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# NEWS RELEASE



Dec. 7, 2017

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## **Library Board to hold final public hearing on 2018 budget and discuss other issues**

**TACOMA** – The Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees will hold the second and final public hearing on its draft budget for 2018 at the board’s monthly meeting at the **Administrative Center and Library, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m.** The board will also hear the results from MakerFest, a community maker and do-it-yourself event, and elect officers for 2018.

At the December meeting, the Board of Trustees will conduct the following business.

- **Final public hearing on 2018 draft budget:** The Board of Trustees will take comments from the public on the Library’s 2018 draft budget. Then the Board is expected to pass a resolution to adopt the \$31.9 million budget. The budget continues to build on the [Library’s Strategic Plan](#), with a focus on learning, enjoyment and community. To balance the 2018 budget, the Library again addressed approximately \$2 million of a gap between service needs and available funding, as it has been doing for the past 10 years, for a total of \$20 million. Costs to operate and maintain the Library System’s services and libraries are increasing at a faster and higher rate than revenues to run them. In recent years, costs have increased by an average of 4.1 percent a year, while property tax revenues have increased at an average rate of 1.8 percent. Property taxes make up approximately 97 percent of the Library’s revenue.
- **MakerFest:** A total of 1,400 people explored building, creating, crafting, coding and took part in hands-on learning activities at MakerFest, a free community event for people of all ages to learn from makers and do-it-yourselfers. This was a record attendance, although the first of a combined event of two previous events the Library hosted DIYFest and Lakewood MakerFest. From robotics and virtual reality and 3-D printing to sewing, home brewing and food preservation, the event sparked interest for children and adults. Puyallup Public Library and Timberland Library helped to sponsor the event with Pierce County Library.
- **Officer election:** The [Board](#) will elect a board chair and vice-chair for 2018. Currently Rob Allen serves as chair and Donna Albers serves as vice chair. Other members of the board include Monica Butler, Pat Jenkins and Daren Jones.

**More information:** <http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/files/library/board-packet-20171213.pdf>.

### **About Pierce County Library System**

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 590,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than 1.5 million books, movies and other materials, as well as nearly half a million online/downloadable materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities or who are homebound, and to children in child care centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville,

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Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, Pierce County Library Administrative Center, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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