

Dear Council President Stewart and Council Members,

My name is Vicky Le and I live in White Oak. I am a patron of the library, a sister, friend, wife, and colleague of many members of the community. I was a federal worker impacted by the administrative lay-offs and an Army Reservist who spends my weekends working a second job.

Montgomery County's libraries are one of this county's most valuable assets. The resources, services, and programs that they provide to the community spans all stages of life and it is crucial to the economic and social prosperity of the community.

From my childhood weekends spent at library to semesters in college I spent in study rooms with friends cramming for exams, the library has always been a second home to me. When I married into a Spanish-speaking family, the library provided language-learning resources that have been invaluable to me, much to the delight of my in-laws. After I was laid off as a federal employee, I had access to a plethora of technical skills training through library resources which will be very helpful in gaining new employment. Recently, I suffered from a medical condition that makes it difficult for me to read physical books, but the library has offered e-books and audiobooks so I can continue my love of reading without straining my eyes.

These are just a few of the resources that have been useful to me and I know there are many others in the community who feel the same. I ask that the Council support the following in the FY 2026 operating budget for Montgomery County Public Libraries:

An additional \$121,000 to increase the collection acquisitions budget, ensuring that the library can continue meeting the rise in demand for digital materials, including maintaining five Hoopla checkouts per month.

An additional \$153,000 to increase the world languages collection. This will better serve the communities that speak many different languages in Montgomery County.