

Dolly Riley, Library Advisory Board member, District 1

November 13, 2017

I would like to give an update regarding Funding for County Library Director

Honorable Supervisors, Library Advisory Board,

I think it would be helpful to give some background information about what has occurred over the last 2-3 years for new BOS and LAB members.

- The 2014 and 2015 Grand Jury reports brought issues about the library, which included an assertion that Education Code 19147 states that the library director shall be paid from the same fund as other county officers, which the Grand Jury interpreted to be the county general fund. The county disagreed, and the BOS resolved to seek clarification from the state legislature on 5-27-15. The Grand Jury's intention was to give the library a better ability to sustain itself over time.
- On 10-20-15 the BOS responded to the Grand Jury report stating "the practice of paying the librarian from the library funds is reasonable since the library has a pro-rata share of property tax and Measure A sales tax." The BOS recommended clarification of the Education Code as it pertains to payment of the county librarian's salary at that time.
- On 7-25-17 I spoke with Mike Dillon of the California Library Association, and learned the State Legislative Committee answered the BOS request saying that there is not an explicit directive to pay the librarian from one fund or the other. The reason there is no directive is that rural counties might benefit while larger counties might be poorly impacted. Proposition 13 took a toll on property tax which made it hard for rural counties like Mendocino. Current law can be interpreted either way by each county's BOS. There are no prior legal cases to set precedent on this issue.

Bringing it into the present. As you are aware, the passage of Measure A has brought our county library system from minimal staff and limited hours to a thriving community service, since receiving Measure A funds in 2012. The Library Advisory Board would like to see the increased staffing and hours and the incredible new library services to all county residents continue. One way for this to occur after Measure A has expired, is to discuss future funding today, and specifically, the source of funding for the library director.

Mendocino County's system is to pay the library director from the library's own funds. The library's current funding is provided by Measure A (57%), and pro-rata tax (41%), plus late fines and copier fees which provide a small amount.



So, library funding is roughly 60/40 with the greater percentage being paid by Measure A which will expire in a decade.

At our last Library Advisory Board meeting in August 2017, we asked the question, "Which counties pay their library director from the county general fund, and which counties pay their director from the library special funds?"

On October 10, 2017, I received an answer from Mike Dillon of the California Library Association. The Association had conducted a survey and had responses to this question from 35 out of 58 California counties. By November 9, 2017, there was no new information. 33 were listed in a spread sheet and 2 were alluded to in an email.

Of the 35 counties responding to the survey, 22, or 65%, pay their library director from the general fund. Twelve of the responding counties, or 35%, pay from the library fund. Yolo County pays their library director 75% from the general fund and 25% from the library fund, and is separate from this analysis. To sum up the survey responses, 65% pay from general fund and 35% pay from library fund.

I took a closer look. I reviewed director funding and each county's population density, with a goal of learning what counties similar to Mendocino County are doing. Of the responding counties, Humboldt, Tuolumne, Tehama, and Colusa Counties have similar population densities and support their libraries by paying their library directors from county general funds. Del Norte and Glenn Counties have similar population density but did not respond to the survey. So, 100% of similar counties that responded pay from the general fund.

It is my hope that we can begin a dialogue about the advantages to our citizens to be derived from paying the library director from Mendocino County's general fund. This would give longevity to the success the library has achieved today in services to our county residents.

To date the library has proven it can benefit our citizenry with improved knowledge, innovative social programs, and even nourishment through the seed sharing program. These and other programs indicate that the library is worthy of the supervisors' attention and consideration, with a view toward helping the library and acting as similar counties do, because we are all here today as good stewards to serve of the people of Mendocino County.

Attachments: Emails from California Library Association, Funding for Library Director survey spreadsheet, and Population Density per County excerpt from usa.com.



**From:** Mike Dillon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:13 PM  
**To:** 'dollypriley@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** 'Karen Horner'  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for County Librarian Director

Hi Dolly.

Here are the survey results you requested. As I mentioned not all counties are on this list for some reason. However, most of the smaller counties are shown. You will see nothing is shown for Yolo County, but they report that for 2017-18 the County Librarian position will be funded 75% GF and 25% by the library fund. Also, if not clear on this tally Tulare County is General Fund.

Take care.

