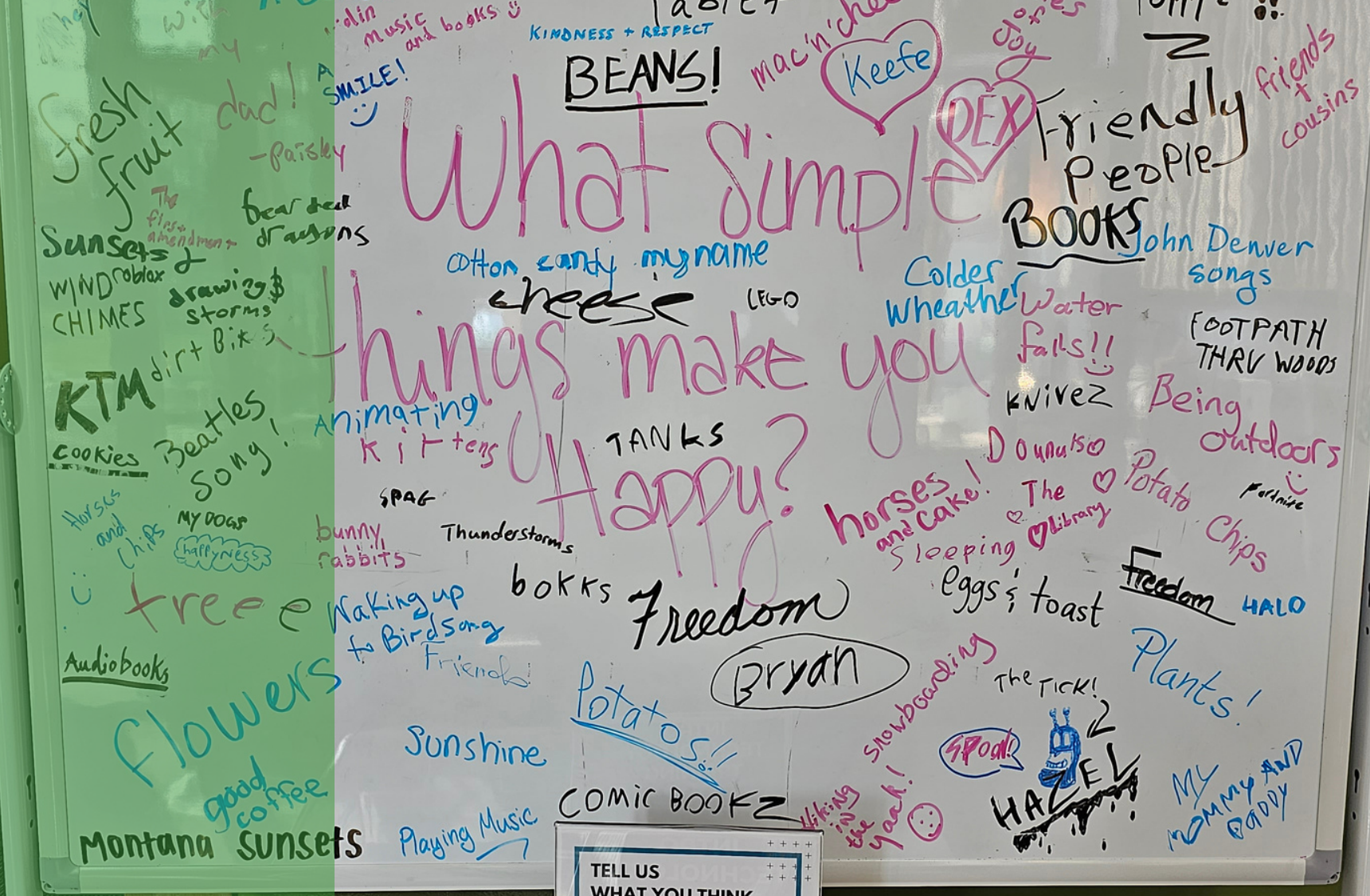


LINCOLN COUNTY  
**LIBRARY**  
MEET. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.





# WHO WE ARE

## VISION

A thriving Lincoln County through perseverance, innovation and opportunity.

## MISSION

Connecting our communities to ideas, information and each other.



# OUR VALUES



## **RESPECT FOR PEOPLE**

Honor diversity, individual perspective and the right to privacy and confidentiality.

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Ensure free and open access to ideas and information for all.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Foster dynamic collaborations to provide the highest quality of service within and beyond library walls.

