

**Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
May 13, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

The Belleville Area District Library Board will meet in person in the library's 2nd floor Conference Room.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, Jackson-Smith, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Library Short/Long Term, Life, and ADD Insurance
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Building-Cichewicz
 - B. Bylaws-Priest
 - C. Finance-Stoudemire
 - D. Outreach-Jackson-Smith
 - E. Personnel-Priest
 - F. Policy-Fleming
 - G. Art
8. Approve Accounts Payable
9. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
10. Trustee Comments
11. Chair Comments
12. Adjournment

Any citizen wishing to provide input or ask questions about any agenda item may speak during the meeting's Public Comments section or forward comments to the Library Director in advance by leaving a message at 734-699-3291 or via the Contact Information found at www.belleville.lib.mi.us. Any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the library at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, using the above contact information.

Next Regular BADL Board Meeting: June 10, 2025, at 7:30 PM

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
Date: April 8, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Dr. Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy, Assistant Director Hilary Savage, and Library Assistant Nikki Pickeral.
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve March 11, 2025, Minutes:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Jackson-Smith, to approve the March 11, 2025, Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** No public comments.
6. **Library Government Accounting Software:** The library's existing accounting software is being discontinued by the company. Library staff evaluated three software products and recommend BS&A ERP Software for Local Government. BS&A was the lowest quote and is used by the City of Belleville as well as other libraries. Motion by Cichewicz to approve the BS&A Library/Government Software acquisition, seconded by Priest. The motion carried unanimously. The transition to the new software will take three to five months.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Building:** O'Neal Construction met with the electrician and the company who will install the automatic bathroom door openers. Installation is tentatively scheduled for April 25, since the library will already be closed for the staff in-service day. There was a leak on the green roof outside the teen loft during the last rainstorm. Duke Roofing could not definitively locate the leak but patched some potential trouble spots.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No Report.
 - C. **Finance:** No Report.
 - D. **Outreach:** Jackson-Smith reported that she met with Suchy, Savage, and Pickeral to talk about plans for the committee. They discussed updating the library's strategic plan, including getting input from the community.
 - E. **Personnel:** No Report.
 - F. **Policy:** No Report.
 - G. **Art:** Student art from Van Buren Schools is currently on display. There will be a one-month gap in exhibits in June which will be filled with a library staff art display.
8. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire to approve the accounts payable as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Director's Report:** The Wayne County Ways and Means committee met regarding penal fines and Suchy was in contact with our Wayne County Commissioner; however, there has been no official communication from Wayne County about penal fines. Suchy described the federal executive order that calls for cuts to the Institute for Museum and Library Services and its potential impact on library services such as MeLCat and the MeL Databases. The library celebrated National Library Week with pop-up activities and programs. Library street signage at the media center was discussed.

10. Trustee Comments:

Cichewicz: Was happy Suchy had brought information on the IMLS situation.

Cichewicz is hoping to be more involved now that she is retired. She is currently a substitute at the Ypsilanti Library.

Priest: Commented on the amount of support for libraries during the recent rallies.

Stoudemire: Excited Suchy is going to get her new accounting software and the new possibilities it will bring.

Jackson-Smith: Excited for the changing of the weather and ability to go outside and see people.

Fleming: Nothing new to report but agrees with Jackson-Smith.

11. **Chair Comments:** Peters expressed appreciation to the library staff for their hard work in staying on top of challenges affecting the library and for informing the board in a way that is easy to understand. She is confident that the staff and board can meet the job at hand. She encouraged everyone on the board to reach out to their representatives.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion by Fleming, seconded by Priest, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Life, ADD, Short and Long Term Disability Insurance Premium and Benefit Comparison



Benefit Plan Details

		The Standard	Principal Financial Group	The Guardian
		Current Rates	Rate Effective 5/1/2025	Rate Effective 6/1/2025
Basic Life	Eligible Employees Benefit Amount Rate Per \$1000 of Volume Volume Monthly Premium	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$30,000 \$0.196 \$420,000 \$82.32	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$50,000 \$0.142 \$700,000 \$99.40	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$50,000 \$0.200 \$700,000 \$140.00
Basic AD&D	Eligible Employees Benefit Amount Rate Per \$1000 of Volume Volume Monthly Premium	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$30,000 \$0.040 \$420,000 \$16.80	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$50,000 \$0.020 \$700,000 \$14.00	All Full-Time Employees Flat \$50,000 \$0.030 \$700,000 \$21.00
Short Term Disability	Eligible Employees Benefit % Weekly Benefit Amount Maximum Benefit Period Elimination Period Group Rate Per \$10 of Weekly Benefit Volume Monthly Premium	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$1,000 13 Weeks 14th Day Accident, 14th Day Illness \$0.330 \$9,208 \$303.86	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$1,500 13 Weeks 14th Day Accident, 14th Day Illness \$0.280 \$9,302 \$260.46	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$1,500 13 Weeks 14th Day Accident, 14th Day Illness \$0.340 \$9,302 \$316.27
Long Term Disability	Eligible Employees Benefit % Monthly Benefit Amount Maximum Benefit Period Elimination Period Group Rate Per \$100 of Monthly Earnings Volume Monthly Premium	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$2,500 To Age 65 90 Days \$0.580 \$54,660 \$317.03	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$5,000 To Age 65 90 Days \$0.340 \$66,972 \$227.70	All Full-Time Employees 60% \$5,000 To Age 65 90 Days \$0.400 \$66,972 \$267.89
Total Estimated Monthly Premium		\$720.01	\$601.56	\$745.16

