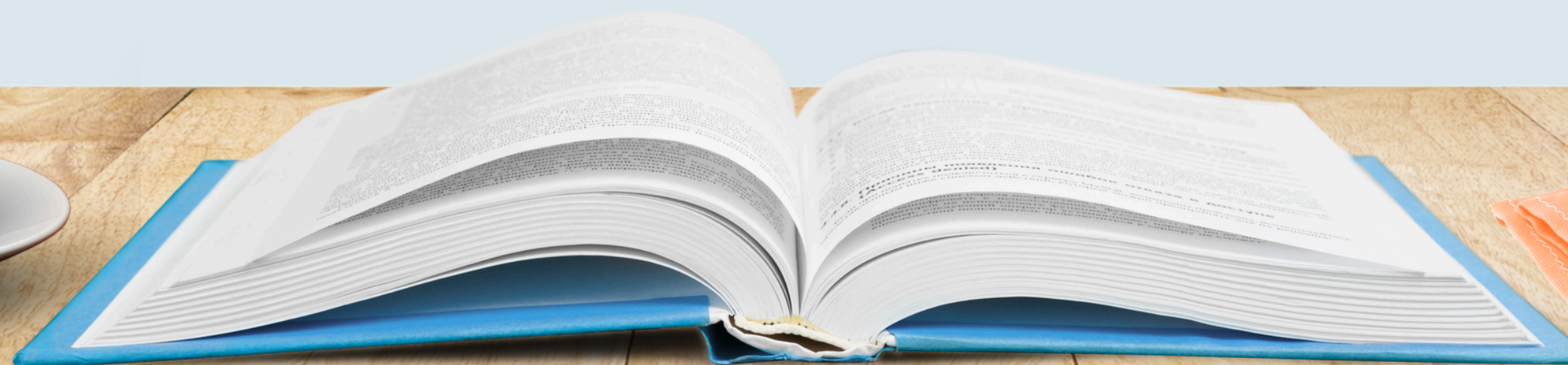




# Library Coffee Talk

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE UNKNOWN





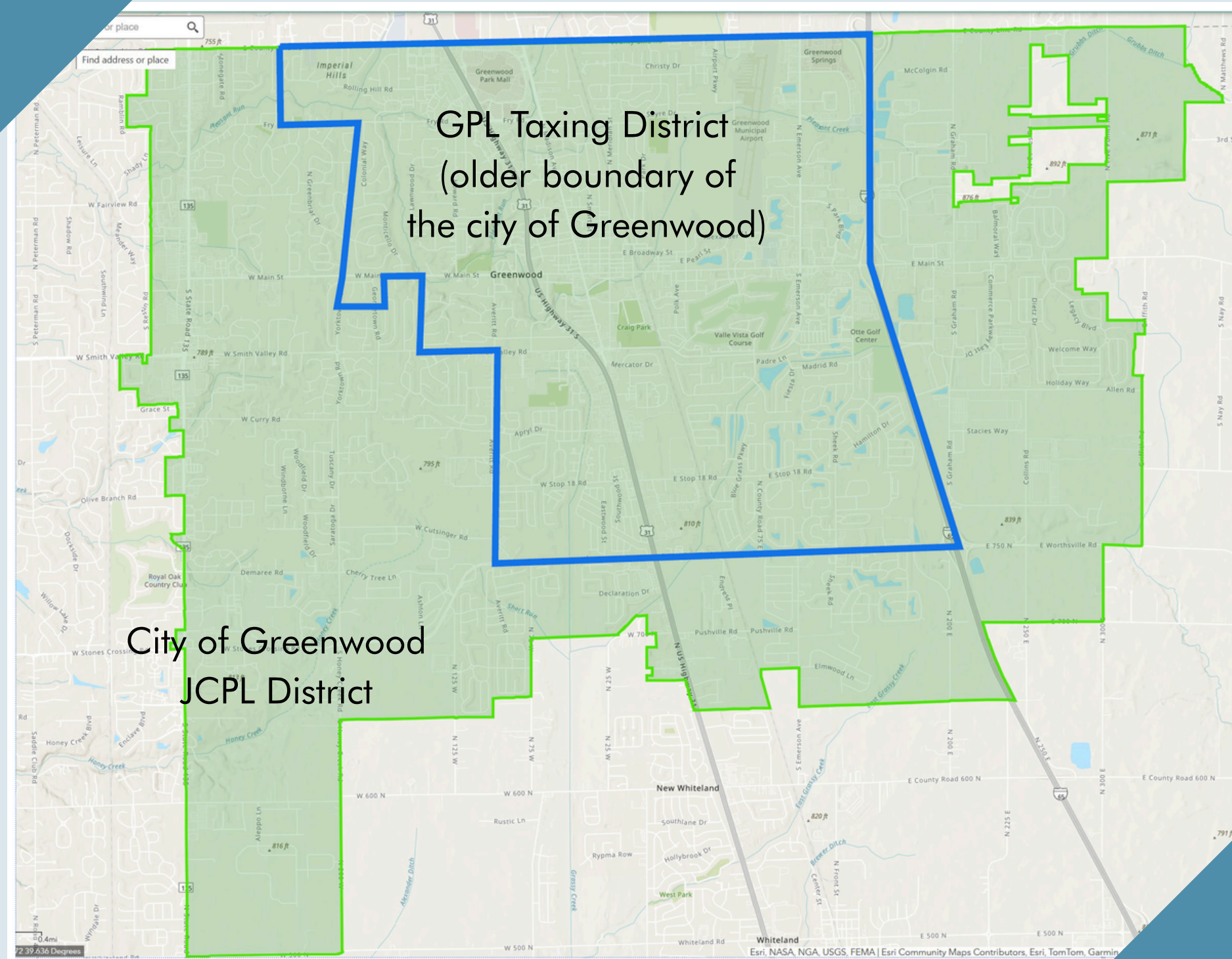
# HOW ARE PUBLIC LIBRARIES FUNDED TODAY?

