



Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple Street
Georgetown, MA 01833

FY26 Override Passes:

The Georgetown Peabody Library would be able to continue to be a connection to community events and a resource for lifelong learning for the Georgetown community as well as those communities in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium network. Our hours would stay the same; Mondays 2-8, Tuesdays 10-8, Wednesdays 2-8, Thursdays 10-5, Fridays 10-5, and Saturdays 9-1 (closed on Saturdays in July and August). We would have a slight increase in our expenses and a 2% COLA increase for staff along with additional hour increases for the Circulation Librarian (37 hours per week to increase to 39 hours per week) and the Teen Librarian (36 hours per week to increase to 37 hours per week).

FY25 Budget: \$566,239

FY26 Budget if Override Passes: \$592,200

4.58% increase

FY26 Override Fails:

FY25 Budget: \$566,239

FY26 Budget if Override Fails: \$566,239 (Level funded) or \$531,071 (Cuts made)

Amount needed for state certification: \$525,420

The Georgetown Peabody Library would need to cut our hours and close a day if the override fails. The library's materials budget (i.e. books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, board games, video games, Roku, hotspots, etc.) is required to be 16% of our operating expenses for certification. This percentage is based on the number of hours that we are currently open, 40 hours per week. If we were to cut our hours and close a day, then that percentage would go back to 19%. Staff hours and resulting salaries will be cut which for full time staff members would result in a 15% salary cut.

Closing a day would also mean another day of not being able to offer kids, teens, or adult programs, another day of not being able to offer our meeting room spaces for community groups to meet, and another day that any community member would not be able to fully access the library to borrow books, CDs, DVDs, video games, hotspots, use our computers or tables to work, study, or socialize with others, or receive support from library staff members for readers advisory, technology assistance, or social services related questions.

To be certified each fiscal year, a municipality and its library must meet its Municipal Appropriation Requirement and the Minimum Standards of Free Public Library Service. Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L., c.78, s.19A) states that a municipality must appropriate a figure of at least the average of the last 3 years' municipal appropriations to the library for operations, increased by 2.5%, in order to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries. This calculated figure is known as the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR). A municipality must meet the MAR or apply for and receive a waiver of the MAR in order to be eligible to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries by the MBLC. Capital appropriations cannot be used to meet the MAR.

The ramifications for not meeting any of these percentages would decertify the library. This would mean the Library would not receive any State Aid to Public Libraries monies, libraries in certified municipalities would not be required to lend library materials to Georgetown residents, Georgetown residents would not have access to any of the statewide databases that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners offer. Georgetown residents would only be able to access the items in our collection (70,000 items) rather than the millions of items across Massachusetts.

For the past two to three years, the Georgetown Peabody Library has received an average of \$17,000 a year in state aid monies to help fund non-routine or unexpected expenses such as repairs or replacement of equipment. A reduction in funding from the town that could result in decertification would also result in further reduction of current available library state aid and special funds.

Sarah Cognata, MLS
Library Director
Georgetown Peabody Library