= Increase in Benefit

**Belleville Area District Library
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	2024-2025 <u>Budget</u>	9 Month 2024-2025 <u>Budget</u>	9 Month <u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
403.000	Current Taxes less chg backs	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 1,950,000 *	\$ -
	Total Current Taxes	2,600,000	1,950,000	1,950,000	-
502.000	Grant Revenue	6,300	4,725	7,557	2,832
665.000	Interest Income	20,000	15,000	7,719	(7,281)
575.000	State Aid	43,000	32,250	22,774	(9,476)
	Library Fines and Fees				
659.000	Late Fees	500	375	3,400	3,025
658.000	Penal Fines	36,000	27,000	39,198	12,198
677.000	Lost Book Fees	1,700	1,275	1,320	45
	Total Fines and Fees	38,200	28,650	43,918	15,268
674.000	Contributions and Donations	2,500	1,875	1,051	(824)
674.002	Contributions New Library	-	-	5	5
	Miscellaneous Income				
680.000	Miscellaneous				
630.000	Copies				
631.000	Fax Fees				
647.000	Newspaper Sales				
	Total Miscellaneous	24,000	18,000	24,114	6,114
	Grand Total Revenues	\$ 2,734,000	\$ 2,050,500	\$ 2,057,138	\$ 6,638
	<u>Expenditures</u>				
	Salaries				
702.000	Salary- Librarians				
705.000	Salary- Library Aides				
	Total Salaries	\$ 1,218,000	\$ 913,500	\$ 862,744	\$ 50,756
	Benefits and FICA				
715.000	FICA/ Medicare	93,177	69,883	66,149	3,734
716.000	Employee Health Insurance	240,000	180,000	192,816	(12,816)
718.000	Retirement (MERS)	81,000	60,750	61,001	(251)
	Total Benefits and FICA	414,177	310,633	319,966	(9,333)
981.000	Books and Acquisitions	275,000	206,250	151,773	54,477
809.002	Contracted Services-Acq.	23,000	17,250	7,820	9,430
	Supplies				
730.000	Office Supplies				
775.000	Supplies- Maintenance				
950.002	Library Programs Supplies				
	Total Supplies	55,000	41,250	24,895	16,355

* Actual taxes collected to date \$2,589,023.77

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General Fund
For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025**

<u>Account</u>	<u>2024-2025 Budget</u>	<u>9 Month 2024-2025 Budget</u>	<u>9 Month Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Professional Fees				
804.000 Audit	\$ 9,500	\$ 7,125	\$ 8,575	\$ (1,450)
805.000 Finance	13,500	10,125	9,225	900
801.001 Legal	7,000	5,250	2,676	2,574
801.002 Legal-Building Program	-	-	-	-
807.000 Architect	10,000	7,500	4,097	3,403
806.000 Other	10,000	7,500	2,525	4,975
Total Professional Fees	50,000	37,500	27,098	10,402
815.000 Bank Fees	4,000	3,000	819	2,181
808.000 Dues	5,000	3,750	793	2,957
Contracted Services				
809.001 Contracted Services	25,000	18,750	16,025	2,725
809.005 Delivery	6,000	4,500	3,495	1,005
720.000 Payroll	15,000	11,250	8,126	3,124
809.003&4 Automation System & Cataloging	41,000	30,750	29,294	1,456
809.007 Outside Maintenance	20,000	15,000	8,428	6,572
Total Contracted Services	107,000	80,250	65,368	14,882
Telephones & Telecommunications				
851.000 Telephone	15,000	11,250	5,390	5,860
851.002 Telecommunications	16,000	12,000	8,145	3,855
Total Telephone and Telecommunications	31,000	23,250	13,535	9,715
Insurance				
810.000 Liability Insurance				
811.000 Worker's Comp. Insurance				
Total Insurance	38,000	28,500	15,809	12,691
Utilities				
921.000 Heat				
922.000 Electrical				
923.000 Water and Sewer				
Total Utilities	86,000	64,500	36,146	28,354
931.000 Repairs and Maintenance	90,000	67,500	76,437	(8,937)
Printing and Publications				
901.002&5 Printing				
901.004 Publications- Newspapers				
Total Printing & Publications	24,000	18,000	10,512	7,488
727.002&3 Postage	12,000	9,000	6,894	2,106
820.000 Computer Hardware/ Software				
982.000 Computer Repair & Maintenance				
982.000 Hardware and Software	80,000	60,000	30,705	29,295

**Belleville Area District Library
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025**

<u>Account</u>		2024-2025 <u>Budget</u>	9 Month 2024-2025 <u>Budget</u>	9 Month <u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
	Miscellaneous				
863.000	Travel and Meetings	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,560	\$ 1,440
950.001	Miscellaneous (Programming)	18,000	13,500	4,319	9,181
983.001	New Equip/ Office Furniture	25,000	18,750	3,980	14,770
	Other	4,000	3,000	502	2,498
	Total Miscellaneous	<u>55,000</u>	<u>41,250</u>	<u>13,361</u>	<u>27,889</u>
	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 2,567,177</u>	<u>\$ 1,925,383</u>	<u>\$ 1,664,675</u>	<u>\$ 260,708</u>
	Current Year	<u>\$ 166,823</u>	<u>\$ 125,117</u>	<u>\$ 392,463</u>	<u>\$ 267,346</u>

