



Montana State Library Commission Meeting

August 12, 2026 – 9am-2pm

MSL Gertrude Buckhous Meeting Room

[Meeting Link](#)



Montana State Library Commission

August Business Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, | 9:00 a.m.

Montana State Library | Gertrude Buckhous Conference Room

1201 11th Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

AGENDA

The authority of the State Library Commission is found in Montana Code Annotated (MCA) [Title 22, Ch. 1, Part 103](#).

The State Library Commission is committed to providing access to its proceedings in accordance with MCA Title 2, Ch. 3 Part 2 Open Meetings. All meetings of the State Library Commission will be streamed and recorded via an online meeting platform. The State Library Commission welcomes public comment. The Chair will ask for public comment on agenda items throughout the meeting from persons attending the meeting in person or online. Members of the public who wish to share written comments or pertinent visual materials must submit written public comments no later than two (2) business days before the start of the public meetings. During public comment periods, speakers shall identify themselves and who they represent. Speakers shall limit their address to the State Library Commission on agenda items to three (3) minutes unless further time is granted by the Chair with the concurrence of the Commission. The Chair reserves the right to limit public comments if comments are not germane to the motion or if they are deemed disruptive. To ensure clear communication and an opportunity for follow-up questions, chat comments are not accepted. All comments received become part of the official public record of the State Library Commission proceedings in accordance with MCA 2-3-212. The Commission shall move through the agenda as needed.

9:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions

- Changes or additions to the agenda
- Staff longevity recognitions
 - Troy Blandford, Water Information Systems Manager, 20 years
 - Scott Blum, Biologist/Information Specialist, 20 years
 - Bob Cochran, 911 GIS Analyst, 20 years
 - Bryce Maxell, Natural Heritage Program Coordinator, 20 years
 - Jen Birnel, Montana History Portal Director, 15 years
 - Dan Bachen, Senior Zoologist, 10 years
 - Tracy Cook, Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian, 10 years
 - Pat Jackson, GIS Technician, 5 years

Business items

- 9:30 a.m. • Consent agenda– **Action**
- June 10, 2026, meeting minutes
 - Public Comment
- 9:45 a.m. • FY 2027 Montana State Reference Network Budget – Finance Committee – **Action**
- Public Comment

Discussion and information items

- 10:15 a.m. • Statewide mental health planning – Meghan Peel, Administrator, Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division, MT Dept. of Public Health & Human Services - Tentative
- 11:00 a.m. • Viewpoint Diversity – Commissioner Cuthbertson
- 11:30 a.m. • Continuing education course options to teach an alternate worldview opposed to the standard master's in library science curriculum - Burnett
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch provided for Commissioners**

Standing reports

- 12:30 p.m. • State Library Reports – Stapp and staff
- FY 27 Work Plan Dashboard
 - PDF Version
 - [Continuing Education and Certification dashboard](#)
 - PDF Version
 - FY 26 4th quarter staffing memo
 - FY 26 4th quarter grants and contracts memo
 - Education Interim Budget Committee (EIBC) reports
 - [Quarterly Financial Report](#) (Legislative Fiscal Division)
 - [Montana Geospatial Information Act \(MGIA\) Revenues, Expenditures, & Fund Balances](#) (Legislative Fiscal Division)
 - [Library Resource Study Executive Summary](#) (Legislative Fiscal Division)
 - [Library Resource Sharing Study](#) (June 2026, Montana State Library)
 - [Downloading dashboard instructions](#)

Commission Goals and Objectives – Commission

- 12:45 p.m. • Review meeting motions and directives to staff to confirm Commission intent
- Review and prioritize agenda items for October business meeting, October 14, 9:00 a.m., Miles City Public Library, Miles City, MT
 - [Annual Business Calendar](#)
 - [PDF Version](#)



- Suggested future agenda items
 - 2026 Commission goals status
 - Subcommittee appointments – Commissioner Scribner
- 1:00 p.m. Public Comment on any matter not included in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the State Library Commission.
- 1:15 p.m. Other Business & Announcements
- 1:30 p.m. Adjourn

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/84202878629> [mt-gov.zoom.us]

Meeting ID: 842 0287 8629

Password: 663140

Dial by Telephone

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 842 0287 8629

Password: 663140

Find your local number: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/84202878629>

Montana State Library Commission

June Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.

Montana State Library | Gertrude Buckhouse Conference Room
1201 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

MINUTES

Date: June 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Montana State Library, Gertrude Buckhouse Conference Room, 1201 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 and Zoom

Recording Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7lioJcOMrg>

Attendance

- **Commission Members:** Robyn Scribner (Chair), Kris Goss, Tammy Hall, Peggy Taylor, Tom Burnett, Carmen Cuthbertson. McKenna Gregg was noted as absent.
- **Staff:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian; Malissa Briggs, Central Services Administrator; Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator; Tracy Cook, Lead Statewide Consulting Librarian; Cara Orban, Statewide Consulting Librarian.
- **Guests:** Additional staff, federation coordinators, and presenters participated throughout the meeting, including staff recognized for longevity and guests appearing during later agenda items.

Call to Order and Introductions

Timestamp: 00:00:00

- **Discussion:** Chair Robyn Scribner called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees.

Changes or additions to the agenda

Timestamp: 00:02:29

- **Discussion:** Discussion items were added under other businesses, including a discussion related to the Montana State Reference Network. Chair Scribner also reviewed meeting procedures, including assistance with Robert's Rules, time limits for informal presentations, and a three-minute public comment guideline.

Staff Longevity Recognitions

Timestamp: 00:03:01

- **Discussion:** The Commission recognized staff service milestones listed on the agenda: Lee Fossum for 25 years, Erin Fashoway for 20 years, Amy Marchwick for 15 years, Laura Tretter for 15 years, and Kyle Kaskie for 5 years.
- **Discussion:** Remarks were given by supervisors and staff members, and the Commission expressed appreciation for staff leadership, expertise, and long service to the State Library.

Consent Agenda - Action

Timestamp: 00:20:50

- **Item:** Consent agenda included the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes; April 8, 2026, meeting minutes; May 6, 2026, meeting minutes; second quarter Fiscal Year 2026 financial report; third quarter Fiscal Year 2026 financial report; and revised Commission bylaws.
- **Motion:** To accept the consent agenda as presented.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Hall
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Cuthbertson
- **Discussion:** Commissioners praised the revised February 11 minutes and described them as exceptionally well done.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously by voice vote.

FY 2027 Budget - Finance Committee - Action

Timestamp: 00:22:36

- **Discussion:** The Commission reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget and focused discussion on two real-time network (RTN) items: approximately \$220,000 to \$250,000 for nodes and related equipment to connect additional stations to the network, and approximately \$50,000 for a term support position. Staff explained that these were previously planned investments that had been delayed when Montana Geospatial Information act revenue declined.

- **Discussion:** Staff explained that the RTN budget line also included the existing operator, contractual obligations, and allocated administrative costs. The proposed equipment would connect additional stations, including Montana Department of Transportation supported stations, to the public-facing network and expand statewide access.
- **Discussion:** Evan Hammer explained that the State Library partners with the Montana Department of Transportation and that MDT had already invested in additional stations, particularly in eastern Montana. He said the requested node purchases were needed to connect those stations to the State Library network so the public could use them.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the network's current performance, including subscriber growth, renewal rates, and overall viability. Staff reported that the original glide path had projected self-sustainability by 2029, but that projection had shifted to 2030, and commissioners noted concern that the program was not yet meeting expectations.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed whether the proposed support position should focus on technical support, marketing, or a combination of both. Staff stated that the position would be structured as a term contract rather than a permanent FTE and that any recruitment and onboarding process would take significant time.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners also discussed market demand and statewide coverage. Staff stated that key users include surveyors, engineers, agriculture, drone operators, and others needing precise measurements, and that fuller statewide coverage would make the product easier to market even if some internal gaps remained.
- **Discussion:** Several commissioners expressed concern that the Commission needed a clearer exit strategy if the network did not become self-sustaining. Discussion included possible divestment, handoffs to a partner, timelines for decision-making, and the need to understand what a shutdown or transfer would require before further investment was authorized.
- **Discussion:** Staff clarified that removing the two RTN items from the FY 2027 spending plan would not stop the existing network. Current operations would continue, and the Commission could still authorize those expenditures later in the fiscal year under the existing legislative appropriation, although delay could make implementation more difficult.
- **Motion:** To adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 budget with the exclusion of the RTN equipment purchases and the hiring of the new employee for the RTN program.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Burnett.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Cuthbertson.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Vote: 4 ayes. 2 nays.

- o **Burnett** – Aye
- o **Cuthbertson** – Aye
- o **Goss** – Nay
- o **Hall** – Aye
- o **Scribner** – Aye
- o **Taylor** – Nay

- **Next steps:** The Commission directed staff to return with updated glide path targets, possible divestment or exit strategy options, and a clearer description of the proposed term position. The Commission also identified the RTN for continued review under Commission goals and for further discussion at the August meeting.

FY 2027 Course Catalog - Continuing Education Subcommittee - Action

Timestamp: 01:18:34

- **Item:** Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Course Catalog
- **Motion:** To approve the FY 2027 Course Catalog
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Motion failed for lack of a second**
- **Discussion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson requested a review of the catalog by subject area and each section separately.
- **Discussion:** The Commission thanked Tracy and staff for the work involved in preparing the initial catalog and rubric. Commissioners noted that this was the first catalog and that additional courses could be reviewed and added overtime.
- **Discussion:** Throughout the review, commissioners discussed Montana relevance, provider familiarity, course cost, alignment with the Commission's certification purpose, and whether some proposals should be referred to committee for additional review before approval.

Basic Laws

- **Motion:** To approve the Basic Laws courses as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2027 Course Catalog.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Cuthbertson
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously by voice vote.

- **Discussion:** Commissioner Goss **abstained** and stated for the record that he had delivered some of those sessions in a volunteer capacity and had not been compensated.

Board, Government, and Community Relations

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve courses 1, 2, 4 through 9, and 14, and to refer courses 3 and 10 through 13 back to committee for further study.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners expressed concern about approving some out-of-state offerings in the first round and preferred to begin with Montana-based providers or presenters with clear Montana relevance. Commissioners also discussed course cost and the desire to keep the catalog factual and practical.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Data Reporting

- **Motion:** Commissioner's Cuthbertson and Taylor move to approve all courses as proposed in the Fiscal Year 27 Course Catalog.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners noted that some courses might later be cross listed under more than one topic area.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Facilities Management

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve courses 1, 2, and 6, and to refer the remaining proposals back to committee.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners expressed concern about approving Web Junction offerings without further review and said they wanted more time to evaluate course content, Montana relevance, and possible alternative providers. Commissioners also stated that needed facilities-related topics should still be developed and brought back.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Financial Management

- **Motion:** To approve courses 1, 3, 4, and 5 and refer course 2 back to committee.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed course 2, “Navigating the Elective Roadmap,” and concerns that its language tracked language under later discussion in the administrative rules. Commissioners stated that they wanted the opportunity to review and potentially revise that course before including it in the catalog.

Commissioners also raised concern about course 5 because it was a Web Junction offering and referenced funders being interested in a diverse set of applicants and communities. A motion to amend was made to approve only courses 1, 3, and 4 and to refer courses 2 and 5 back to committee.

- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** The amendment was approved unanimously by voice vote. The amended motion was then approved unanimously by voice vote. Courses 1, 3, and 4 were approved for inclusion in the FY 2027 Course Catalog, and Courses 2 and 5 were referred to committee.

Library Services

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve Library Services Courses 1–5, 8–26, 28, 32, 35, 37, and 39–47 for inclusion in the FY 2027 Course Catalog and to refer the remaining courses back to committee.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the scope and content of the proposed Library Services courses, including the number of courses included, whether certain topics were appropriate for director certification, and the use of Web Junction courses. Concerns were raised regarding courses with costs listed as "TBD" and the inclusion of Web Junction offerings. Staff clarified that the LIFT courses are provided through the State Library's Web Junction license at no cost and that several are required as part of the initial course of study. Commissioners also discussed the annual review process for the course catalog and course of study and agreed that the committee could continue evaluating additional course offerings and recommend changes in future years.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Approved by voice vote. Commissioner Hall voted no.

Personnel Management

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve all courses under Personnel Management except course 4, course 12, and any courses taught by Web Junction, with the excluded items referred to committee.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor

- **Discussion:** Commissioners again expressed concern about Web Junction offerings and preferred to move forward with the remaining proposals while sending selected items back for additional review.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Planning

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve course 1 under Planning and to refer courses 2 through 5 back to committee.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Burnett
- **Discussion:** Commissioners stated that approving course 1 would allow directors to begin work in that subject area while the committee continued refining the remaining offerings.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Policy

- **Motion:** Commissioner Cuthbertson moved to approve the two courses listed under Policy.
- **Second by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Next Steps

- **Direction to staff/subcommittee:** The Continuing Education Subcommittee was directed to continue reviewing deferred courses and to bring additional recommendations back to the Commission. Commissioners stated that referral back to committee did not mean permanent rejection, but rather additional review before possible future approval.

FY 2027 Federations Plans of Service - Action

Timestamp: 02:34:28

- **Motion:** To accept the Fiscal Year 2027 Federation Plans of Service for all federations.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Goss

- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Taylor
- **Discussion:** Commissioners asked about the origin and usefulness of the standard federation program categories and discussed whether future reports should identify the designated trustee training funds more clearly.
- **Discussion:** Federation coordinators and representatives introduced themselves and gave brief updates on their federations, including staffing transitions, training, retreat plans, and upcoming bylaw review work.
- **Public Comment:** None formally recorded beyond invited coordinator remarks during discussion.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.
- **Next Steps:** Staff noted a future change to break out trustee training more clearly in federation reporting.

Statewide Mental Health Planning

Timestamp: 02:53:43

- **Discussion:** The agenda listed Meghan Peel for this item, but the Commission was informed that she had a noon appointment and would not be attending the meeting. The item was not presented and was deferred for another day.

Library Approaches to Managing Parental Concerns About Library Content

Timestamp: 02:54:59

- **Discussion:** The Commission discussed parental concerns regarding library content and reviewed a background document outlining existing practices of local libraries. Commissioners stated that the issue is becoming more prominent and that local libraries may need practical guidance for responding to community concerns while remaining within legal requirements.
- **Discussion:** Commissioner Goss distinguished the legal framework for school libraries from that for public libraries. Goss explained that 2023 legislation authorized school district boards of trustees to adopt stricter policies and definitions for school library materials, while no comparable statutory structure exists for public libraries. Commissioners discussed the importance of local control, local board authority, and clear public library policies for handling concerns about materials, placement, and access.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed concerns being raised by parents and community members about age-appropriate access to materials, including children's and teen collections, graphic materials, and audiovisual content. Commissioners stated that the issue was not book banning, but how libraries

make collection-development, shelving, and placement decisions when they cannot carry every title and must exercise judgment in serving their communities.

- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the legal context surrounding these issues, including constitutional considerations, parental rights, obscenity standards, and the importance of local complaint and review procedures. Commissioners emphasized that local libraries should have transparent processes that take parental and citizen concerns seriously and allow boards to explain how decisions are made.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners also discussed practical approaches libraries may use within the law, including clearly defined collection policies, distinguishing adult and minor materials, parent-resource sections for sensitive topics, and local placement decisions that reflect both legal obligations and community expectations. Commissioners stated that these decisions also affect public trust and that some families may disengage from library use if concerns are not addressed responsibly.
- **Direction to staff/subcommittee:** The Commission expressed support for referring the topic to the Continuing Education Subcommittee for consideration of a training or course on managing parental concerns about library content, including both legal guidance and practical response strategies for local libraries.

