



Supporting Montana's libraries
from the mountains to the prairies

Montana Library Association
HB203
Revise Direct State Aid to Public Libraries

In 2011, 4,599,660 people visited public libraries in Montana; 7,519,019 (up from 6,752,199 in 2010) items circulated which is 6.92 items per capita. Montana libraries offered 12,851 programs for all ages.

THIS REQUEST IS FOR NEW MONEY.

An Act revising state aid to libraries; this act requests a statutory appropriation that would increase per capita state aid based on the most recent census. It would also allow for a biennial inflationary adjustment based on the consumer price index. The funds would pass through the State Library budget through House Bill 2 and would be funded through the General Fund.

The Issue

Under MCA 22-1-326, State aid to public libraries, the purposes of state aid are to:

- (a) broaden access to existing information by strengthening public libraries and public library districts;
- (b) augment and extend services provided by public libraries and public library districts; and
- (c) permit new types of library services based on local need.

Although direct state aid for public libraries was enacted in 1989, it was not actually funded until 1999. The Montana Library Association is requesting a per capita/per square mile increase to 50 cents per capita for state aid grants to libraries. Since the FY2000-2001 biennium, funding for state aid grants has declined from \$125,569 annually to just \$102,830 shared among 82 public libraries. In other words, state aid per capita funding is just **under** 10 cents. Not only has the overall amount of funding declined, its buying power has also declined. According to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the current buying power of \$102,000 is \$76,000 in 2000 dollars. In other words, the buying power of state aid grants to libraries has decreased by almost \$50,000 or 60% in the last decade.

The Benefit

- The per capita/per square mile funding is the **only source of state aid** that local libraries can use to address the individual needs of their libraries.
- Montana libraries are grappling with a "new normal" of flat or decreased funding, paired with increased demand for programming, library materials, and public library technology resources. Libraries are doing the best they can by increasingly engaging in collaborative efforts to make the most out of their local funding, which is helping libraries to meet these increasing user demands.
- Anyone who has visited Montana libraries in the past few years will not be surprised to learn that demand for library services has increased significantly. Not only do visits and circulation continue to rise, the role of our libraries in providing Internet resources to the public continues to increase as well. With the growing need for access to digital and online information, including e-government services, continuing education resources and employment opportunities, libraries are essential to their communities.
- The Legislature does provide funding for statewide databases (\$317,495, Coal Severance Tax), Federations (\$176,122, Coal Severance Tax), and Statewide Resource Sharing (\$197,771, General Fund).

Again, the per capita/per square mile funding is the only source of state aid that local libraries can use to address the individual needs of their libraries.

- The extraordinary capabilities enabled by the internet revolution heighten the public library role as a community anchor that ensures public access to technology, digital content and internet-enabled services. The public library provides the hardware, internet access education, and assistance to advance the digital literacy of all individuals and digital inclusion across diverse communities.
- Montana libraries are the only public institution that helps communities not just to survive but to thrive in an era filled with economic uncertainty, technological illiteracy, and information overload. Technology continues to shape commerce, education and social interactions in our global world. Libraries, which provide equitable access for all, play a key role in leveling the playing field throughout Montana but especially in our most rural communities.
- The members of our communities who are most left in the lurch look to their local public libraries, where knowledgeable professionals help them navigate the government bureaucracy, apply for benefits and access social services. Public officials say they love libraries and are committed to them; they just don't believe libraries constitute a "core" service.
- If you visit our public libraries, you will see an essential service in action, as librarians help people who don't have any other way to get online, can't get the answers they urgently need, or simply need a safe and warm place to bring their children.