Belleville Area District Library

Date: 05/07/2025

Time: 3:37 PM

Page: 1

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Name	Check Description	Amount
04/08/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	program supplies	63.54
04/08/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	contracted services/copiers	847.31
04/08/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	March salt sidewalks, parking lot	390.00
04/08/2025	ENVISIONWARE, INC	Annual Maint. Renewal	2,917.20
04/08/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	membership renewal - BADL	1,285.00
04/08/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office, bldg supplies	102.23
04/08/2025	SENSOURCE	Traffic monitoring renewal	387.00
04/08/2025	SPORTS ILLUSTRATED KIDS	3 year subscription renewal	55.96
04/08/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	Telecommunications BELL20	3,562.88
04/08/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	March Placements	97.20
04/08/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Dumpster Service April 2025	483.28
04/22/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	April cleaning	3,565.00
04/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books/mat'l library of things; prog suppl	1,567.40
04/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books/mat'l library of things	151.43
04/22/2025	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership Dues	397.00
04/22/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	Dental	896.85
04/22/2025	BS & A SOFTWARE	Acct software and support	10,065.00
04/22/2025	CITY OF BELLEVILLE	water & sewer/ 4th street	80.84
04/22/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	telephones	327.13
04/22/2025	DTE ENERGY	Sumpter gas & electric	190.80
04/22/2025	DTE ENERGY	heating 4th st.	757.26
04/22/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	March 2025 Friends Payout	1,119.60
04/22/2025	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Sumpter alarm	56.96
04/22/2025	MICHELE MONTOUR	Spring/Summer Newsletter	475.00
04/22/2025	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	MLA Dues: Jennifer Richardson	85.00
04/22/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	building & office supplies	239.62
04/22/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	accounting - april 2025	1,025.00
04/22/2025	SPRINGSHARE LLC	SCHEDULING SOFTWARE SERVICE	1,137.00
04/22/2025	SUMPTER TOWNSHIP	Sumpter water bill	111.45
04/22/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	March Bookbilling; telephone	13,484.51
04/22/2025	UNITED HEALTHCARE	employee health ins May 2025	16,487.05
04/22/2025	WYANDOTTE ALARM COMPANY	4th street fire alarm	462.00
04/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS & MATLS; SUPPLIES	414.93
04/22/2025	WATERFORD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY	LOST BOOK FEE	49.00
04/22/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES; BOOKS & MATERIALS	308.83
04/22/2025	STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	short and long term disability insurance	604.42
05/06/2025	ALLEGION ACCESS TECH LLC	4/26/25-4/25/26 - front door	813.75
05/06/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BOOKS & MATERIALS; SUPPLIES	1,290.74
05/06/2025	APPLIED INNOVATION	Copier Service April/May	806.20
05/06/2025	AUTOMOTIVE HALL OF FAME	Auto Hall of Fame exhibit	350.00
05/06/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	books, office & program supp.	866.69
05/06/2025	DTE ENERGY	electricity - 4th street	3,105.83
05/06/2025	FISH WINDOW CLEANING	Window Cleaning	3,114.00
05/06/2025	GARDEN FANTASY GREENHOUSES	spring pots planted	250.00
05/06/2025	JOHNSTON ENTERPRISES, LLC	Spring Newsletters	3,722.00
05/06/2025	JOSH LIPNIK	Up North architecture program	350.00
05/06/2025	MCLS	In-Service MCLS Seminar; TALK program	1,059.00
05/06/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	office & bldg supplies	739.77
05/06/2025	PIONEER LANDSCAPING AND LAWN	outside maint. - spring	2,190.00
05/06/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	Shared Sys; Acquisitions; EAP	12,171.88
05/06/2025	UNIFIRST CORP	Maintenance/Mats - March '25	330.58
05/06/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Dumpster Service May 2025	481.55
05/06/2025	WILCOX BROS.	Sprinkler Maint/Start Up	181.80

05/06/2025	WYANDOTTE ALARM COMPANY	Commercial Radio Monitoring	462.00
05/06/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	books & materials	135.58

55	Checks Total:	96,672.05
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55	Bank Total:	96,672.05
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55	Grand Total:	96,672.05
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MAY 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

APRIL: Adults: 33 Youth: 21

LIBRARY VISITS	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	10,265	11,442	-10.29%
Fiscal Year	121,728	111,874	8.81%
TOTAL CIRC	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	20,146	19,502	3.30%
Fiscal Year	205,884	210,655	-2.26%
ADULT PROGRAMMING	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	211	240	-12.08%
Fiscal Year	1,826	1,513	20.69%
YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	219	354	-38.14%
Fiscal Year	4,012	4,060	-1.18%
REF. QUESTIONS	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	1,738	1,841	-5.59%
Fiscal Year	16,685	16,556	0.78%
INTERNET USE	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	1,021	1,130	-9.65%
Fiscal Year	9,720	9,997	-2.77%
YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	2024/25	2023/24	% change
April	225	295	-23.73%
Fiscal Year	2,526	2,800	-9.79%

BUILDING: The automated bathroom door openers have been installed.

PENAL FINES: We received a letter and invoice from Wayne County for the penal fines our library owes from 2014-2023 (see attached). I agree with their corrected numbers for us. The county is asking for payment within 30 days but is also willing to work out a repayment plan. The Library of Michigan has been exploring processes and resources that can be put into place to assist in identifying any problems moving forward, and the likelihood for future errors is low, now that we all know what to look for.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: The Library of Michigan has reported to library directors that the majority of Fiscal Year 2025 IMLS expenditures have been paid, including the costs for MeLCat interlibrary loan and the MeL databases. Although they did recently receive communications from the IMLS to expect a up to a 50% cut to funding for next year, the budget that was presented to Congress called for zero dollars for IMLS.

Two different lawsuits are making their way through the court system. The US District Court of Rhode Island issued a temporary injunction against the Executive Order that called for cuts to the IMLS. This was in response to a challenge to the order brought by twenty-one States' Attorneys General (including Michigan). Additionally, a temporary restraining order was issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in response to a challenge by the American Library Association and AFSME to the dismantling of the IMLS.

