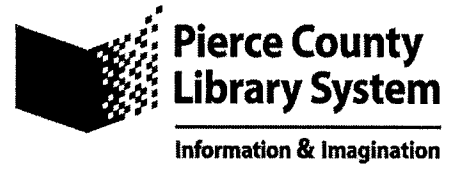


M E M O



Date: February 28, 2011

To: Chair J.J. McCament and Members of the Board

From: Neel Parikh, Executive Director

Subject: Legislation Related to Libraries

As I reported earlier, there is very little legislation this session affecting libraries. The following have some impact:

- HB 1675: Proposing a method to calculate the cost of public records requests. Apparently this is a very arduous process. It still needs to get out of one committee.
- HB 1324: Elimination of the presidential primary. This is of importance to libraries because this proposal would be the only cut to the Secretary of State's office and therefore, the State Library would not receive any more reductions. If the State Library receives more reductions, it could result in losing our ability to receive federal funds.
- SB 5857: Repeals a number of exemptions to sales tax, but fortunately leaves in an exemption for digital materials for libraries.

If there is any more information I will share that during the Board meeting.

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Christopher Hurst
Washington State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Hurst:

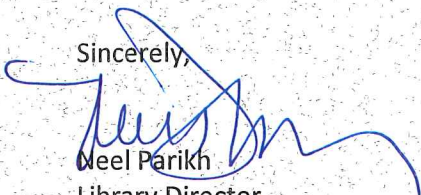
I am sorry that we were unable to meet today so that I could share with you how the Pierce County Library System is meeting the needs of your constituents in these difficult times.

Business is booming at the Pierce County Library System. Since 2008, check-outs have increased by 32% and visits by 17%. In spite of no increase in revenue and rising expenses, the Library System responded to these challenging economic times through careful planning and innovation. As our neighbors and communities dealt with the realities of job loss, reduced income and belt-tightening, the library designed resources and services to help; expanding our services through restructuring, thoughtful re-allocation of funds, and public and private partnerships. Examples include:

- **Job and Business Centers:** Centers in six library locations were established to improve people's job skills, help people search, apply and find jobs and assist entrepreneurs developing small businesses. In addition, through partnership with WorkForce, mobile labs are now in operation to reach more isolated parts of the county.
- **Tough Economic Times:** The Library's website includes "Tools for Tough Economic Times" to help people file for unemployment benefits, find assistance for essential living needs, job searches and much more.
- **Virtual Library:** The library has expanded its online presence, creating a virtual branch that offers 24 hour access, 7 days a week. Resources such as Live Homework Help, Job and Business Center Resources, online newspapers and electronic resources are available from one's home, office or public computers available in the library. Website visits increased by 90% since 2008.
- **New Technologies:** New technologies offer exciting opportunities to broaden the role of the library. Downloadable electronic books are accessible through the website and the demand is increasing. In addition, the Library uses Facebook, Twitter, RSS Feeds, RDA codes, listservs, etc. to keep our customers up to date on resources and materials available to them.
- **Expanded Library Branches:** The Milton/Edgewood and University Place libraries have been relocated into larger spaces. In late 2011, a new library branch will open in the City of Fife, a community that has never had a library.

The proof of our success is seen in numbers and appreciation from our users. Our region will continue to face difficult and painful times while waiting for economic recovery. Pierce County Library System is committed to assisting and supporting our citizens through these times.

Sincerely,



Neel Parikh
Library Director