Draft Changes to 10.102.1159 Administrative Rules of Montana Serving the Community Changes – Cuthbertson and Goss

Timestamp: 03:45:27

- **Discussion:** Commissioners Goss and Cuthbertson led discussion of draft Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) changes related to the new public library director certification framework and associated program administration. Commissioners discussed whether the proposed language accurately reflected prior Commission decisions and whether certain matters should remain in rule or instead be addressed through policy, guidance, or course-catalog materials.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners raised questions about specific wording in the draft, including language affecting interpretation of certification requirements, electives, and service expectations. Commissioners also noted overlaps between portions of the draft ARM language and terminology used in the proposed course catalog, including the elective roadmap, and expressed concern that unclear wording could create confusion or unnecessarily limit future implementation flexibility.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the need for the ARM language to remain clear, enforceable, and consistent with statute, while avoiding unnecessary details better suited to administrative guidance. Commissioners also identified at least one technical citation or numbering issue in the draft and requested additional review for internal consistency and accuracy before further action.

- **Discussion:** Commissioners noted that the draft remained in a working stage and would require additional revision before moving into the formal rulemaking process. Staff indicated that, once refined, the ARM changes would proceed through the standard notice and public-comment process before returning to the Commission for further action.
- **Direction to staff/commissioners:** State Library staff, including Tracy and State Librarian Jennie Stapp, will organize a work session with Commissioners Kris Goss, Carmen Cuthbertson, and Peggy Taylor for further review of the draft administrative rule language.

State Library Reports

Timestamp: 04:12:27

- **Report:** State Librarian Jennie Stapp presented the standing reports and reviewed the FY2026 work plan dashboard throughout the third quarter, noting that the fourth-quarter dashboard would be provided at the August meeting. Stapp also referenced the continuing education and certification dashboard and explained that staff were refining how project work is described and tracked for the Commission.
- **Report:** Stapp explained that staff are working to better scope agency projects so that annual work plans more accurately reflect what can reasonably be completed within a fiscal year. She noted that some projects may continue into the following year, but that the work plan should more clearly identify the portion of work expected within the current reporting period.
- **Report:** Stapp reviewed the effort categories now included in the work plan materials: small projects up to 40 hours of team effort, medium projects from 41 to 160 hours, large projects from 160 to 400 hours, and extra-large projects over 400 hours. She stated that this information was added to give the Commission a clearer understanding of project scale and staff capacity.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners commented favorably on the revised dashboard format and said the added information on project scope and staff effort was helpful.
- **Discussion:** During discussion of the continuing education and certification dashboard, commissioners suggested that future reporting includes information not only on completed courses but also on courses started and not completed. Commissioners stated that this additional information could help identify technical issues, course-design concerns, or areas where learners show interest but do not finish the material.
- **Discussion:** State Librarian Jennie Stapp briefly returned to the Montana State Reference Network topic and acknowledged the Commission's concerns about long term viability and the need for an exit strategy. She stated that staff share these concerns and committed to bring back, within the coming months, a clearer set of performance

targets and an outline of possible divestiture or transition options for Commission review.

- **Discussion:** Commissioners briefly discussed a recent complaint raised about library materials and asked staff how such complaints are handled. Staff reiterated that complaints about local library collections must first follow the local library's established review and appeal process and that the Commission's role is limited to matters that are properly brought before it after local procedures have been completed. Commissioners affirmed that this approach respects local control and clarified that the Commission does not remove or ban specific titles from local collections.

Commission Goals and Objectives

Timestamp: 04:32:44

- **Discussion:** The Commission reviewed motions and directives for the August 12 business meeting and identified follow-up topics, including an exit strategy and investment discussion for the real-time network, additional continuing education recommendations, federation reporting changes related to trustee training, possible training on managing parental concerns about library content, continued work on the administrative rule, and dashboard additions requested by commissioners.

Officer Elections – Action

Timestamp: 04:52:44

Nomination: Robin Scribner was nominated as Chair of the Montana State Library by Commissioner Taylor. No other nominations.

Second by: Commissioner Cuthbertson

- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Nomination: Tom Burnett was nominated as Vice Chair of the Montana State Library Commission by Commissioner Hall. No other nominations.

Second by: Commissioner Cuthbertson

- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items and Other Business

Timestamp: 05:05:27

- **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed newsletter distribution, interim committee communications, travel reimbursement deadlines, and hotel arrangements for commissioners. Staff reminded commissioners that reimbursement requests were due by June 15 so they could be processed before the end of the fiscal year.

Public Comment: None

Non-Agenda Items and Other Business

- **Discussion:** Commissioner Burnett's discussion about the Montana State Reference Network was addressed during prior business.
- **Discussion:** The Commission discussed an email received from Nancy Royan, librarian at the Wedsworth Memorial Library in Cascade, regarding recent notification from Cascade County that county funding for libraries may be reduced or discontinued. Staff noted that local library funding decisions are outside the jurisdiction of the Commission but provided background on the challenges facing local governments, including recent property tax changes and competing demands for public safety and infrastructure funding. Commissioners discussed potential options for affected libraries, including exploring partnerships, shared services, and community-based funding approaches.

Adjournment

Timestamp: 05:12:28

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.
- **Moved by:** Commissioner Cuthbertson
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Taylor



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator
Subject: Fiscal Year 2027 Montana State Reference Network Budget
Date: August 10, 2026

Placeholder pending Finance Committee Review

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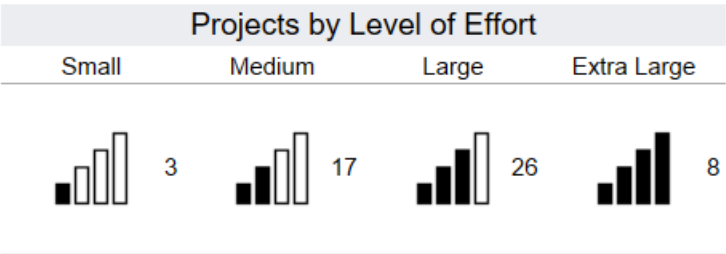
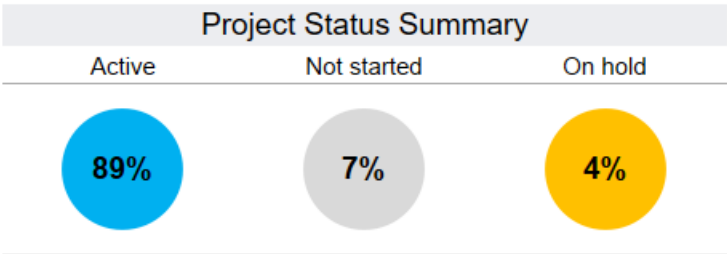
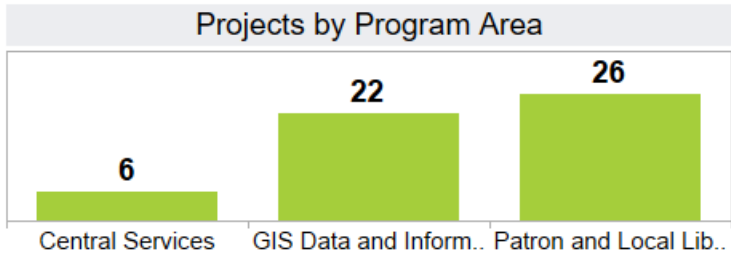
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Montana State Library FY 27 Work Plan

File created on: 8/4/2026

For an accessible, interactive version of this dashboard, visit:

[Montana State Library FY 27 Work Plan](#)



Instructions: Click the program area, project status, and level of effort charts above to filter the project list below. Hover or click on each project status bar to see additional details.

Work Plan Projects			
Program Area	Work Area	Project Title	FY 2027
Central Services	Data Coordination	Count Week	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Create updated system for documenting house-wide IT processes, how-to guides, system and infrastructure maps for easy agency reference.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Evaluate, identify and implement solution for hardware and software asset management system.	Active
Central Services	Information Technology	Update and improve IT Onboarding Process and provide live access to progress for leads to monitor	Active
Central Services	State Librarian	2027 Legislative Session	On hold
Central Services	State Librarian	Revise 10.55.1159 ARM	Active
GIS Data and Information Services	Information Products	ASPeN upgrades and replacements	Active

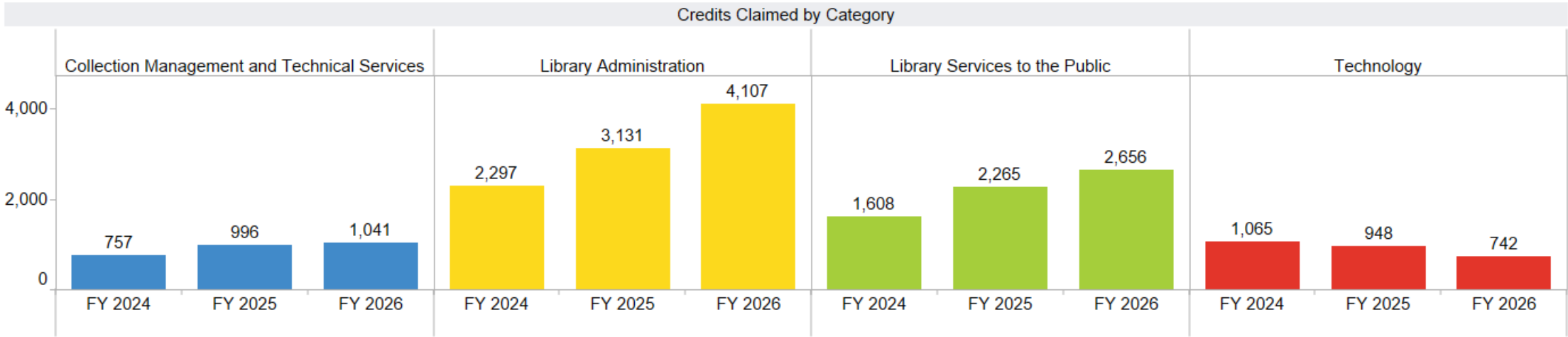
Montana State Library Continuing Education & Certification

File created on: 8/3/2026

For an accessible, interactive version of this dashboard, visit:

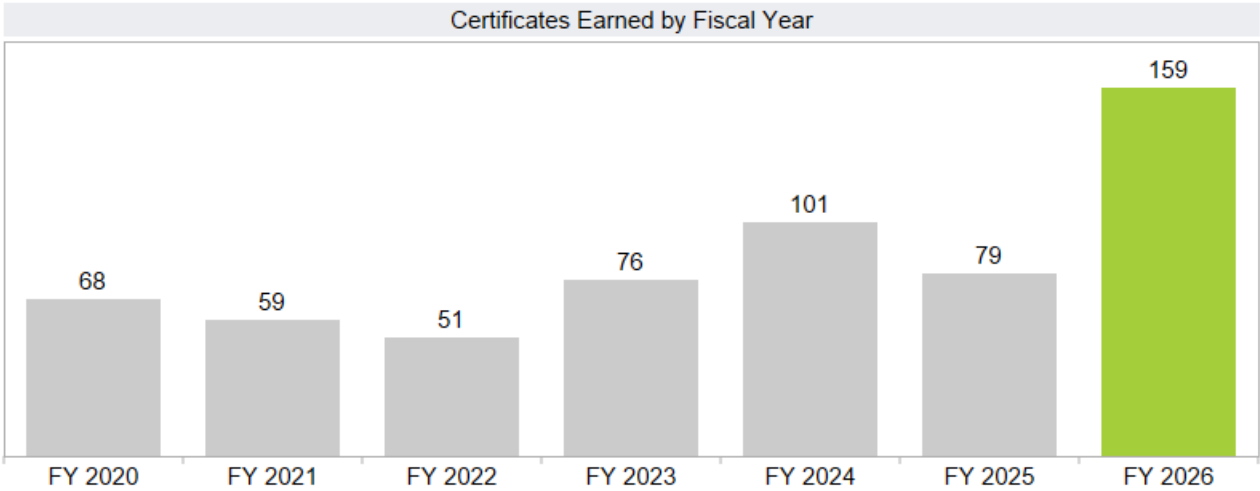
[Montana State Library Continuing Education & Certification.](#)

Certification	MSL Learn	YouTube	Web & Newsletter	Training Survey
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Certificates Earned by Type

Certification Type	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Trustee			5	8	10	12	20
Staff			32	28	40	31	60
Renewal Administrator					29	23	58
Initial Administrator					22	13	21
Administrator			14	40			
All	68	59					
Grand Total	68	59	51	76	101	79	159



To date in FY 2026, 159 people received their certification. In 2022, the State Library began tracking three types of certificates, trustee, staff, and administrator. In 2024, the administrator certificate was split into two categories, initial and renewal.

Certificates issued, excluding initial certificates earned by completing a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree and OPI renewal units.

The Continuing Education & Certification program is made possible by federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional state and local support. Discover how federal grants enhance Montana's libraries: [Federal Library Funds at Work](#)

Certification

MSL Learn

YouTube

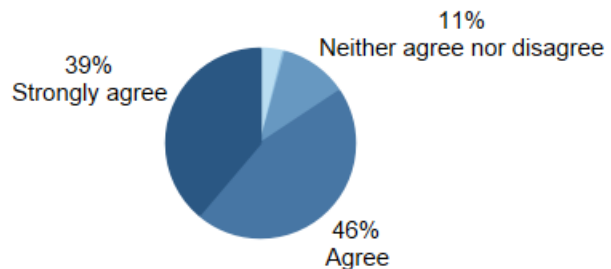
Web & Newsletter

Training Survey

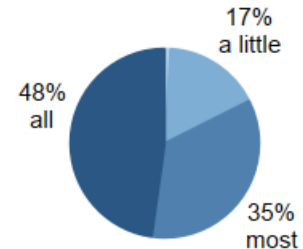
Course

All

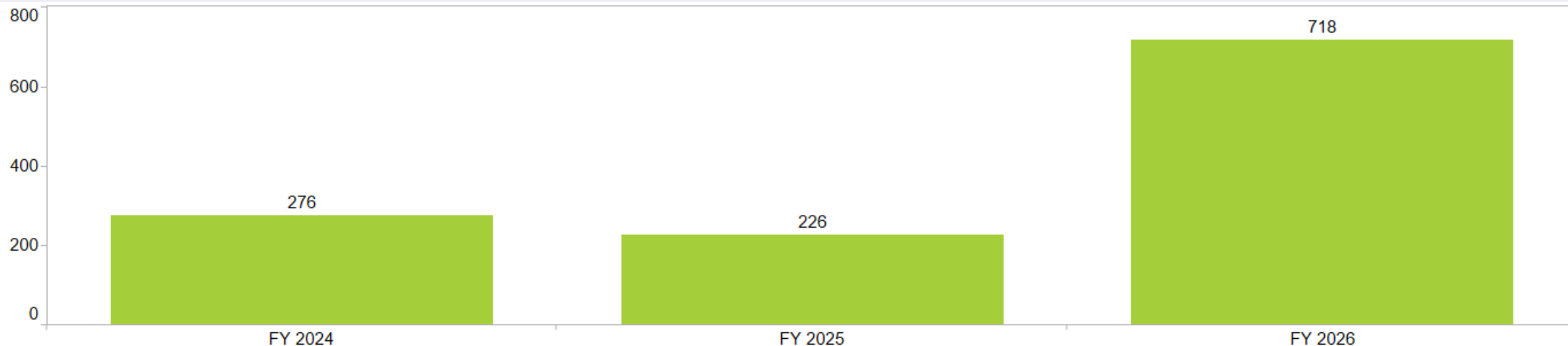
Applying what I learned will help improve library services to the public.