STAFF INSURANCE: I requested a quote from our library's health insurance agent for Short/Long Term Disability Insurance. Our current plan through The Standard, which we have through our affiliation with MERS, has not been meeting our needs. Our insurance agent is recommending a plan from Principal Financial Group which increases our coverage and services at a lower rate.

PROGRAMMING: American Library Association President, Cindy Hohl, gave a talk at our library that was attended by many of our colleagues from surrounding libraries. Her message regarding the First Amendment, intellectual freedom, and the importance of the work librarians do was inspiring. She also participated in a children's storytime and received a tour of our library. My thanks to one of our librarians, Nakenya Lewis-Yarbrough, for inviting Cindy Hohl and for planning this event.

Many classes are taking tours of the library in May, and our youth services librarians are also getting ready for the library's summer reading incentive programs that will begin in June.

The library presented *Achievement: Black Leadership in Automobility* on May 7. In conjunction with this program, the Achievement Traveling Exhibit is at the library for the next month thanks to the Automotive Hall of Fame. The exhibit celebrates Black innovation, invention, and leadership within the automotive industry. *Up North, an Architecture Road Trip* takes place on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 pm. Photographer Josh Lipnik explores small towns, stunning facades, neon signs, elaborate Victorian architecture, and architectural trends that time has forgotten. For those who are interested in AI and how it works, the library will host *Intro to AI* on Thursday, May 29 at 6 pm.



ERIC R. SABREE
Wayne County Treasurer

JEAN-VIERRE ADAMS
Chief Deputy Treasurer

Dear Municipal Library,

As you may well be aware, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office ("WCTO") receives penal fine monies from multiple courts in different municipalities within the county. The penal fines are to be apportioned among the libraries on a per capita basis to be used exclusively to support the libraries located within those municipalities.

At the Treasurer's request, the Library of Michigan (LM) reviewed Wayne County's records and discovered that motor vehicle fines were distributed only to the public libraries located within the municipalities where the courts collecting the motor vehicle fines were located. This meant that the motor vehicle portion of the "Penal Fines" which should have been factored into the per capita calculation, and which should have been distributed to ALL the public libraries in Wayne County, were instead distributed to only a few libraries. This caused some libraries to receive more money than they were entitled to receive while some libraries received less than they were entitled to receive.

Belleville Public Library was identified as one of the libraries that received more money than it was entitled to receive.

The LM conducted an independent audit of Wayne County's records and determined that over a ten (10) year period, the *Belleville Public Library* was overpaid a total sum of (\$122,733.64).

Enclosed with this letter is an invoice for the total amount due and owing to Wayne County. Please remit payment to Wayne County within the next 30 days.

While recovery of the overpayment is required, we recognize the potential financial implications for your municipality. Because the Treasurer does not wish to impose any undue financial hardship on your library, we are amenable to arranging a payment plan. Should you be unable to remit total payment, please contact *Melissa Evans* at mbrown3@waynecountymi.gov to discuss a repayment plan.

Wayne County Treasurer

400 Monroe, 5th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-5962

INVOICE

BILL TO

Library Director
Belleville District Public Library
167 4th Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111
734-699-3291

INVOICE #

WCT-2

DATE

5/6/2025

TERMS

Due upon receipt

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2014 Year	(8,773.14)
2015 Year	(10,376.04)
2016 Year	(8,982.56)
2017 Year	(1,866.03)
2018 Year	57,116.88
2019 Year	67,020.72
2020 Year	8,197.07
2021 Year	13,023.21
2022 Year	(5,757.87)
2023 Year	13,131.40
	-
	-
	-

For Questions please call Melissa Evans at 967-2289

SUBTOTAL

122,733.64

TOTAL

\$ 122,733.64

Detroit Free Press

MICHIGAN

Advocates 'encouraged' by ruling to stop federal cuts to program for libraries, museums



Christina Hall

Detroit Free Press

Updated May 7, 2025, 9:09 p.m. ET

Key Points

Michigan uses federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for 24/7 access to the Michigan Library, other services across the state.

In fiscal year 2024, more than \$8 million in federal dollars came to Michigan from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with more than \$6 million going to libraries.

A federal judge in Rhode Island issued a preliminary injunction May 6 in a [lawsuit](#) filed by 21 states, including Michigan, challenging federal cuts to agencies that provide support to public libraries and museums, minority-owned businesses and workers across the country.

Attorneys general, including Michigan's AG Dana Nessel, [sued the Trump administration](#) in April, saying the cuts would dismantle the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS); the Minority Business Development Agency, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

They said the cuts are illegal, arguing that the agencies are created and funded by Congress. The cuts to the three agencies and four others were in a March 14 [executive order](#) by President Donald Trump.

U.S. District Chief Judge John McConnell Jr. agreed with the states.

"This Executive Order violates the Administrative Procedures Act ('APA') in the arbitrary and capricious way it was carried out. It also disregards the fundamental constitutional role of each of the branches of our federal government; specifically, it ignores the unshakable principles that Congress makes the law and appropriates funds, and the Executive implements the law Congress enacted and spends the funds Congress appropriated," he [wrote in granting the states' motion](#).

The ruling came days after a federal court in Washington, D.C., granted a temporary restraining order to block the administration from further dismantling the IMLS, according to the [American Library Association](#), which filed a lawsuit with others. IMLS had a staff of 77, now it has 12, according to the recent preliminary injunction, and more than 1,000 grants were terminated.

Steven Bowers, executive director of [The Library Network](#) and president of the [Library Cooperatives of Michigan](#), indicated in a statement May 7 that library advocates are encouraged by the preliminary injunction.

"The Institute provides important grants to libraries and museums serving the public. To label the work of [IMLS](#) as fraudulent or wasteful is disingenuous. The programs resulting from IMLS grants are audited and reported on annually," he said.