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- MOST are funded by property taxes from a defined taxing district and local income tax
- SOME may be departments of the city or county government
  - Indianapolis Public Library is the only library system in IN that is a part of City/County Government, but this is the norm in other states
- RARELY, they are privately owned and funded



# WHO PAYS THE TAXES?



- GPL's taxing district does not include all of Greenwood, and represents approximately 32,000 residents. Why? It's a long story.
- Residents of JCPL or Edinburgh library districts may apply for a free reciprocal library card.
- Non-residents may purchase a card that gives them access to print and digital materials as well as the Evergreen consortium.



# APPOINTED BOARDS FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS:

Special taxing districts are defined as serving a specific purpose and being non-political in nature, like fire services or water districts, etc.

## ► ADVANTAGES

**Prevents one politician or political party from having undue control over the public library.**

**Appointing bodies represent all corners of our district**

## ► DISADVANTAGES

**Some want to see more political control of libraries.**

**Fiscal control over libraries would give the ability for content at libraries to be politically controlled.**



# WHO DO WE ANSWER TO?

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT FINANCE

STATE BOARD  
OF ACCOUNTS

CITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

*Oversees local government,  
including libraries, to ensure  
that budgeting and property tax  
assessment are conducted in  
accordance with state law.*

# WHO DO WE ANSWER TO?

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT FINANCE

STATE BOARD  
OF ACCOUNTS

CITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

*Oversees fiscal integrity and accountability of state and local government entities including libraries. We are audited every two years.*



# WHO DO WE ANSWER TO?

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT FINANCE

STATE BOARD  
OF ACCOUNTS

CITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## CITY COUNCIL

*Our local fiscal body - must approve any additional appropriations, requests for bonds, or requested increases to our tax rate since these actions impact not only the city but also other local taxing units.*

# WHO DO WE ANSWER TO?

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT FINANCE

STATE BOARD  
OF ACCOUNTS

CITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*They are appointed by the Mayor, the City Council, the Greenwood Superintendent (2), the Clark Pleasant School Board President, the County Council, and the County Commissioners.*



# WHAT HAS CHANGED IN 2025?

**State:** SB1 threatens to permanently reduce and flatten the funding we receive from property taxes, shifting the funding responsibility to the local counties. The State Library also received a 30% cut, and the Inspire Databases were defunded