## **ADAPT AND INNOVATE**

Embrace change and encourage creative ideas and solutions to better serve the public.

## **INTEGRITY**

Uphold the trust of the community in making efficient and effective use of all resources.

# OUR AMAZING TEAM



LIBRARY DIRECTOR

**ALYSSA  
RAMIREZ**



PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

**DUSTINA  
DEANS**



CIRCULATION CLERK

**ADAM  
STEPHENSON**



CATALOGING SPECIALIST

**KATHRYN  
MURPHY**

## LIBBY BRANCH

# OUR AMAZING TEAM



BRANCH LIBRARIAN

**SHAREE  
MILLER**



LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**MEGAN  
BROTHERS**

**TROY BRANCH**

# OUR AMAZING TEAM



BRANCH LIBRARIAN

**SIRI  
LARSEN**



LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**BRITTANY  
HEINTZ**

**EUREKA BRANCH**



# FY23 STATISTICS

## PROGRAMS

**703**

Hosted 703 programs for all ages with **16,945 people** in attendance

## CIRCULATION

**78,541**

The Library circulated **61,083 print materials** and **17,458 e-materials**

## OUTREACH

**3,993**

Mailed 3,993 books to kids in Lincoln County through **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** program

## INTERNET

**13,884**

Hosted **8,671 sessions** on our public computers as well as **5,213 WiFi** sessions









# BY THE NUMBERS

## REQUESTS

**28,908**

We **lent** our items to other libraries **11,891** times. And **brought in 17,017** items upon patron request.

## COLLECTION

**94,787**

Our collection has 94,787 items and through the Partner Sharing system our patrons have access to **thousands more.**

## CARD HOLDERS

**7,624**

People have a card at one of our libraries.

## PATRONAGE

**50,678**

People walked through our doors last year.



# TESTIMONIAL

“We love storytime, the children have learned to cooperate and interact with others and play, as well as make friends. Even though sometimes they may not act like they are listening, they always enjoy the stories. I truly believe the library storytime helps prepare the young ones for their future education. Giving them both the social and educational skills to be better listeners, learners and friends before they start their journey through school.”

**LINDA GUSTIN**



# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

### County

- In 1986, Montana voters enacted I-105, which limited property tax revenues
- Revenues can only be increased at half the rate of inflation

### Library

- In 2017, the Library budget sustain a \$30,000 cut
  - Loss of 1.5 FTE at Libby Branch
- Foundation and Friends of the Library groups covering gaps in budget
- In 2023, the Library budget cut an additional \$17,000

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The Library budget is supported by a combination of voted dedicated funding and general property tax revenues. The Library has NEVER operated solely off its dedicated funding.