Bowers indicated the state grants program from IMLS equates to about 75 cents per person and is only .003% of the federal budget, as approved and appropriated by Congress.

"For this small amount of financial investment, libraries are able to provide essential services to the communities that they serve. In Michigan we are able to provide the 24/7 access Michigan eLibrary (Mel.org) to all residents, in part due to IMLS funding. MeL and MeLCat provide residents, schools, higher education, public libraries, and businesses library services and resources statewide."

Debbie Mikula, executive director of the Michigan Library Association, said the recent judicial decisions are "good news," but the "bad news" is Trump "zeroed-out

the budget for fiscal year 2026" for IMLS.

"We're in a little bit of a quandary with things coming at us so fast," she said.

Mikula said federal dollars support the state's electronic library and interlibrary loan program, which allows people to get materials from a library in another county in another part of the state delivered to their local library for free.

She said advocates are working hard at the state level to try to prevent the programs from going away. At the same time, they're unsure whether Congress is going to put money back into the budget for IMLS, which funds the programs.

The federal funds are small, Mikula said, but "that little money is critical" to the programs' success and it allows every citizen in the state to have access to information. She said a Livonia woman who was an online graduate student saved \$600 in one semester by accessing materials she needed through the electronic library database.

Nessel, [in a news release May 6](#), said: "Stripping federal funding and dismantling congressionally funded agencies has become a troubling and unlawful pattern within the Trump White House. Eliminating agencies that support local public and school libraries and halting projects that keep classrooms warm, ventilated, and safe is not just harmful to our communities and students — it's illegal. I'm grateful two separate Courts agreed, and we secured relief to protect students, libraries, and other vital programming across our state."

In the [education-related](#) case, Nessel indicated a federal court in New York granted a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit challenging the Department of Education's decision March 28 to abruptly end the period of time for education agencies to use congressionally-appropriated funding to mitigate the immediate and long-term impacts of the pandemic on K-12 students.

More: [Will Trump uphold the law of the land? What to know about US Constitution](#)

She indicated the department tried to prohibit the use of funds despite ongoing construction and mitigation efforts that were set to continue through March 2026, the previously approved deadline. The order prevents the department from enforcing its decision to rescind the ability for school districts to use the funding, according to Nessel's release.

In regard to federal funding for museums and libraries, more than **\$8 million** in federal dollars came to Michigan in fiscal year 2024 from IMLS, according to its website. Nearly \$4.8 million went to the **Library of Michigan**; \$1.6 million to **individual libraries**, and \$1.77 million to museums, which advocates said help museums across Michigan (of which there are about 650) stretch projects or things they can't fund within normal operations.

The state was anticipated to receive about \$4.7 million under the IMLS program this fiscal year, according to an April 4 release from Nessel's office announcing the lawsuit. It stated the 2024 funding accounted for 75% of all funding to support statewide library services and resources and their users.

In the April release, Nessel said the Library of Michigan was forced to cancel a summer grant program to support small and rural libraries, a program that typically provided 130-150 grants each year, as a result of Trump's executive order.

Michigan has just shy of 400 public libraries, 87 academic libraries, nearly 3,000 school libraries, 650 museums and hundreds of historical organizations that use the resources funded with federal dollars, according to a prior joint statement from seven associations and groups representing libraries and museums.

One of the biggest impacts of cuts would be to the **Michigan Electronic Library**, which is funded by IMLS grant money and would be in jeopardy unless replacement funds are found if federal funds dry up. That is the centralized catalog and service created to share materials among all types of libraries in the state. The databases are used extensively by school and academic libraries, advocates said.

In Michigan, 368 out of 397 public libraries, and 52 out of 79 academic libraries, use MeLCat as an integral part of their daily circulation of library materials, according to Nessel's release in April.

The Michigan eLibrary eContent includes statewide access to subscription magazines, newspapers, reference books, eBooks and more. Last year, Michigan residents accessed 19.2 million trusted articles and journals through this service. The MeLCat Catalog offers statewide access to physical books and other items. One million items were loaned throughout Michigan through this service in 2024.

Advocates said students use the services daily for tools for early literacy, research databases and test prep.

Federal funds also have provided training for librarians; tech support; summer reading materials and help for libraries, museums and historical societies to preserve their [local community](#) history. Tribal libraries in Michigan received more than \$500,000 in federal funds through the IMLS grants.

More: [DIA to take its final, viral '7 Mile + Livernois' dance party outside this weekend](#)

Bowers previously told the Free Press that funding was in place through September, but come Oct. 1, it was an unknown. And the timing couldn't be worse — right after schools start up again for the new school year.

Contact Christina Hall: chall@freepress.com. Follow her on X, formerly Twitter: [@challreporter](#).

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R.I. District Court Grants Preliminary Injunction in IMLS Case

By Nathalie op de Beeck | May 06, 2025

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Photo by Carol Highsmith

U.S. District Court, Providence, R.I.

In welcome news for the Institute of Museum and Library Services and two more federal agencies targeted for dismantling by a presidential executive order, the District Court of Rhode Island has granted 21 states' attorneys general the preliminary injunction they sought in *Rhode Island v. Trump*. In response to the evidence and to an April 18 motion hearing, chief judge John J. McConnell Jr. granted the states' motion, agreeing with the plaintiffs that the executive order violates the Administrative Procedures Act, separation of powers principle, and the Take Care clause of the U.S. Constitution.

From the first paragraph of his order, Judge McConnell upheld that Congress controls the agencies and appropriates funding, and he referred to "the arbitrary and capricious way" the March 14 order was implemented at the IMLS, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). He determined that the EO "disregards the fundamental constitutional role of each of the branches of our federal government; specifically, it ignores the unshakable principles that Congress makes the law and appropriates funds, and the Executive implements the law Congress enacted and spends the funds Congress appropriated."

