

What is an advisory vote?

An advisory vote is when the public is asked to share their opinion on an issue, but the result is not legally binding. It's like giving feedback—government officials don't have to follow the vote, but it helps them understand what people think before making decisions.

Learn more here: <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/elections/propositions/ballot-measures>

Where is the proposed site for the new library?

A 4-acre parcel at Town Square Park that hosts the Liberty Lake Farmers Market.

I thought the library was moving to Legacy Church, what happened?

City Council chose not to move forward with the project at Legacy Church. They found the building to be too small for the future library. The church is now being developed as the new City Hall.

What is the cost?

Cost estimates currently range from \$12.9 million – 15.6 million. A design has not been selected yet by City Council.

How would the city pay for a new library?

Funding is still to be determined. Options may include grants, donations, municipal bonds, and/or other general fund revenue.

What does the new library look like?

We are still in the planning phase, and no designs have been approved yet. The City has developed three conceptual layouts to help start the conversation. You can view them on the City's website here: libertylake-wa.civilspace.io/en (under "Library Design & Construction" in the Master Facilities Presentation, slides 11–19).

Do we need a new library? The current library seems fine to me.

We're glad you enjoy the library! Our librarians work hard to make the most of the space we have. Ultimately, it's up to the citizens and City Council to decide if a new library is needed. Here are some of the challenges we face in our current building:

Limited Programming and Meeting Space

Storytime is offered four days a week, and our meeting room is consistently over capacity during these and other events. The library also runs the only free public meeting room in Liberty Lake, but with just one meeting room and one study room available, demand far exceeds what we can provide.

Limited Technology Access

In 2024, more than 3,200 people used the library's public computers—a 70% increase from the year before. Yet we have only four computers available, with no room to add more. Power access is also limited: the building was constructed before the digital age, with very few outlets and a concrete floor that prevents adding new ones. This makes it challenging for patrons to charge devices, work, or study comfortably. To keep up with community needs, the library must provide better access to computers, printing, Wi-Fi, and charging stations.

Dedicated Teen Space

Right now, the teen area is the only open space available for patrons who need to work or study. We'd love to create a dedicated space just for teens—a place where we can host teen-specific programs and where they can safely hang out after school or on weekends.

Does anyone use the library anymore?

Absolutely! In 2024, the library welcomed over 69,000 visitors. More than 9,800 children joined free programs like storytime, arts & crafts, STEM, and teen activities. Today, over 8,200 community members have a Liberty Lake Library card, and together they checked out more than 119,000 books last year.

Do we need space for more books? Everyone reads e-books these days!

While e-books are popular, the majority of people still prefer print. Nationally, only 3 in 10 readers choose e-books—and Liberty Lake's checkout numbers reflect the same trend. Children's books, in particular, are mostly available only in print. As our community grows, we'll need more space to expand our collection and ensure there are enough books for both current and future readers.

How will population growth in Liberty Lake affect the library?

As Liberty Lake grows, so does the demand for library services. Over the next 15 years, the city's population is expected to nearly double—from about 14,000 residents today to more than 22,000. If the library remains the same size, the level of service we can provide will be stretched thin, effectively cutting today's service levels in half. Without additional space and resources, the library will not be able to fully meet the needs of our future community.