



EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives

Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government
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Presenters

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Topics

- Overview of Local Library Services
- Taxing Authority for Local Libraries
- Louisville Free Public Library & Lexington Public Library
- Public Library Facilities Construction Fund
- Reserve Funds Public Libraries

Kentucky Department of Libraries & Archives (KDLA)

KDLA is an agency of the Education and Labor Cabinet. It consists of two divisions: Division of Archives and Records, Division of Library Services.

- KDLA is committed to strengthening libraries and their services for the benefit of all Kentuckians.
- The Library Development Branch works with libraries to improve services and resources.
- The Branch is comprised of 4 statewide consultants (i.e. Youth, Technology), 5 Regional Consultants, and 3 staff focused on continuing education.

Services of Local Libraries

There are 120 local libraries in the Commonwealth of Kentucky providing an array of services to Kentuckians, including:

- GED Testing Centers
- Hotspot & Laptop Lending
- Notary & Passport Services
- Makerspaces & Library of Things
- Bookmobiles & Outreach Services
- Databases for Research & Skills Training
- Traditional Library Services (including e-books, audiobooks, programming)

Taxing Authority for Libraries

106 of the 120 public libraries have taxing authority, as outlined in the following statutes:

KRS 173.460



Applies to a library district organized pursuant to this statute

KRS 173.715



Applies to a library district formed by petition

Non-Taxing Authority Libraries

14 public library systems lack taxing authority, such as:

- Ballard-Carlisle, Barren, Carter, Christian, Corbin, Crittenden, Elliott, Fayette, Hardin, Hickman, Hopkins, Jefferson, Knott, Livingston
- The ability to generate additional revenue without aid is limited to services such as fees for faxing, printing, notary, or room rentals.
- Most Kentucky public libraries are Special Purpose Governmental Entities (SPGEs) as defined in [KRS 65A.010](#).

Louisville Free Public Library & Lexington Public Library

- **Louisville Free Public Library** - [KRS 173.105](#)
 - This statute applies to the governance of a library in a First Class city.
 - Louisville Free Public Library is a unit of Louisville Metro Government - [Ordinance 32.370\(A\)](#)
 - The Metro Government maintains a library department for the purpose of providing a free public library.

- **Lexington Public Library** - [KRS 173.310](#)
 - Lexington Public Library was established as a unit of local government.

Public Library Facilities

- Libraries borrow money to pay for construction using a variety of sources including Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky League of Cities, or by issuing bonds.
- Funding borrowed is used to pay for design and construction.
- The debt is repaid using a combination of local and KDLA grant funds.

Public Library Facilities Construction Fund

The KDLA can award grants (subject to availability and receipt of State funds) to assist local public libraries in debt service payments relating to:

- Construction of new public library buildings
- Alteration, expansion of an existing building
- Acquisition of existing buildings for conversion to a public library including purchase, alteration, or expansion

Public Library Facilities Construction Fund

- The Fund is established in **KRS 171.027** and detailed in **KAR 725:015**.
- KDLA coordinates the application and review process.
- Since 2001, 56 grants have been given.
- 15 projects close out this biennium.
- No new funding has been appropriated for this fund since FY 2021.

Public Library Facilities Construction Fund

Madison County Public Library



Public Library Facilities Construction Fund

Carter County Public Library



Public Libraries Reserve Funds

53 local libraries have current or completed building projects, renovations, or expansions, or will begin or complete new capital projects. Some of those counties are:

- East: Bell, Perry, Powell, Bath, Bracken, Kenton, Pendleton
 - South Central: Clinton, Edmonson, Jessamine, Taylor
 - West: Daviess, Logan, Marshall, Todd
 - North Central: Hardin, Jefferson, LaRue, Meade, Oldham, Fayette
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- One of the larger uses of reserve funds are for building projects.
 - The Governor's FY 24-26 budget restored the \$2.5M in direct local library aid but was not appropriated by the General Assembly.

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Thank You!