How much of what you learned will you apply to your work?



Course Completions



The Continuing Education & Certification program is made possible by federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional state and local support. Discover how federal grants enhance Montana's libraries: [Federal Library Funds at Work](#)

Certification

MSL Learn

YouTube

Web & Newsletter

Training Survey

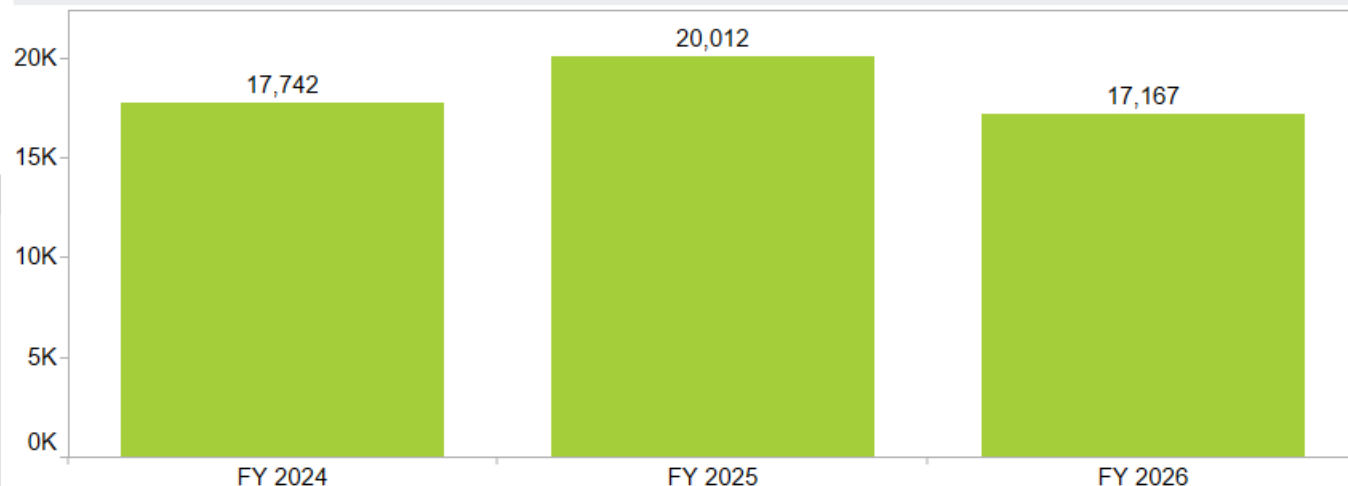
Month

June 2026

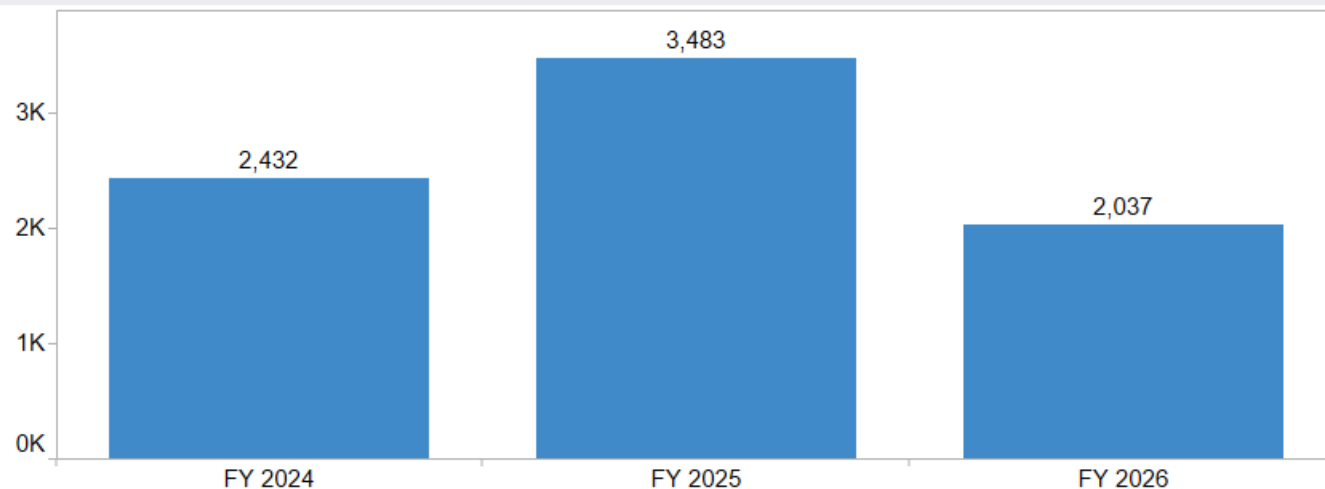
Video Views and Watch time

Video title	Views	Watch time (minutes)
How to Set Up RTK for DJI Drones Using the Montana State Reference N..	217	503
Let's Talk About It! Library Safety and Security	124	904
2026, June 10 - Montana State Library Commission Meeting	80	1,826
ASPeN: Download CE Credit Record Spreadsheet	57	36
Safety Inspections - What to Know and What to Do	33	296
Strategic Planning: An Overview for Public Library Trustees	30	91
Webside Chat with Jennie Stapp - June 19, 2026	26	299
MSL - A Greater State of Knowledge	26	15
Optimizing GNSS Accuracy for the MTSRN: Trimble Mobile Manager & Fi..	21	34
ADA and Libraries Webinar	21	350
MTSRN: Setting Up Trimble TerraFlex with Real-Time GNSS Corrections	18	41

Recorded Webinars Views

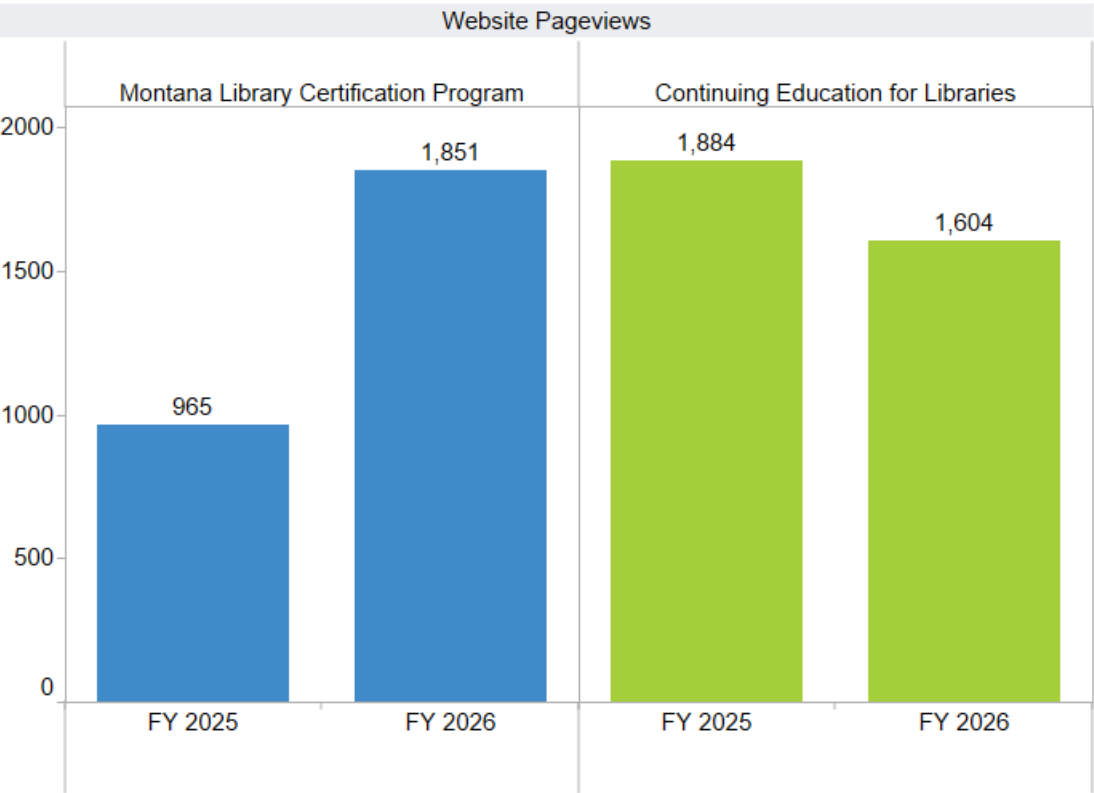
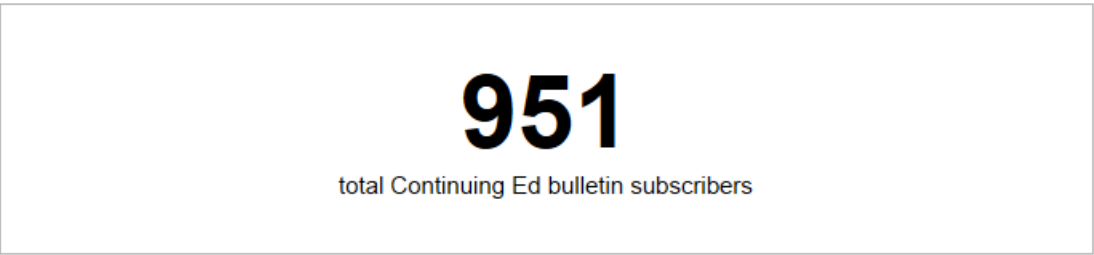


Total Watch Time in Hours



The Continuing Education & Certification program is made possible by federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional state and local support. Discover how federal grants enhance Montana's libraries: [Federal Library Funds at Work](#)

Bulletin Details							
Date	Bulletin	Sent	Total Opens	Unique Opens	Total Clicks	Unique Clicks	Links
6/25/2026	MSL Certification Drop In Session on Thursday, J..	971	490	363	120	93	9
6/22/2026	Montana State Library Commission June Newsletter	8,176	3,694	2,501	445	423	5
6/17/2026	Certification Program Transition Update - June ..	971	579	397	196	176	13
	Webside Chat - June 19 @ Noon	1,035	597	388	129	98	8
6/1/2026	Continuing Education News for June 2026	965	649	430	167	136	21
5/26/2026	Upcoming Commission Meeting and FAQs for Certif..	2,035	1,060	803	207	178	12
5/5/2026	Montana Library Network Newsletter - 5/5/2026	1,103	678	420	239	220	56



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Certification

MSL Learn

YouTube

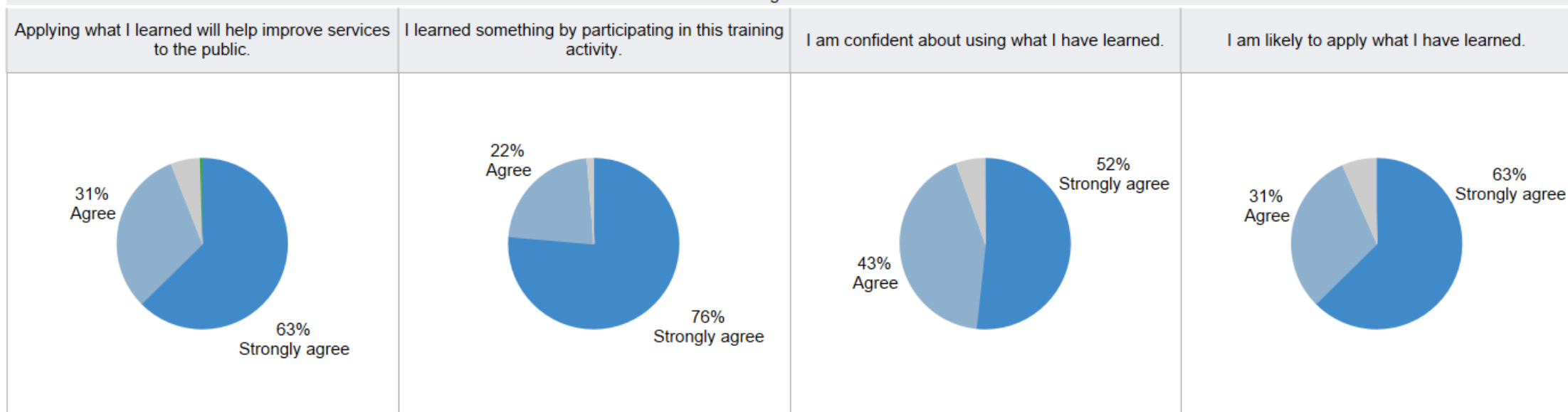
Web & Newsletter

Training Survey

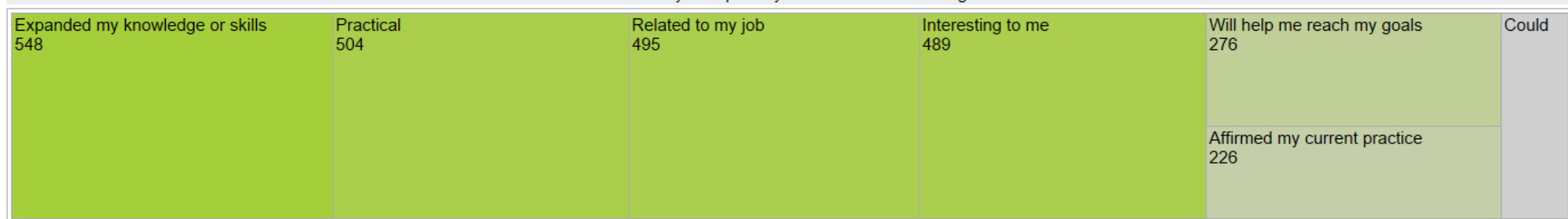
Survey Year

All

Training Outcomes



What did you especially value about this training?



The Continuing Education & Certification program is made possible by federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional state and local support. Discover how federal grants enhance Montana's libraries: [Federal Library Funds at Work](#)



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Malissa Briggs, Central Services Administrator
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 4th Quarter Staffing
Date: 07/01/2026

Personnel Report: 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026)

Recruitments:

- Human Resources Specialist
 - Replacement due to staff retirement
 - Recruitment closed without hiring; to be reposted at a later date

New Hires:

- Lesley Miller, Administrative Specialist
 - 04/06/2026
- Laura Poser-Brown, MT Shared Catalog Trainer
 - 06/01/2026

Transfers:

- No transfers occurred during 4th Quarter, FY2026

Separations:

- Jim Kammerer, Government Information Librarian
 - Retirement, 06/02/2026
- Sharon Hardwick, HR Specialist
 - Retirement 06/12/2026



MEMO

To: MSL Commission
From: Sean Anderson, Grants & Contracts Coordinator
Subject: FY2026 Q4 Contract Report
Date: August 3, 2026

Contract report spreadsheet is attached.

Note: For readability purposes, columns for 'Contract Number,' 'Contract Manager,' 'Status,' and 'Contract Type' have been omitted. Comprehensive data can be generated/shared on request.

