

Top Reasons Why Cutting State Library Funding (2014-2015 Budget) in North Carolina is Not a Good Idea

1. **6:1 Return on Investment.** North Carolina public libraries had an approximate \$5.92 return-on-investment per every \$1.00 spent in 2012-2013¹; this means the proposed budget cut of \$284,000 will cost taxpayers in 2013 dollars a total of **\$1,681,074.86 in lost value.**
2. **Increasing Population, Decreasing Library Funding.** A 9% cut in state library funding since 2008-2009²; 11% if proposed 2% cut is made while the NC population grew by 5% or 426,556 residents³ during the same time period. Between 2000 and 2010, North Carolina was the sixth fastest growing state in the nation. Its growth rate was 18.5%, nearly double the national rate of 9.7%.
3. **Americans Like Libraries More than College Football.** Five times more people visit U.S. public libraries each year than attend U.S. professional and college football, baseball and hockey games combined⁵.
4. **Minorities Value and Need Libraries More.** African Americans and Hispanics are twice as likely to use library computers as Asian Americans and whites⁵; 30.7% of North Carolina's population is black or African American or Hispanic or Latino.
5. **Those in Poverty Value and Need Libraries More.** Families making less than \$15,000 annually are two to three times more likely to rely on library computers than those earning more than \$75,000⁵.
6. **Children who Read Score Higher on Tests.** Research has found that children who participated in a public library summer reading program had better reading skills at the end of the third grade and scored higher on standard tests than the students who did not participate⁴.
7. **Almost Last in the Nation.** North Carolina ranks 45th of 50 states in per capita state library funding⁵.
8. **Library Usage Increasing, Library Funding Decreasing.** In the past decade nationally, visits have more than doubled to 1.2 billion per year— with 1.7 billion items borrowed per year⁵.
9. **Libraries are ALWAYS a Great Investment.** Nationally, for every tax dollar invested in public libraries, there was a national average return of more than \$4 in benefits to patrons, the community and the economy⁵.
10. **NC Continues to Cut Library Funding.** Over the past 7 years (from FY 07-08) we've experienced a 16% drop and over 5 years (from FY 09-10) it's been a 9% drop.



¹ ROI Formula: Library ROI = Library Value Per Capita/ Library Cost Per Capita; Library Value Per Capita = Total Library Value/Total NC population; Library Value = (book and e-book circulation x retail cost) - (book and e-book circulation x per capita cost) + (program attendance x movie ticket retail cost) + (total public computer usage x retail cost of cybercafés)

² Five-Year Statewide Summary, 2009-2013, Statistical Report of North Carolina Public Libraries, July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

³ North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, accessed June 5, 2014 at

http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm

⁴ Susan Roman, Deborah T. Carran, Carole D. Fiorehttp (2010). THE DOMINICAN STUDY: PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS CLOSE THE READING GAP. Accessed on June 5, 2014 from http://gslis.dom.edu/sites/default/files/documents/IMLS_finalReport.pdf

⁵ American Library Association Library Facts & Figures