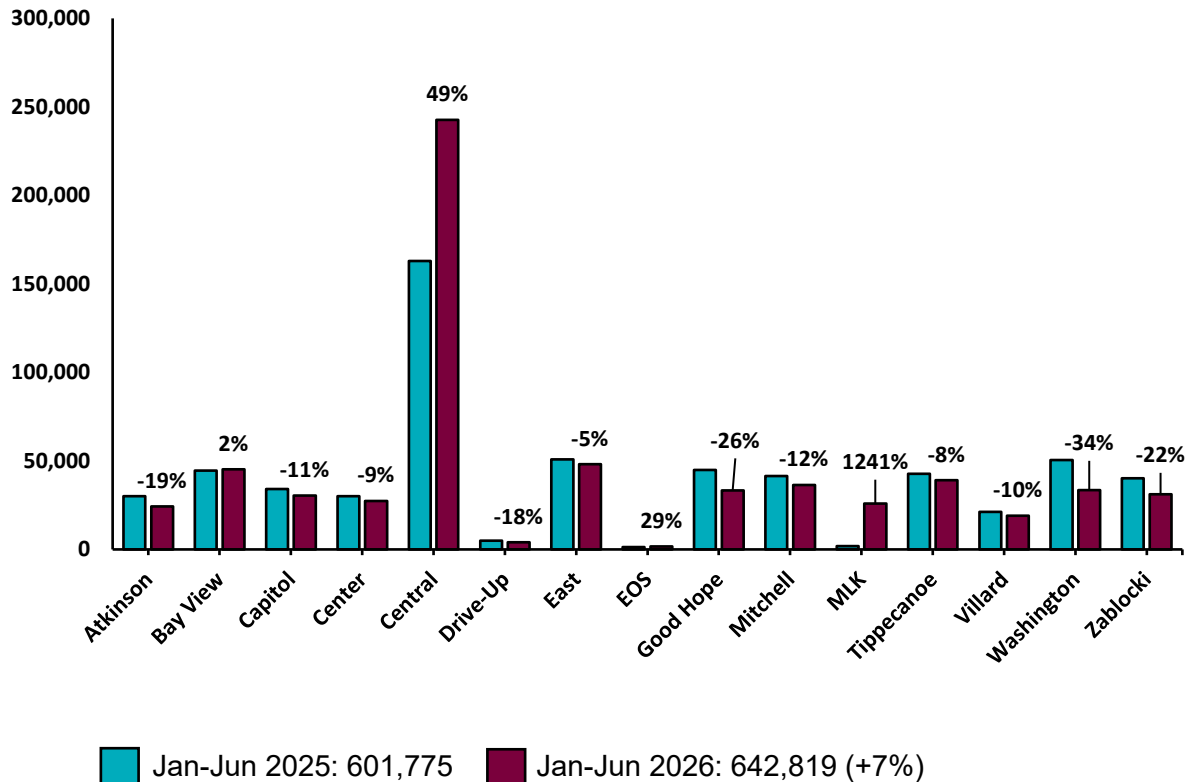
Summer Solstice Yoga. MPL welcomed Jamila Carney from Agape Yogastry to lead a unique experience at Central Library. Program attendees celebrated the Summer Solstice with the movement art of yoga amid the stately beauty of the marble Grand Rotunda of Central Library. Attendance: 25

Common Threads: Weaving Together Our American Story - A Community Discussion for America's 250th. As we mark the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, MPL and Wisconsin PBS invited patrons to join together for critical discussion and storytelling about our collective past. This event is part of MPL's Civic Season. To mark the 250th anniversary of America's founding, the Milwaukee

