








FY 2026 LIBRARY BUDGET



AGENDA

-  **LIBRARY MISSION**
-  **2024 QUICK FACTS**
-  **2025 LIBRARY BUDGET**
-  **2026 BUDGET & PERSONNEL**
-  **CAPITAL PROJECTS**
-  **IMPACT ON SERVICES**
-  **THE VALUE OF THE LIBRARY**

MISSION



The St. Johns County Public Library System encourages a love of literature, the arts, and lifelong learning by providing a variety of information, resources, and entertainment to the community.



20 | QUICK 24 | FACTS

ST. JOHNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

PATRONS

99,686 REGISTERED

745,250 LIBRARY VISITS

PROGRAMS

3,726 PROGRAMS OFFERED

176,676 PATRON ATTENDANCE

USAGE

1.6M ITEMS BORROWED

269,849 QUESTIONS ASKED

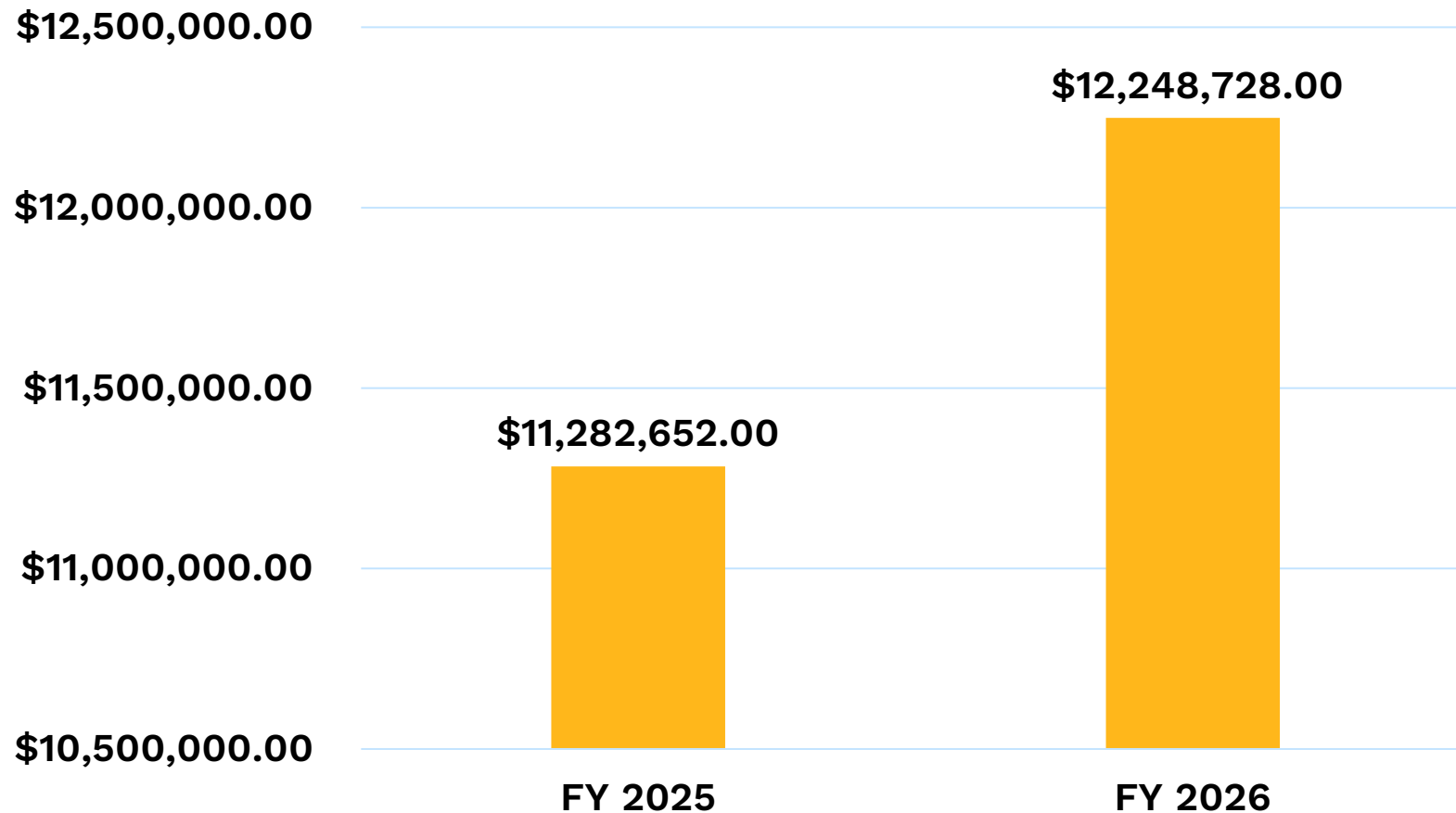




Current 2025 BUDGET

- \$11 million from **General Fund**
 - \$105K for State Aid Grant
 - \$182K from donations
-
- Provides staff training & development
 - Provides access to resources
 - Up-to-date materials and technology

FY25 AND FY26 BUDGET COMPARISON



An 8.57% increase to the Library's original requested budget includes the cost of opening two new library locations for part of FY26.

LIBRARY PLANNING

Aligning Library and County Strategic Plans

📖 SJC Goal 2.A & 2.B: Community Well-being

📖 Engage in Community Outreach events at least once per quarter systemwide







📖 Build and expand partnerships with county and local organizations to host or co-host community programs

📖 Improve community satisfaction with library events and programs

📖 Establish centralized library staffing models

IMLS & State Library of Florida Funding

We receive funding and services valued over \$156,000 each year