### FY24

Voted Mills	3.49
County General Mills	3.907
Non-tax Revenue (in Mills)	1.649

**Total** **9.046**

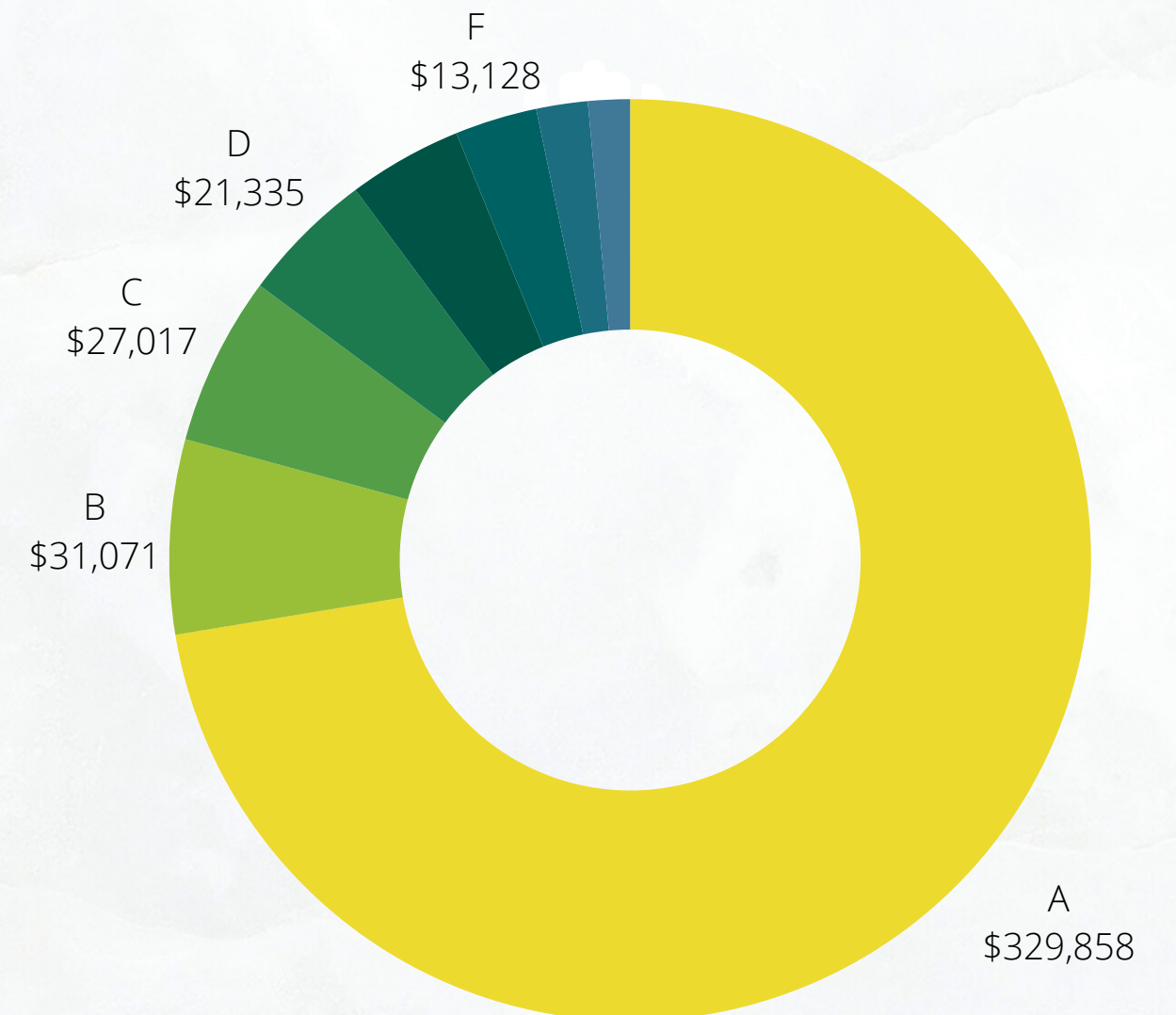
# FY23 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN\*

## OPERATING REVENUES

Lincoln County	\$431,782.00
Montana State Aid	\$14,476.95
<u>Grants/Misc. Revenue</u>	<u>\$9,317.63</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$455,576.58</b>

## OPERATING EXPENDITURES

A. Personnel	72.4%
B. Books & Materials	6.8%
C. Utilities & Insurance	5.9%
D. Maintenance & Supplies	4.7%
E. Databases & Subscriptions	4.0%
F. Technology	2.9%
G. Training & Travel	1.8%
H. Programs & Library Services	1.5%