ContractName	SecondPartyName	Summary	*CurrentTermAmt	StartDate	EndDate
Montana Memory Project Content Management System	Recollect (USA), Inc	Montana History Portal content management system	\$ 62,500.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
Extensis EULA	Celartem, Inc.	End user license agreement for Extensis GeoExpress software standalone license with no encoding and floating license with unlimited encoding.	\$ 2,804.82	2021-06-10 10:47 AM	
Geocaching Adventure Lab Agreement	Groundspeak	App for taking historical tours of towns in Montana using content from the Montana History Portal	\$ 2,500.00	2024-08-08 12:00 AM	2026-08-07 11:59 PM
LIB23-Overdrive CDL	OverDrive, Inc.	Overdrive Corporate Digital Library Service for State Agency Collections	\$ 4,000.00	2022-11-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
OCLC WebJunction Cooperative Support	OCLC, Inc.	Online continuing education training platform for Montana librarians and board members	\$ 5,740.09	2024-10-01 12:00 AM	2026-09-30 11:59 PM
FME Software License Agreement	Safe Software	FME Server software license and maintenance agreement	\$ 13,250.00	2026-04-01 12:00 AM	2027-03-31 11:59 PM
Talking Book Library Services	Utah State Library	Talking Book Library Services contract	\$ 140,000.00	2022-06-16 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
OCLC Montana Group Services	OCLC, Inc.	Cataloging, patron requests, and interlibrary loan software and services for Montana libraries	\$ 1,407,875.00	2025-07-01 12:01 AM	2029-06-30 12:00 AM
Archive-It Service Agreement	INTERNET ARCHIVE	Web archive service	\$ 26,000.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
MSL Downloadable e-content	OverDrive, Inc.	MSL Downloadable e-content	\$ 50,000.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
NG9-1-1 Data Assessment Service	1Spatial Inc.	NG9-1-1 Data Assessment Service	\$ 248,853.00	2025-07-01 12:00 AM	2029-06-30 11:59 PM
Montana Shared Catalog	Sirsi Corporation	Montana Shared Catalog Integrated Library System	\$ 2,798,617.00	2022-07-11 02:49 PM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
MSL-Montana Audubon Avian Specialist	Montana Audubon	Avian Specialist services	\$ 57,114.00	2025-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
Biotics5 Software	NatureServe	LIB23-0158AL Contract with NatureServe to provide access to Biotics5 Software	\$ 16,000.00	2026-07-01 08:44 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LibPAS - Counting Opinions	Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd.	Public Library Statistics service	\$ 13,717.00	2025-07-01 12:00 AM	2029-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB24-ParentPowered	ParentPowered PBC	Early Literacy Texting Service	\$ 7,990.00	2025-07-01 10:04 AM	2027-04-30 11:59 PM
LIB24-FrontierPrecision	Frontier Precision, Inc.	Purchasing agreement for MTSRN Hardware	\$ 250,000.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
FY26 State Library Courier	Western Peaks Logistics LLC	The State of Montana, State Procurement Services Division (SPSD), on behalf of the State Library, is issuing this Contract to provide statewide library courier services.	\$ 150,020.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB26-NHPVegAndBotanicalData	LXM Consulting	Vegetation and Botanical Data Products - MTNHP	\$ 100,000.00	2025-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB26-AmericorpsPlanning	Echo Ventures Inc.	Americorps Planning Grant Consulting	\$ 40,000.00	2026-03-24 03:53 PM	2026-08-31 11:59 PM
LIB-NHPMothPollinatorInfoProductsFY26	EntoQuest Solutions	Classification services for MTNHP	\$ 45,000.00	2025-10-20 10:52 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB25-Beanstack	Zoobean	Beanstack Subscription - 3 Year Term	\$ 15,000.00	2025-05-30 12:00 AM	2028-05-29 11:59 PM
LIB26-LevelAll	Level All	Affiliate Agreement for LevelAll Learning platform	\$ -	2025-12-15 12:00 AM	2028-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB-NHPButteflyPollinatorInfoProductsFY26-27	Xerces Society	Information Products for MTNHP	\$ 20,000.00	2026-02-05 11:16 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB26-LSTA Evaluation	Fast Forward Libraries LLC	Evaluation of LSTA-Funded Programs	\$ 40,500.00	2026-02-27 12:29 PM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
LIB26-AquaticInvertData	Stag Benthics	Aquatic Invertebrate Data Products	\$ 35,000.00	2026-03-24 03:44 PM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
Recycling Services	Helena Recycling, LLC	Recycling Services	\$ 942.00	2026-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM
Interent Archive Scanning Services	INTERNET ARCHIVE	Internet Archive digitization services	\$ 40,000.00	2024-07-01 12:00 AM	2027-06-30 11:59 PM

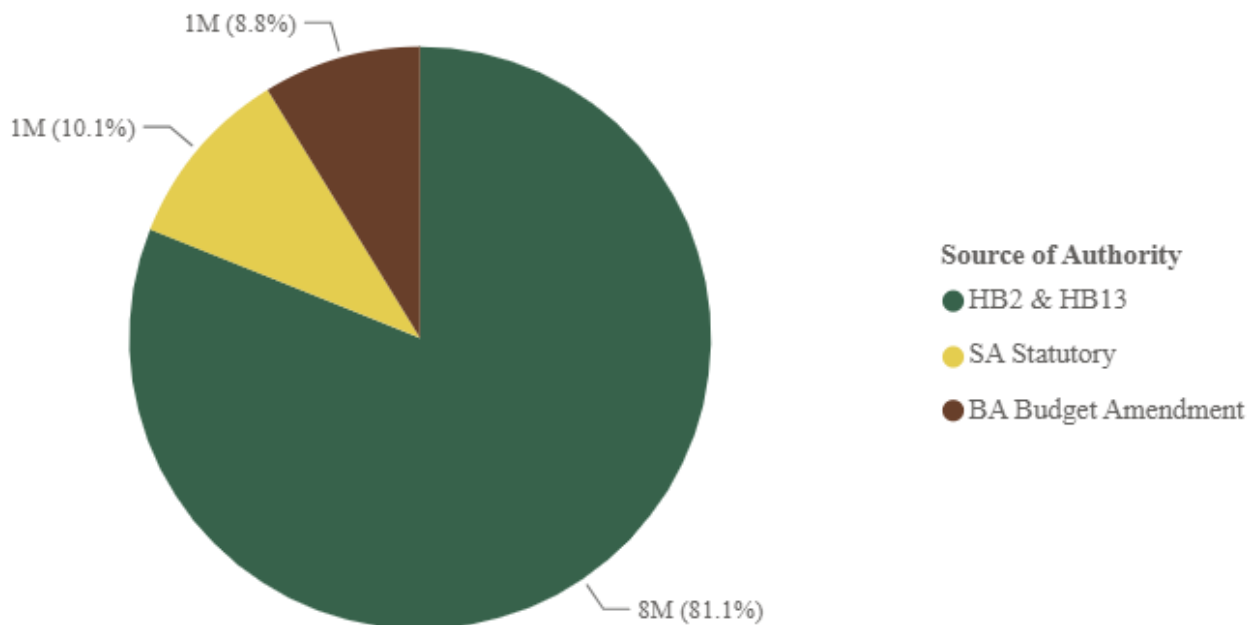
Education Interim
Budget Committee (EIBC)
Reports

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

TOTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The total appropriation authority for the Montana State Library is shown in the pie chart below. HB 2 and HB 13 provide 81.1% of the total authority for this agency. All types of appropriation authority for this agency are described below, including total budget and the percent expended by source of authority.

Total Modified Budget by Source of Authority



Source of Authority	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
HB2 & HB13	8,417,052	5,912,004	70.2%
BA Budget Amendment	911,879	392,687	43.1%
SA Statutory	1,053,263	978,331	92.9%
Total	10,382,194	7,283,022	70.1%

Budget Amendments

Approximately \$912,000 of budget amendment authority has been established for the Montana State Library, and as of May 31, 2026, the agency spent 43.1% of that authority. These budget amendments establish federal special revenue authority to support activities of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) and have various funding end dates, some of which extend to future fiscal years.

Statutory Appropriations

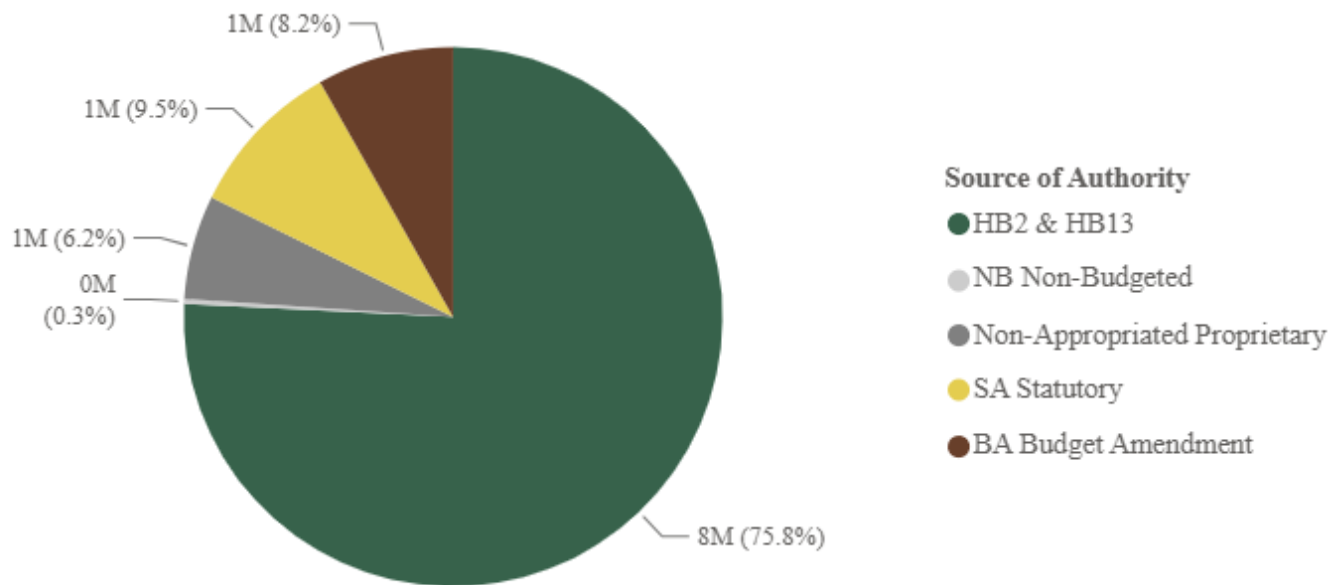
Statutory appropriations in the Montana State Library total approximately \$1.1 million, which accounts for 10.1% of the agency's total appropriation authority. As of May 31, 2026, the agency spent 92.9% of its statutory

appropriations authority. Approximately \$542,000 of this authority was general fund for state aid grants to local libraries, which was 100.0% expended as of May 31, 2026, and approximately \$511,000 was state special revenue 9-1-1 funding for GIS mapping, which was 85.3% expended as of May 31, 2026.

EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

The total expenditure authority for the agency is shown in the following pie chart. Total expenditure authority includes non-budgeted proprietary funding and non-budgeted expenditures such as transfers or indirect costs which are not included in the previous pie chart as the expenditures are not appropriated.

Modified Budget & Expended Budget by Source of Authority



Source of Authority	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended	
HB2 & HB13	8,417,052	5,912,004	70.2%	
BA Budget Amendment	911,879	392,687	43.1%	
NB Non-Budgeted	33,800	31,153	92.2%	
Non-Appropriated Proprietary	692,983	431,488	62.3%	
SA Statutory	1,053,263	978,331	92.9%	
Total	11,108,977	7,745,663	69.7%	

Non-Budgeted Authority

Non-budgeted funding totals approximately \$34,000, of which 92.2% was expended by May 31, 2026. Non-budgeted funds support creative aging programs and Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) activities, and expiration dates for the funds vary.

Non-Appropriated Proprietary Authority

Non-appropriated proprietary funding totals approximately \$693,000, of which 62.3% was spent as of May 31, 2026. The Montana State Library is the fiscal agent for the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), a cooperative catalog project funded by participating libraries' paid member fees. The MSC FY 2026 budget was established at approximately \$484,000, and 89.2% of that budget was spent as of May 31, 2026.

The Montana State Library also receives non-appropriated proprietary funding for the Montana State Reference Network (MTSRN, formerly known as the Real Time Network). The Montana State Library expended 0.0% of the approximately \$209,000 of non-appropriated funding as of May 31, 2026. The agency reports it is building a cash reserve for this new program before it begins using proprietary funding to pay for ongoing operations; until a sufficient cash reserve is established, the agency is temporarily using Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) revenues and general fund appropriation to pay for MTSRN program expenditures. In March 2026, the agency provided a [report of projected subscriptions, revenues and expenditures](#) to the Education Interim Budget Committee.

HB 2 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

The following chart shows the HB 2 budget, including the pay plan, and the HB 2 modifications to the budget from March 1, 2026 through May 31, 2026. Net modifications to the budget include operating plan changes from one expenditure account to another, program transfers, reorganizations, and agency transfers of authority. The [positive modifications](#) and [negative modifications](#) are shown by program, expenditure account, and fund type.

Legislative Budget Compared to Modified Budget - HB 2 Only

Agency Name	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
Library Commission	8,417,052	8,417,052	
Total	8,417,052	8,417,052	

Expenditure Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
61000 Personal Services	4,854,518	4,854,518	
62000 Operating Expenses	3,048,294	3,048,294	
66000 Grants	249,000	249,000	
69000 Debt Service	265,240	265,240	
Total	8,417,052	8,417,052	

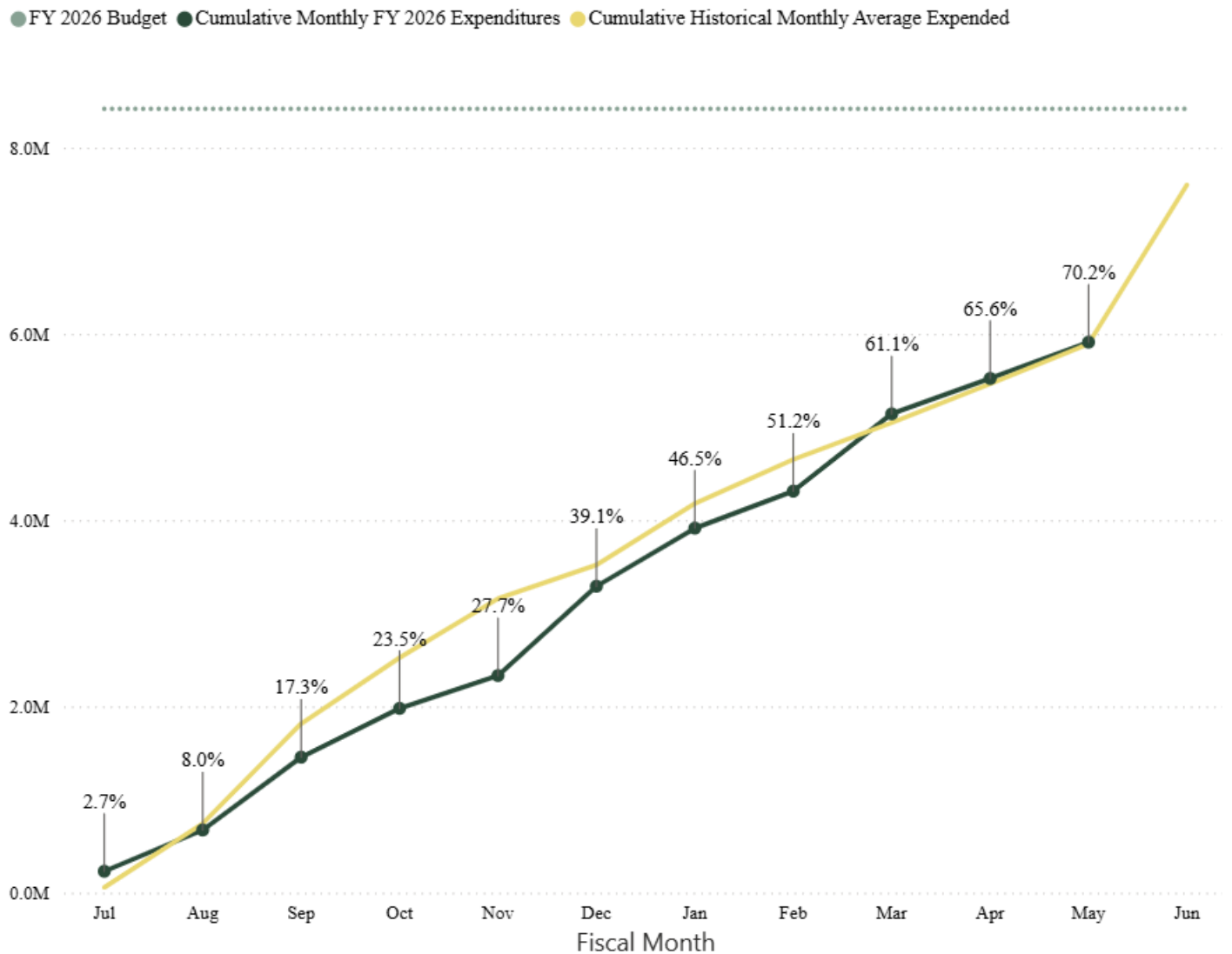
Fund Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
01 General	3,666,444	3,666,444	
02 State/Other Spec Rev	3,189,588	3,189,588	
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	1,561,020	1,561,020	
Total	8,417,052	8,417,052	

The Montana State Library's FY 2026 HB 2 modified budget totals \$8.4 million, and the agency made no budget modifications between March 1, 2026 and May 31, 2026.