Notably, the order's timing closely coincided with FY25 congressional appropriations. On March 15, the day after issuing the EO, President Donald Trump—a named defendant in the case—approved the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, mandating FY2024-level funding for

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12 Genre-Stretching
Works of Fiction



IMLS and other agencies through September 25, 2025. In 2024, IMLS was appropriated \$294,800,000, so the same amount was approved for FY25.

6 New Mysteries to Scratch That 'White Lotus' Itch

In some cases, IMLS is issuing checks, fulfilling its statutory obligations; several U.S. states report receiving their Grants to States reimbursements for FY24 and FY25 in recent weeks. There are three significant exceptions: California, Connecticut, and Washington received word April 3 that their Grants to States had been slashed for 2025. Judge McConnell acknowledged that the EO indeed calls for "the non-statutory components and functions" of the agencies to be eliminated, yet he observed that "the Defendants have not shown that any analysis was conducted to determine which 'components and functions' of IMLS, MBDA, and FMCS are statutorily required, and which are not."

Overall, the judge found, the defendants' "justifications for eliminating programs, terminating grants, and implementing large-scale employee RIFs have been couched in mere conclusory statements," citing the March 14 order without providing any rationale. For this reason, he said, the plaintiffs had a strong likelihood of success for their claims that the actions were capricious.

The unrefuted record

In making his decision, Judge McConnell also outlined the strong evidence of how severe cutbacks have hobbled IMLS, MBDA, and FMCS. All three agencies have furloughed most employees—"the unrefuted record reveals that MBDA's workforce has been reduced to zero"—and IMLS has terminated more than 1,000 grants with a boilerplate letter that declares projects "no longer consistent with the agency's priorities." IMLS, for instance, can no longer award and process Grants to States or competitive grants, nor conduct its Public Library Survey, with a staff of 12 and without its shuttered Office of Research and Evaluation.

The defendants claimed that any irreparable harm caused by such changes was speculative or could be remedied by economic redress at a later date. On this matter, the judge wrote, "The unrefuted record before the Court reveals that the States are relying on more than mere speculation when asserting to harms—current or imminent—stemming from the Defendants' efforts to significantly reduce agency services and personnel under the *Reduction* EO."

Among examples from all three agencies, Judge McConnell found that state libraries "have attested to being compelled to cut staff and shut down programs due to the grant terminations and missed grant payments in the wake of the agency's apparent implementation of the *Reduction* EO." He further clarified that neither party was saying that states had breached the terms of their grant agreements. Instead, the questions were whether defendants "exceeded the bounds of their *statutory or constitutional* authority," and whether grantees are "presently entitled to" the awards they were promised. Here, the judge sided with the plaintiffs.

Judge McConnell added that, "because of the finding of likelihood of success by the States and the large-scale irreparable harm that would occur without the preliminary injunction, the Court denies the Defendants' request to stay this Order for seven days."

One plaintiff in the suit is the state of Maine, where loss of IMLS funding led to layoffs of 13 people and the temporary closure of public libraries in April. Over the May 3 weekend, Maine state librarian Lori Fisher notified library supporters that the state had received about half of its FY25 IMLS funding, allowing three people to be brought back on staff and two to be reallocated to position vacancies. The eight remaining library workers are to be let go May 8, although Fisher said "layoffs could be rescinded if federal funding is restored in full. We are awaiting guidance from IMLS on the status of our 50% remaining allocation" for FY25. Fisher called it "a traumatic time" for Maine libraries' leadership and staff.

FY26 and the battle ahead

The 49-page decision comes hot on the heels of a partial, temporary restraining order (TRO) granted May 1 in *ALA v. Sonderling*, filed in the District Court of the District of Columbia by the American Library Association and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME) against IMLS acting director Keith Sonderling *et al.* The TRO averted a reduction in force scheduled for May 4; IMLS HR informed employees on May 2 that their paid administrative leave would continue.

Plaintiffs and defendants in that case filed a joint status update May 6, with ALA and AFSCME requesting an extension of the TRO "until the Court issues a ruling on the preliminary injunction or the case is otherwise resolved." They also wish to file a short brief with supplemental information by May 15. Later the same day, the defendants filed a separate motion for reconsideration of the D.C. court's memorandum and TRO.

Judge McConnell's ruling in Rhode Island also arrives just days after the Trump administration released its FY2026 federal budget proposal May 2, seeking to defund IMLS altogether. In previous years, bipartisan support of libraries in Congress has sustained IMLS, and ALA is currently urging members and allies to participate in its #FundLibraries campaign, urging representatives to throw their weight behind libraries.

John Chrastka, executive director of the advocacy organization EveryLibrary, said that library supporters must lobby hard at the national and state levels, appealing to Congress and to state legislatures and governors. "If federal support collapses, the burden of sustaining essential library services, particularly those managed by state library agencies, will shift almost entirely to state governments," he said. "These elected officials need to hear from us now so they are informed, engaged, and prepared to step up."

This story has been updated with developing information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | MAY 1, 2025

Federal Court Halts Dismantling of Federal Library Agency in ALA Lawsuit



Library Supporters Continue Call for Congressional Action

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia **granted a temporary restraining order** to block the Trump Administration’s dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The decision was issued in response to **a lawsuit** filed by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Federation of

State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), represented by Democracy Forward and Gair Gallo Eberhard LLP.

