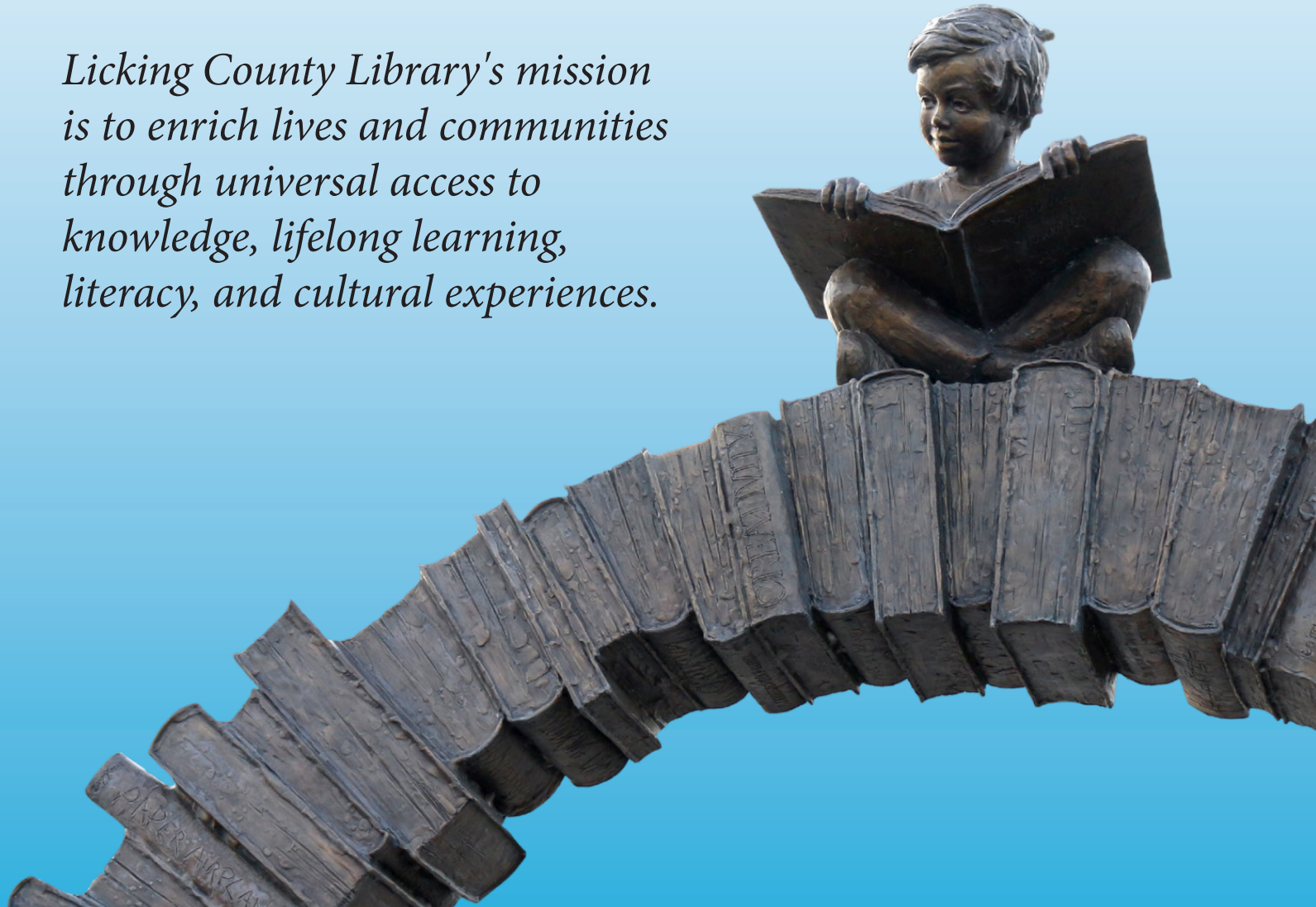
LICKING COUNTY LIBRARY

Popular Annual Financial Report

2024—2025 Overview

Published October 2026

Licking County Library's mission is to enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning, literacy, and cultural experiences.



Contents

Introduction..... pg. 3

2025 At a Glance..... pg. 4

How We're Funded..... pg. 5

Value of Library Services..... pg. 6

Completed and Current Projects.... pg. 7

Continuing and Future Initiatives.... pg. 8

Library Locations..... pg. 9

Contact.....pg. 10

Dear Licking County,

The numbers tell the story: libraries are proven to add value to our lives. At Licking County Library, every book, program, and service we provide is the sum of many parts—the resources we make available, the people we serve, and the community investment that makes it all possible.