HB 2 APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The following chart shows the agency's appropriated budget compared to expenditures through May 31, 2026.

Monthly Expenditures Compared to Historical Average



Program Name	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ 01 CENTRAL SERVICES	2,636,857	2,125,858	80.6%
⊕ 02 PATRON & LIBRARY SERVICES	2,303,203	1,806,340	78.4%
⊕ 03 GIS, DATA & INFO SERVICES	3,476,992	1,979,806	56.9%
Total	8,417,052	5,912,004	70.2%

Expenditure Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ Personal Services	4,854,518	3,990,120	82.2%
⊕ Operating Expenses	3,048,294	1,421,415	46.6%
⊕ Grants	249,000	249,000	100.0%
⊕ Debt Service	265,240	251,470	94.8%
Total	8,417,052	5,912,004	70.2%

Fund Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ 01 General	3,666,444	3,060,550	83.5%
⊕ 02 State/Other Spec Rev	3,189,588	1,660,915	52.1%
⊕ 03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	1,561,020	1,190,539	76.3%
Total	8,417,052	5,912,004	70.2%

The Montana State Library expended 70.2% of its approximately \$8.4 million HB 2 modified budget through May 31, 2026, which is in line with the 5-year Olympic average of 70.0%. The Olympic average percentage shows the average historical spending patterns with the highest and lowest years' expenditures removed.

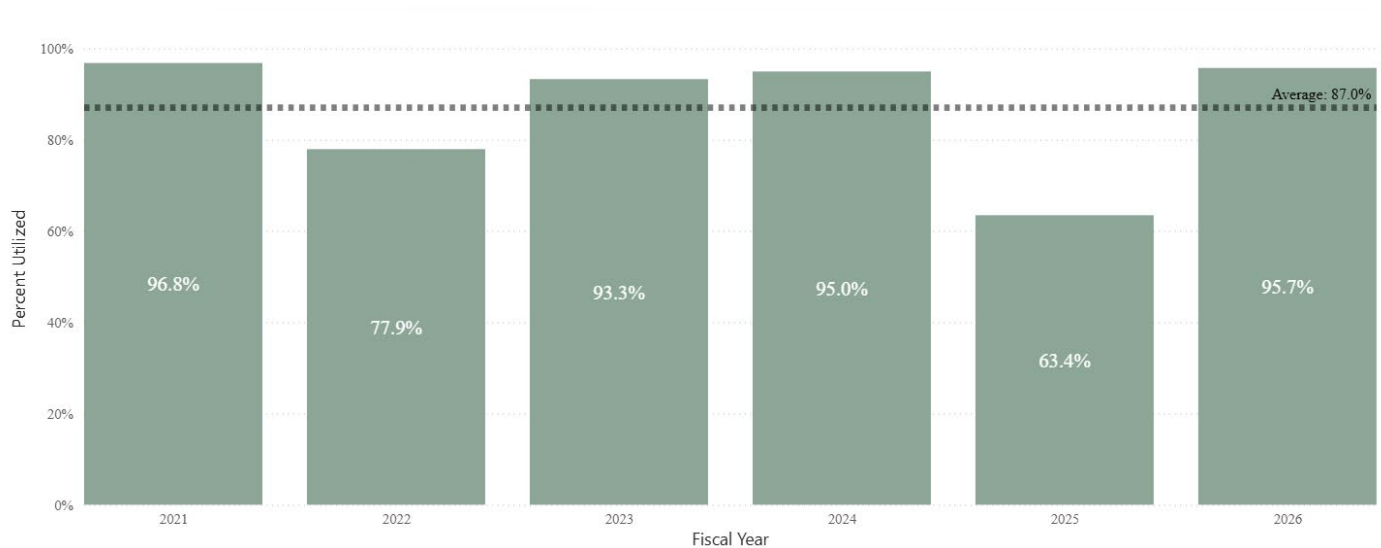
Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) revenues, which account for \$2.2 million of the \$3.2 million modified budget of state special revenue funds and are appropriated to fund operating expenses in the GIS, Data, and Information Services program, are lower than the amount appropriated. The agency has aligned its expenditures with ongoing revenues rather than the budgeted authority, which accounts for low expenditures in the GIS, Data, and Information Services program, operating expenses, and state special revenues at this time in the fiscal year.

Personal Services

The agency's appropriations for personal services total approximately \$4.9 million and are 82.2% expended through May 31, 2026. The following chart shows the filled and vacant HB 2 positions budgeted (PB) in the agency as of May 1, 2026. At that time, the department had 30.46 HB 2 PB and 99.5% of these positions were filled.



The chart below shows the Montana State Library's percent of available hours utilized in FY 2026 and the prior five fiscal years. The agency utilized 95.7% of the FY 2026 hours budgeted as of May 1, 2026.



The chart below shows the vacant PB by program, the number of months each position has been vacant, and the position midpoint hourly pay rate. The 0.16 vacant PB – a computer intern position – has been vacant for 43.3 months (over three years).

Vacant Positions Report

DEPT NUM/NAME	PB	Median Months Vacant	Market Midpoint (Hourly)
51150 STATE LIBRARY	0.16	43.34	
03 GIS, DATA & INFO SERVICES	0.16	43.34	
Computer Intern	0.16	43.34	
Total	0.16	43.34	



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 160 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: June 23, 2026

TO: Education Interim Budget Committee

FROM: Kate Johnson, Fiscal Analyst

RE: Montana Geospatial Information Act (MGIA) Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balances

At the March 2026 meeting of the Education Interim Budget Committee (E-IBC), the committee requested an update of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the Montana Geospatial Information Act Account (MGIA, formerly known as the Montana Land Information Account). The table below shows the requested information for the MGIA Account from FY 2018 to FY 2026 as recorded in the Statewide Accounting, Budgeting and Human Resource Systems (SABHRS) database. Note that FY 2026 is ongoing and the data are current as of June 10, 2026.

The MGIA Account receives revenues from a per page fee assessed on recording documents, and that fee has changed twice in the time period shown in the table below: HB 49 (2021) increased the per page fee amount allocated to the MGIA Account from \$0.75 to \$1.50, effective July 1, 2021 (FY 2022); HB 192 (2025) increased the per page fee amount allocated to the MGIA Account from \$1.50 to \$2.25, effective October 1, 2025 (FY 2026).

Fiscal Year	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
2018	\$1,030,602	\$786,078	(\$733,871)	\$1,082,809
2019	\$1,082,809	\$764,746	(\$846,293)	\$1,001,261
2020	\$1,001,261	\$945,342	(\$888,439)	\$1,058,165
2021	\$1,058,165	\$1,343,197	(\$937,946)	\$1,463,415
2022	\$1,463,415	\$2,040,765	(\$1,959,722)	\$1,544,459
2023	\$1,546,284	\$1,330,761	(\$2,340,500)	\$536,545
2024	\$560,323	\$1,224,335	(\$1,087,803)	\$696,856
2025	\$696,856	\$1,288,172	(\$810,886)	\$1,174,142
2026*	\$1,174,142	\$1,730,206	(\$934,415)	\$1,969,932

*FY 2026 data current as of June 10, 2026



Executive summary

For decades, Montana libraries have successfully found ways to bring innovative library services to their communities to meet residents' information needs and to ensure communities thrive. These solutions rely on shared, scalable infrastructure made possible through collaboration. Unfortunately, the spirit of collaboration is not enough to ensure that all Montanans have the same basic level of library service in their communities, especially in our most rural and underresourced communities. This would require adequate state funding that truly levels the playing field, and that ensures reliable and resilient funding to offer and advance library services statewide for all Montanans.

Summary of Solutions

- Develop a **resilient and adequate funding model** for statewide resource sharing that levels the playing field for all libraries.
- State buy-in: Use the **Basic Library Services Account** established in MCA 22-1-202 to direct state contributions for sustaining library resource sharing services.
- Local buy-in: Expand use of the existing Montana Shared Catalog **proprietary account** to receive and expend local matching funds for all types of resource sharing services.
- Utilize **TRAILS** contracting expertise to scale statewide investment in online educational resources and increase the power of libraries to collectively negotiate and administer contracts for shared services.

Resilient Mix of Adequate Funding Sources

- Ensure a balanced funding structure across **local, state, and federal** sources.
 - Support models that maintain or grow **existing capacity** and stabilize funding for evolving services and increasing demand.
 - Aim for funding structures that can **withstand disruption** in any one source.
-

Invest in Library Resource Sharing

- Appropriate the equivalent of **.8% of K–12 Base Aid** to fund statewide resource sharing (per MCA 22-1-328).
 - Funds would support shared services for public, school, academic, tribal, and institutional libraries.
 - Total added service costs estimated at **\$8 million**, meaning the equivalent of **.8% of Base Aid** could meet needs.
 - An appropriation equivalent to .8% of Base Aid is not intended to reduce the amount of base aid funding to Montana schools.
 - State funding is deposited in the Basic Library Services account established in MCA 22-1-202.
-

Expand the Proprietary Account

- Provides flexible, scalable funding for emerging and high-demand shared services.
 - Allows libraries to **opt in** and pay only for services that fit local needs.
 - Ensures libraries retain **local investment (“skin in the game”)**.
 - Standardizes statewide procurement and payment across services, reducing administrative burden and increasing negotiating power.
-

Utilize TRAILS Infrastructure

- Expand TRAILS to serve as statewide **procurement and contract administrator for online educational resources**.
- Builds on an already successful model that currently saves academic libraries over \$3M annually and scales the model to include K-12 schools and public libraries.
- Creates a pipeline of learning resources so students come to school with the resources they need to learn

- Supports coordinated purchasing for research databases and educational e-resources
- Provides a unified approach to contracting across K-12, academic, and public libraries.

Funding priorities

This funding model is designed with the future in mind and would allow Montana libraries, under the leadership of the Montana State Library, to modernize library services over time.

Current funding priorities are:

1. Expand Access to the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC)

Solution: Invest in one-time migrations and ongoing support so all public libraries and all schools can join the MSC.

Impact:

- Ensures *every* Montanan can discover and borrow materials statewide.
- Creates a unified statewide discovery system for patrons for both public and school libraries.
- Gives all libraries the infrastructure they need to readily leverage other statewide library services.
- The efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the courier depends on libraries being able to utilize the Montana Shared Catalog for sharing. The Montana Shared Catalog is also used for Montana Library2Go and Sora for authentication and management.

2. Build a Statewide Courier Infrastructure

Solution: Strategically add courier service locations and develop sorting centers in Missoula, Billings, and Great Falls.

Impact:

- Ensures *every* Montanan can conveniently borrow the physical books they choose.
- Reduces costs compared to USPS (\$1.5M vs. \$4.2M annually).

- Increases efficiency, reduces workload on hubs, and expands physical access to books for rural areas.
 - Enables scalable statewide resource sharing over time.
-

3. Reduce Wait Times for MontanaLibrary2Go (Digital Collection)

Solution: Invest in ongoing digital content purchases to reduce average wait times from 64 days to 30 days.

Impact:

- Improves statewide access to ebooks and audiobooks.
 - Provides a more modern, responsive digital service to meet patron expectations.
 - Reduces barriers for rural users and high-demand populations.
-

4. Expand SORA for K-12 Students

Solution: Grow participation beyond the current 24% of schools and expand the shared digital collection.

Impact:

- Ensures every Montana student can access ebooks and audiobooks for learning and pleasure reading.
 - Supports schools with limited staffing through turnkey, “plug and go” digital resources that support classroom learning.
 - Levels the playing field by ensuring every school can offer the same quality ebooks and audiobooks to their students
-

5. Provide Statewide Access to Online Educational Databases (K-18 and Public Libraries)

Solution: Develop statewide contracts or expand TRAILS to procure academic and K-12 online research databases through a shared model.

Impact:

- Saves millions through coordinated purchasing.

- Ensures every Montana student—from kindergarten through college—has access to essential research tools.
 - Extends these resources to public libraries to support lifelong learning (hobbies, genealogy, auto repair, local news).
-

7. Utilize and Expand TRAILS Infrastructure

Solution: Use TRAILS to administer procurement and contracts for statewide databases and educational e-resources.

Impact:

- Reduces administrative burdens across institutions.
 - Provides cost-effective, standardized access to high-value digital resources.
 - Builds on an already successful model that currently saves institutions over \$3M annually.
-

Overall Impact Across All Solutions

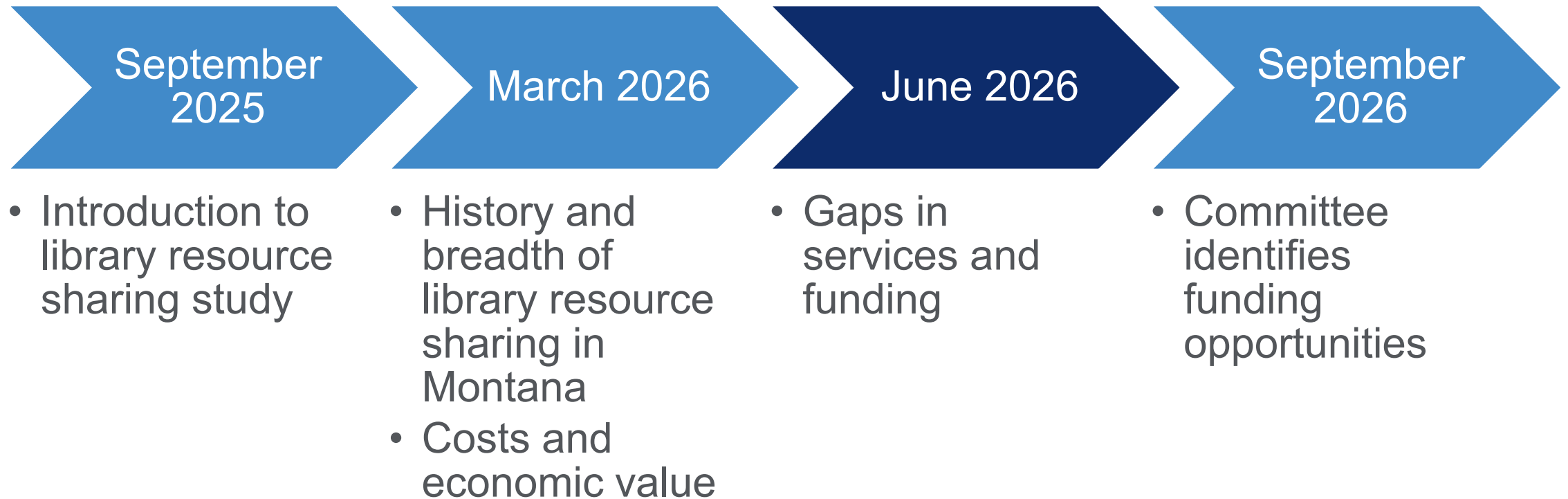
- **Fairness:** Every Montanan gains access to the same high-quality collections and tools.
- **Efficiency:** Statewide systems reduce duplication and maximize return on investment.
- **Modernization:** Shifts Montana's library ecosystem to match current digital expectations.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term financial stability supports ongoing statewide service delivery.
- **Capacity Building:** Libraries can focus on service rather than managing complex procurement and logistics.
- **Stability:** All libraries, especially small and rural libraries, can count on a reliable patron base because they know they are providing the services their patrons want and need.