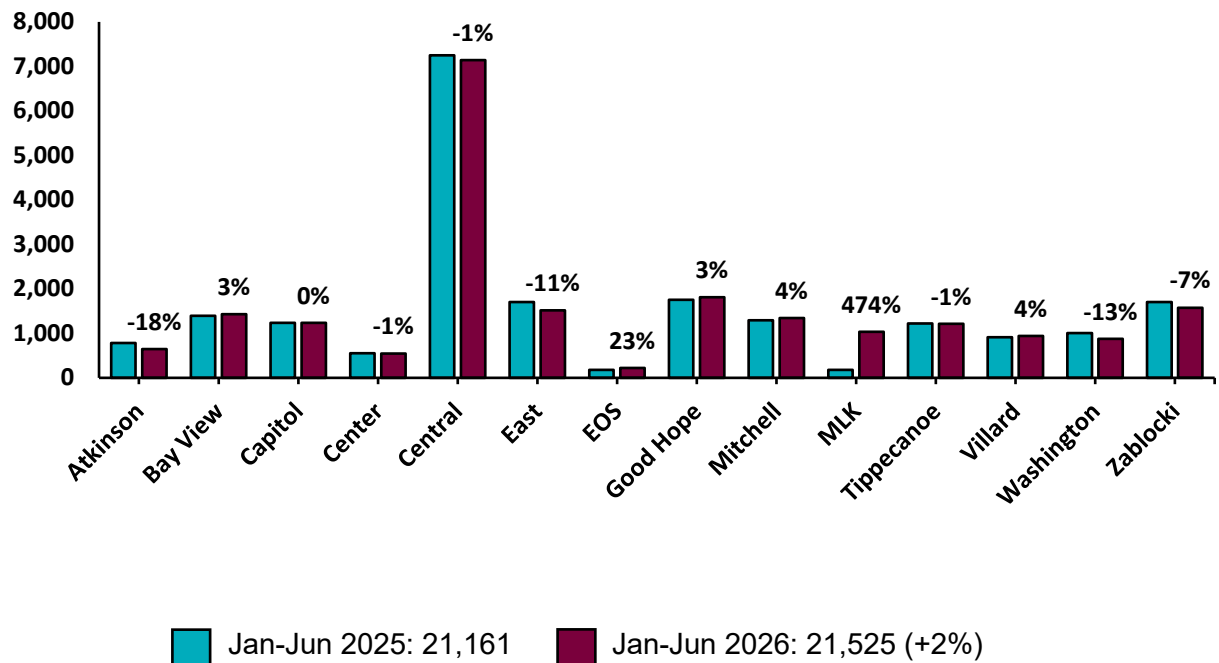
Public Library will host a Civic Season from Juneteenth through Independence Day. These events are designed to help participants to think critically about the complexities of our collective past and imagine expansively about what we'd like the next 250 years to hold for our city. Attendance: 4