\* Amounts reflect *final* expenditures

# FY24 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN\*

## OPERATING REVENUES

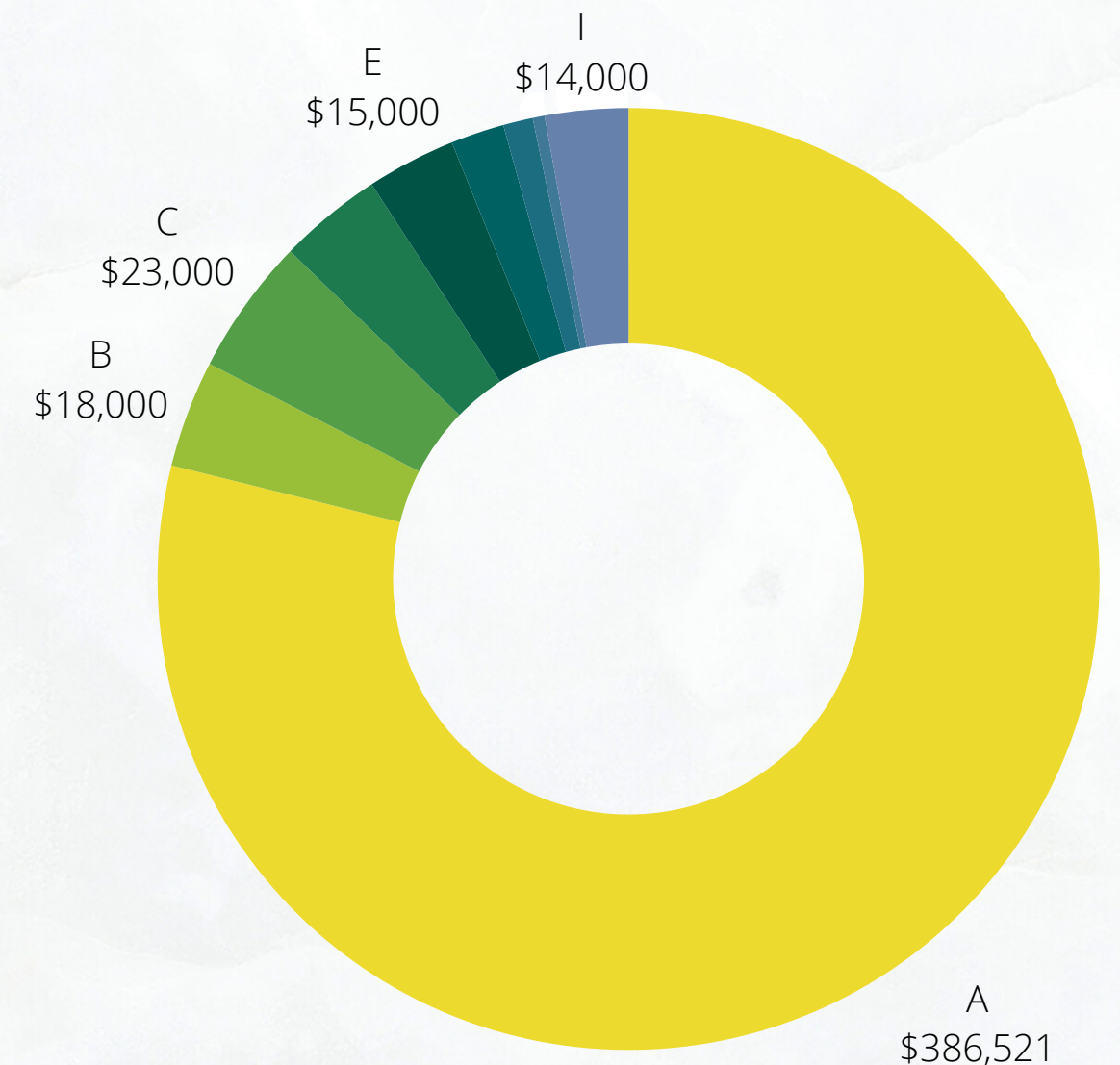
Lincoln County	\$476,021.00
<u>Montana State Aid</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$490,021.00</b>

## OTHER

Cash Reserves	\$50,000.00
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## OPERATING EXPENDITURES

A. Personnel	78.9%
B. Books & Materials	3.7%
C. Utilities & Insurance	4.7%
D. Maintenance & Supplies	3.6%
E. Databases & Subscriptions	3.1%
F. Technology	1.8%
G. Training & Travel	1.0%
H. Programs & Library Services	0.4%
I. State Aid	2.9%



\* Amounts reflect *budgeted* expenditures

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## HOW DO THE BUDGET CUTS AFFECT THE LIBRARY?

1. Libraries run by fewer staff
  - Already operating with barebones staff. Further reduction poses serious safety concerns for the public and staff.
2. Libraries open fewer hours
  - As the main branch, Libby is required to maintain 40 service hours a week to meet Montana Public Library Standards. Potential loss of \$14,000 a year.
3. Deferred maintenance to facilities
  - Comparable libraries in MT operate with 1 facility.



# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## WHAT IS A LIBRARY DISTRICT?

A library district is a governmental unit with an elected board of trustees having the power to establish a property tax mill levy for library services. Voters in the district create a library district and establish the maximum mill levy through an election.

The proposed library district will:

- be county-wide
- have a 5 member board of trustees
- require a mill levy up to 13.49 mills

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## WHAT IS THE COST OF A LIBRARY DISTRICT?

CALCULATING THE TAX REQUIREMENT OF A VOTED LEVY OF 13.49 MILLS For Lincoln County Library District				
Assessed Market Value	Tax Rate	Taxable Value	Specific Mills	Tax Requirement
\$100,000	1.35%	\$1,350	13.49	\$18.21
\$200,000	1.35%	\$2,700	13.49	\$36.42
\$300,000	1.35%	\$4,050	13.49	\$54.63

Note: this replaces the current 3.49 voted mills on your property tax bill.