Mike

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**From:** Christina DiCaro  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** Mike Dillon  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for County Librarian Director

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**From:** Fried, Helen [<mailto:Helen.Fried@occr.ocgov.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:13 PM  
**To:** Alameda County ; ALPINE COUNTY LIBRARY; AMADOR COUNTY LIBRARY; BUTTE COUNTY LIBRARY; CALAVERAS COUNTY LIBRARY; COLUSA COUNTY FREE LIBRARY; CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY; COUNTY OF EL DORADO COUNTY LIBRARY; COUNTY OF IMPERIAL FREE LIBRARY; FRESNO COUNTY LIBRARY; HUMBOLDT COUNTY LIBRARY; Kern Co; KINGS COUNTY LIBRARY; LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY; Madera Co; Marin Co; Mariposa Co; Mendocino Co; MERCED COUNTY LIBRARY; Modoc Co; Mono Co; Monterey Co; Napa Co; Nevada Co; Fried, Helen; Placer Co; Plumas Co; RIVERSIDE COUNTY ; Sacramento Co ; San Benito Co; SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LIBRARY ; San Bernardino Co; San Diego Co; San Luis Obispo City-Co; Santa Cruz City-Co; Siskiyou Co; Solano Co; STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY; Sutter Co; Tehama Co; TRINITY COUNTY LIBRARY; TULARE COUNTY LIBRARY; Tuolumne Co; Ventura Co; YOLO COUNTY LIBRARY; YUBA COUNTY LIBRARY  
**Cc:** Mike Dillon; Christina DiCaro; 'Migell Acosta'; 'Lightbody, Melanie'  
**Subject:** Funding for County Librarian Director

Dear California County Librarians Association Members,

Thank you to the members who responded on whether the County Librarian is funded through the General Fund or the Library Fund. As requested by many of you the result of the survey is attached. For those libraries that are not funded fully by one or the other, notes are attached.

Helen Fried

County Librarian

Administration

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COUNTY LIBRARY	GENERAL FUND	LIBRARY FUND
ALAMEDA		X
ALPHINE	X	
AMADOR	X	
BUTTE	X	
CALAVERAS	X	
COLUSA	X	
CONTRA COSTA		X
EL DORADO	X	
FRESNO	X	
HUMBOLDT	X	
IMPERIAL		X
INYO		
KERN	X	
KINGS		
LAKE		X
LOS ANGELES		
MADERA	X	
MARIN	X	
MARIPOSA		
MENDOCINO		X
MERCED	X	
MODOC		X
MONO		X
MONTEREY		X
NAPA	X	
NEVADA		X
ORANGE		X
PLACER	X	
PLUMAS		
RIVERSIDE		
SACRAMENTO		
SAN BENITO		
SAN BERNANDINO		X
SAN DIEGO		



SAN LUIS OBISPO	X	
SANTA CRUZ		
SISKIYOU	X	
SOLANO	X	
STANISLAUS		X
SUTTER	X	
TEHAMA	X	
TRINITY		
TULARE		
TUOLUMNE	X	
VENTURA	X	
YOLO		
YUBA		



35.	70.8/sq mi	<u>Madera, CA</u> / 152,452
36.	61.3/sq mi	<u>Amador, CA</u> / 37,159
37.	48.3/sq mi	<u>Lake, CA</u> / 64,209
38.	46.4/sq mi	<u>Shasta, CA</u> / 178,520
39.	43.3/sq mi	<u>Calaveras, CA</u> / 44,921
40.	40.9/sq mi	<u>San Benito, CA</u> / 56,888
41.	39.5/sq mi	<u>Imperial, CA</u> / 177,026
42.	33.3/sq mi	<u>Humboldt, CA</u> / 134,876
43.	23.9/sq mi	<u>Tuolumne, CA</u> / 54,347
44.	22.8/sq mi	<u>Del Norte, CA</u> / 28,066
45.	22.6/sq mi	<u>Mendocino, CA</u> / 87,612
46.	21.4/sq mi	<u>Tehama, CA</u> / 63,284
47.	21.1/sq mi	<u>Glenn, CA</u> / 28,019
48.	18.5/sq mi	<u>Colusa, CA</u> / 21,424
49.	12.3/sq mi	<u>Mariposa, CA</u> / 17,946
50.	7.4/sq mi	<u>Plumas, CA</u> / 19,286
51.	7.1/sq mi	<u>Lassen, CA</u> / 33,356
52.	7.0/sa mi	Siskivou. CA / 44.261