Total attendance for 159 programs: 1,480

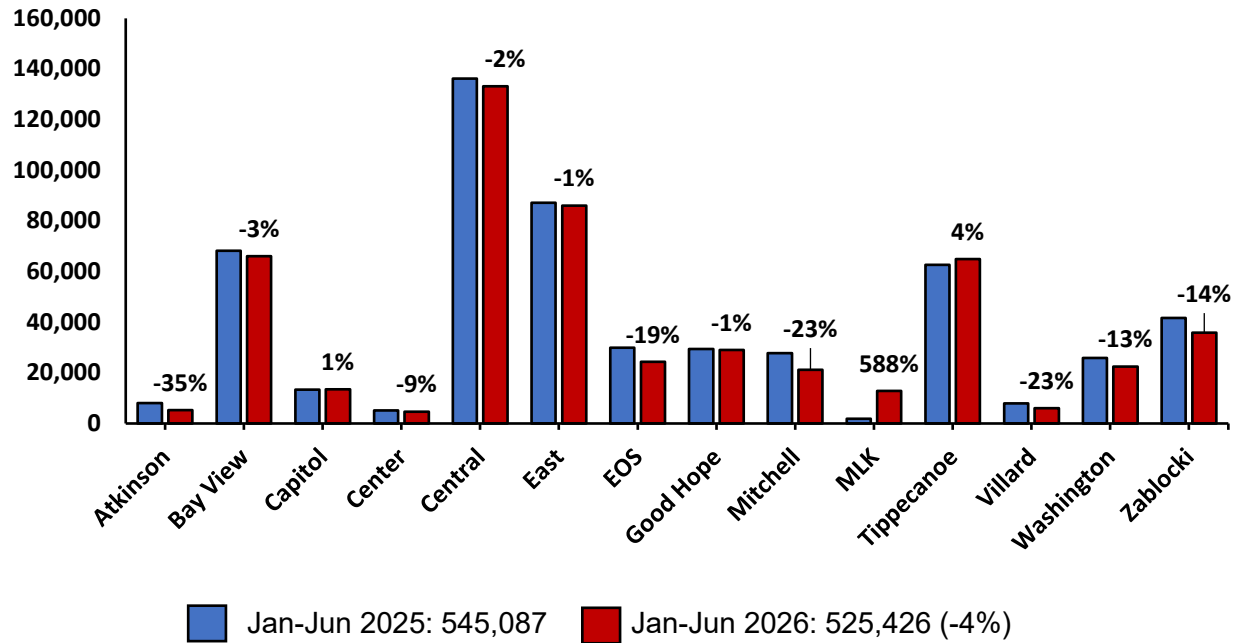
Patron Visits



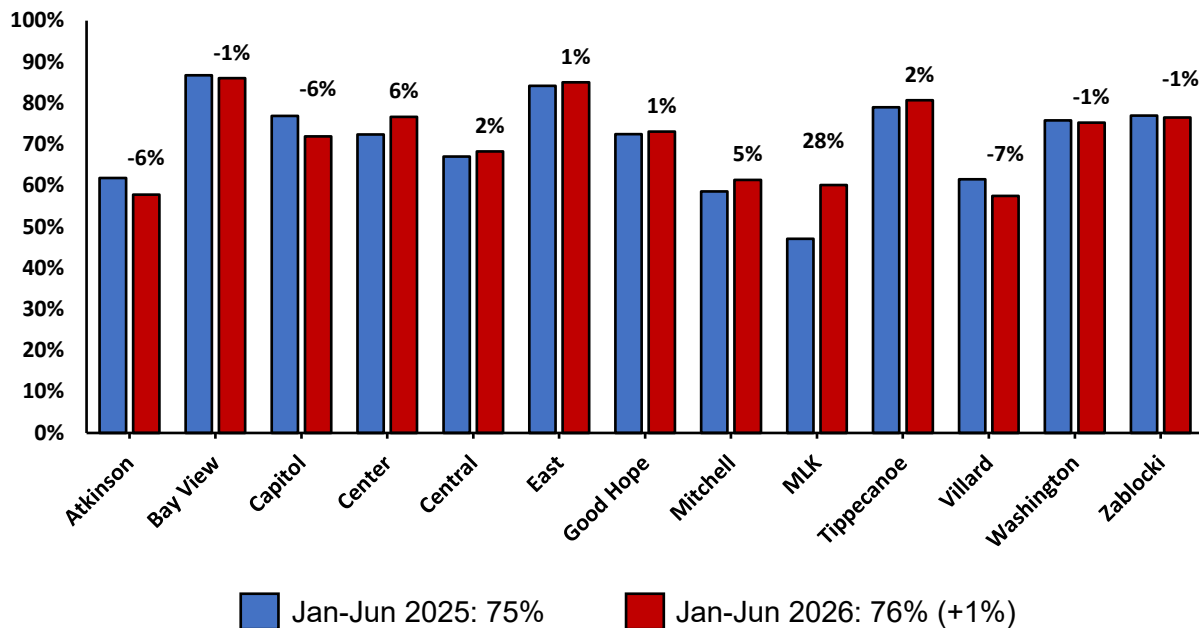