IMLS is the only federal agency dedicated to the nation's libraries and museums. On March 14, President Trump issued Executive Order 14238, which directed the elimination of the agency. Subsequently, the Trump Administration put nearly all agency staff on administrative leave, began mass termination of the agency's grants, dismissed all members of the IMLS board, and halted crucial data collection and research. These actions left IMLS unable to fulfill its duties required by federal law and threw libraries across the country into a state of chaos.

ALA President Cindy Hohl said, "The immediate halt to the gutting of IMLS is a win for America's libraries and the millions of Americans who rely on them. ALA is encouraged that the court recognizes the immediacy of the need for IMLS and library services at risk. The temporary restraining order will stop the dismantling of IMLS while the court considers the merits in this case."

The temporary restraining order was issued days before the mass layoff of nearly all IMLS employees was set to take effect on May 4.

ALA President Hohl continued, "Even with a temporary restraining order in place, Congress also must act to ensure our nation's libraries can continue to serve their communities, including by funding IMLS for next year."

Parallel to its efforts to preserve IMLS through litigation, ALA **mounted a campaign** to secure funding for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. ALA is currently asking advocates to request their Congressmembers to demonstrate their commitment to library funding by signing congressional "Dear Appropriator" letters in support of IMLS funding next year. The window for Congressmembers to sign on to the FY 2026 library funding letters is expected to close in mid-May.

"There is one final wall of defense against destruction of federal funding for libraries, constituents who **tell elected leaders** to continue providing libraries the federal resources that bring opportunity to millions of Americans. Right now is prime time for every American to show up for our libraries by urging their Senators and Representatives to sign 'Dear Appropriator' letters in support of federal library funding," Hohl said.

###

The American Library Association (ALA) is the only non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated entirely to America's libraries and library professionals. For almost 150 years, ALA has provided resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. The ALA serves academic, public, school, government, and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit www.ala.org.

Democracy Forward is a national legal organization that advances democracy and social progress through litigation, policy, public education, and regulatory engagement. For more information, please visit www.democracyforward.org.

AFSCME's 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and freedom and opportunity for all working families.

CONTACT:

Shawnda Hines

Deputy Director, Communications
Public Policy & Advocacy Office
cmomedia@ala.org

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2024 Price Update

FOR 2024, WE HAVE PULLED NEW PRICES FROM THE BIG FIVE PUBLISHERS AND COMPARED BOTH RETAIL AND OVERDRIVE PRICES TO OUR LAST ANALYSIS IN 2022.

2024 Price Update

For 2024, we have pulled recent prices from the Big Five publishers, comparing the costs for their top 20 eBooks and top 20 eAudiobooks on OverDrive and on Amazon. (Read more about the Publisher Price Watch methodology [here](#).)

To add context to changes in library prices, it is instructive to know what has happened with the Big Five in the retail space since we last analyzed their data in May 2022.

Print

The prices on consumer print titles on Amazon went up an average of 3.0%, with wide variations from publisher to publisher. Hachette raised its prices the most.

In the News

An Open Request to OverDrive: two ways to reduce library costs

Apr 4, 2025

Library Futures Releases Digital Censorship Report

Feb 13, 2025

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404 Media on Hoopla's AI Generated Content

Feb 5, 2025

Print prices on Amazon	May 2022	Dec 2023	% chg
Hachette	\$16.13	\$17.98	11.5%
HarperCollins	\$16.71	\$16.00	-4.2%
Macmillan	\$16.52	\$16.47	-0.3%
Penguin Random House	\$17.41	\$17.52	0.6%
Simon & Schuster	\$16.43	\$17.75	8.1%
Average	\$16.64	\$17.14	3.0%

NPR on "Why is your Libby hold taking so long?"

Jan 24, 2025

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Kindle

Kindle prices, in line with print, increased moderately at 1.8%, with Simon & Schuster raising prices the most.

Kindle on Amazon	May 2022	Dec 2023	% chg
Hachette	\$14.04	\$14.44	2.8%
HarperCollins	\$12.88	\$13.09	1.7%
Macmillan	\$14.19	\$14.25	0.4%
Penguin Random House	\$14.74	\$13.84	-6.1%
Simon & Schuster	\$13.24	\$14.69	11.0%
Average	\$13.82	\$14.06	1.8%

Audible

The eAudio format saw the greatest change, with an average **decrease** in prices of 22.5%. (The prices shown are what a customer would pay for an eAudiobook not including the cost of an Audible subscription.) All five publishers lowered prices significantly, with Penguin Random House making the biggest cut.

Audible prices	May 2022	Dec 2023	% chg
Hachette	\$25.29	\$21.23	-16.0%
HarperCollins	\$26.41	\$20.98	-20.5%
Macmillan	\$22.61	\$16.71	-26.1%
Penguin Random House	\$27.51	\$19.90	-27.7%
Simon & Schuster	\$21.31	\$16.60	-22.1%
Average	\$24.63	\$19.08	-22.5%

OverDrive eBooks

Publishers increased what they charge libraries for eBooks more than they increased what they charge readers at retail, with an average increase of 4.4%. Macmillan and Penguin Random House prices stayed flat, while HarperCollins increased library eBook prices by 17.8%.

Importantly, all of these library licenses are limited to one borrower at a time and expire after 24 months or 26 loans. So a true comparison of the cost of a print book or Kindle book at retail must take into account the cost of licensing the library copy multiple times over the lifespan of the book. If a library keeps a hardback copy of a James Patterson book from Hachette a modest four years, the cost of the digital equivalent for that long is twice \$68.25, or \$136.50. In an apples-to-apples comparison, the eBook costs more than 7 times the print.

