



October 22, 2020

The Honorable Victoria Woodards, Mayor  
and Members, Tacoma City Council  
Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Library Funding

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members:

The City of Tacoma is no exception to all of the state and local jurisdictions anticipating budget deficits in 2021 and potentially beyond. We know that this situation presents you with very tough choices in your budget deliberations. However, we ask that you not make the reductions to the City's library system at the levels proposed by the City Manager.

Libraries are an essential public service. They provide opportunities for community members who lack the personal finances to purchase books, movies, computers, internet and other resources that provide the information and communication resources so essential to a thriving community. Sadly, at this time, libraries also provide the opportunity for some people experiencing homelessness to access hygiene facilities. We recognize there are some temporary changes in place to address COVID, but we assume that there will be point when regular service is resumed. These are not the kinds of services and resources that should be reduced at a time when so many people are facing economic devastation and will need this support even more than before.

The League of Women Voters takes positions based on extensive study and consensus of its membership based on the study. Our position on libraries is what allows us to make this request of you. In brief, our position states that libraries are important to the quality of life of communities and should be funded adequately.

A budget reduction of the size proposed would dramatically reduce the library system's ability to serve these burgeoning needs. Already there are underserved neighborhoods, such as Hilltop, and the proposed budget reductions would exacerbate this gap. We urge you to find other areas of the budget that are not as essential in which to make the necessary reductions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature, there is a faint, light blue watermark that reads "LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY".

Cynthia Stewart, President