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

<i>Library District Passes:</i>	<i>Library District Doesn't Pass:</i>
Expanding our hours at all three branches, providing more service to all community members	Closing library branches OR reducing hours providing less service to all community members
Funding for increased staff and services	Limited funding resulting in decreased staff and services
Continuing and expanding early literacy and afterschool programs for children, teens and parents	Reduced early literacy and afterschool programs for children, teens and parents
Expanding adult programming and activities	Reduced adult programming and activities
Providing computer and technology classes and expanded support for job seekers	No computer and technology classes and reduced support for job seekers
Improving Library facilities to better meet community needs	Failing to adequately address facility issues, facilities will continue to fall into disrepair
Increased funding for books and other library materials	Decreased funding for books and other library materials
Advancing the Troy Library and Opportunity Center project	Pausing the Troy Library and Opportunity Center Project until operations funding is secured
	Failing to meet Montana Public Library Standards, disqualifying the Library from receiving State Library Aid of around \$14,000

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## LIBRARY DISTRICT (13.49) VS. VOTED MILLS (3.49) \*

### LIBRARY DISTRICT

Personnel	\$476,924
Books & Materials	\$30,000
Utilities & Insurance	\$30,000
Maintenance & Supplies	\$31,000
Databases & Subscriptions	\$25,000
Technology	\$15,000
Training & Travel	\$10,000
Programs & Library Services	\$15,000
Election	\$4,000
Capital Improvement	\$50,000
State Aid	\$14,000

**TOTAL \$700,924**

### VOTED MILLS

Personnel	\$104,214
Books & Materials	\$14,000
Utilities & Insurance	\$19,000
Maintenance & Supplies	\$13,500
Databases & Subscriptions	\$15,000
Technology	\$4,000
Training & Travel	\$5,000
Programs & Library Services	\$3,000
State Aid	\$14,000

**TOTAL \$191,714**

\* Mill value calculated by averaging the value of FY23 and FY24 mill

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## WHO CONTROLS THE LIBRARY?

The library board is the governing body, charged with establishing policies, administering the budget, hiring the Library Director and more.

### County Library

- County Commissioners appoint trustees to the Library Board
- County Commissioners approve the Library's budget

### Library District

- Voters elect trustees to the Library Board
- Voters establish the Library's *maximum* budget

# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## HOW WILL THE LIBRARY DISTRICT REMAIN ACCOUNTABLE TO VOTERS?

The Library will continue to operate transparently:

1. Library remains a public, government entity
2. Library Board and Library continue operations as outlined in MCA Title 22, Chapter 1
  - a. A library district is NOT governed by Title 7, Chapter 11 for Special Districts
3. Monthly meetings remain open to the public
4. Budget/Expenses remain public record
5. Required to meet Montana Public Library Standards

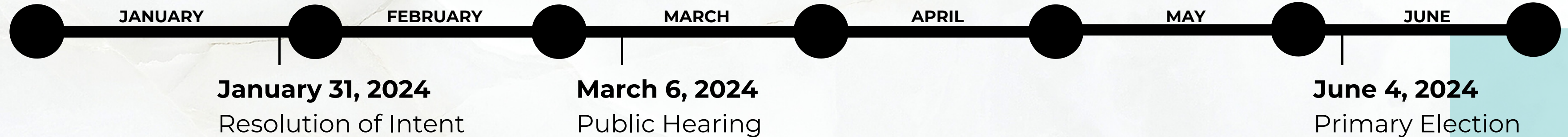
# LIBRARY DISTRICT INITIATIVE

## WHAT'S NEXT?



### Public Comment period

Please submit comments to:  
Corrina Brown, Clerk and Recorder  
[cbrown@libby.org](mailto:cbrown@libby.org)



Resolution for Creation  
of Library District



# TESTIMONIAL

“I love having a safe space to learn and play in our community. There is no expectation to pay for things and so many amazing resources for myself and my family (5yo & 2yo). We also have the most amazing librarians who truly care about our community and love putting on events like rhyme and read, educational presentations, live music and so so much more!”

**BROOKE BOLIN**





# CONTACT INFORMATION

## **LIBRARY**

Alyssa Ramirez, Library Director  
aramirez@lincolncountylibraries.com

Library Trustee  
board@lincolncountylibraries.com

## **COMMENTS**

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cbrown@libby.org

## **COMMISSIONERS**

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