
These are examples of how the Legislative Agendas can be customized.

*The information here has been adapted from actual budget testimony and comments from budget surveys. It includes stories from librarians and residents. **When writing your story, please remember to include the name of the library you represent or use most.***

Please email your customized agenda to Matt Perry (matthew.s.perry@state.ma.us).

Contact Celeste Bruno with questions (celeste.bruno@state.ma.us).

Sample Copy Which Can Be Used for

Any of the Available Headlines

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

Without the Board of Library Commissioners, it would be very difficult to have any of the other programs. MLS arranges delivery which is its most important task. State Aid is a tremendous asset to libraries and helps fund services not supported by the local budget.

2)

State Aid funding (7000-9501) is critical to our continuing existence as the town funds the minimum required and assumes a certain amount of dollars in state funding and other collections (overdues, rentals) as part of our yearly budget. It is unlikely that the town would make up the difference should state funding cease. We depend on the statewide delivery system (7000-9401) and advisory services to provide the best possible service to our patrons.

Sample Copy for

Because Peru and Florida are in Massachusetts

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

Technology and Resource Sharing (9506) is extremely important in order to improve technology for networks and member libraries. Our residents rely on internet in our library.

2)

We have a dozen public access computers in our library and they are filled every day. In fact, we often have a waiting list for people to use them. They rely on them for e-government, continuing education, and employment opportunities. But connection speeds in Massachusetts libraries fall below national standards, meaning that libraries must settle for Internet speeds that are not adequate to deliver the services our residents need. Funding 7000-9506 Library Technology and Resource Sharing can help us change that.

continued

Sample Copy for

Because You Need to Learn to Read Before You Can Read to Learn”

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

The XXX library network (7000-9506) is vital to my children’s educational endeavors. When we read at night and finish a really good book, we get on the XXXX website and “go shopping” for a new book. What we want can almost always be obtained through inter library loan if it isn’t at the local library and it’s available to us at the click of a button. This system also provides vast possibilities for research. When my children need to do reports for school or have burning questions, we look up all of our research here. Please fund libraries.

2)

The book clubs, the toddler times, and the summer reading programs are first rate and highly motivating. We love the ease of obtaining materials, the vast options available to us, and the love of reading it is instilling in my children.

3)

I am the mother of three children and have made it a priority to develop a love of reading in them. The XXXX Public Library and its affiliates have played a huge role in making this possible. There have been many occasions when a book has been suggested for them by a reading program or through a book group and I have always been able to rely on the librarians to obtain the material in a very timely manner. The ease by which I have been able to order a book from home, and know that I will be notified via email when it is ready to be picked up, has encouraged me to use this resource often. The funding that goes into these programs has visible results in my girls.

Sample Copy for

Because America is Still the Land of Opportunity

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

The City of XXXX has long been a gateway community, offering new citizens, the disenfranchised and many others from the wrong side of the economy a chance to cross the tracks and achieve their version of the American Dream. The XXXX Public Library is an important bridge over those tracks and we serve both sides in our effort to provide information and a meeting place for the community. State funding to the MBLC helps us in our efforts. By funding networks, we are able to connect our patrons with the digital highway of the Internet and databases so that they can improve their lives. It is impossible for a local library to offer the variety, depth, and quality of services without the MBLC’s support. The MBLC should be a primary consideration for placement of state tax dollars.

continued

Sample Copy for

Because His Dream Job Exists

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

The XXXX Public Library has been fortunate to receive yearly state aid (7000-9501) funding totally about \$15,000. We have used these funds to supply needed capital materials not supplied in our yearly town budget. For example, they have allowed us to maintain our computers at cutting edge efficiency by providing funds for new computers on a five year turn around basis. The efficiency of these computers is crucial because we have patrons researching jobs and send their resumes to prospective employers using our facility. We also have an online course taker who would not have been able to improve her credentials without our computers. We depend on the support of our state funding.

2)

No library can provide all the books, eBooks, audiobooks and other resources that our users need and want. Resource sharing makes it possible for us to provide what they seek. We at the XXXX Public Library have helped people find jobs, prepare resumes and sharpen their skills to further their career or education.