We are pleased to share this Popular Annual Financial Report as a simple, accessible look at how the Library's resources were received and allocated throughout 2024, 2025, and beyond. We believe our community deserves to see how public funds are invested and how those dollars translate to meaningful opportunities for learning, connection, discovery, and personal growth.

Behind every number highlighted in this report is something that matters to our community: a child discovering a love of reading, a family attending a free program, a job seeker accessing technology and training, or a senior finding a welcoming place to connect.

We are grateful for the community's continued support and trust placed in us to steward these funds responsibly. We remain committed to transparency, thoughtful investment, and making every dollar count toward the future of our Library and community.

Thank you for supporting your public library and for being an important part of the equation. **Because when we invest in our Library, the returns multiply.**

Sincerely,

Julia Walden

Julia Walden
Executive Director

Julia Walden
Executive Director

Sandra Lodge
Fiscal Officer

Will McCoy
Board President

2025 At a Glance

178,525
Cardholders

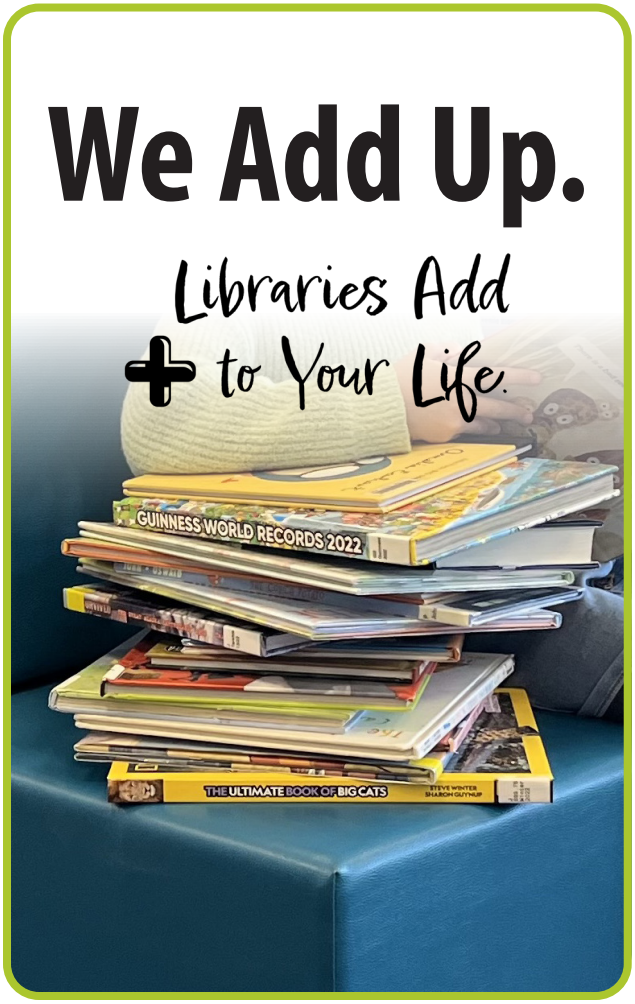
1,237,356
Checkouts

32,427
Program Attendance

213,876
Library Visits

25,726
Wireless Sessions

283,631
Website Visits



Library Staff

Administration

Systemwide

Building Services

Collection Services

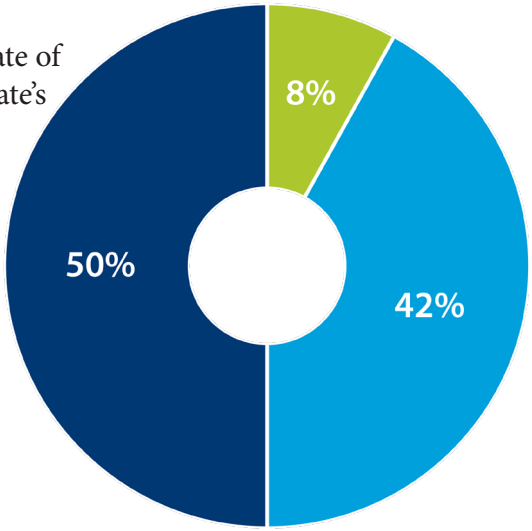
Outreach

Public-Facing

How We're Funded

Approximately 50% of the Library's annual revenue comes from the State of Ohio's Public Library Fund, which is established as a line item in the state's biennial budget. Another 42% of annual revenue is generated through the Library's 1-mill property tax levy, approved by voters in 2014. Together, these two sources provide the foundation for the Library's ongoing operations and services.

Additional support from generous donors and grantors help expand services, fund community programs, provide technology assistance, and purchase additional library materials. The Library also generates revenue through investment interest, copier and fax services, and meeting room rentals.



