

The following is from the MA Library Association:

FY10 Budget Goes to Conference Committee

Contact Legislators to Support Higher Numbers for Libraries

The final results of the Senate State budget for FY2010 have been completed, and final decisions regarding the state's library budget will now be made by a Joint House and Senate Conference Committee. It is urgent that large numbers of library advocates contact their representatives and senators immediately to make the case on why the higher funding levels are essential to MA libraries! As declining state revenues continue to negatively impact funding support, it is more urgent than ever that we inform those who make funding decisions how important libraries are in supporting and empowering MA citizens, especially during economic recessions. The Senate appointed Senators Panagiotakos, Brewer and Knapik to a confer with Representatives C. Murphy, L'Italien and DeMacedo. This Joint House and Senate Conference Committee will be completing their work on the state budget in late June, 2009. Then the FY2010 state Conference Committee budget goes to the Governor, who has authority to line item veto. If your representatives and senators are not members of the Conference Committee, it is vital that you ask your legislators to contact the members of the Conference Committee with the request that they support the higher budget numbers. The FY2010 budget recommendations are listed below:

Items not in conference: The Regional line item (7000-9401) was increased by amendment in the Senate budget to \$14,591,160 for FY2010. This figure matches the House figure for FY2010, so the Regional Line Item will not go to Conference. Please also note that the Regional Line Item does not include earmarking of a per capita amount for the Library of Last Recourse so it will not be an item for a Joint House/Senate Conference Committee. Both the House and Senate have the same amounts for the Worcester Talking Book Library (\$421,143) and Perkins Talking Book Library Program (\$2,241,016) so these also will not be items for the Joint House and Senate Conference Committee.

However, three line items in the MA Board of Library Commissioner's budget will go to the Joint House and Senate Conference Committee.

- **The MA Board of Library Commissioners Administrative budget line item 7000-9101: House figure for FY2010 is \$1,042,269 and the Senate figure is \$938,042. Please ask your representatives and senators to support the House figure!**
- **State Aid to Public Libraries line item 7000-9501: House figure for FY2010 is \$8,641,308 and the Senate figure for FY2010 is \$7,107,657. Please ask your legislators to support the House figure!**

Library Technology and Resource Sharing line item 7000-9506: House figure for FY2010 is \$2,429,238 and Senate figure for FY2010 is \$1,929,238. Please ask your legislators to support the House figure!

5/26/09 WMRLS blog

Dear WMRLS Library Supporters:

I'm pleased to share some GOOD NEWS in these difficult times!

The FY10 budgets of both Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate resulted in an increase of over 14% for the 6 Regional Library Systems in MBLC account (7000-9401). At the same time, there was no specific language about funding for Boston Public as Library of Last Recourse (LLR), so the amount the LLR gets from this account was decreased dramatically.

Since both the House and Senate versions of the budget were the same, this account is not subject to revisions by a legislative Conference Committee. It is gratifying that the encouragement and advocacy of so many people made a real difference with our State legislators, who responded in a big way. We express our appreciation to our Representatives and Senators for their support of the Regions and the important services they provide, especially in this tough economy.

~ Thank you, John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, Western Massachusetts Regional Library System

The following is from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) website:

FY2010 Legislative Agenda

Strong libraries are essential for education and lifelong learning, for economic development, for strong communities and for a strong democracy.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) works toward equity of access to library services by creating a level playing field so that residents of all ages across the Commonwealth have access to essential library collections, services, facilities and electronic content regardless of where they live. Through libraries, residents find information and knowledge to improve their lives, to support education, to build their communities and to sustain our democracy.

No library can meet the demands of its users with local resources alone. That's why state funded programs are so critical to the provision of library services. Citizens of Massachusetts are using libraries more than ever, and they rely on the links between libraries provided through state funding administered by the MBLC. Funding cuts since 2001 have placed immense burdens on local library budgets at a time when demand for services is rising.

Fund Statewide Library Services

Account 7000-9101 Administration of the Board of Library Commissioners

Previous High \$1,229,472 (FY2001) FY2009 Budget \$1,048,560 FY2010 Target \$1,437,249

The MBLC provides statewide leadership to implement cooperative library service that works toward the goal of equal access to library resources for all. Under-funding of the agency leaves the Board unable to fulfill its statutory obligations to advise trustees and to properly administer grant programs.

Account 7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Public Libraries and the Library of Last Recourse

Previous High \$17,623,954 (FY2002) FY2009 Budget \$17,166,071 FY2010 Target \$23,235,420

Regional library systems provide services that are vital to local libraries' survival. Yet, after 7 years of inadequate funding the delivery system that

carried 12.5 million items last year consumes a disproportionate share of regional budgets. Regions are not able to provide basic services—bookmobile and deposit collections, licensed databases, training programs and technical assistance—that support the 1766 public, school, academic and special libraries that are members statewide.

