

City of Corpus Christi Budget overview

Library Advisory Board Agenda Item



6/2/2026

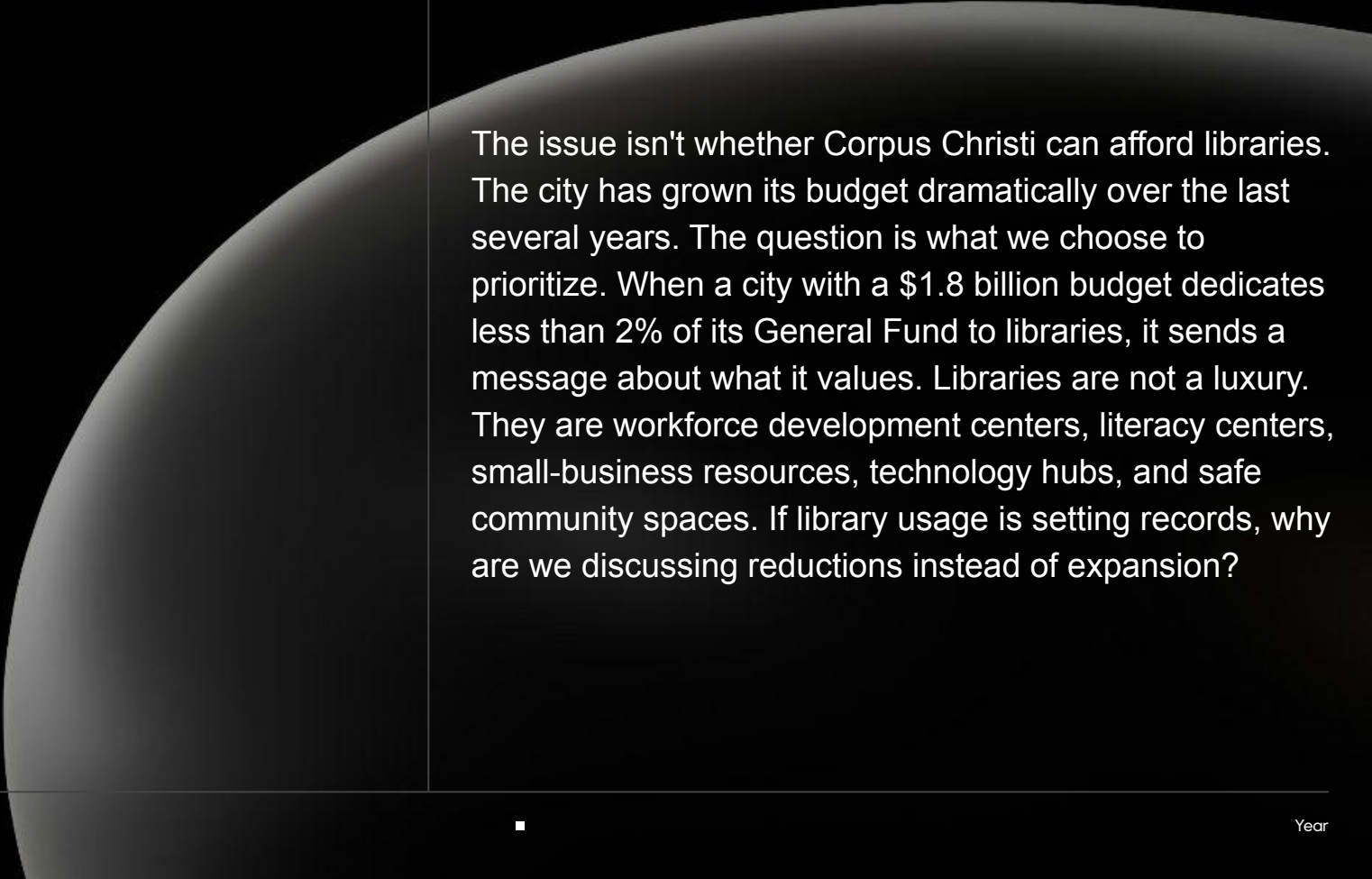
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This is a high-level look at how the City of Corpus Christi's budget has evolved over the last five fiscal years

		Total Budget	Library Budget	Library Usage Trend
2021	COVID recovery period; emphasis on maintaining services and reserves.	\$1.2-1.3 Billion	\$5.6-5.8 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 213,589 Visitors 463,533 Materials checked out 100,314 Library card holders
2022	Revenue recovery accelerated; infrastructure investments increased	\$1.3 Billion	\$5.8-6.0 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 330,094 Visitors 600,582 Materials checked out 102,423 Library card holders
2023	Record - setting budget focused on public safety, streets, parks, and utilities.	\$1.4 Billion	\$6.0-6.3 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 385,080 Visitors 791,237 Materials checked out 116,011 Library card holders
2024	Operating budget of roughly \$918 million plus a capital budget of about \$604 million	\$1.5 Billion	\$6.2 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 531,663 Visitors 835,185 Materials checked out 115,632 Library card holders
2025	Largest budget in city history, emphasizing public safety, streets, infrastructure, and employee compensation.	\$1.8 Billion	\$6.3 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 550,000 Visitors (estimated) 875,000 Materials checked out (estimated) 110,000 (estimated)

Corpus Christi Public Libraries' operating budget was approximately \$6.2 million. A city population of roughly 317,000–320,000 residents, puts library spending at about **\$19–20 per resident per year**

Annual circulation: 844,079 items (FY 2025) Visitors: 378,095 (FY 2025) ÷ 378,095 = approximately **\$16.40 per visit.**



The issue isn't whether Corpus Christi can afford libraries. The city has grown its budget dramatically over the last several years. The question is what we choose to prioritize. When a city with a \$1.8 billion budget dedicates less than 2% of its General Fund to libraries, it sends a message about what it values. Libraries are not a luxury. They are workforce development centers, literacy centers, small-business resources, technology hubs, and safe community spaces. If library usage is setting records, why are we discussing reductions instead of expansion?

Roads move people.
Libraries move opportunity.

Roads connect neighborhoods.
Libraries connect residents to education,
technology, and economic mobility.

Corpus Christi public libraries numbers at a glance:

- * 378,095 annual visitors
- * 844,079 items circulated
- * 91,033 program attendees
 - * 3,441 free programs
 - * 80 community partners
- * Six locations serving a city of roughly 320,000 residents

The challenge facing Corpus Christi Public Libraries is not declining relevance. It is demand.

Sources

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