

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Community Resources &  
Public Facilities - Group 4

**From:** Perie Longo <Perie@west.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:00 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Thank you for funding the SB Public Library

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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

While I regret not being at the Board Meeting this morning, I am thrilled to hear that you have fully funded for Library for the coming year. As a past Poet Laureate (2007-09) I am so grateful to the library for providing space to the Santa Barbara poetry community for readings, classes, and warm support which nourishes everyone's spirit in these challenging times, as do all the creative new events and programs including the tutoring and GED programs.

With Heartful Gratitude,

Perie Longo

## Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Irene Kelly <ikelly@wevonline.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Santa Barbara Public Library

**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 County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Irene Kelly, and I live in the 93111 area of Santa Barbara and work in the 93101 area of SB. Although I live in the designated "Zone 4" of the County library system, I am a cardholder and patron of the Santa Barbara Public Library and I've had the honor of offering Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship trainings both in English and Spanish through the Library. I've witnessed firsthand the inclusion, equity, and access that the library provides not only to specific zone residents but to everyone that needs access to digital literacy, financial literacy, multi-language support, after school programs and so many other programs that continue to support the wellbeing and upward economic mobility of our community members.

I am writing as a county resident to communicate my support for the Santa Barbara Public Library and to urge you to secure the FY 22-23 Santa Barbara Public Library per capita funding and consider increasing the limited status quo budget. As a citizen of our County, I'm concerned with two aspects: inequity in funding for our Santa Barbara Public Library, and the risk that any reduction in funding means to critical public services.

The Santa Barbara Public Library provides our entire county not only books and online educational resources, but a breadth of essential public services not provided by any other agency in Santa Barbara, including Early and Adult Literacy programs, employment assistance and Veteran's resources. These public services do not duplicate any services provided by other agencies, but instead **fill in the gaps**. The City Library shoulders the burden for key public services unmet by any other agency in Santa Barbara and is not receiving the financial support to meet the burden.

Please protect these vital county services by providing per capita funding (\$800,000) to the Santa Barbara Public Library budget. Any cuts in funding would place at risk all of their services, including:

- Youth Education Programming that provides Stay & Play (interactive learning for parents and caregivers) early literacy and pre-literacy classes, student success cards that support over 10,000 SB Unified students, and the Orton-Gillingham reading program for children and adults with dyslexia.
- Adult Education programming providing Career online high school for High School Diplomas, Adult Literacy in English and Spanish, digital literacy classes.(Santa Barbara Public Library is the only county library to offer services in Spanish.)

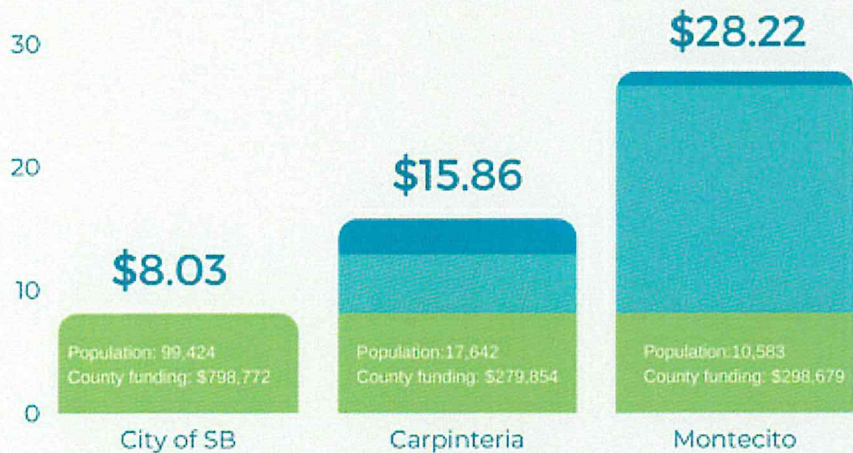
As a resident of Santa Barbara and a citizen of the entire County, I urge you to serve our County by funding the Santa Barbara Public Library. With your support the Santa Barbara Public Library can continue to provide above and beyond services that benefit our entire community.

