

it's about time

COALITION TO EXPAND LIBRARY ACCESS

What would expanded and consistent library hours look like?

- All branches would be open for a consistent set of hours: Monday through Wednesday 10-9 and Thursday-Sunday 10-6.
- All libraries would provide a full day of service on Sundays.
- The collection (books and materials) development budget would increase.
- The community could use meeting rooms for longer periods of time.
- Students could study and use homework resources any day of the week (including the critical weekend hours).

How can we achieve expanded and consistent hours?

- First the Board of Supervisors must increase the annual Library budget by \$3.3 million annually, which still keeps the cost of running the Library at less than 1% of the Fairfax County annual budget.
- Based on hiring new employees and operation needs, it is possible to bring about half (11) of the libraries onto the new seven-day, expanded hours schedule (although all library branches will benefit from the increase in books and materials) in FY 2021 (beginning July 1, 2020). Remaining branches would adopt the new hours model in the following months or year.
- Supervisors need to hear community support. Attend a budget meeting, talk to your supervisor, share our social media posts!

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Facts about our libraries build a strong case for support!

1. In FY19, Fairfax County Public libraries saw 4.576 million visitors. The proposed service hours increase could *generate up to 500,000 additional visits per year.*
2. In FY19, more than 430,000 library card holders circulated 11 million items. The proposed increase in service hours alone could *generate up to 1.323 million additional circulations per year.* If the collection development budget is additionally increased, that would increase even further.
3. In FY19, 275,000 people attended programs such as preschool story times, book clubs, teen coding camps and English conversation groups. *More hours will mean more time for programs and opportunities for the community to educate and entertain.*
4. For our communities with less reliable transportation, it is vital to have access to walkable or transit-able library resources. In some communities, *Sunday hours can mean the difference between access to governmental services and forgoing them.*
5. Expanded and consistent library hours align with several of the draft Fairfax County Strategic Plan priorities those in the areas of *Cultural and Recreational Opportunities, Economic Opportunity, Education and Lifelong Learning and Efficient and Effective Government.*
6. *Our library's budget is less than 1% of the County's total general fund allocation.* Providing the support and funding to reach these new expanded hours is consistent with the direction of elected officials and will reap immediate benefits for the community.

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