

## *Top 10 Reasons Why Cutting State Library Funding (2014-2015 Budget) for Mecklenburg and Wake Counties is Not a Good Idea*

1. **Permanent, Recurring, and Would Increase Each Year.** As a proposed cap on state library aid of \$400,000.00, a formula in which county population is a prominent variable, Mecklenburg and Wake Counties, both of which are growing at a rate that is more than double the state average<sup>1</sup>, would be impacted more each year if their populations continue to grow rapidly as expected.
2. **Would Impact Library Services to 24% of all black or African Americans and 26% of Latino or Hispanics in North Carolina.** Mecklenburg and Wake counties collectively represent 24% of the state's black or African American community (n=523,628) and 26% of the state's Latino or Hispanic<sup>2</sup> (n=221,301).
3. **Would Impact Library Services to 25% of North Carolina's Children.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively serve 526,525 children which is 25% of all North Carolina's children<sup>3</sup>.
4. **Would Impact Library Services to 45% of North Carolina's Young Adults.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively serve 59,277 young adults which is 45% of all North Carolina's young adult population<sup>3</sup>.
5. **Would Mean a Loss of 20,000 books a year.** Both Mecklenburg and Wake Counties rely on state aid to purchase approximately 10,000 new books a year<sup>4</sup>.
6. **Would Impact 23% of all North Carolina Registered Library Users.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively represent 23% of all of North Carolina library registered library users or 1,259,588 adults and youth last year (2012-2013)<sup>5</sup>.
7. **Could Potentially Impact 34% of all North Carolina Reference Transactions.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively represent 34% of all of North Carolina library reference transactions or 3,138,137 last year (2012-2013)<sup>5</sup>.
8. **Could Potentially Impact 28% of all North Carolina Books Loaned or Borrowed.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively represent 28% of all of North Carolina library items loaned (to other libraries) or borrowed (by patrons) or 37,536 transactions last year (2012-2013)<sup>5</sup>.
9. **Would Impact 20% of North Carolina's Population.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively represent 20% or 1,907,736 of North Carolina's 9,765,229 residents<sup>1</sup>.
10. **Would Impact 12% of all North Carolina Library Branches.** Mecklenburg and Wake Counties collectively represent 12% or 39 of North Carolina's 315 libraries.

<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau Quick Facts, Mecklenburg County, Accessed June 11, 2014 from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37119.html> and Wake County, Accessed June 11, 2014 from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37183.html>

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau Quick Facts 2013. Mecklenburg County is 31.8% black or African American (n=315,130) and 12.5% Latino or Hispanic (n=123,872); Wake County is 21.4% black or African American (n=208,497) and 10% Latino or Hispanic (n=97,428); Combined they represent 523,628 of the 2,166,573 total black or African American North Carolina residents (24%) and 221,301 of the 856,781 total Latino or Hispanic residents (26%).

<sup>3</sup> Statistical Report of North Carolina Public Libraries, TABLE 12 - LIBRARY PROGRAMS, ATTENDANCE, AND MEETING SPACE, July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

<sup>4</sup> Personal correspondence with Mecklenburg and State Library.

<sup>5</sup> Statistical Report of North Carolina Public Libraries, TABLE 11 - SERVICE MEASURES: USERS, VISITS, REFERENCE, ILL