Library Resource Sharing Study

June 23, 2026

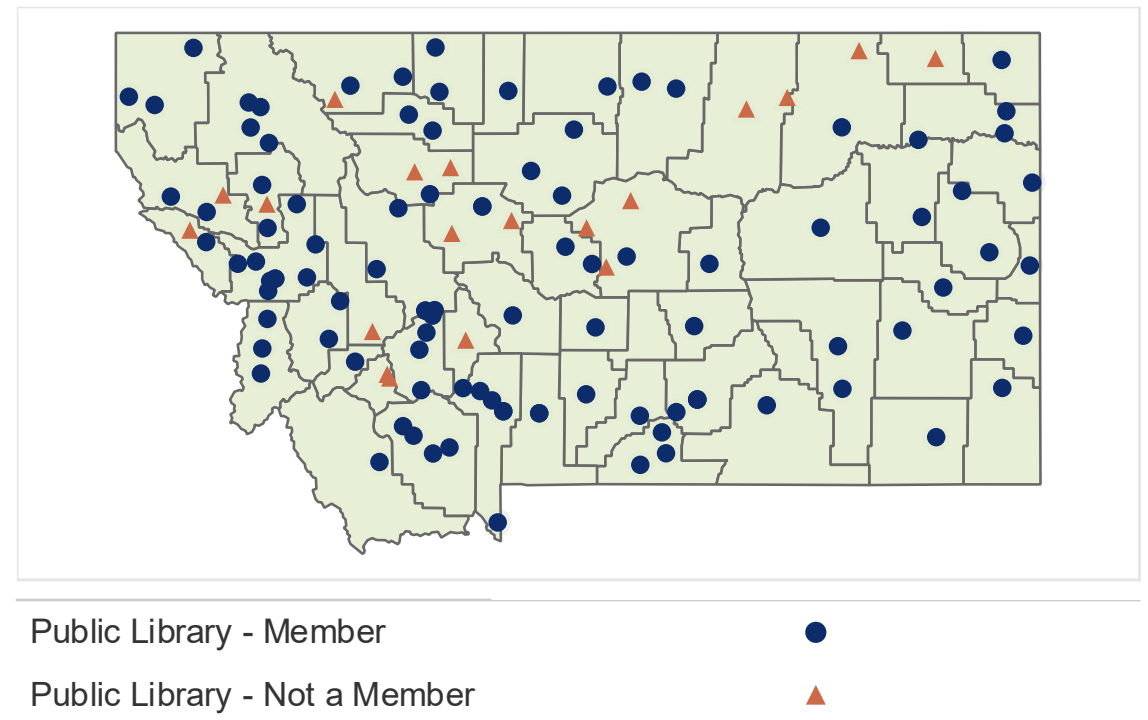
Education Interim Budget Committee Library Resource Sharing Study



What if every public library had access to the Montana Shared Catalog?

- **Present state:** Most Montanans have access to the Montana Shared Catalog through 84% of public libraries, but 19 libraries still find participation too cost prohibitive.
- **Desired state:** All Montanans can discover and borrow books more easily because 100% of public libraries participate in the Montana Shared Catalog.

Public Library Membership in the Montana Shared Catalog



What if Phillips County had the same access to the Shared Catalog as Mineral County?



Phillips County Library, Malta (population 4,217)

- Books in the local collection: 23,416
- Available through Shared Catalog: **N/A**
- Books patrons borrowed last year: **11,741**



Mineral County Library, Superior (population 4,535)

- Books in the local collection: 29,288
- Available through Shared Catalog: **3.7M**
- Books patrons borrowed last year: **37,950**

What investment is needed to ensure every Montana community has full access to the Montana Shared Catalog?

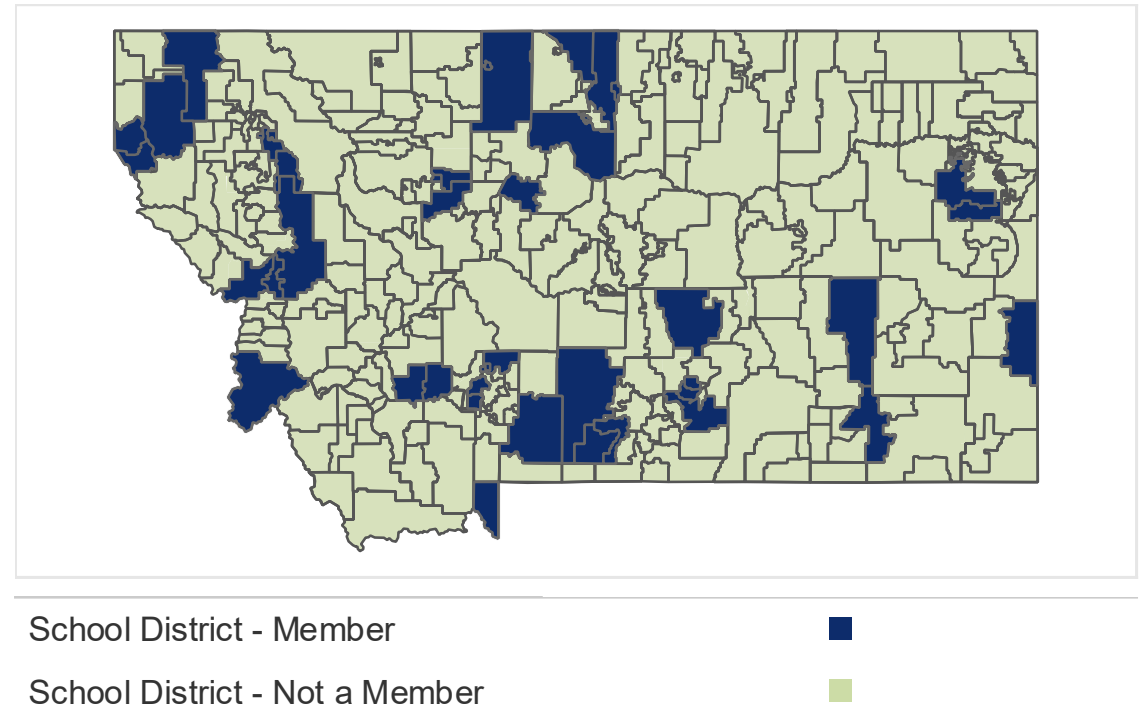
- **Current funding:** \$807,772
 - Local 57%, State 13%, Federal 31%
- **Funding needed:**
 - One-time costs: \$191,500
 - Ongoing: \$147,150 per year
- **Total:** \$954,922 (plus one-time costs)

Number of Libraries Added	One-time Investment (data migration)	Ongoing Investment (subject to a 2-5% annual increase)
19 public libraries	\$191,500	\$147,150

What would statewide access to a shared catalog mean for schools?

- **Present state:** While large school districts like Billings and Missoula participate in the Montana Shared Catalog, only 16% of schools are currently members.
- **Desired state:** Every school has access to a shared catalog through a statewide model that meets school needs.

School Membership in the Montana Shared Catalog



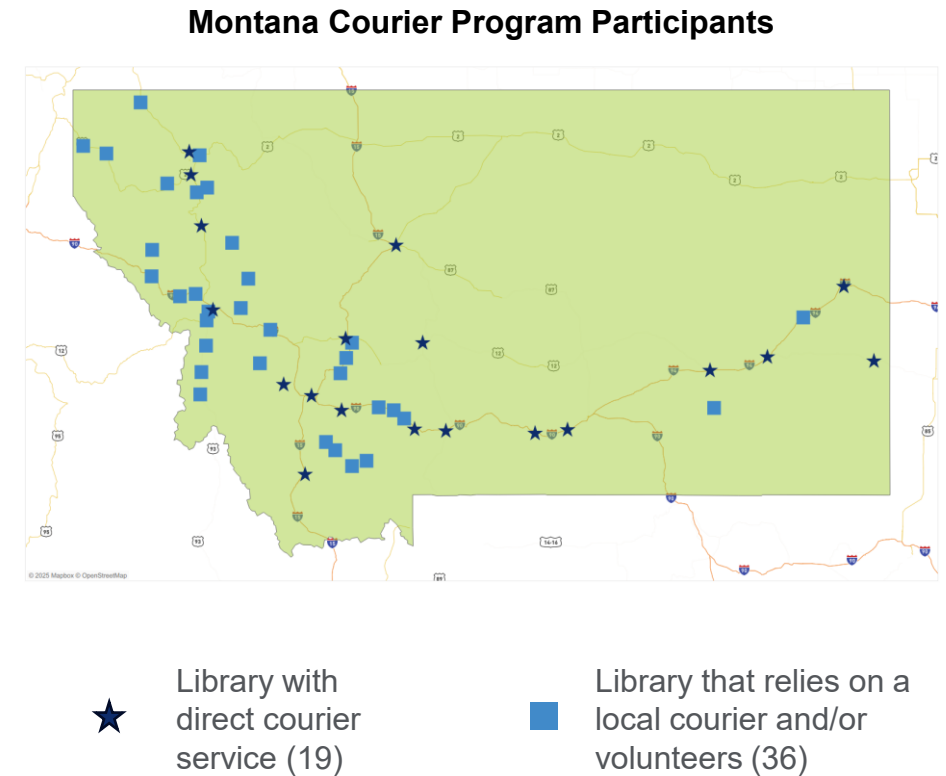
What investment will ensure every school has access to a shared catalog?

- **Current funding:** ~\$88,743
 - Portion of the overall MSC budget contributed by schools
- **Funding needed:**
 - One-time costs: \$1.08M spread across a five-year onboarding period.
 - Ongoing: \$939,225 per year
- **Total:** \$1.03M (plus one-time costs)

Number of Libraries Added	One-time Investment (data migration)	Ongoing Investment (subject to a 2-5% annual increase)
349 school districts (onboarded in batches across a five-year period)	\$1,077,000	\$939,225

What if we strategically expanded the courier to unserved regions of the state?

- **Present state:**
 - Direct Service: 19 Locations **(16%)**
 - Secondary: 36 Locations **(30%)**
 - Unserved: 64 **(54%)**
 - Sorting Facilities: 0 Locations **(0%)**
- **Desired state:** Adequate infrastructure exists so that all Montanans can access the physical books they seek regardless of the size or location of their community.



Montana Courier Program: Hubs

Sorting Centers in the Future

Currently 54% of Libraries do not participate in the Courier. Adding the remaining Libraries would increase the number of books needed to sort to an estimated 2.25-2.5 million to 119 different locations. Lack of sorting centers limits the capability to expand the Courier.

1. Address limited square footage of libraries
2. Alleviate the additional cost and workload of primary hubs

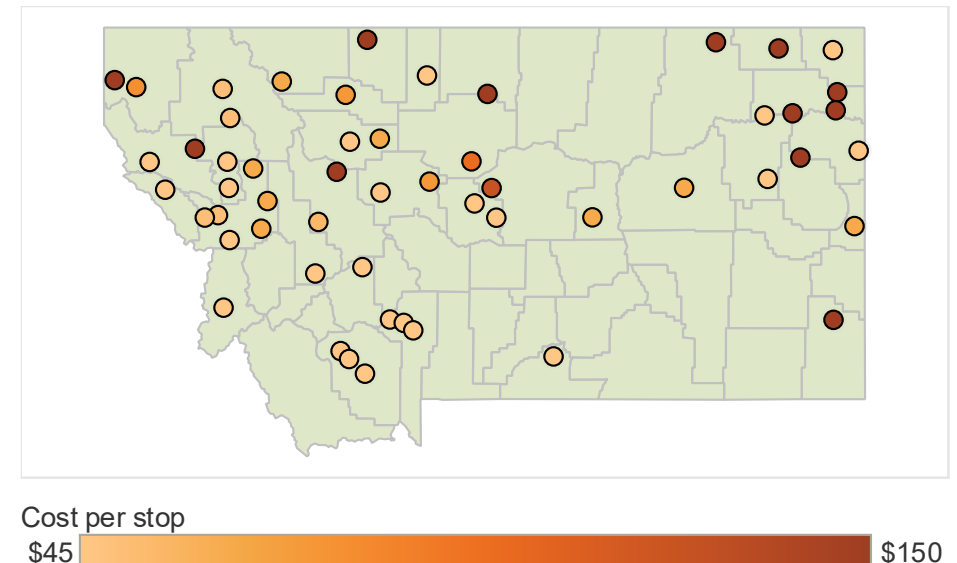
Single Delivery to Missoula on June 1st.
42 Crates with an estimated 1,900 books for them to sort to 28 different communities.



Increased Cost of Delivery

The courier can serve several communities at \$35 per stop, but 54 locations would cost more, ranging from \$45-\$150 per stop. We would like to support those in a higher cost range, so every Montanan can equally access books.

Courier Stops with Higher Delivery Cost



What investment is needed for every Montana community to access the courier?