Regarding Inequities within Funding:

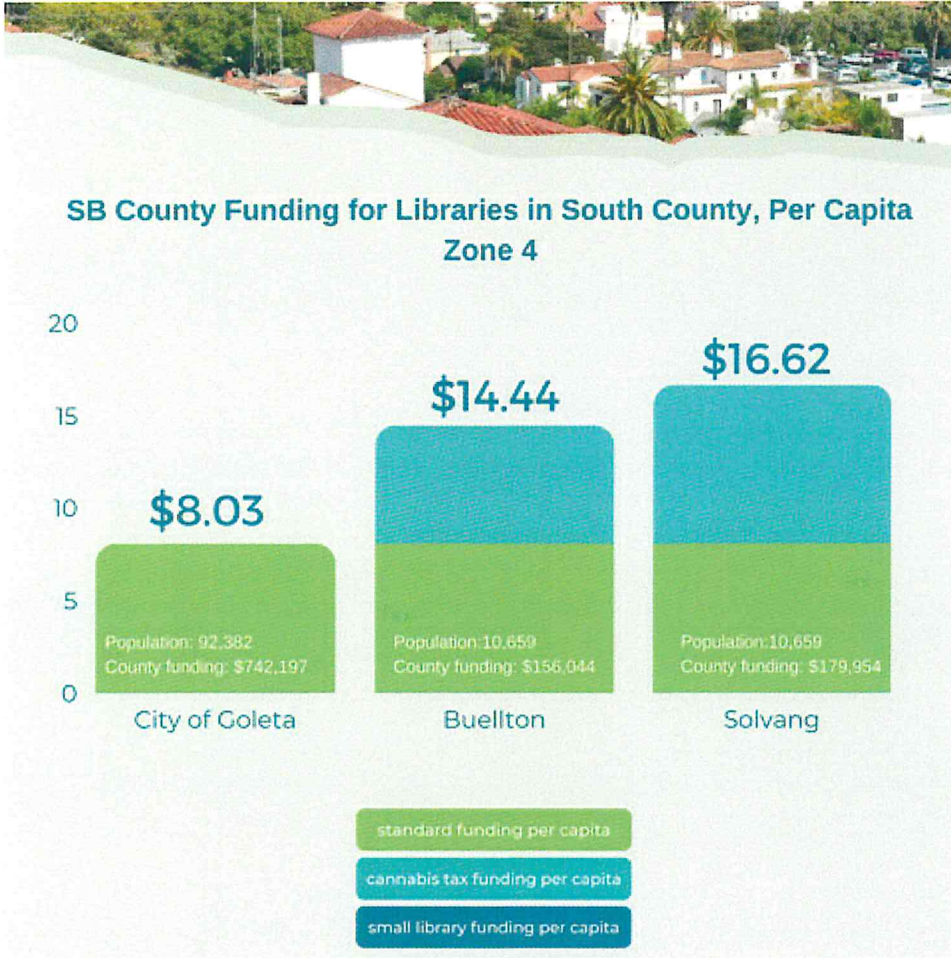
1. The Santa Barbara Public Library serves 68,000 Zone 1 cardholders with per capita funding based upon an estimated population of 99,000. The Goleta Public Library serves only 22,000 Zone 4 cardholders with per capita funding based upon an estimated population of 92,000.
2. Santa Barbara Public Library receives \$800,000 to serve 68,000 cardholders in Zone 1 and Goleta Public Library receives \$700,000 to serve 22,000 cardholders in Zone 4. With an overlap of 4,798 Goleta City residents using Santa Barbara Public Library cards and only 252 Santa Barbara residents using Goleta Library cards.
3. The Santa Barbara Public Library serves 68,000 Zone 1 cardholders at **Central and Eastside with \$8.03 per capita** funding, while the other two Zone 1 branches receive additional cannabis and small branch funding so that **Carpinteria Public Library**, serving 6,300 cardholders, receives **\$15.86 per capita** funding and **Montecito Public Library**, serving 3,803 cardholders, receives **\$22.24 per capita** funding. (Please see attached chart.)



### SB County Funding for Libraries in South County, Per Capita Zone 1



- standard funding per capita
- cannabis tax funding per capita
- small library funding per capita



Thanks, and sending my best regards,



**Irene Kelly (she/her)**  
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