**Local:** Currently local income tax revenue is based on our levy. As that system is removed in 2027, we will have no guarantee of minimum LIT funding

## Now

- 40% of our revenue
- Adjusts with property tax levy
- County Council dispenses
- Changes only possible with consent of all impacted local entities
- Not politically controlled, fairly stable

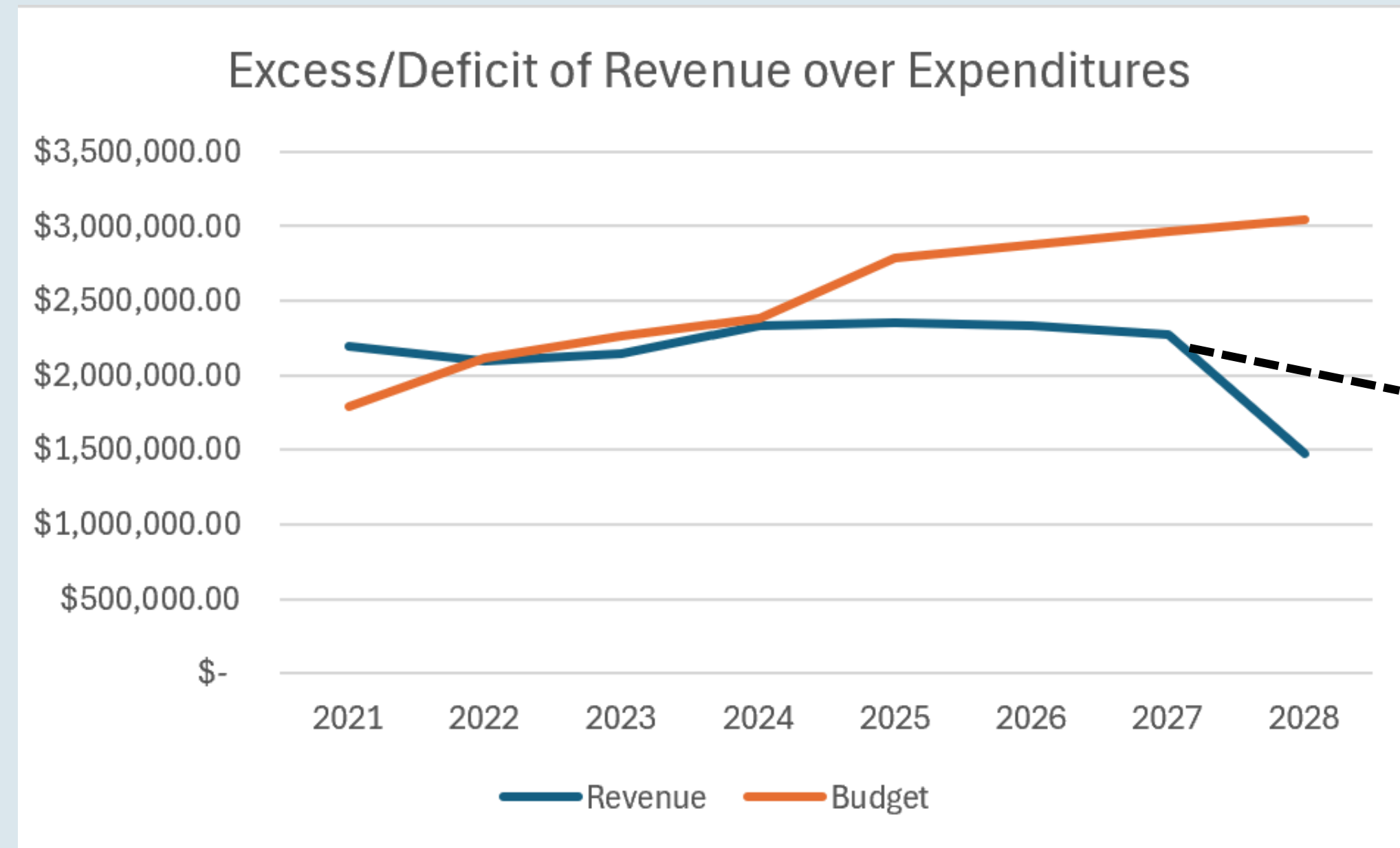
## 2027/2028

- No longer tied to property tax
- County Council sets amount each year
- Rate to be 0% - .05% for libraries. Even the max would be a cut of \$170,000
- Libraries must request LIT every year
- Politicizes and destabilizes library funding