-  **Access To Online Databases:** The State Library of Florida, through IMLS, offers database access to valuable content such as medical journals and academic resources – services that would otherwise cost our library **\$68,000 a year**. Without this resource, access to peer-reviewed journals would be lost.
-  **Summer Reading Program:** We received **\$3,000** per year for supplies related to the Collaborative Summer Reading Program before the State Library of Florida recently discontinued access.
-  **Interlibrary Loan Service:** We are in the process of moving to the State-sponsored interlibrary loan system, which is free and covers most shipping costs. If eliminated, we'd face nearly **\$18,000** in added expenses – costs that may be passed on to our patrons.
-  **Career Online High School:** Through State Library of Florida funding, 23 local adult patrons earned accredited high school diplomas – not GEDs – through the Career Online High School program. The program ended when its **\$15,000** funding was cut.
-  **NEFLIN:** The Northeast Florida Library Information Network, a regional library cooperative funded through IMLS grants and membership dues, provides SJCPLS with training, project grants, and other support valued at **\$57,962** in FY2023-2024.
-  **Ask A Librarian Chat Service:** Ask a Librarian is Florida's virtual reference service, supported by over 100 libraries across various sectors. In one year, it answered 1,632 SJCPLS patron questions via chat, email, and SMS, with a market value to our county of **\$3,949.44**.

COST SAVINGS & INNOVATION

📖 **PARTNERSHIPS WITH COUNTY DEPTS. & COMMUNITY AGENCIES**

📖 **INTERNAL RE-STRUCTURING: CENTRALIZED LIBRARY STAFFING**

📖 **Creates promotional advancements through reclassification of existing positions rather than adding new FTEs**