Sample Copy for

Because We Can't Lose Sight of the Importance of Equal Access

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

I can't say how many times I have advocated for library funding for the Talking Book and Braille programs, but I'll keep advocating as long as I need to. I have been totally blind since birth and have used the program since girlhood. It is a daily source of information and recreation that would be horrible to lose. The digital services are wonderful and absolutely worth funding. Thanks for your continued efforts on behalf of this wonderful program.

2)

I am writing on behalf of my friend, [NAME]. He is unable to work and has been legally blind for 8 years. If not for the Worcester Library and their excellent staff, he would be cut off from the only activity his disability affords, audiobooks. I realize that there is only so much money to go around when it comes to the state budget. However, please try to keep in mind those people in situations (through no fault of their own) where this book program is their only outlet for enjoyment and continuing mental exercise. Thank you for whatever you can do as an advocate for the people who really need our libraries.

Sample Copy for

Because Libraries are Open 24/7

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

Much of the time I am home bound and the ability to download books and use research databases is so important to me. This is a great service to everyone in the community including young families where the mom is unable to go to the library due to work or not having use of a car. Please continue to fund these services.

2)

The Digital Media Collection is fantastic. Children and young adults are so tech savvy and this caters to their need for quick access to materials while on the go. It's the best thing since sliced bread. I use the XXXX Library at least 3 to 4 times a week, and the online services more often than that. There is a wealth of information at your fingertips. Of all my tax dollars that have been spent over the years (and there have been many) this is one of the greatest benefits my family and I have received for tax dollars taken.

continued

Sample Copy for

Because Students Can't Afford Scholarly Journals on a Ramen Noodle Budget

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

The licensed electronic content (databases) is so important to our patrons and we would never be able to afford it on our own. By providing access to these databases, our students have information for use in homework and reports that is of a higher quality that what can be found on the Internet. This content provides them with contrast to Internet sources and can be used to improve students' information literacy.

Sample Copy for

Because We Never Stop Learning

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

I have to think about all the services XXX Library provides, such as delivery of materials to shut-ins, children's story times, adult programs on literature, culture, history, and research for health, business, and a myriad of subjects. We are a vital community center and the most visited Town department. State funding through the State Aid to Public Libraries program (7000-9501) helps us serve all our residents, but it hasn't had a significant increase in many years.

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

I am elderly and my income is small and fixed. I cannot afford to buy newspapers, books, cds, because the largest part of my income goes to real estate taxes. I am at Plymouth Public Library nearly every day—it's the biggest thing I get for my tax dollars.

2)

XXXX Network (7000-9506) services are key to the community. It is what sets MA apart from other states. I moved here last year from GA and cannot describe the difference in the MA library system. I have spent more time reading this year, participate in programs and it has been a lifeline for me. It helps students and seniors (and all ages in between) alike. PLEASE keep the library system funded. It is an invaluable asset to the community!

3)

XXX Library provides a very good community centered venue to keep abreast of local developments. Further, the reference resources from real estate to taxes to travel, are invaluable. It is one of the few government expenditures that please the beneficiaries, improve them and give them a degree of confidence simply knowing it is there when you need it.

4)

Reading is so important to everything you do in life. It is a tool for teaching us all at any age. The XXXX Library has accelerated my grandchildren's way of learning as well as my own. With books, cds and the programs brought to us, the library has become a part of our lives. We all can't afford what there is in life. With the library, they always have those opportunities to enjoy learn, and explore. It is the center of our town, bringing us all together. When we can't get out of our homes, it is wonderful to access what we want through the library online.

continued

Sample Copy for

Because the Economy Depends on the Next New Idea

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

The XXXX Library is a place I visit when I need to do research. Librarians help me quickly locate the best, most authoritative information—whether found in the stacks or through an online database. Libraries save hours otherwise spent wading through Google’s search results. And the information I get is often better than what I would have found on my own. Libraries have kept up with the times. They are relevant and useful to everyone, and they deserve the funding needed to continue providing these public resources.

