



BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING PICTURE

Population Served: 954,236 (2020 Census)

Circulation: 7,152,667 (2025)

Library Locations: 39* **Operating Budget:** \$34,669,428 (2025) **Per Capita:** \$36.33 (2025)

**Includes Central Library, Buffalo Branches, Contracting Libraries, and Library Mobile Services*

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees 15 members, appointed by the Erie County Executive and the Erie County Legislature



The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 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.

Library System Director
Appointed by Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board



The Director serves as the administrative, executive, and fiscal officer of the Library 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 branch libraries.

Contracting Libraries
Contract for Services from Library System



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.

Association of Contracting Libraries (ACT Board)
Acts as a Liaison



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 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library trustees and staff.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Funding Picture

Taxpayers/Erie County Property Owners Library Property Tax \$30,947,322 in 2025

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.



2025 Adopted Operating Budget

89.26%



Fund Balance-Onetime Sum

The Library System Board of Trustees voted to utilize \$839,804 in unassigned fund balance in 2025.

2.42%



New York State Aid

Formula aid is provided by the Governor and State Legislature for public library systems. State aid supports programs and 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. \$2,460,929 in 2025.



7.10%



Other

Revenues include but are not limited to Library charges and fines, and fundraising. \$421,373 in 2025.

1.22%



Total 2025 Operating Budget \$34,669,428 100%

Governance

APPOINTS



System Board has four main committees:

Executive Committee

Acts on behalf of the Board if necessary, between Board meetings; has all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.

Budget and Finance Committee

Has general management of the finances, funds, and investments of the corporation. With the Director, prepares a budget request as required by Erie County.

Policy Committee

Supports the development of policies for HR, circulation of materials, collection development, access to Library facilities and resources, and matters for effective operations.

Building Oversight Committee

Ensures that adequate facilities are designed, situated, constructed, and maintained to meet the Library's mission of service to the community.

System Board appoints Director to manage staff

APPOINTS



ASSOCIATION FOR CONTRACTING LIBRARIES



Director and staff administer services to contract libraries