**Montana Public Libraries
Proposed Per Capita Increases
State Aid Calculation**

	pop check	amount	
	989,415	102,830	0.50
	Service Area Pop	Total State Aid (\$)	Service Area Per Capita Increase (\$)
Grand Total	989,415	102,830.00	494,707.50
Broad Valleys Federation	257,994	25,979.18	128,997.00
Beaverhead County	9,246	1,339.87	4,623.00
Dillon Public Library	9,246	1,339.87	4,623.00
Dillon	9,246	1,339.87	4,623.00
Broadwater County	5,612	616.41	2,806.00
Broadwater School and Community Library	5,612	616.41	2,806.00
Townsend	5,612	616.41	2,806.00
Deer Lodge County	9,298	909.18	4,649.00
Hearst Free Public Library	9,298	909.18	4,649.00
Anaconda	9,298	909.18	4,649.00
Gallatin County	89,513	8,359.36	44,756.50
Belgrade Public Library	12,960	1,204.02	6,480.00
Belgrade	12,960	1,204.02	6,480.00
Bozeman Public Library	62,164	5,775.53	31,081.90
Bozeman	62,164	5,775.53	31,081.90
Manhattan Community and School Library	6,792	674.01	3,396.20
Manhattan	6,792	674.01	3,396.20
Three Forks Public Library	4,097	380.70	2,048.70
Three Forks	4,097	380.70	2,048.70
West Yellowstone Public Library	3,499	325.10	1,749.70
West Yellowstone	3,499	325.10	1,749.70
Granite County	3,079	435.48	1,539.50
Drummond School-Community Library	1,748	269.02	873.75
School District: Drummond Elem 0559			
School District: Drummond H S 0559			
Philipsburg Public Library	1,332	166.46	665.75
Philipsburg	1,332	166.46	665.75
Jefferson County	11,406	1,183.50	5,703.00
Boulder Community Library (Jefferson County Library System)	5,713	583.17	2,856.50
Boulder	5,713	583.17	2,856.50
Clancy Library (North Jefferson County Library District)	5,693	600.33	2,846.50
School District: Clancy Elementary 0584			
School District: Montana City Elementary 0591			
Lewis and Clark County	63,395	6,057.25	31,697.50
Lewis and Clark Library	63,395	6,057.25	31,697.50
Helena	63,395	6,057.25	31,697.50

Madison County	7,691	1,021.77	3,845.50
Madison Valley Public Library	1,177	156.35	588.38
Ennis	1,177	156.35	588.38
Sheridan Public Library	981	130.35	490.38
Sheridan	981	130.35	490.38
Twin Bridges Public Library	714	94.88	356.88
Twin Bridges	714	94.88	356.88
Thompson-Hickman County Library	4,820	640.19	2,409.86
Virginia City	4,820	640.19	2,409.86
Meagher County	1,891	388.03	945.50
Meagher County/City Library	1,891	388.03	945.50
White Sulphur Springs	1,891	388.03	945.50
Park County	15,636	1,657.30	7,818.00
Livingston-Park County Public Library	15,636	1,657.30	7,818.00
Livingston	15,636	1,657.30	7,818.00
Powell County	7,027	847.39	3,513.50
William K. Kohrs Memorial Library	7,027	847.39	3,513.50
Deer Lodge	7,027	847.39	3,513.50
Silver Bow County	34,200	3,163.65	17,100.00
Butte - Silver Bow Public Library	34,200	3,163.65	17,100.00
Butte	34,200	3,163.65	17,100.00
Golden Plains Federation	27,182	3,868.79	13,591.00
Daniels County	1,751	287.85	875.50
Daniels County Library	1,751	287.85	875.50
Scobey	1,751	287.85	875.50
Phillips County	4,253	851.01	2,126.50
Phillips County Library	4,253	851.01	2,126.50
Malta	4,253	851.01	2,126.50
Roosevelt County	10,425	1,157.95	5,212.50
Roosevelt County Library	10,425	1,157.95	5,212.50
Wolf Point	10,425	1,157.95	5,212.50
Sheridan County	3,384	458.50	1,692.00
Sheridan County Library	3,384	458.50	1,692.00
Plentywood	3,384	458.50	1,692.00
Valley County	7,369	1,113.49	3,684.50
Glasgow City-County Library	7,369	1,113.49	3,684.50
Glasgow	7,369	1,113.49	3,684.50