OverDrive eBook	May 2022	Dec 2023	% chg
Hachette	\$64.25	\$68.25	6.2%
HarperCollins	\$24.10	\$28.39	17.8%
Macmillan	\$60.00	\$60.00	0.0%
Penguin Random House	\$55.00	\$55.00	0.0%
Simon & Schuster	\$58.19	\$61.44	5.6%
Average	\$52.31	\$54.62	4.4%
Multiple of Kindle price	3.79	3.88	
Multiple of print price	3.14	3.19	

OverDrive eAudiobooks

Publishers raised their unit prices on OverDrive eAudiobooks by an average of 3.7%. The top 20 most popular titles from Macmillan in December 2022 were actually lower than Macmillan's top 20 in May 2022. All other publishers increased their library unit prices, with the greatest jump coming from HarperCollins at 17.5%.

Both Macmillan and HarperCollins offer a perpetual use eAudio license (along with Penguin Random House). Hachette and Simon & Schuster expire their eAudio licenses after 24 months, as they do with their eBooks.

Since publishers all lowered their prices on Audible to about \$20, we know that the cost of producing the eAudio format is not what drives the high unit price and cost increases for libraries. We are paying almost four times more than Audible users for no reason, except that these are the prices the market will currently bear. As long as we are willing to pay, regardless of price, we should expect the price hikes to continue.

OverDrive eAudio	May 2022	Dec 2023	% chg
Hachette	\$65.00	\$65.00	0.0%
HarperCollins	\$67.56	\$79.39	17.5%
Macmillan	\$55.49	\$52.88	-4.7%
Penguin Random House	\$89.30	\$91.20	2.1%
Simon & Schuster	\$76.99	\$78.99	2.6%
Average	\$70.87	\$73.49	3.7%
Multiple of Audible price	2.88	3.85	

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By Josh Lipnik, Photographer



Josh Lipnik's evocative photographs capture the unique charm of small Midwest towns. In this slideshow presentation featuring Northern Michigan, he highlights stunning facades, neon signs, and Victorian architecture while sharing stories of immigrants and local industry shaped by regional resources.

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7:00 pm



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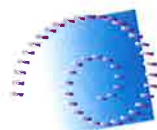
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Basics II: Windows - Monday, May 19 @ 5:30 pm

Basics III: The Internet - Monday, June 2 @ 5:30 pm

Basics IV: Email - Monday, June 16 @ 5:30 pm

Basics I: Intro to Computers - Thursday, August 14 @ 10:00 am

Basics II: Windows - Thursday, August 28 @ 10:00 am

Basics III: The Internet - Thursday, September 11 @ 10:00 am

Basics IV: Email - Thursday, September 25 @ 10:00 am

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Level 2 - Thursday, July 31 @ 10:00 am

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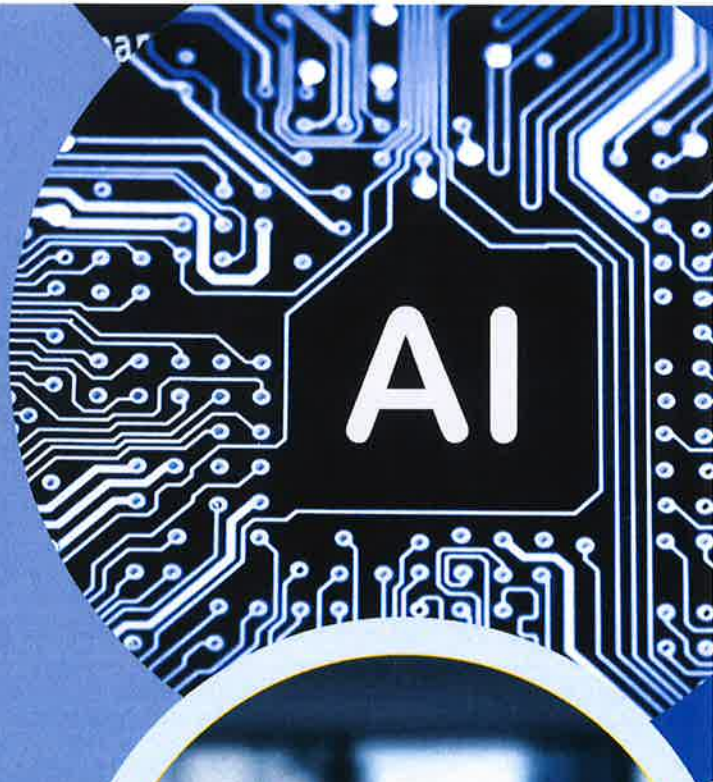
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May 29, 2025



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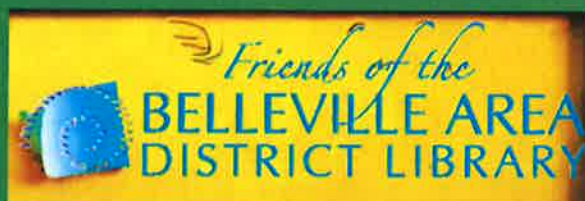
JUNETEENTH: WHAT HAPPENED JUNE 19, 1865?

**BY ANTHONY BROGDON,
AUTHOR OF BLACK BUSINESS BOOK, PRODUCER OF BUSINESS IN
THE BLACK, AND HOST OF STRONG INSPIRATIONS ON YOUTUBE.**

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WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT FATEFUL DAY,
JUNE 19, 1865, INCLUDING HOW SLAVES
GAINED THEIR FREEDOM, WHAT STARTED
THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE STATUS OF WAR
BATTLES. HE'LL TALK ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN PRESIDENT LINCOLN
CLAIMED VICTORY AND WHY THOSE IN
GALVESTON, TEXAS, WERE CONSIDERED
THE LAST TO LEARN OF THE NEWS.**



**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025
@ 6:30 PM**



SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP FOR A REMINDER.