

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 1

From: barbhershberg@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 10:38 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Budget

Importance: High

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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the National Library Week proclamation scheduled for April 21, and to thank you for recognizing the vital role libraries play in Santa Barbara County.

Each month, I meet with our library advocacy committee, which includes members of the Santa Barbara Library Foundation, the Friends of the Santa Barbara and Montecito Library, our Library Director, and representatives from the Library Advisory Board. Together, we work to support and strengthen our library system, and we have developed a toolkit to help communicate the importance of continued library funding across all county libraries.

While not every branch offers every program, the following highlights illustrate why libraries are such an essential community resource:

Books and More — One million checkouts. One million possibilities.

From novels to ukuleles, sewing machines to board games, the Library of Things expands access far beyond books. Every checkout is free, and every event is open to all. A library card is truly a passport to opportunity.

Community Services — Access. Anytime. Anywhere.

Libraries provide Chromebooks, hotspots, Wi-Fi, meeting spaces, and safe, welcoming environments. Whether someone needs to work, learn, connect, or create, the library is a trusted and accessible hub for all.

Support for People Experiencing Homelessness — More than books, a lifeline.

Libraries offer job preparation resources, social service connections, outreach support, and access to basic necessities. They provide a place to recharge, both literally and figuratively, and to begin rebuilding with dignity.

For Immigrants and Newcomers — Welcome in every language.

With ESL tutoring, multilingual collections, bilingual Storytimes, and workforce resources, libraries help individuals and families integrate, learn, and thrive in their new communities.

Educational and Enrichment Programs — From Storytime to career readiness.

Libraries support lifelong learning through early literacy programs, teen labs, 3D printing, coding kits, tutoring, workshops, and even opportunities to earn a high school diploma online.

Why This Matters — The library isn't quiet; it's powerful.

Libraries are among the last truly free public spaces—places where dignity meets opportunity, and where anyone, regardless of circumstance, can learn, create, and grow.

We understand that there are many competing priorities for public funding. However, beyond housing, it is difficult to think of a more essential and far-reaching service than our public libraries. Continued investment in libraries is an investment in education, economic mobility, and community well-being.

Thank you for your leadership and for helping make Santa Barbara County an exceptional place to live.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cronin Hershberg

President, Friends of the Santa Barbara Library

Katherine Douglas

From: Glynn Birdwell <glynnbirdwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 2:09 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: National Library Week - Find Your Joy!

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in recognition of the National Library Week proclamation on April 21 and to highlight the importance of the Carpinteria Community Library and all of our libraries in Santa Barbara County.

The Carpinteria Community Library is a hub in the daily life in our city. It is one of the few places where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather freely—to read, study, learn, access technology, attend programs, or simply feel a sense of belonging. For many residents it is where they “Find Their Joy”; for many it is also a lifeline.

What makes this moment especially meaningful is that libraries across Santa Barbara County are standing together in a shared commitment to serve the public. From Carpinteria to Santa Maria, libraries are working collectively to expand access, support education, and ensure that no one is left behind.

In Carpinteria, this impact is tangible. Families rely on the library for early learning and literacy skills. Students depend on it for homework help and internet access. Job seekers use its tools and classes to build skills and find employment. These everyday services powerfully strengthen our entire community.

At a time when access to trusted information, safe public spaces, and free resources is increasingly difficult to find, continued support for libraries is essential. Protecting and investing in our libraries means investing in opportunity, connection, and resilience for our community.

I respectfully urge you to support the Library this National Library Week and to continue prioritizing libraries as essential community infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and your service to Santa Barbara County.

Glynn Birdwell
Carpinteria Community Library Advisory Commission

Katherine Douglas

From: Cecilia Harris <cecilia.harris6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 3:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Thank You For Your Support For Libraries Across Santa Barbara County

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

As we look at our communities across Santa Barbara County, there is one resource that consistently serves our people, regardless of their age, their income, or social status - our public libraries. Libraries are trusted public centers for our people to learn, explore, find jobs, seek assistance and just be present in a safe, welcoming space.

I was so delighted to learn that there will be a Proclamation from you scheduled for April 21 in honor of National Library week. Unfortunately, I cannot attend in person, but I wanted to send this message to thank you for recognizing the importance of libraries to our Santa Barbara County communities, large and small. As Leaders in our communities, you do all that you can to assure that the people of Santa Barbara County have opportunity, are treated equitably, and can freely access the information and resources they need for their wellbeing. Your support of libraries helps all of us to achieve these objectives. I urge you to continue to do all that you can to keep our libraries strong - with dedicated staff, broad collections and needed programs. Now more than ever, when funding challenges affect our communities the most, it is critical that we protect and sustain our libraries. Please continue your strong support of our libraries. Thank you for all that you do for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Kimberlin Harris
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