Registration



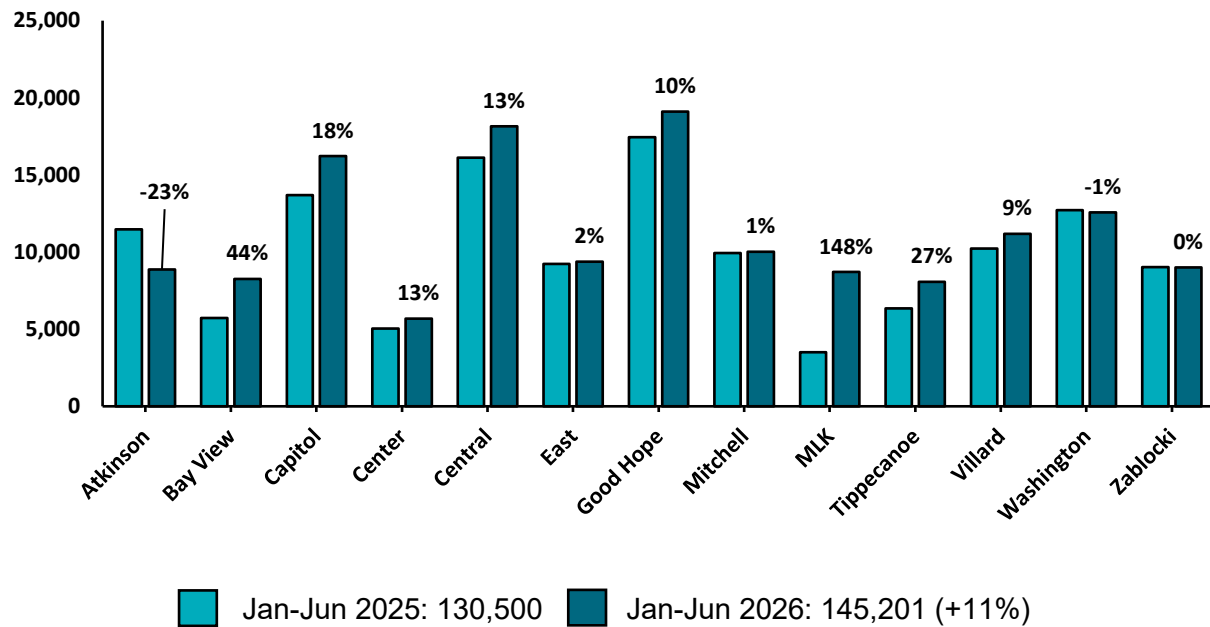
Traditional Circulation



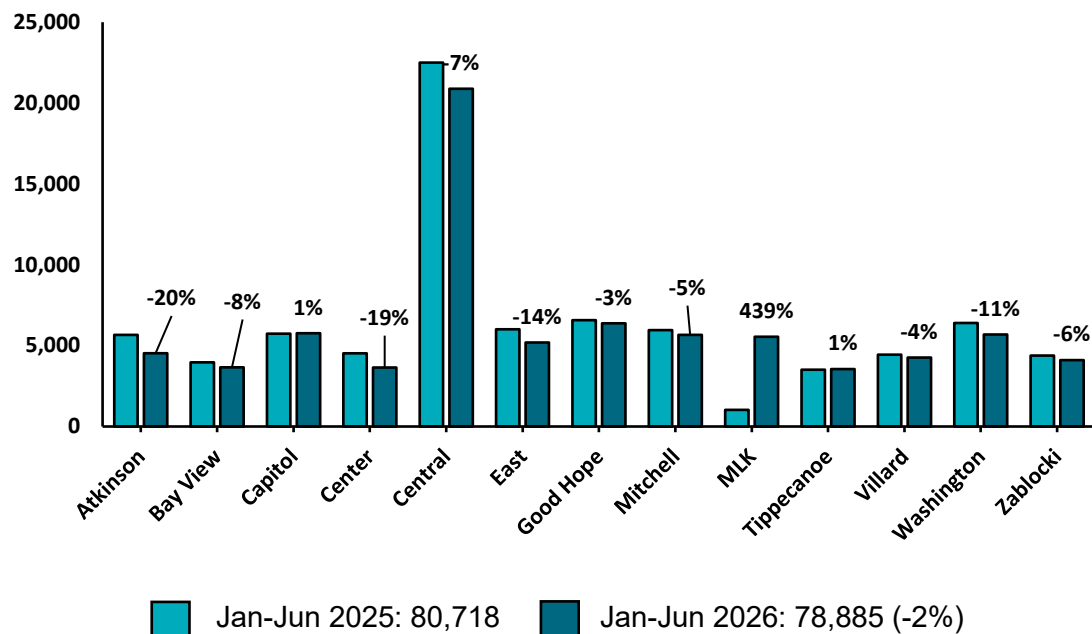