Account 7000-9402 Talking Book Library (Worcester)

Previous High \$440,000 (FY2009)

FY2009 Budget after 9C cut \$423,685

FY2010 Target \$450,000

Account 7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Lending Agency (Perkins)

Previous High \$2,341,359 (FY2009) FY2009 Budget after 9C cut \$2,225,543 FY2010 Target \$2,511,359

As the “public libraries” for residents who are blind, legally blind, or physically unable to use printed books these programs work in tandem to provide a lifeline service of talking books, magazines and newspapers; machines to read talking books; large print books; described videos; and specialized reference and children’s services. There are 22,000 active users from every community in the state, but at least 150,000 people could be users if funding permitted.

Account 7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries

Previous High \$9,949,804 (FY2001) FY2009 Budget \$9,989,844 FY2010 Target \$15,000,000

Use of our public libraries hit an all time high for the 8th consecutive year last year (57,078,862 check outs) with books, CDs, DVDs flying off the Shelves and successful early literacy programs for kids and programs promoting civic engagement for adults attended more than ever. The requested funding will match the local commitment to maintain minimum standards, and it recognizes the cost of directly circulating materials to non-residents. Funding for that part of the program has been flat since 1994 while borrowing has increased 66%.

Account 7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing

Previous High \$4,420,235 (FY2001) FY2009 Budget after 9C cut \$2,816,000 FY2010 Target \$7,400,000

Under-funding of this account passes costs of library networking back to cities and towns, denies residents (especially students) access to essential electronic research materials to support education and economic development, and relegates residents of small towns mostly in the

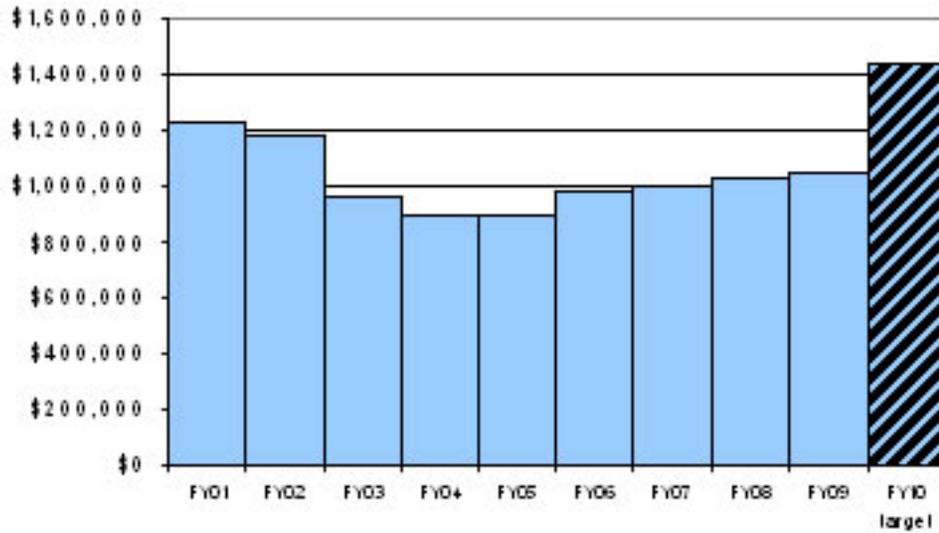
western part of the state to second class status when it comes to accessing the state's library resources.

Account 7000-9507 Public Libraries Fund

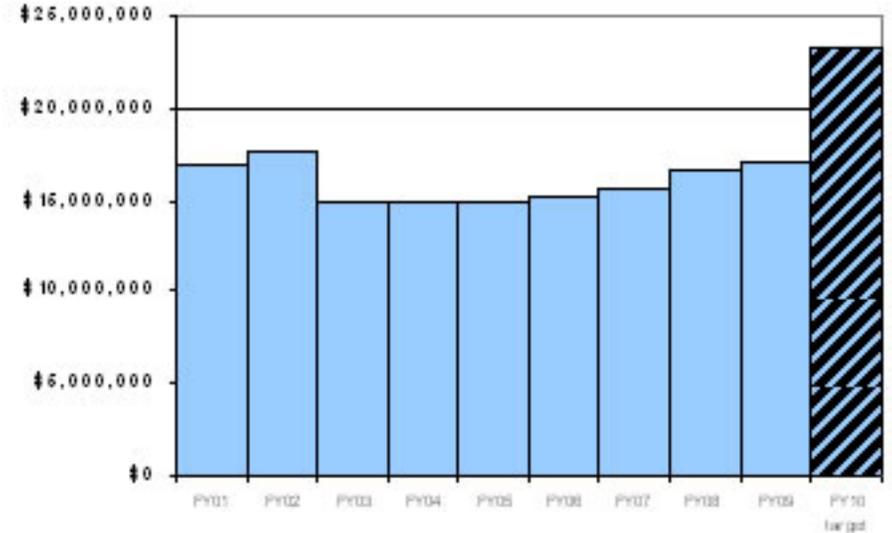
Previous High \$250,000 (FY2008) FY2009 Budget after 9C cut \$0 FY2010 Target \$1,000,000

This state incentive for public libraries to enhance the services they offer through private fund raising is designed to create local partnerships that strengthen libraries and communities. A 50 cent match per dollar raised was originally proposed. At the target funding level the match would be approximately 10 cents.