Sample Copy for

Because There’s a Difference Between a Web Search and Research

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

Our superintendent’s “welcome back” speech to teachers this year focused on the need to prepare children to keep up with the ever-changing world of technology and information – libraries play a very important role in this. The MBLC does an amazing job of providing resources that are available to everyone online. The XXXX school district depends on the MBLC provided databases because in these tight budget times we cannot afford to buy them on our own. I use these databases to show my 3rd to 5th graders new reputable sources of information. Using the databases also teaches them basic search skills and helps them improve their reading and critical thinking; all of these are basic building blocks for information fluency. We are extremely grateful that the MBLC is helping us teach our learners to succeed and thrive in today’s world and contribute to the technological and informational world of tomorrow.

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

As a high school teacher in the XXXX school system, I urge you to do whatever you can to protect the funding of our public libraries. I use the XXX NETWORK FOR RESEARCH, BOOKS, FILMS, EBOOKS, AND OTHER RESOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT MY SCHOOL’S TEACHING MATERIALS. I USE THESE RESOURCES FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FREQUENTLY, AND THEY DRAMATICALLY ENRICH THE LEARNING OF MY STUDENTS. IN A TIME WHEN WE ARE STRIVING TO RAISE STANDARDS AND INTEREST OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN LIFELONG LEARNING, The resources of our public libraries are invaluable. Please protect them.

continued

Because He Shouldn't Be Limited by the Street He Lives On

QUOTES FROM LIBRARIANS

1)

XXXX Library Network provides Internet access and remote access to electronic resources provided by the local library, the XXXX Network, the Massachusetts Library System (region) and by the state through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. By sharing resources, our libraries are able to provide services that they could never provide on their own. The state helps to fund library networks through 7000-9506 Library Technology and Resource Sharing which is lower than it was in 1998. When this account line doesn't keep pace, libraries pay more to be network members, which means cities and towns pay more.

2)

For libraries like XXXX In western Massachusetts, equal access to everything from Internet to digital and print resources matters to the residents we serve. That can be achieved through funding to the regional library system (Massachusetts Library System 7000-9401) and our network (XXXX 7000-9506). These two lines mean that our residents and library members are served with Internet and wi-fi, for daily delivery of books from libraries across the Commonwealth that we could not afford for all our patron requests, and for an automation of service that allows our borrowers to place holds on materials and read and listen and watch what they could not afford to purchase. When legislators cut funding to 9506 and 9401, it's residents that suffer because lack of funding devastates our sharing system.

3)

The MBLC enables us to have a variety of databases to offer as well as facilitating the interlibrary loan system. What we can't purchase we can borrow from another library and we can reciprocate, enabling resource sharing and regionalizing the library system into a whole. Funding the MBLC fully makes libraries more economical to run. Local funding sources are suffering and any effort to spread tax dollars more widely is a wise effort

4)

Resource Sharing, whether through MLS shipping of interlibrary loans or Library for the Commonwealth's (Boston Public Library) statewide online content, or the MBLC's statewide databases, is how libraries operate these days. Funding these lines allows libraries large and small to offer citizens of the Commonwealth up-to- date information and services. Loss of this funding means loss of services that the individual libraries cannot fund themselves. With cities and towns juggling budgets, State Aid to Public Libraries becomes important to many public libraries' operations.

5)

In providing equal access to all the benefits of excellent library and information services, the state's role is an important one. Through its funding State Aid for Libraries (7000-9501), the state provides funding as an incentive for towns to share resources. By supporting the regional system (7000-9401) and networks (7000-9506), the state provides support for infrastructure that allows for sharing technology and other resources. At XXXX Public Library we increasingly depend upon shared systems and shared resources to provide the services that are needed and wanted by our patrons.

QUOTES FROM PATRONS

1)

The online services that make it easy to find/read/watch a book, a movie, audiobook or do research is truly essential for people who may not have time to go to the library or an elderly person who may not drive. The ability to reserve something from any library anywhere in the system and have it delivered to your closest library is really a godsend. Budget lines: 7000-9506, 7000-9501, 7000-9101