Source	2025	2024	2023
State-Provided Funding	$3,541,802	3,455,105	$3,646,719
Property Tax	$2,968,194	$2,913,995	$2,826,834
Donors and Grants	$84,399	$79,775	$35,397
Other Revenues	$475,285	$453,514	$416,578

For every $1 Licking County Library receives, we return $3.60 back to our community in materials and services!

Value of Library Services

Licking County Library delivers significant economic value to our communities by providing free access to materials, technology, programs, and services that patrons might otherwise need to purchase or rent. This allows them to save money that can be be used for other needs.

For every dollar we receive, the Library provides **$3.60 in economic benefit to the community.** This Return on Investment (ROI) reflects the value of materials borrowed, reference assistance, computer and technology access, programs for all ages, and meeting room use.

2025

	Circulation Count	Net Value	% of Library Value
Physical Materials	635,630	$7,022,587	42.6%
Electronic Materials	287,904	$4,600,727	27.9%
Non-Traditional Items	24,735	$701,382	4.3%

2024

	Circulation Count	Net Value	% of Library Value
Physical Materials	668,052	$7,334,083	44.2%
Electronic Materials	245,913	$3,909,671	23.6%
Non-Traditional Items	28,427	$1,419,560	8.6%

2025

	Net Value	% of Library Value
Reference Services	$2,035,398	12.3%
Computer and Technology Services	$873,181	5.3%
Other Library Services	$1,248,382	7.6%

2024

	Net Value	% of Library Value
Reference Services	$2,161,150	13.0%
Computer and Technology Services	$875,543	5.3%
Other Library Services	$881,859	5.3%

Recent Projects Funded by You

Mobile Library

In October 2023, LCL launched its new state-of-the-art Mobile Library. At 37 feet long, the Mobile Library holds approximately 2,500 items for all ages and has been showcased at two national bookmobile conferences. In 2025, it made 848 stops with 13,300 visitors and circulated over 41,000 items! School visits accounted for more than 72% of the Mobile Library's total door count, demonstrating its significant role in bringing Library resources directly to students throughout the county.

New Lakewood Branch

On October 18, 2025, LCL opened its newest branch, Lakewood, in the Arrowhead Plaza in Hebron. The new branch merged the former Buckeye Lake and Hebron locations, combining their resources into one vibrant, modern facility while expanding LCL's reach throughout the southwestern region of Licking County. In addition to increased hours, patrons now have a larger children's area, a dedicated study room, and large meeting room. In its first year of operation, the Lakewood location has seen over 16,500 visitors!

Downtown Newark Renovations

In 2024, LCL made significant investments in facility improvements, with many of the upgrades focused on the Downtown Newark location. Improvements included replacing the original 30-year-old carpeting, refreshing interior paint, reintroducing furniture and study areas, modernizing the entry area, and lowering shelving to create a brighter, more open environment. The Collective exhibit space also made its debut and has hosted 34 exhibits and 13,400 visitors since its opening in January 2024.

Continuing and Future Projects

Accessibility and Inclusion

Since 2025, LCL has made significant accessibility improvements. Recent investments include new ADA door hardware at the Lakewood and Utica locations and the installation of hearing loops in the Downtown Newark location's meeting room and circulation desk. LCL also continues to expand inclusive programming by offering sensory story times, ESL classes, special art exhibits, and ASL interpreters at select programs.

CuriosCity

Launched in summer 2026, LCL's **CuriosCity** center at the Downtown Newark location continues to grow. This space is designed to inspire literacy, creativity, and imagination in early-learners. It features interchangeable and rotating activities such as balance beams, Duplo tables, gear walls, and a play car for children to explore as they develop.

Literacy and Culture

LCL continues to develop and explore signature programs and experiences to advance our mission of literacy and cultural enrichment. Recent initiatives include a new lecture series featuring New York Times bestselling authors and the presentation of large-scale educational exhibits, including exhibits from the Anne Frank Center and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Major Capital Projects

After several years of repeated repairs and patching, the Library has determined that the roof at the Downtown Newark location is in need of replacement. This multi-million-dollar capital investment is anticipated to begin in the second half of 2027.

Library Locations

Downtown Newark

101 West Main Street,
Newark

Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

320 North Main Street,
Johnstown

Lakewood

620 East Main Street,
Hebron

Utica

115 South Main Street,
Utica

West Newark (Emerson R. Miller)

990 West Main Street,
Newark

Mobile Library & 24-Hour Kiosks

8660 West Broad Street,
Reynoldsburg

2018 West High Street,
Newark

lickingcountylibrary.org | 740.349.5500
info@lickingcountylibrary.org | 101 West Main Street, Newark

Downtown Newark • Johnstown • Lakewood • West Newark • Utica • Mobile Library
24-Hour Kiosk/COTC Pataskala Campus • 24-Hour Kiosk/Legacy Park Hanover

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