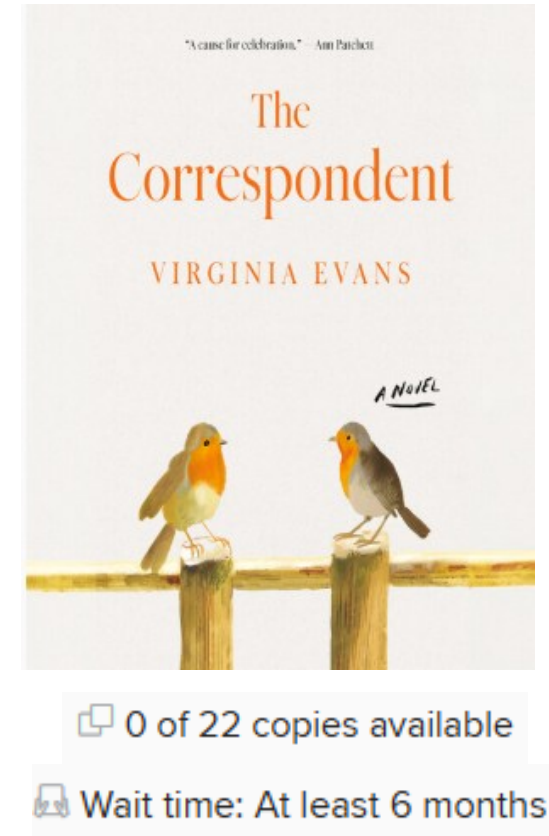
- **Current funding:** \$126,579
 - Local 90%, State 0%, Federal 10%
- **Funding needed:**
 - One-time costs:
 - \$345,000 for a sorting machine
 - \$30,000 per year to add locations (estimate of 10 years)
 - Ongoing: \$1,500,000 per year
- **Total:** \$1,600,000 (plus one-time costs)

Stage 1 Total 3-5 years	Stage 2 Total 3-5 years	Stage 3 Total 3-5 years
\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000

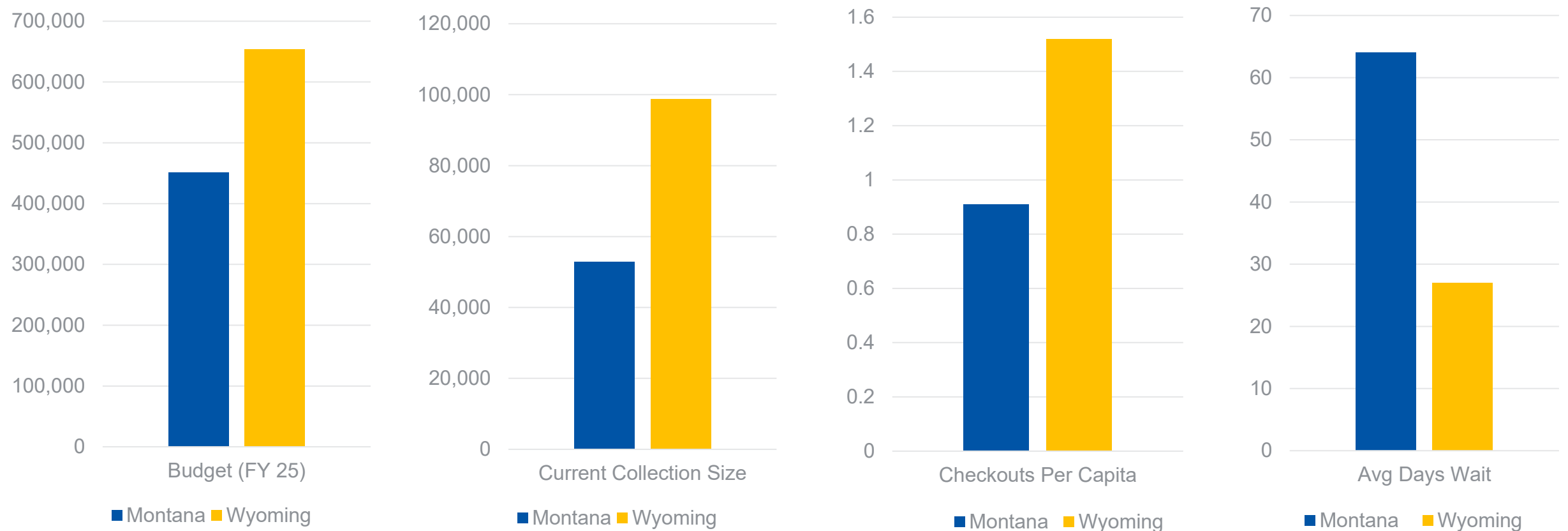
If the current volume of books (with only 16% of libraries directly on the courier) were sent through USPS Media Mail, it would cost us \$4.2 million a year. Adding all libraries and sorting centers would cost us \$1.5 million a year.

What if we decreased patron wait times for Montana Library2Go to 30 days?

- **Present state:** Wait times for popular books on the Montana Library2Go Libby app are an average of 64 Days. 14% of Titles have a 6+ month waitlist.
- **Desired State:** Montanans do not wait over 6 months for a title. Montanans would have a wide/varied selection of ebooks and audiobooks.



Digital Library: Montana v. Wyoming

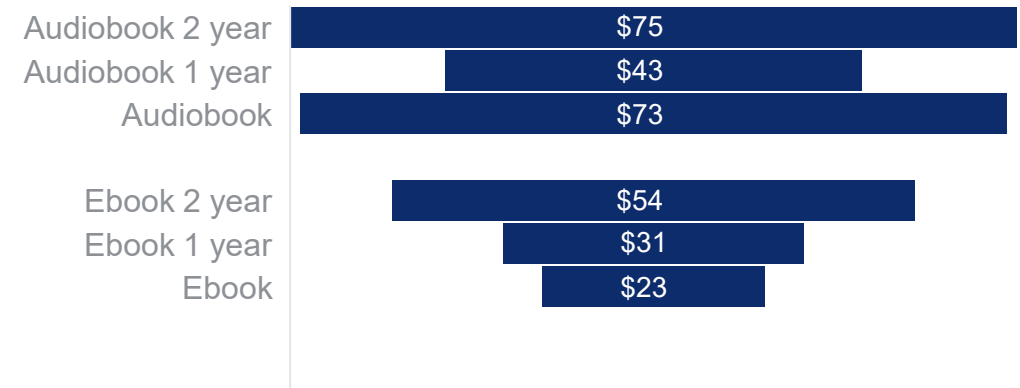


What investment is needed to decrease patron wait times for Montana Library2Go to 30 days?

- **Current Funding Total: \$470,696**
 - Local 96%, State 0%, Federal 4%
- **Funding Needed:**
 - Ongoing: \$855,373 per year
- **Total: \$1,326,069**

Number of titles to reduce hold wait time to 30 days	Ongoing Investment (subject to a 2-5% annual increase)
17,000 titles	\$855,373

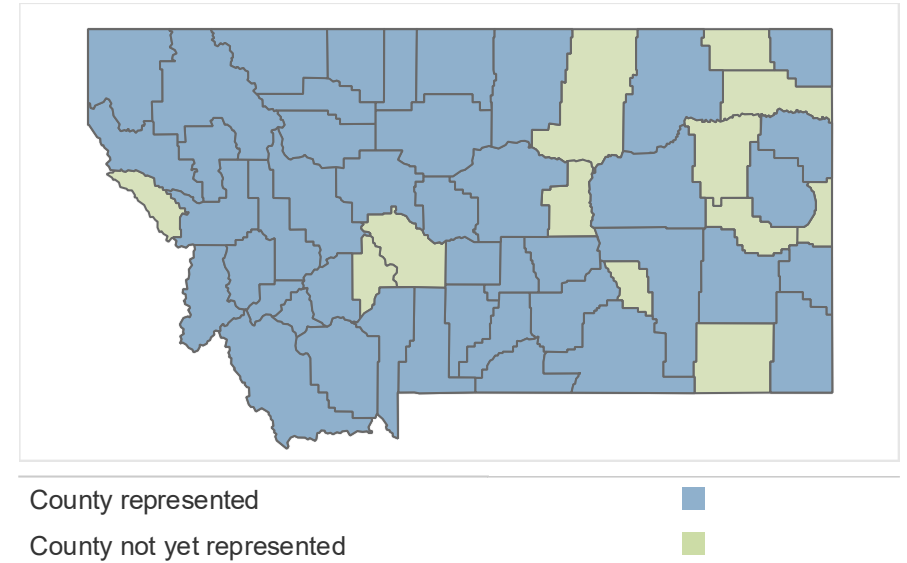
Average Cost by Book Type FY25



What if every county in Montana could share their story in the Montana History Portal?

- **Present state:** 44 Counties (79%) are currently represented in the History portal.
- **Desired State:** 100% of Montana Counties are not only represented, but historical materials can build and continue to be added to the collection.

County Representation in the Montana History Portal



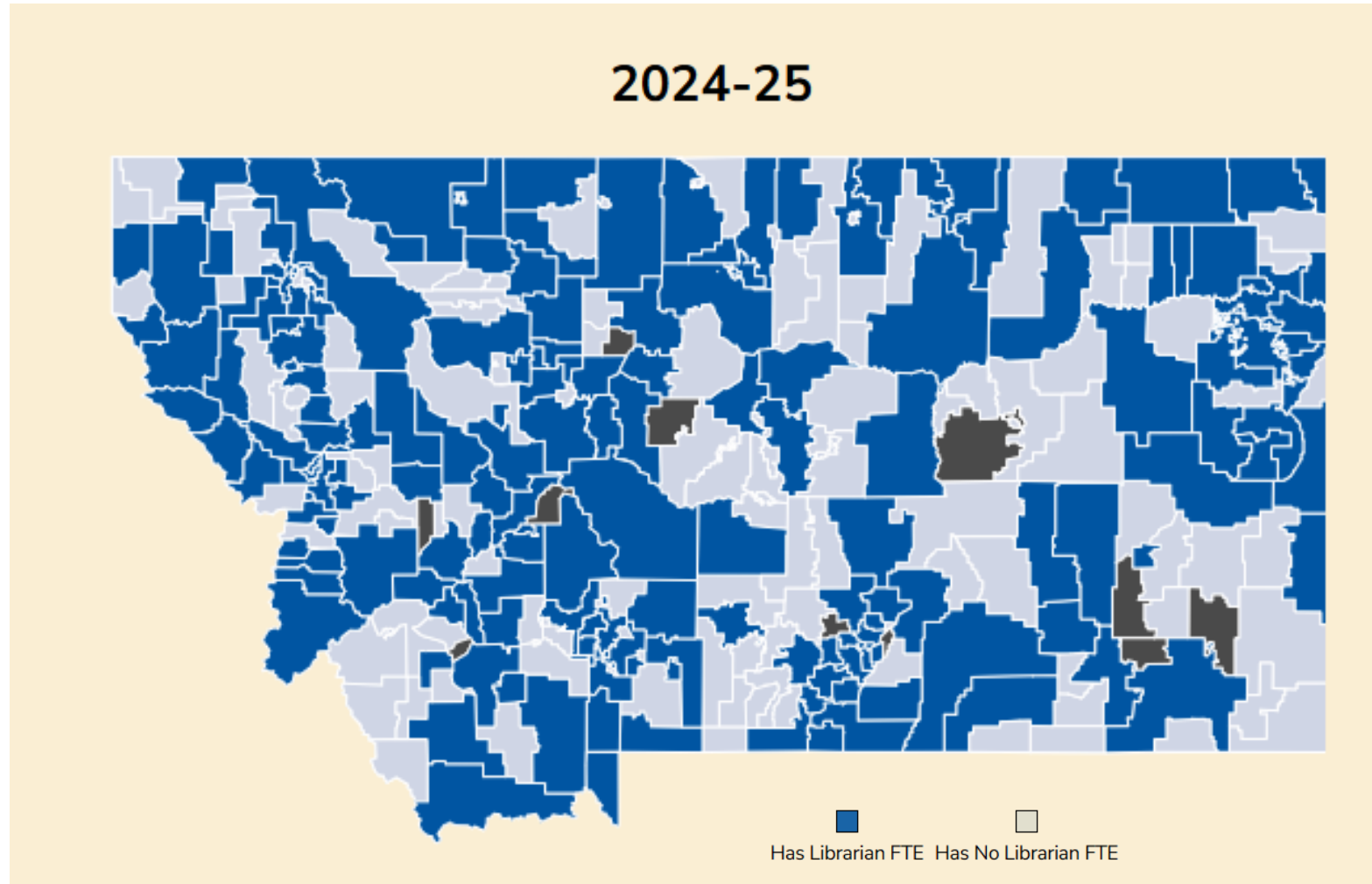
What investment is needed to ensure every county in Montana can share their story in the Montana History Portal?

- **Current Funding Total:** \$170,189
 - Local 10%, State 0%, Federal 90%
- **Funding Needed:**
 - Ongoing: \$100,000 per year
- **Total:** \$270,189



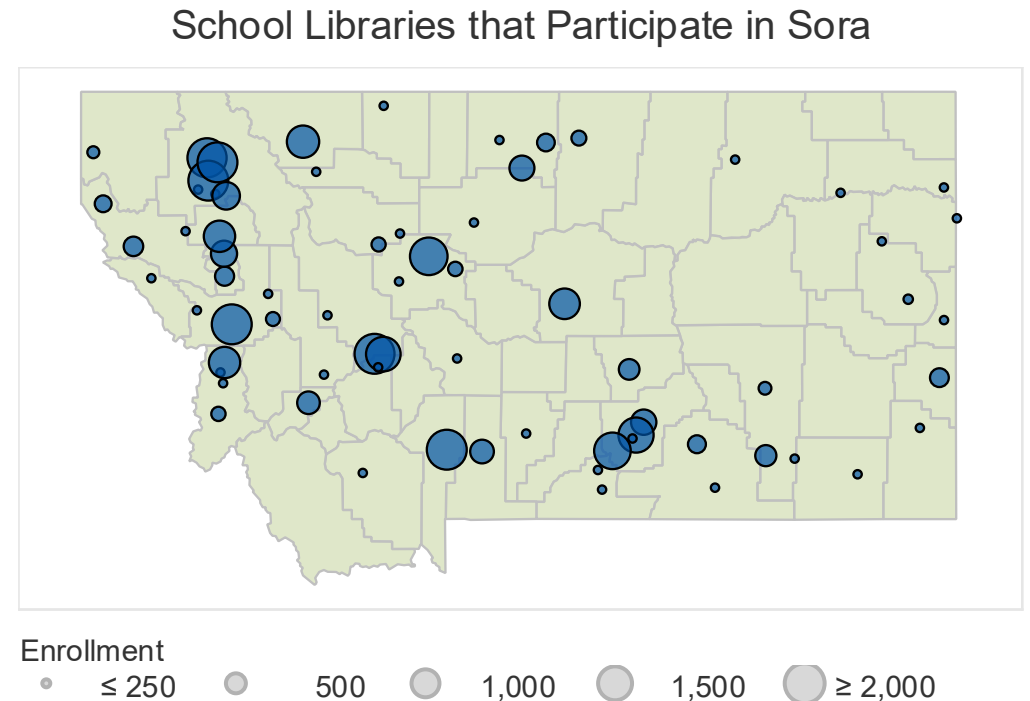
Horse-drawn firewagon and firemen in Butte, Montana.

Montana School Librarians



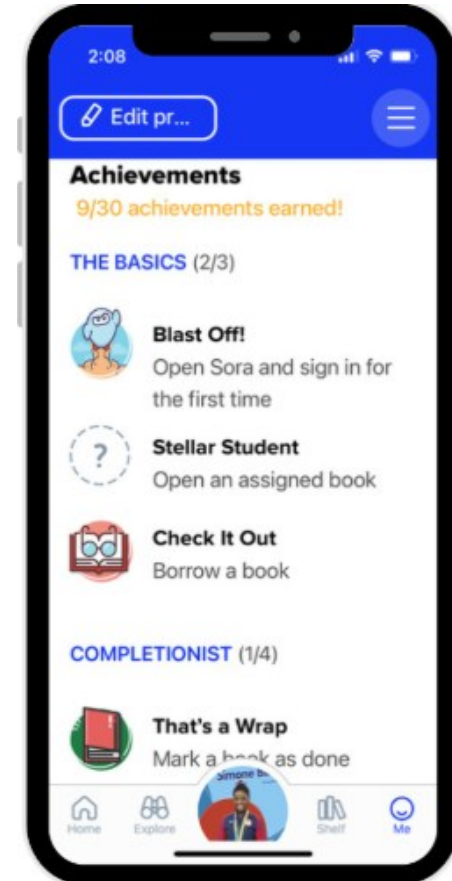
What if all Montana students had access to ebooks and audiobooks?

- **Present state:** Currently only 24% of school libraries participate in SORA, with a total collection of 13,885 titles. Less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of schools participate, yet there were 33,781 holds (wait) placed this school year.
- **Desired State:** 100% of Montana students can access and use SORA to access ebooks and audiobooks.



What investment is needed for Montana students to have access to ebooks and audiobooks?

- **Current Funding Total:** \$64,240
 - Local 100%, State 0%, Federal 0%
- **Funding Needed:**
 - Ongoing: \$450,000
- **Total:** \$500,000



What if all Montana students had a pipeline of online educational resources?

