

August 5, 2025

Dear Council,

In the interest of maintaining, and even growing, the quality of life in our community, we advocate for an increase of the Corpus Christi Public Library (CCPL) budget for our city in FY2025-26. This would facilitate hiring much needed personnel, both full and part time.

When comparing Corpus Christi with 14 other Texas cities, both larger and smaller, we are #8 in population. However, we do not rank appropriately in FY2025 when compared with these cities in multiple areas. See attached data.

- CCPL ranks 8<sup>th</sup> of 15 in the amount of General Fund. However, the 1.8% allocated to the library budget ranks 12<sup>th</sup> of 15, which is well below the average of 2.64%.
- The average dollar per library is 1.91M. CCPL has an average of 1.03M per library, which ranks them 13<sup>th</sup> of 15.
- Despite ranking 8<sup>th</sup> of 15 in size of population, CCPL ranks **last** with staff per library to serve the community.
- When considering dollars per capita based on population and Library budget, CCPL ranks 12<sup>th</sup> of 15.

In summary, CCPL is below average for percentage of the General Fund allocated to the library budget; below average for money spent per library; below average for staff per library; and below average for library dollars per capita.

Though there is a potential increase of funds for the Library department in the FY2025-26 proposed budget, the percentage of the General Fund for CCPL is still well below the 15-city average of 2.64%. We are in favor of raising that number to at least 2% of the General Fund, which is still significantly below the 2025 average, in order to more effectively finance our community Libraries. We ask that these funds be available in the Operating Expense category for Expenditures in the Proposed FY2025-26 Budget. This allowance will enable hiring personnel for such positions as a full-time **Library Assistant(s)**, a Collection Development Manager and/or a Reference Librarian.

Thank you for your consideration for our Corpus Christi Public Libraries and the pivotal role they play in our City by the Sea.

Respectfully,

The Corpus Christi Library Advisory Board

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