Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY
www.BuffaloLib.org

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING PICTURE

Population Served: 954,236 (2020 Census)   **Circulation**: 7,256,779 (2024)

Library Locations: 39*   **Operating Budget:** $33,105,584 (2024)   **Per Capita:** $34.69 (2024)

Includes Central Library, Buffalo Branches, Contracting Libraries, and Library mobile services

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) System Board of Trustees	B&ECPL System Director	Contracting Libraries	Association of Contracting Libraries
15 Members, appointed by the Erie County Executive and the Erie County Legislature	**Appointed by B&ECPL Board**	**Contract for Services from Library System**	**(ACT Board) Acts as a Liaison**

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees consists of 15 members who serve five-year terms on a rotating schedule. The trustees are appointed by the Erie County Executive, who appoints ten members (two each calendar year), and the Mayor of Buffalo, who appoints five members (one each calendar year). All recommended trustees are subject to confirmation by the Erie County Legislature.

The Director serves as the administrative, executive and fiscal officer of the B&ECPL System under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The Director also oversees business affairs, administration and employees of the Central Library and the eight Buffalo branches.

Each of the 22 contracting libraries has its own Board of Trustees. Libraries annually contract with the System for services, including circulation, technology, programming, materials, etc. The System provides funding for almost all of the operations of member libraries, while the local municipality or membership association provides for the library building and capital needs.
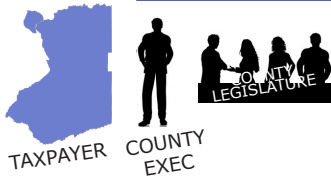
Promotes cooperation among member libraries, provides a forum for exchange of information and ideas, and is a mechanism for liaison between the contracting libraries, their trustees and staff, and the B&ECPL trustees and staff.

1/2025

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Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Funding Picture

Governance

APPOINTS

Taxpayers/Erie County Property Owners
Library Property Tax $29,675,375 in 2024

A local law, the *Library Protection Act*, dedicates a portion of Erie County's real property tax for library purposes and guarantees that funds appropriated by the Legislature cannot be reappropriated to cover mid-year shortfalls elsewhere in the County budget.

TAXPAYER COUNTY EXEC COUNTY LEGISLATURE

2024 Adopted Operating Budget

90%

Fund Balance-Onetime Sum
The Library System Board of Trustees voted to utilize $716,119 in unassigned fund balance in 2024.

2%

New York State Aid
Formula aid is provided by the Governor & State Legislature for public library systems. State aid supports programs & services such as Interlibrary Loan delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation and internet access. Direct formula aid to assist individual public libraries is provided by the Local Service Aid program through library systems. Libraries that meet minimum standards set by the Education Department can receive this aid. $2,415,951 in 2024.

7%

Other
Revenues include but are not limited to Library charges and fines, and fundraising. $298,139 in 2024.

1%

Total 2024 Operating Budget $33,105,584   **100%**

System Board has four main committees:

Executive Committee	Budget and Finance Committee	Policy Committee	Building Oversight Committee
Acts on behalf of the Board if necessary, between Board meetings; has all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.	Has general management of the finances, funds and investments of the corporation. With the Director, prepares a budget request as required by Erie County.	Supports the development of policies for HR, circulation of materials, collection development, access to Library facilities and resources and matters for effective operations.	Ensures that adequate facilities are designed, situated, constructed and maintained to meet B&ECPL's mission of service to the community.

System Board appoints Director to manage staff

APPOINTS

DIRECTOR STAFF SERVICES

Director and staff administer services to contract libraries

ASSOCIATION FOR CONTRACTING LIBRARIES