



**KENTUCKY LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION**



KENTUCKY'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – JUNE 24, 2025

About Us

Kentucky Library Association (KLA)

- ❖ Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA)
- ❖ Kentucky Association of School Librarians (KASL)
- ❖ Kentucky Association of College and Research Libraries (KACRL)

Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA)



Our Mission

The mission of the Kentucky Public Library Association (KPLA) is to grow resilient communities across the commonwealth by supporting the development of public library staff and services.



📖📚 We're celebrating BIG accomplishments today at Central Library! 📖📚

Jessica has logged 700 books in her 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten journey, and Maisy just hit the 800 milestone! 🥳 Every book is another step closer to 1,000, and we're so excited to see their love of reading grow. 🌟📖🌟

Amazing work, Jessica and Maisy—we're cheering you on every step of the way!

Psst... Ready to celebrate your little reader's milestones? Visit 📌🔗 bcplib.beanstack.org ✅ to learn more and start your own family's reading adventure. #EarlyLiteracyBCPL #1000BBK #ReadingMilestones #ExploreLearnEnjoy



Happy Thanksgiving! 🍂🌟

This season of gratitude, we're sending a heartfelt THANK YOU to some of the incredible community friends and partners who go above and beyond for the Library and for our community:

- 💙 **Turnaround Resource Center:** For delivering food to our Lebanon Junction branch to support unhoused community members.
- 💙 **Perry Cooke and Mark 12 Ministries:** For providing Mental Health Safe Place services at the Library and distributing donations from the Honoring Our Veterans Donation Drive.
- 💙 **Nichols Fire District- Official:** For always answering the call at our Nichols branch—whether for events, emergencies, or even fun photo ops with the fire truck!
- 💙 **Mike Mabry, Kentucky State Beekeepers Association:** For helping our staff care for the bees at our Nichols location.
- 💙 **Bullitt County Health Department:** For providing and maintaining naloxone dispensers at Central and Mt. Washington branches (and so much more!).
- 💙 **Friends of the Bullitt County Library :** For enthusiastic advocacy, organizing book sales, and leading donation drives to benefit the Library and its mission.
- 💙 **American Heart Association - Kentucky:** For donating blood pressure monitors to support accessible health and wellness in our community.

We're so grateful for all of you—and for the many other organizations and individuals whose generosity, support, and collaboration make our library and community stronger.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday! 🍂❤️





Clark County Public Library

June 10 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

We are proud to be partnering with New Beginnings Pregnancy & Resource Center this month! Help them out by bringing items listed on this post to the drop box in our lobby. It will be much appreciated by Clark County's newest citizens! 🥰👶



Spencer County Public Library

May 22 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

🌸🌹 SPActacular! 🌸🌹 The Library gave a mini-facial, hand scrub and massage, and nail filing to some of the lovely ladies at [Christian Care Communities of Taylorsville](#). Such a nice way to honor them for Mother's Day.

[#libraryoutreach](#) [#senioroutreach](#) [#libraryfun](#) [#scplkyadults](#) [#scplky](#) [#scploutreach](#)



Clark/Spencer Counties



An evening with
St. Nicholas



Menifee County



Sourdough!
Home Ec/Adult Classes

Statistics, Reporting, and Transparency

[2023-2024 Statistical Report of Kentucky Public Libraries](#) - These reports date back to 2004.

- ❖ 11.1 million people visited a KY library—up 400,000
- ❖ 29 million items were loaned last year—up 2 million
- ❖ Nearly 2.5 million program attendees at just over 118,000 programs
- ❖ 4000 library computers were used nearly 1.9 million times
- ❖ 6.8 million Wi-Fi sessions
 - In FY23, this increased 43% from FY22 but the survey is no longer counting this statistic
- ❖ 43,836 people were formally trained on electronic resources which include resume help and prep (up 5,000)
- ❖ Job seeking and workforce development top of the list of library services
- ❖ 96,326 meeting rooms were used (up 21,000)
- ❖ Approximately 2.5 million reference questions answered
- ❖ Nearly 29 million items circulated



Statistics, Reporting, and Transparency (cont'd)

Children's Programming:

- ❖ 1,736,179 children attended programs
- ❖ 807,152 preschool children attended programs –up 300,000
- ❖ Libraries offered 40,802 free early literacy programs (up 13,000)
- ❖ 7.6 million children's items checked out (up 400,000)
- ❖ 100% of libraries offer a summer reading program, which for many children is their only exposure to reading and learning during the summer months.