Pathfinder Federation	143,015	15,134.22	71,507.50
Blaine County	6,491	971.00	3,245.50
Blaine County Library	3,936	588.76	1,967.90
Chinook	3,936	588.76	1,967.90
Harlem Public Library	2,555	382.24	1,277.60
Harlem	2,555	382.24	1,277.60
Cascade County	81,327	7,612.79	40,663.50
Belt Public Library	1,459	136.53	729.30
Belt	1,459	136.53	729.30
Wedsworth Memorial Library	1,547	144.78	773.30
Cascade	1,547	144.78	773.30
Great Falls Public Library	78,322	7,331.47	39,160.90
Great Falls	78,322	7,331.47	39,160.90
Chouteau County	5,813	886.66	2,906.50
Chouteau County Library	5,813	886.66	2,906.50
Fort Benton	5,813	886.66	2,906.50
Glacier County	13,399	1,485.30	6,699.50
Glacier County Library	13,399	1,485.30	6,699.50
Cut Bank	13,399	1,485.30	6,699.50
Hill County	16,096	1,720.74	8,048.00
Havre-Hill Library	16,096	1,720.74	8,048.00
Havre	16,096	1,720.74	8,048.00
Liberty County	2,339	341.46	1,169.50
Liberty County Library	2,339	341.46	1,169.50
Chester	2,339	341.46	1,169.50
Pondera County	6,153	704.67	3,076.50
Conrad Public Library	4,261	487.93	2,130.35
Conrad	4,261	487.93	2,130.35
Valier Public Library	1,892	216.74	946.15
Valier	1,892	216.74	946.15
Toole County	5,324	655.49	2,662.00
Toole County Library	5,324	655.49	2,662.00
Shelby	5,324	655.49	2,662.00
Teton County	6,073	756.12	3,036.50
Choteau/Teton Public Library	2,828	352.18	1,414.05
Choteau	2,828	352.18	1,414.05
Dutton/Teton Public Library	1,426	177.58	713.23
Dutton	1,426	177.58	713.23
Fairfield/Teton Public Library	1,818	226.37	909.23
Fairfield	1,818	226.37	909.23

Sagebrush Federation	51,291	7,584.88	25,645.50
Carter County	1,160	407.68	580.00
Ekalaka Public Library	1,160	407.68	580.00
Ekalaka	1,160	407.68	580.00
Custer County	11,699	1,402.72	5,849.50
Miles City Public Library	11,699	1,402.72	5,849.50
Miles City	11,699	1,402.72	5,849.50
Dawson County	8,966	1,027.35	4,483.00
Glendive Public Library	8,966	1,027.35	4,483.00
Glendive	8,966	1,027.35	4,483.00
Fallon County	2,890	408.65	1,445.00
Fallon County Library	2,890	408.65	1,445.00
Baker	2,890	408.65	1,445.00
Garfield County	1,206	532.21	603.00
Garfield County Library	1,206	532.21	603.00
Jordan	1,206	532.21	603.00
McCone County	1,734	396.53	867.00
George McCone Memorial County Library	1,734	396.53	867.00
Circle	1,734	396.53	867.00
Powder River	1,743	456.66	871.50
Henry A Malley Memorial Library	1,743	456.66	871.50
Broadus	1,743	456.66	871.50
Prairie County	1,179	264.16	589.50
Prairie County Library	1,179	264.16	589.50
Terry	1,179	264.16	589.50
Richland County	9,746	1,071.83	4,873.00
Sidney-Richland County Library	9,746	1,071.83	4,873.00
Sidney	9,746	1,071.83	4,873.00
Wibaux	1,017	172.72	508.50
Wibaux Public Library	1,017	172.72	508.50
Wibaux	1,017	172.72	508.50
Treasure County	718	153.74	359.00
	718	153.74	359.00
**Treasure County	718	153.74	359.00