Self-Checkout



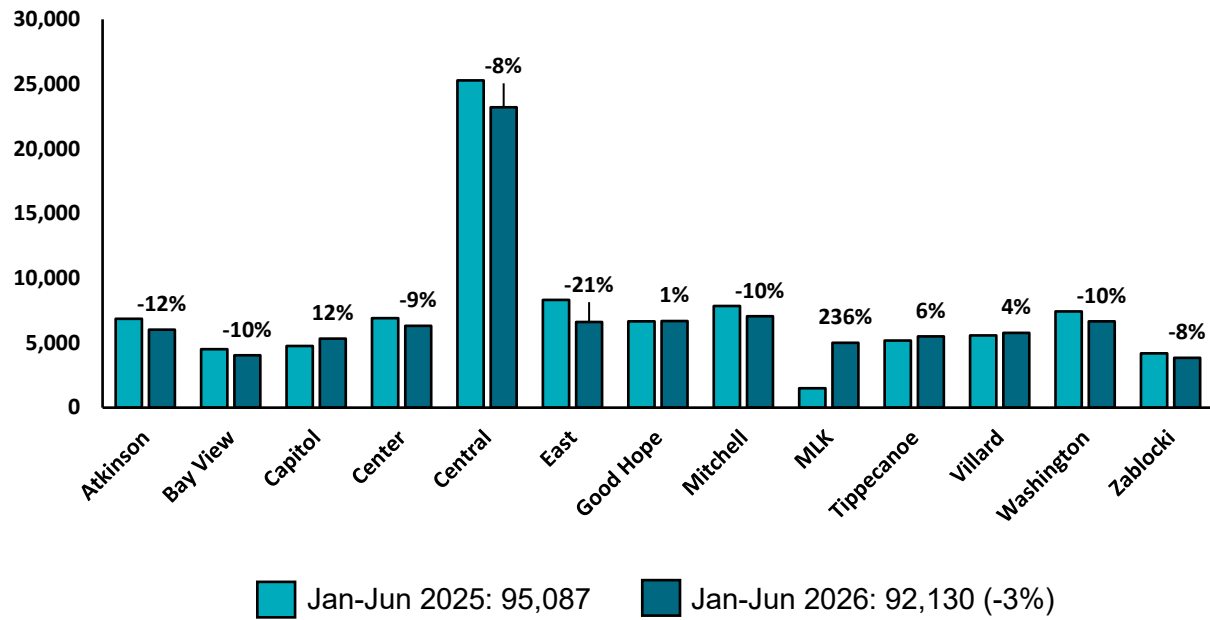
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