📖 **Retains knowledge & expertise of staff and encourages upward mobility**

📖 **Streamlines library operations under single points of oversight**

📖 **Using data to realign positions across all library locations**

📖 **Aligns library programming & services with SJCPLS goals & community needs**

📖 **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES**

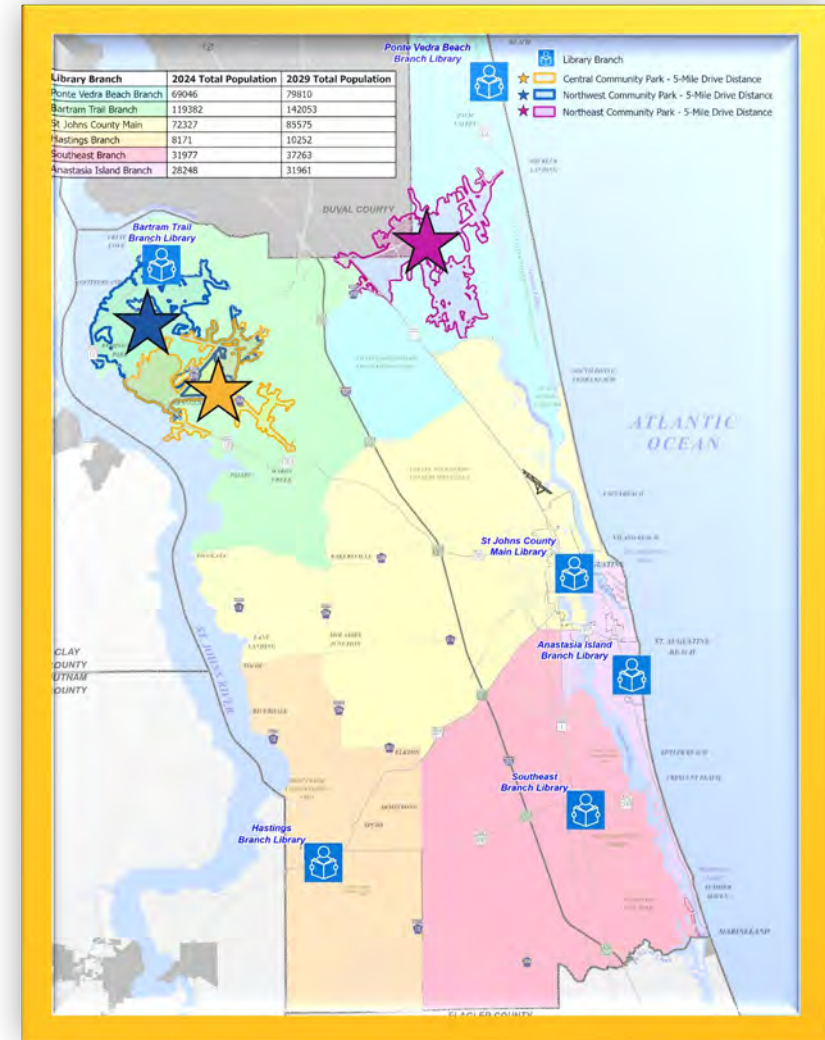
📖 **GRANTS AS AVAILABLE**

SERVICE AREA

POPULATION

WE ARE GROWING!

BRANCH	ESTABLISHED	
MAIN	EST. 1987	72,327
PONTE VEDRA	EST. 1993	69,046
BARTRAM	EST. 1997	119,382
HASTINGS	EST. 1997	8,171
SOUTHEAST	EST. 2003	31,977
ANASTASIA	EST. 2007	28,248
CENTRAL	EST. 2026	12,111
NORTHWEST	EST. 2026	26,978
NORTHEAST	EST. 2027	26,264



