

## NANCY L. MCCONATHY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

You may have questions regarding the changes noted in the libraries hours and programs, the following is trying to give an understanding of the libraries current situation and hopes for the future. Due to tax funding and lack of available grants the library has been forced to cut back hours, reduce early literacy programs, and delay needed technology upgrades. Federal, State and County tax revenues finance public services like education, health care, infrastructure, economic growth, and disaster recovery services—all of which affect our daily lives. When libraries are underfunded, they face significant challenges that can impact their ability to serve the communities they serve.

Many people may not understand how libraries are funded in the United States. Nearly 90% of funding comes from local government through property taxes, municipal budgets, or county levies, typically covering core operations like staffing, collections, and facilities. State governments supplement this with direct aid or targeted grants, often administered by state library agencies. At the federal level, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) distributes funds primarily through the Grants to States program, which supports technology, literacy, and access initiatives. In total, government funding comprises around 94-96%, and only 4-6% comes from other sources such as fines, fees, and philanthropy.

(Following source: the INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES newsletter January 2026)

IMLS cuts hit rural, small-town, and Native community libraries the hardest IMLS, the largest Grantmaker to libraries, is being dismantled by the current administration. The administration first attempted to defund IMLS through an executive order but was blocked in court. Then the Department of Government Efficiency cut staff and funding, and the president's FY 2026 budget request eliminates all funding for IMLS. Communities that depend on state aid to finance broadband access, bulk e-resource subscriptions, staff training, and shared services like interlibrary loans. Without that lifeline, libraries may be forced to cut back hours, reduce early literacy programs, or job search workshops, and delay needed technology upgrades. Many libraries are left scrambling to fill gaps via local taxes or grants—options that aren't always available or sustainable.

The library is looking for residents to join our **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** program to help by being a supporter, advocate, fundraiser, and ambassador for the library. The members work towards public support of the library, including government advocacy and spreading information about library services. Friends of the Library provide resources and financial support, and they organize various fundraising events and volunteer opportunities to help libraries fulfill their mission. The NANCY L. MCCONATHY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT of Sauk Village is looking for individuals interested in becoming a member and join other members of the village to become members of the Friends of the library committee.