- **Present state:** No central contract, which leads to higher costs for schools to purchase databases they currently utilize but also puts the cost out of reach for many.
- **Desired state:** All Montana K-18 students can access databases and e-resources they need to be successful throughout their academic career. All schools can provide the mix of databases that makes the most sense for their students at an affordable option to participate.



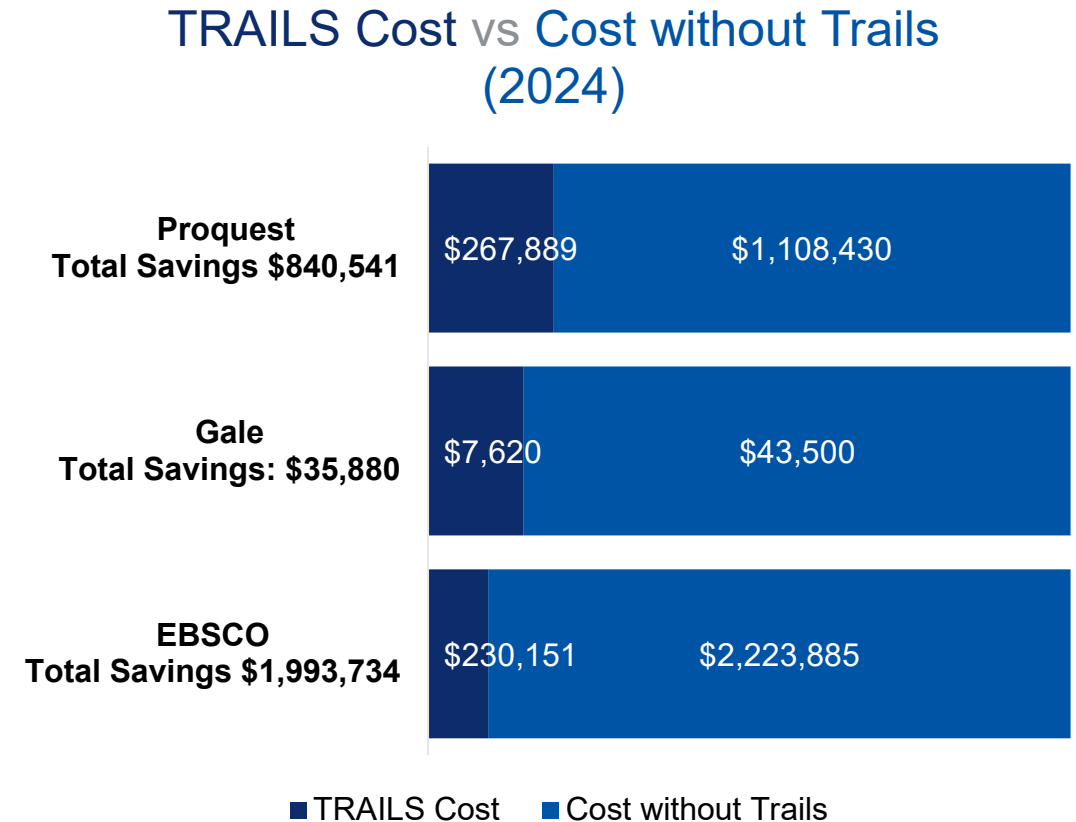
"TRAILS allows the Corette Library at Carroll College to punch above our weight! The cost-effective shared resources significantly expand students' access to vital resources."

-Jenn Oates

Carroll College Library Director

What investment is needed for all Montana students to have access to online educational resources?

- **Current Funding Total:**
 - K-12: Unknown
 - Academic: \$505,660+
 - Local 100%, State 0%, Federal 0%
- **Funding Needed: \$850,000**
- **Total: \$1.4 Million**



TRAILS saves member institutions \$3,000,000+ annually.

What if all Montanans had access to online educational databases for lifelong learning?

- **Current Funding Total:**
 - Unknown Total
 - Local 100%, State 0%, Federal 0%
- **Funding Needed: \$1.4 Million**
- **Total: \$1.4 Million**

Public Libraries

Montanans use databases to research family history, explore local news, and dig into their favorite hobbies.



Resource Sharing Priorities

- Montana libraries and the Montana State Library excel at providing efficient service delivery models that adapt to meet Montanans information needs.
- Libraries' priority is to provide efficient, modern library services that meets Montana's needs by addressing the services most desired by the libraries.
- What is most important today may not be what's most important in the future.
- Sufficient funding and investment in shared statewide services will ensure library services continue to evolve.

Investment Needed: \$8M

Program	New Ongoing	New One-Time
Montana Shared Catalog – Public Libraries	\$147,150	\$191,500
Montana Shared Catalog – Schools	\$939,225	\$1,077,000
Courier	\$1,500,000	\$645,000
MT Library2Go (Libby app)	\$855,373	\$0
Montana History Portal	\$100,000	\$0
School eBooks (Sora app)	\$450,000	\$0
K12 & Academic E-Resources	\$850,000	\$0
Public Library E-Resources	\$1,400,000	\$0
Totals	\$6,241,748	*\$1,913,500

*Assumes one-time investment of funds over a five- to ten-year period.

What does a resilient funding model that services all Montanans look like?

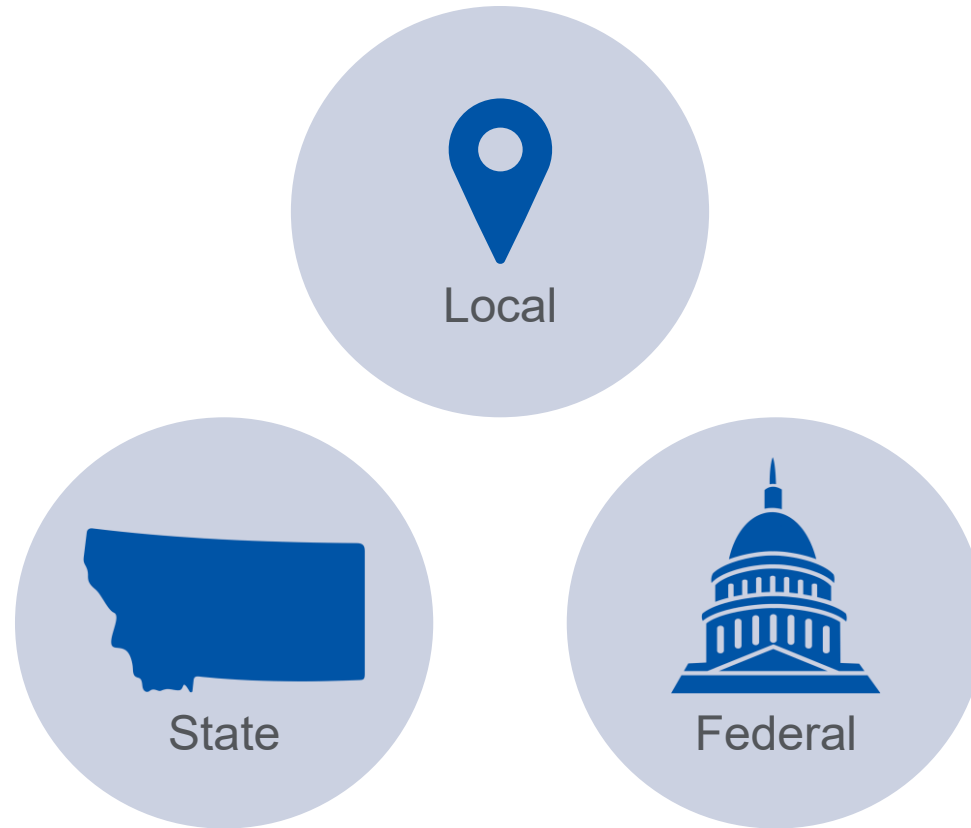
- **Present state:** resource sharing services support some, but not all, Montanans and are funded 82% local, 13% federal, and 4% state.
- **Desired state:** resource sharing serves all Montanans through a more stable funding model that can weather changes without disruption in service to Montanans.



Solutions

- Adequate and resilient funding model
- Increase revenue in the Basic Library Services Account
- Proprietary account that supports all types of resource sharing
- Schools and academic library services are supported by TRAILS

Resilient Mix of Adequate Funding Sources



Invest in Library Resource Sharing

- Appropriate the equivalent of 0.8% of K-12 base aid to provide ongoing funding for library resource sharing

Montana Code Annotated 2025

TITLE 22. LIBRARIES, ARTS, AND ANTIQUITIES

CHAPTER 1. LIBRARIES

Part 3. Free Public Libraries

Statewide Interlibrary Resource-Sharing Program

22-1-328. Statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. The commission shall establish a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. The purpose of the program is to administer funds appropriated by the legislature to support and facilitate resource-sharing among libraries in Montana, including but not limited to public libraries, public library districts, libraries operated by public schools or school districts, libraries operated by public colleges or universities, tribal libraries, libraries operated by public agencies for institutionalized persons, and libraries operated by nonprofit, private medical, educational, or research institutions. The legislature shall appropriate funds equivalent to .8% of K-12 Base Aid. Funds will be collected in the Basic Library Services Account established in 22-1-202.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 670, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, L. 2009.

Expand the Proprietary Account to Library Matching Account

Gives flexibility so as new services emerge, there is a model in place for funding them



Allows libraries to select and pay for only those services that fit their communities' needs



Ensures local libraries continue to have skin in the game



Reduces administrative burden by standardizing the way libraries procure and pay for these services

Utilize TRAILS Infrastructure

- Expand TRAILS capacity to serve as the procurements and contracts administrator for all online research database contracts and educational e-resources

Jennie Stapp
State Librarian
jstapp2@mt.gov



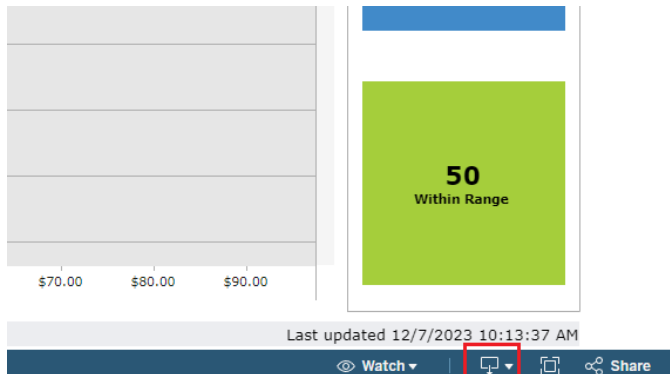
Thank you!



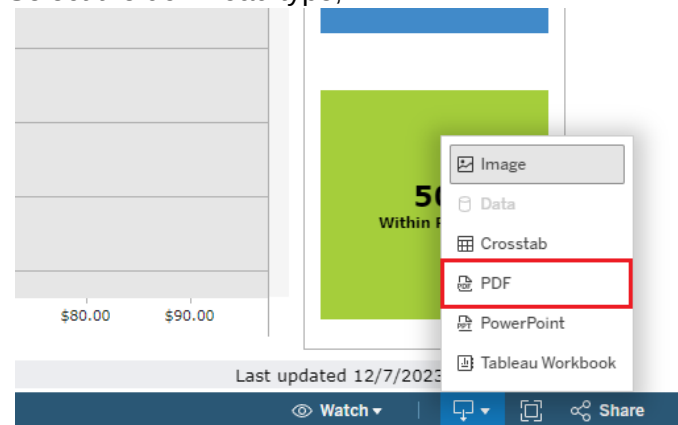
Download Dashboard with Scrolling Content

Some dashboards have a scroll bar to expand the range of data that can be presented. To download this content for later viewing, please use the following steps.

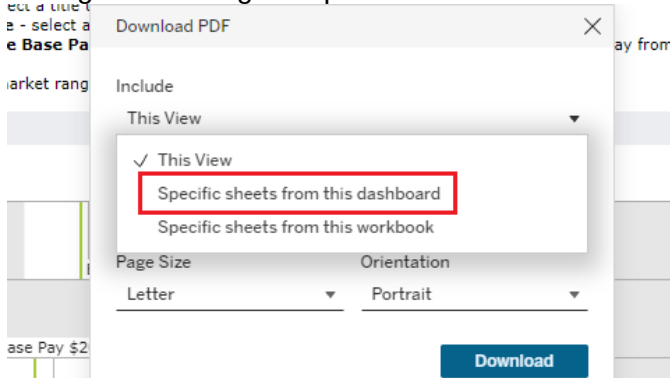
1. Click the download button at the bottom of the screen.



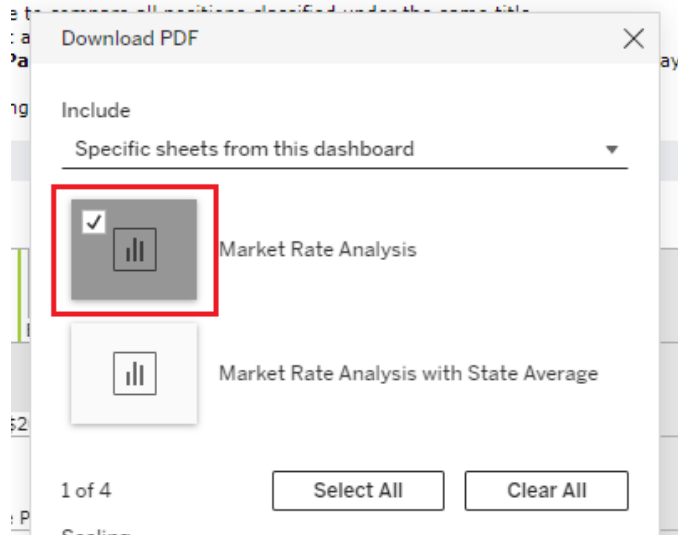
2. Select the download type, PDF.



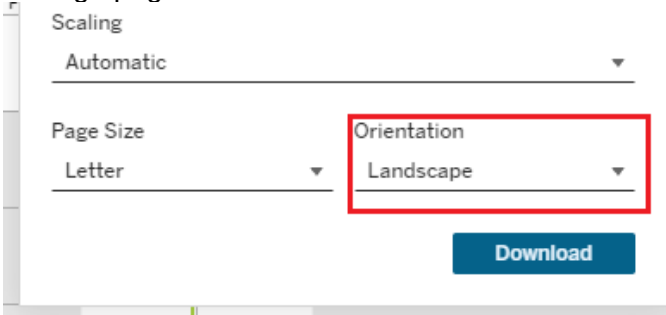
3. Change the setting to "Specific sheets from the dashboard. "



4. Select the chart you want to download.



5. Change page orientation or size as desired. Letter size and landscape often work best.



6. Click Download. Depending on your Internet browser, the download may start at the bottom of the screen or in the top tool bar. Check your Downloads folder as this is the default location for saving files when downloaded from the web.



Commission Biennial Calendar - Budget Activities

Budget

Executive Planning Process

January	February	March	April
Even	Odd	Even	Odd
Budget hearings begin	Budget hearings continue	Budget hearings continue	MGIA Grant Awardees
	MSL Quarterly Financial Report	Interim Budget Committee meeting	MSL Quarterly Financial Report
			Start of Executive Planning Process
May	June	July	August
Even	Odd	Even	Odd
	Commission adopts next fiscal year budget that refl..		
	Executive Planning Process priorities		
	Interim Budget Committee meeting		MSL Quarterly Financial Report
	Library Federations Plans of Service		
	Staff submit Executive Planning Process proposals		
September	October	November	December
Even	Odd	Even	Odd
Final Governor's Budget submissions	Federation reports	Governor's Budget Released	Interim Budget Committee meeting
Interim Budget Committee meeting	MSL Quarterly Financial Report		