PERSONNEL REQUEST FY 2026

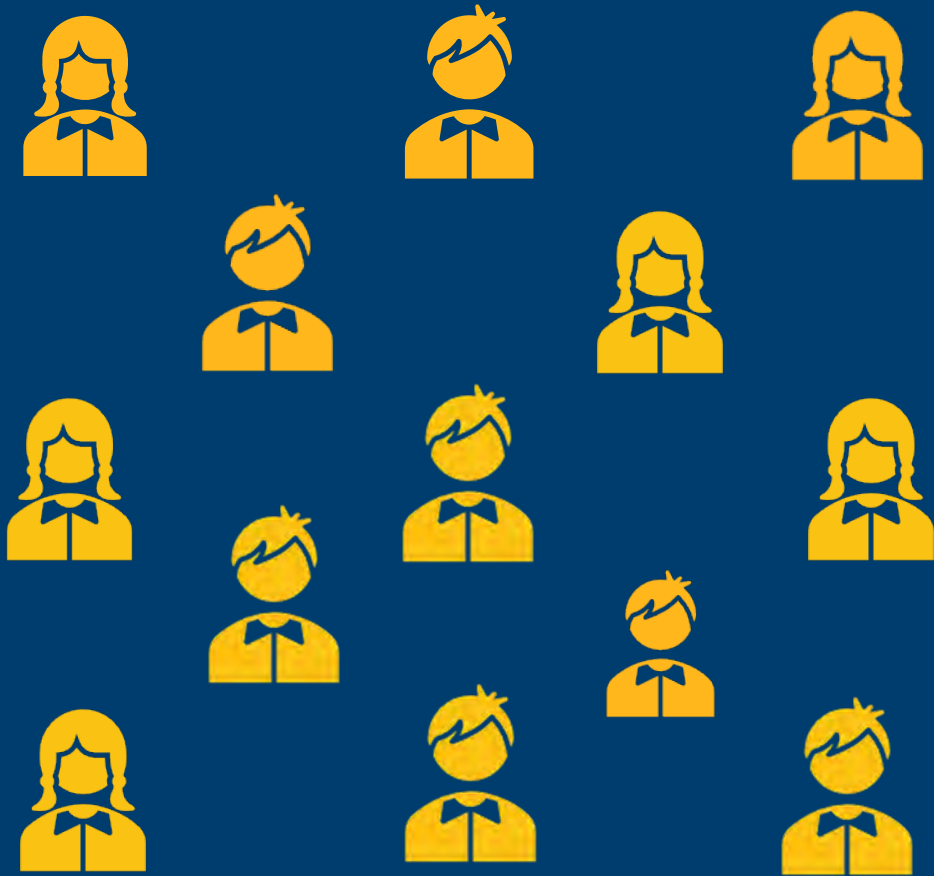
- 📖 Current staff **98.1 FTE**
- 📖 Requesting **12.4 FTE: 4.8 FTE** for existing locations, **7.6 FTE** for new locations
- 📖 Rollback request is **6.3 FTE: 3.8 FTE** for existing locations, **2.5 FTE** for new locations
- 📖 Internal restructuring created promotional advancements through **reclassifications** (these are existing positions not additional FTEs with a cost savings of **\$300,000.00** vs. new positions)

FY 2026 PERSONNEL REQUEST

BRANCH/LOCATION	JOB TITLE	FTE COUNT
LIBRARY ADMIN	COURIER	1.0
BARTRAM TRAIL	LIBRARY SERVICES SPECIALIST P/T	0.7
HASTINGS	LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT (PT TO FT)	0.4
MAIN	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.7
MAIN	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.7
PONTE VEDRA	LIBRARIAN	1.0
PONTE VEDRA	LIBRARY SERVICES SPECIALIST (PT TO FT)	0.3
SUSTAINING SERVICE LEVEL TOTAL:		4.8
HASTINGS	LIBRARY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR	1.0
HASTINGS	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.5
HASTINGS	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.5
CENTRAL	ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER	1.0
CENTRAL	ASSISTANT CIRCULATION SUPERVISOR	1.0
CENTRAL	LIBRARY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR	1.0
CENTRAL	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.7
CENTRAL	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.7
CENTRAL	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.6
CENTRAL	LIBRARY ASSISTANT PT	0.6
NEW LIBRARIES TOTAL:		7.6
TOTAL NEW REQUESTS:		12.4