Note: 69% of KY children do not read proficiently by 4th grade, and 2-3 months of reading skills lost by low-income children in one summer.

Public Library General Program Offerings

- ❖ Public access computers
- ❖ Circulating Devices (Chromebooks, laptops, hotspots)
- ❖ Wi-Fi with extended boundaries
- ❖ Technology classes
- ❖ Tax preparation
- ❖ Online resources
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Notary and Passport Services
- ❖ GED Testing Centers

Additional Services/Trends:

- ❖ Hands-on learning, creative lab/makerspaces
- ❖ Food delivery/mobile grocery/food bank
- ❖ Summer reading and feeding programs
- ❖ Emergency preparedness and disaster recovery centers
- ❖ Health and wellness: telehealth, blood pressure checks, partnering with medical assistants
- ❖ Partnerships with local workforce boards and training organizations



Establishment Statutes / Funding Mechanisms

Public libraries in Kentucky have been established using various statutes.

- ❖ Most of these libraries are Special Purpose Governmental Entities (SPGE) and are governed by a board of five trustees.
- ❖ Those formed via KRS 173.450 were formed by ballot; KRS 173.710 were formed by petition.
 - 119 Library Districts
 - 106 Taxing Districts
 - Those 13 are supposed to be funded via local government (does not mean all actually receive funding)



County	Formed	
Ballard/	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Carlisle/	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Livingston	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Barren	173.310	Appropriation of Fiscal Court
Carter	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Christian	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Crittenden	173.310	Appropriation of Fiscal Court
Elliott	173.310	Appropriation of units of local/county government
Fayette	173.310	Funded by Urban-County Government
Hardin	173.310	Appropriation of Fiscal Court
Hickman	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Hopkins	65.210	Funded through interlocal agreement
Jefferson	65.210	Funded by Consolidated Local Government
Knott	173.310	Appropriation of Fiscal Court

Note: You can find all libraries listed with their establishment statutes at <https://kdla.ky.gov/Library-Support/directors-toolkit/Pages/Establishment.aspx>.



Taxing & Spending Authority, Funding, and Oversight

❖ While tax rates vary by county, they are overall trending downward*:

	2023 Real	2023 Personal	2024 Real	2024 Personal
Average	8.42	10.56	8.20	10.30
Bottom of Range	3	3.62	2.9	3.32
Top of Range	18.8	19.29	17.4	18.86

❖ SB 25 of 2019: Compensating rate provides a ceiling, voter recall option

❖ SB 167 of 2022: Additional oversight for fiscal courts for capital projects and library buildings

*Note: 2025 rates will be available July/August



Sources of Funding

- ❖ Libraries are primarily funded at the local level. Local funds stay within the district and are not utilized outside of the local district.
- ❖ Libraries do not receive direct federal or state funding for operations.
- ❖ Libraries can apply directly to the federal government for specific grants
- ❖ KDLA provides a running list of grants—both government and private—for libraries on their website
- ❖ Any federal funding that Kentucky receives goes through KDLA, which then utilizes it to fund specific programs and grants benefitting all libraries across the state.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population	4,473,150	4,467,673	4,520,078	4,534,010
Sources of All Revenue				
Local Government	\$204,953,217	\$212,487,803	225,588,862	234,207,545
<i>% of Total Operating Revenue</i>	93.5%	94.2%	93.0%	91.9%
State Government	\$4,518,613	\$4,139,581	4,415,212	4,930,512
<i>% of Total Operating Revenue</i>	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Federal Government	\$661,372	\$1,950,459	\$1,201,672	\$355,823
<i>% of Total Operating Revenue</i>	0.3%	0.9%	0.5%	0.1%
Other Revenue	\$9,094,233	\$6,996,146	\$11,381,629	\$15,447,139
<i>% of Total Operating Revenue</i>	4.1%	3.1%	4.7%	6.1%
Total Operating Revenue	\$219,229,185	\$225,573,989	\$242,587,375	\$254,941,019
<i>Library Operating Revenue, Per Capita</i>	<i>\$49.01</i>	<i>\$50.49</i>	<i>\$53.67</i>	<i>\$56.23</i>
Capital Revenue	\$11,508,758	\$10,422,933	\$24,135,805	\$17,757,036
Income from Loans and Bond Issues, etc.	\$13,725,981	\$7,939,842	\$23,477,425	\$356,073

All revenues, expenditures, budget items, and programming statistics per county can be found in the yearly [Statistical Report of Kentucky Public Libraries](#).





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THANK YOU!

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