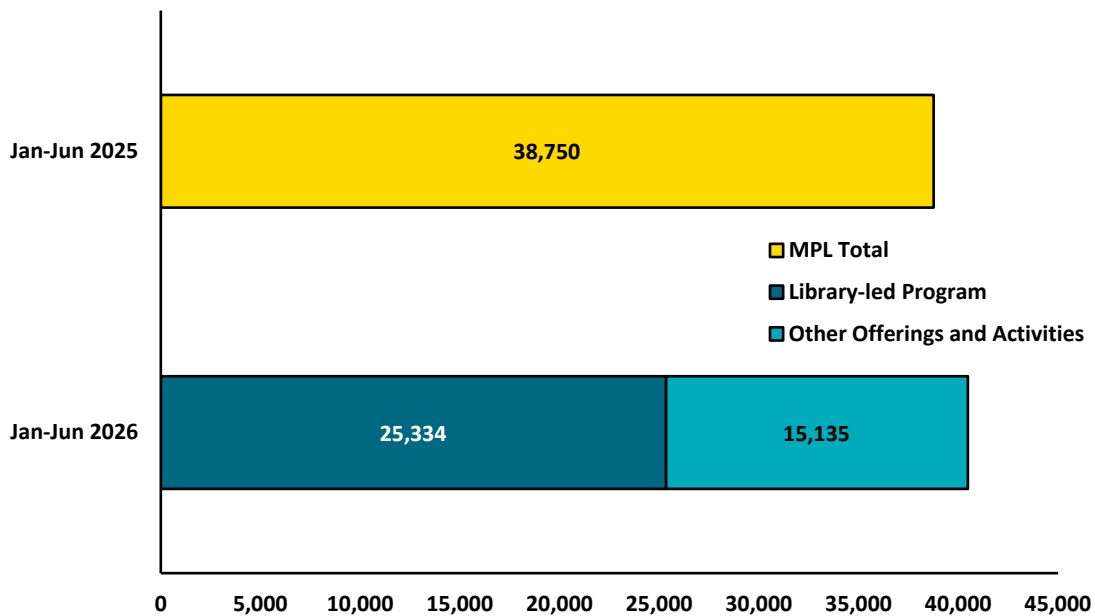
Wi-Fi Unique Users



eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Jun 2025	Jan-Jun 2026	Change
Freegal Music	86,769	377,286	+335%
Hoopla Digital	33,415	33,269	-0.4%
Kanopy	18,401	20,084	+9%
OverDrive	256,091	287,503	+12%
Total	394,676	718,142	+82%

Program Attendance*



Jan-Jun 2025: 38,750 Jan-Jun 2026: 40,469 (+4%)

*On January 1st, 2026, MPL changed how programs are reported and counted to closer match definitions provided by the WI Department of Public Instruction. Due to this change, comparative statistics will be different as we continue to collect updated and accurate statistics throughout the remainder of the year.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

2026 - 2028

(Updated July 9, 2026)

LIBRARY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Michael Morgan, Chair
Larresa Taylor, Vice-Chair
Matt Kowalski
Teresa Mercado
VACANT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michele Bria, President
Teresa Mercado, Vice-President
Michael Morgan, Financial Secretary
VACANT, Past President

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Michael Morgan, Chair
Milele Coggs, Vice-Chair
Neil Albrecht
Andrea Pratt
VACANT

INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Matt Kowalski, Chair
Neil Albrecht
Andrea Pratt
Mary Urbina-McCarthy
Missy Zombor

LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Milele Coggs, Chair
Kathleen Vincent, Vice-Chair
Larresa Taylor
Mary Urbina-McCarthy
Missy Zombor

AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Urban Libraries Council Executive Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board – Neil Albrecht

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

ATTACHMENT B - P. 1 of 4
6. Services & Programs Committee
Meeting - 07/01/26
P. 37

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Ald. Milele Coggs, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Larresa Taylor, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson

STAFF: MPL: Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Carlos Lopez, Tammy Mays
Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Rebecca Schweisberger, Jessica Wolf

Vice-Chair Kathleen Vincent called the MPL Board of Trustees Services and Programs Committee meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2026. All Trustees and presenters participated by video or audio conference.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Vice-Chair Vincent entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the May 6, 2026 meeting. Trustee Zombor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Safety Report.** Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez reported on security incidents in the second quarter of 2026. Overall, incidents have increased by 30% over the same time period on 2025. The majority of security incidents were related to alcohol/drugs, general disruptions, loitering, theft, and trespassing. Informational item.
3. **Revised MPL Policy Approval Request.** Communications and Community Engagement Director Melissa Howard presented an updated policy related to public posting of community flyers. MPL has a procedure related to requests for posting materials to the MPL community bulletin boards. This policy will complement that procedure and outlines submission criteria, establishes priorities, confirms posting does not imply endorsement, and provides staff guidance for processing requests. The policy also clarifies guidelines for the distribution of literature and petition circulation. Trustee Taylor moved to approve the policy as presented and Trustee Zombor seconded. Motion passed.
4. **OneMPL Update.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared an update on OneMPL, a service philosophy that is internally focused on staff development. OneMPL codifies the customer service expectations and incorporates the Start Here Promise. OneMPL will become the standard across all locations and departments. OneMPL goals are:
 - Create the internal conditions that facilitate organizational alignment in the key areas of: operational strategies and practices, behavioral expectations, physical environment and facilities conditions, and community utility.
 - Ensure continuous improvement in service delivery and supporting staff to deliver the Start Here Promise consistently.
 - Regain lost patrons and grow the patron base with new patrons.