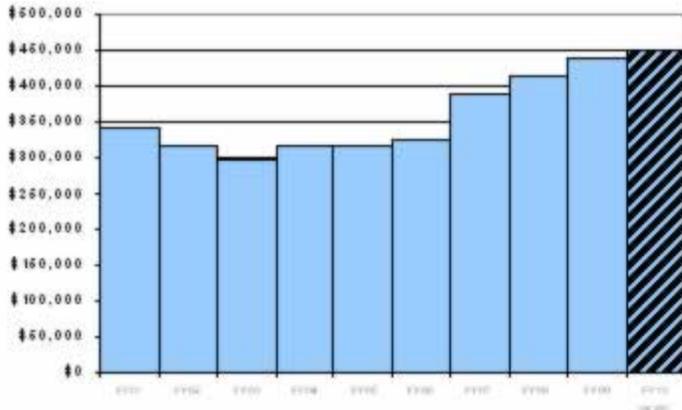
Administration 9101



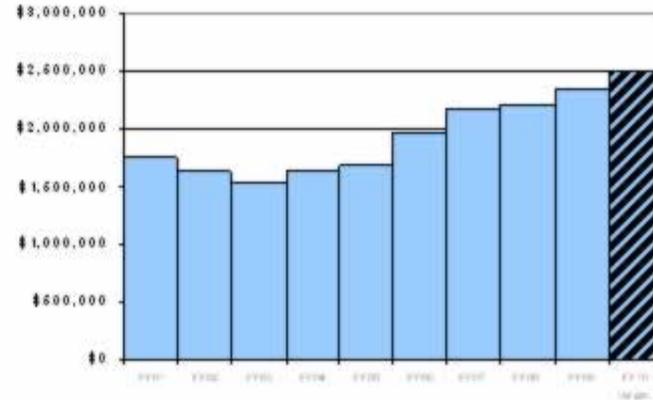
State Aid to Regional Libraries 9401



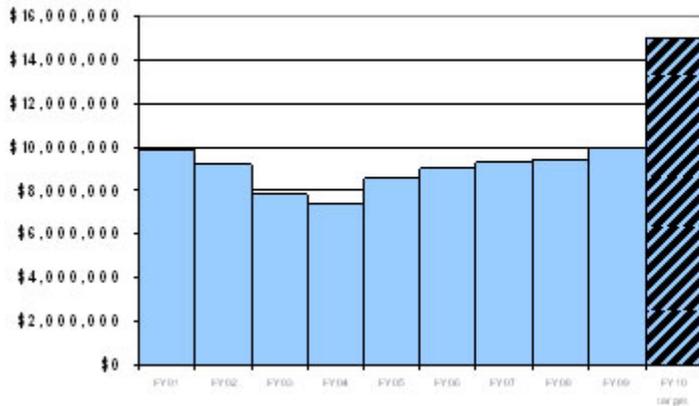
Talking Book Library (Worcester) 9402



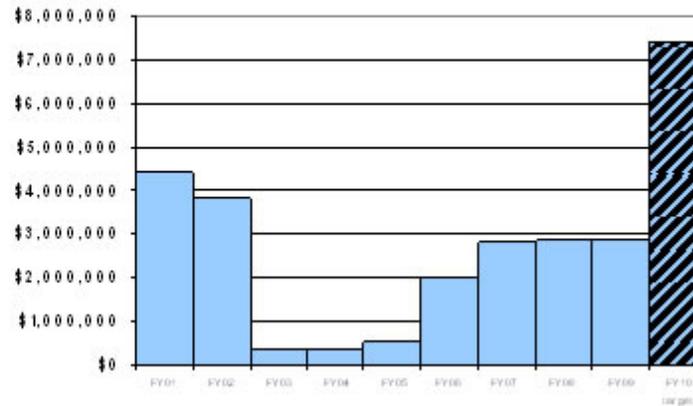
Talking Book & Machine Lending (Perkins) 9406



State Aid to Public Libraries 9501



Library Technology & Resource Sharing 9506



This document is not intended as anything other than providing information from multiple sources on the process of the MA. State Legislature in developing the FY 2010 budget for the MBLC. The information is believed to be accurate as of 6/9/09 from various websites.