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# NEWS RELEASE



Aug. 27, 2020

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## Library Board discusses 2021 budget and work plan, current services and more

**PIERCE COUNTY, Washington** – The Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees will discuss the 2021 budget and work plan, current services, racial and social equity, diversity and inclusion, and other issues at its meeting on **Wednesday, Sept. 9, 3:30 p.m.**

Join via either:

- **Phone:** Dial+1.253.215.8782 | Webinar ID: 931 2785 0657 | Passcode: 090783; or
- **Web browser** (Zoom user account is required to join via web browser):  
[https://zoom.us/j/93127850657?pwd=enZ0VCtEYnZRdmNkK0UzTDliSVRLdz09](https://zoom.us/j/93127850657?pwd=enZ0VCtEYnZRdmNkK0UzTDliSVRLdz09;); or
- **App** (Zoom user account is NOT needed if joining by app) ([Windows App](#) | [iPad / iPhone App](#) | [Android App](#)) <https://zoom.us/j/93127850657?pwd=enZ0VCtEYnZRdmNkK0UzTDliSVRLdz09>

**2021 Budget and work plan.** As the Library System plans its budget and work plan for 2021, it will continue to weigh the significant uncertainty and impacts of the novel coronavirus pandemic 2019 (COVID-19) and how to best serve communities in the coming year. The board will discuss its budget principles – the factors that will direct where to invest the public’s money for library services. The factors under consideration include:

- Being good stewards of taxpayers’ investment.
- Limiting further financial burdens on communities already harmed by the economic downturn.
- Ensuring flexibility to change services and funding focuses in these uncertain times.

The Board will also discuss service priorities that may include:

- Continuing and extending services to people impacted by the pandemic such as parents-turned teachers, people seeking new jobs and job skills, and people without access to digital technology (Wi-Fi, computers, printers).
- Providing books and materials online, in libraries, curbside and from buildings, when the libraries can safely reopen.
- Offering services where and when people need them in communities.

**[Library Curbside](#) ([curbside.pcls.us](#)) and [Online Library](#) ([downloads.pcls.us](#)).** People are loving the Library System’s curbside service at 18 libraries. At the curb, people may pick up books, movies and other items they have selected through the online catalog, a Grab Bag of mystery items based upon the readers’ interests, Activity Packs with hands on activities for all ages, and copies of prints people send remotely to a library. E-book and audiobook downloads continue to be in high demand. The Library has shifted funding to offer more downloadable books.

**Racial and social equity, diversity and inclusion.** The Board will continue its review and discussion of the Library’s policies related to equity and antiracism as well as all of the Library’s policies to ensure they foster diversity and inclusion. The Board will continue its discussion to gain a further

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understanding of the Library's current efforts and gaps to support racial and social equity, diversity and inclusion.

## **About Pierce County Library System**

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 620,000 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 822,000 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, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, 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.

[piercecountylibrary.org](http://piercecountylibrary.org)

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