Action steps taken by MPL include: collaboration with INPOWER to develop a plan for growth based on community engagement; introducing the initiative at the all managers meeting in December 2025; messaging to all staff; and creation of a governance committee to develop the framework, supporting documents, and timeline for implementation.

Next steps include piloting the OneMPL service philosophy plan at Atkinson Branch, Mitchell Street Branch, and Martin Luther King Branch. Governance committee members are visiting branches to connect with staff before pilot implementation. The pilot will include 30, 60, and 90-day evaluations,

which will inform subsequent roll-outs. Additional updates will be shared with the Committee at upcoming meetings. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Services & Programs Committee was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. on July 1, 2026.

Public Posting and Distribution Policy

I. Purpose

- A. The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) offers limited space in our buildings to share information and connect residents with non-profit, charitable, or community-focused opportunities. Any material displayed does not imply endorsement of the organization, event, or viewpoint.

II. Posting Guidelines

- A. All materials must be submitted to Library staff for approval and posting. Materials posted without approval will be removed.
- B. MPL prioritizes posting the following:
 - 1. City and public agency information
 - 2. Non-profit community events and services
 - 3. Educational, cultural, civic, recreational, or charitable events open to the public
 - 4. Free services and resource information
 - 5. Neighborhood-specific information
- C. MPL **does not** accept the following items, even when arising from a non-profit community organization:
 - 1. Commercial events, advertising, coupons, or product/service promotions
 - 2. Personal ads, job postings or rental listings
 - 3. Campaign literature or petitions for or against a political candidate or ballot issue
 - 4. Religious tracts
 - 5. Donation boxes or receptacles (except City/MPL-sponsored drives)
- D. MPL may also decline materials that are discriminatory, in poor condition, or not aligned with our mission. Election materials must be non-partisan.
- E. Space is limited. Items not related to a specific dated event will be removed after three weeks to keep this service available to many groups. Materials larger than 8 1/2" x 11" will be posted only if space is available. MPL assumes no responsibility for the preservation or protection of materials posted or submitted for posting.

III. Distribution Guidelines

- A. Neighborhood-specific materials should be taken to the branch where posting is requested.
- B. For multiple/all library locations or election-related materials, refer to the Public Posting and Distribution Procedure for Non-Employees (ADM-PR.077) located on the MPL website: https://mpl.org/about/library_policies.php.

IV. Active Distribution of Literature or Obtaining Signatures for Petitions

- A. Literature, surveys, or petitions are not to be distributed to people inside library facilities or on its grounds, but only on public sidewalks outside the library entrance.
- B. Persons distributing literature or obtaining signatures for petitions must not interfere with due orderly entry to or departure from library buildings.

MEMO

Date: July 28, 2026

To: MPL Board of Trustees

From: Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Deputy Library Director

Re: Award Recommendation for Central Library Masonry Restoration Phase 1

On June 16, 2026, the Milwaukee Public Library issued a Request for Proposals for the first phase of masonry restoration work at the Central Library. This phase includes the restoration of 51 parapet sections as well as the removal and restoration of the twin eagle statues flanking the dome. A public bid opening was held on July 15, 2026.

The three companies below submitted bids:

Company	Single Lump Sum Amount
Berglund Construction Company	\$585,000.00
Bond Façade Services	\$970,723.00
Building Restoration Corporation of Wisconsin	\$439,292.00

Library administration recommends awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, Building Restoration Corporation of Wisconsin, for a total of \$439,292.00, pending contract negotiations with library staff.

