
NEWS RELEASE



Feb. 3, 2022

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Pierce County Library Board discusses eliminating fines and fees and other issues

PIERCE COUNTY, Washington – The Pierce County Library System Board of Trustees will discuss eliminating fines on books and materials returned after their due dates and fees for replacing lost books and materials, and conduct other business at its [Board meeting](#) on **Wednesday, Feb. 9, 3:30 p.m.**

Join the meeting by phone or online:

- Phone: 253-215-8782, webinar identification: 853 3159 8218, passcode: 305939
- Zoom with a Zoom account from a web browser or an app:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85331598218?pwd=TVRWcEVYTFY3N0tod0FSa1ZBV2xqQT09>

Since mid-March 2020, the Pierce County Library System has not been assessing fines on overdue books, movies and other materials, nor has it collected fees for replacing unreturned books and materials. It removed the fines and fees to alleviate further economic burdens brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library System's Board of Trustees is examining whether to eliminate fines and fees permanently.

Library administrators and staff support the removal of fines and fees as a way to provide better and more equitable access to Library services for all people. In the past two years, when the Library System has not been collecting fines, staff observed no change in the rate materials returned to libraries.

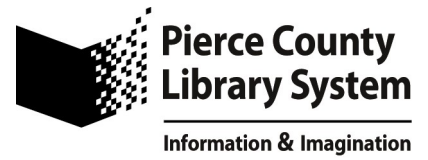
Library administrators believe fines and fees pose an economic barrier to using and accessing libraries, which are a significant public resource connecting people to information and technology. During the past 30 years, many other library systems have gone fine free to increase public access and remove barriers.

More information: <https://www.piercecountylibrary.org/files/library/board-packet-02092022.pdf>

About Pierce County Library System

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 634,000 people throughout Pierce County with 20 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than one million books, e-books, audiobooks, movies and other materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, Pierce County Library Administrative Center, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

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