# GPL FUNDING TRENDS

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- We anticipate losing between \$78,000 and \$83,000 each of the next three years due to property tax reform
- These will contribute to a gap between budget and revenue of at least \$550,000.
- In 2026, we are anticipating an operating budget of \$2,874,855 and revenue of \$2,363,718. A difference of \$511,137.



# BUT DON'T YOU HAVE SAVINGS?

|                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Rainy Day Fund:</b>         | <b>\$1,194,556.86</b> |
| <b>Operating Cash Balance:</b> | <b>\$495,397.31</b>   |

Yes, we do. In fact we have prepared for uncertain times for the last 12 years. However, this is not simply a temporary down turn, but rather an permanent unsustainable reduction. If we do not reduce spending, our “savings” will only last a few years.

- Rainy Day Funds are generally for unexpected or planned facility improvements and repair.
- The operating fund balance helps us cash flow between twice yearly tax payouts.
- We aren't allowed to carry large cash balances due to previous legislation.

We will no longer be able to add to our savings in any significant way.



# HOW WILL THIS IMPACT THE LIBRARY?



## Reduced Staff

now under a hiring freeze



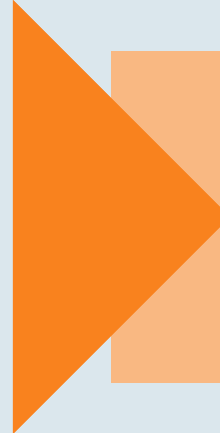
## Reduced Hours

hours are dependent on staffing



## Evergreen

System connecting us with 6 million available materials may be impacted



## Limited Resources

less money means less purchases



## Loss of Digital Collections

eBooks may be reduced or eliminated



## Decline in library quality

the biggest impact felt across the state

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

ASK HARD QUESTIONS &  
HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS

CALM THE RUSH

PRESERVE FUNDS

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

*Who is using the library?*

*Who should be our priority?*

*What are our strategic priorities?*

*With all of that in mind, what does  
a sustainable budget look like?*

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

**ASK HARD QUESTIONS &  
HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS**

**CALM THE RUSH**

**PRESERVE FUNDS**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

## **PRIORITIZE RESIDENT CARDHOLDERS**

*Starting January 1st*

- *A GPL library card will be required to reserve a study room in advance.*
- *Daily max use for cardholders = 4 hrs & daily max use for non-cardholders = 2 hrs*
- *Experience passes will only be available to GPL Resident cardholders*



# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

**ASK HARD QUESTIONS &  
HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS**

**CALM THE RUSH**

**PRESERVE FUNDS**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

## **SUSTAINABLE SERVICES**

*Starting January 1st*

- *A GPL card will be required for most program registration. “Open” programs will be clearly labeled on the calendar. In rare instances, we may open up larger programs with low registration to anyone with or without a card*
- *Reduced digital services*
  - *Not renewing Linked In Learning*
  - *Kanopy - Monthly tickets from 12 to 8*
  - *Hoopla - Monthly checkouts from 8 to 5*
  - *Libby - Reduced budget may = longer wait times*

# WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

**ASK HARD QUESTIONS &  
HAVE HARD  
CONVERSATIONS**

**CALM THE RUSH**

**PRESERVE FUNDS**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

## **BUILDING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY**

- *Communicating as clearly and transparently as possible*
- *Remaining available for questions and concerns. My door is always open!*
- *Connecting with local officials*
- *Giving tours of the library and sharing our mission and vision*
- *Hosting quarterly Library Coffee Talks*

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



**Talk about us!**



**Follow GLF on Facebook**



**Join our list of advocates**



**Follow EveryLibrary.org**



**Talk to your elected officials**



**Donate to GLF**