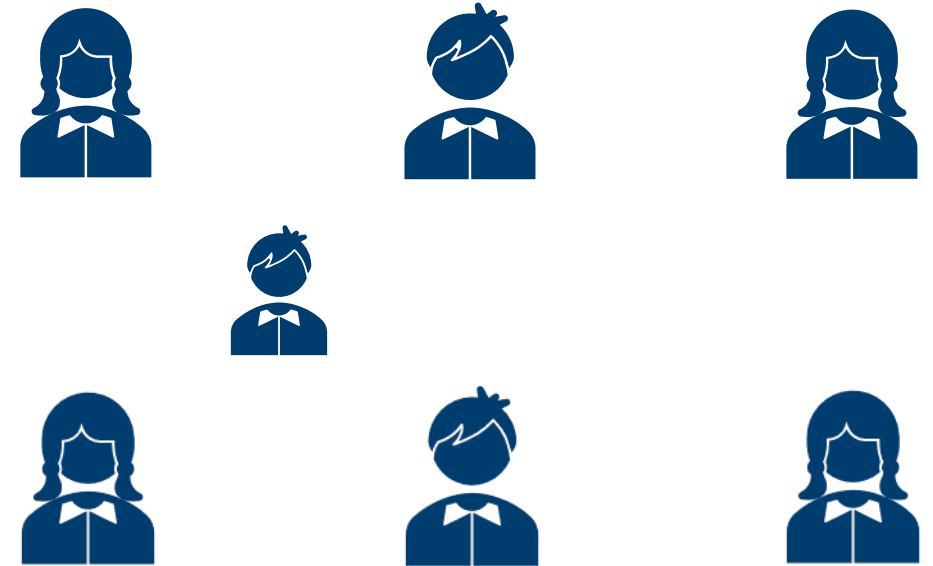


FY 2026 PERSONNEL REQUEST



**12.4 NEW FTE POSITIONS
+ RECLASSIFICATIONS**

FY 2026 ROLLBACK REQUEST



**6.3 NEW FTE POSITIONS
+ RECLASSIFICATIONS**



LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS

New Hastings Location



Expected opening March 2026



6-month impact to FY 2026 Budget



A new Community Center and Library, and Health and Human Services Satellite location

New Central/Shearwater Location



-  **Anticipated opening in Fall 2026**
-  **Possible 3-month impact to FY 2026 Budget**
-  **Recruitment of Librarian position**
-  **Approx. 2000sf specialized children's library, with a focus on early literacy**

FY 2026 LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST

CATEGORY	FY 2025	FY 2026	% DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FY 2026 AND FY 2025
PERSONNEL	\$8,127,795	\$9,117,422	11.48% Increase
OPERATING	\$1,876,002	\$2,009,306	6.86% Increase
CAPITAL	\$1,278,855	\$1,122,000	13.97% Increase
TOTALS:	\$11,282,652	\$12,248,728	8.57% Increase

FY 2026 both budget requests include a recommendation to increase non-resident library card fees to \$100 a year.



ROLLBACK IMPACT ON SERVICES

- 📖 For SJCPLS, “rollback” = \$670,703 reduction
- 📖 Decrease in public service hours
- 📖 Reduction in public programming, affecting SJC plan!
- 📖 Decrease in funding for new materials, including e-resources/databases
- 📖 Delayed staff recruiting for new libraries
- 📖 Reduction in guard and temp staffing services
- 📖 Reduction in library courier service (currently 7 days)

The Library's Value to Our Community

***“LOVE SEEING THE CHILDREN’S
EXPRESSIONS DURING STORY
TIME!! LOVE THE SINGING &
MUSIC. ENJOY SEEING THE
PATRONS & BROWSING THROUGH
THE BOOKS.”
- ANONYMOUS***

***“THANK YOU & YOUR TEAM FOR
ALL YOU DO FOR TEENS! WE ARE
SO THANKFUL FOR ALL OF THE
ENGAGING & FUN ACTIVITIES!”
- VANESSA***

***“I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A GREAT
EXPERIENCE HERE! I COME HERE
ALMOST EVERY DAY, AND ALWAYS
HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE!”
- BROOKLYN***

***“STOPPED INTO THE ANASTASIA
ISLAND BRANCH ON VACATION TO
USE A COMPUTER. THE STAFF
WAS VERY HELPFUL AND
FRIENDLY. THANK YOU!”
- NICK***

<https://sjcpls.org/tell-us-your-library-story/>