South Central Federation	205,425	20,936.35	102,712.50
Big Horn County	12,865	1,618.13	6,432.50
Big Horn County Library	12,865	1,618.13	6,432.50
Hardin	12,865	1,618.13	6,432.50
Carbon County	10,078	1,098.64	5,039.00
Bridger Public Library	2,796	304.79	1,398.05
Bridger	2,796	304.79	1,398.05
Joliet Public Library	2,085	227.20	1,042.30
Joliet	2,085	227.20	1,042.30
Red Lodge Carnegie Library	5,197	566.65	2,598.65
Red Lodge	5,197	566.65	2,598.65
Fergus County	11,586	1,442.86	5,793.00
Denton Public Library	557	69.37	278.37
Denton	557	69.37	278.37
Lewistown Public Library	10,025	1,248.38	5,012.39
Lewistown	10,025	1,248.38	5,012.39
Moore Public Library	495	61.61	247.37
Moore	495	61.61	247.37
Dorothy Asbjornson Community Library	510	63.50	254.87
Winifred	510	63.50	254.87
Judith Basin County	2,072	357.14	1,036.00
Judith Basin County Free Library	2,072	357.14	1,036.00
Stanford	2,072	357.14	1,036.00
Musselshell County	4,538	580.32	2,269.00
Roundup School-Community Library	4,538	580.32	2,269.00
Roundup	4,538	580.32	2,269.00
Petroleum County	494	194.61	247.00
Petroleum County School-Community Library	494	194.61	247.00
Winnett	494	194.61	247.00
Rosebud County	9,233	1,290.65	4,616.50
Rosebud County Library	9,233	1,290.65	4,616.50
Forsyth	9,233	1,290.65	4,616.50
Stillwater County	9,117	988.62	4,558.50
Stillwater County Library	9,117	988.62	4,558.50
Columbus	9,117	988.62	4,558.50
Sweet Grass County	3,651	498.87	1,825.50
Carnegie Public Library	3,651	498.87	1,825.50
Big Timber	3,651	498.87	1,825.50

Wheatland County	2,168	325.37	1,084.00
Harlowton Public Library	2,168	325.37	1,084.00
Harlowton	2,168	325.37	1,084.00
Yellowstone County	147,972	13,645.23	73,986.00
Parmly Billings Library	141,254	13,025.72	70,627.00
Billings	141,254	13,025.72	70,627.00
Laurel Public Library	6,718	619.51	3,359.00
Laurel	6,718	619.51	3,359.00
Golden Valley County	884	186.58	442.00
	884	186.58	442.00
**Golden Valley County	884	186.58	442.00
Tamarack Federation	304,508	29,326.58	152,254.00
Flathead County	90,928	8,700.14	45,464.00
Flathead County Library System	84,571	8,091.43	42,285.50
Kalispell	84,571	8,091.43	42,285.50
Whitefish Community Library	6,357	608.72	3,178.50
Whitefish	6,357	608.72	3,178.50
Lake County	28,746	2,739.77	14,373.00
North Lake County Library District	15,978	1,537.14	7,988.83
School District: Polson H S 0603	15,978	1,537.14	7,988.83
Ronan City Library	6,244	580.04	3,121.95
Ronan	6,244	580.04	3,121.95
St. Ignatius School-Community Library	6,524	622.59	3,262.22
School District: St Ignatius K-12 Schools 0605	6,524	622.59	3,262.22
Lincoln County	19,687	2,110.99	9,843.50
Lincoln County Public Libraries	19,687	2,110.99	9,843.50
Libby	19,687	2,110.99	9,843.50
Mineral County	4,223	493.13	2,111.50
Mineral County Public Library	4,223	493.13	2,111.50
Superior	4,223	493.13	2,111.50
Missoula County	109,299	10,138.05	54,649.50
Missoula Public Library	109,299	10,138.05	54,649.50
Missoula	109,299	10,138.05	54,649.50
Ravalli County	40,212	3,860.19	20,106.00
Darby Community Public Library	4,352	518.80	2,176.16
School District: Darby K-12 Schools 0827	4,352	518.80	2,176.16
Bitterroot Public Library	25,577	2,377.96	12,788.52
School District: Hamilton K-12 Schools 0824			
School District: Corvallis K-12 Schools 0822			
School District: Victor K-12 Schools 0826			
*EXCLUDING Pinesdale (town)			

North Valley Public Library	10,283	963.43	5,141.32
School District: Lone Rock Elem 0828			
School District: Stevensville Elem 0823			
School District: Stevensville H S 0823			
Sanders County	11,413	1,284.30	5,706.50
Preston Town County Library	1,918	232.38	958.94
School District: Hot Springs Elem 0882			
School District: Hot Springs H S 0882			
Plains Public Library District	4,532	486.68	2,266.21
School District: Plains H S 0874	4,532	486.68	2,266.21
Thompson Falls Public Library	4,963	565.24	2,481.36
School District: Thompson Falls H S 0875	4,963	565.24	2,481.36

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>