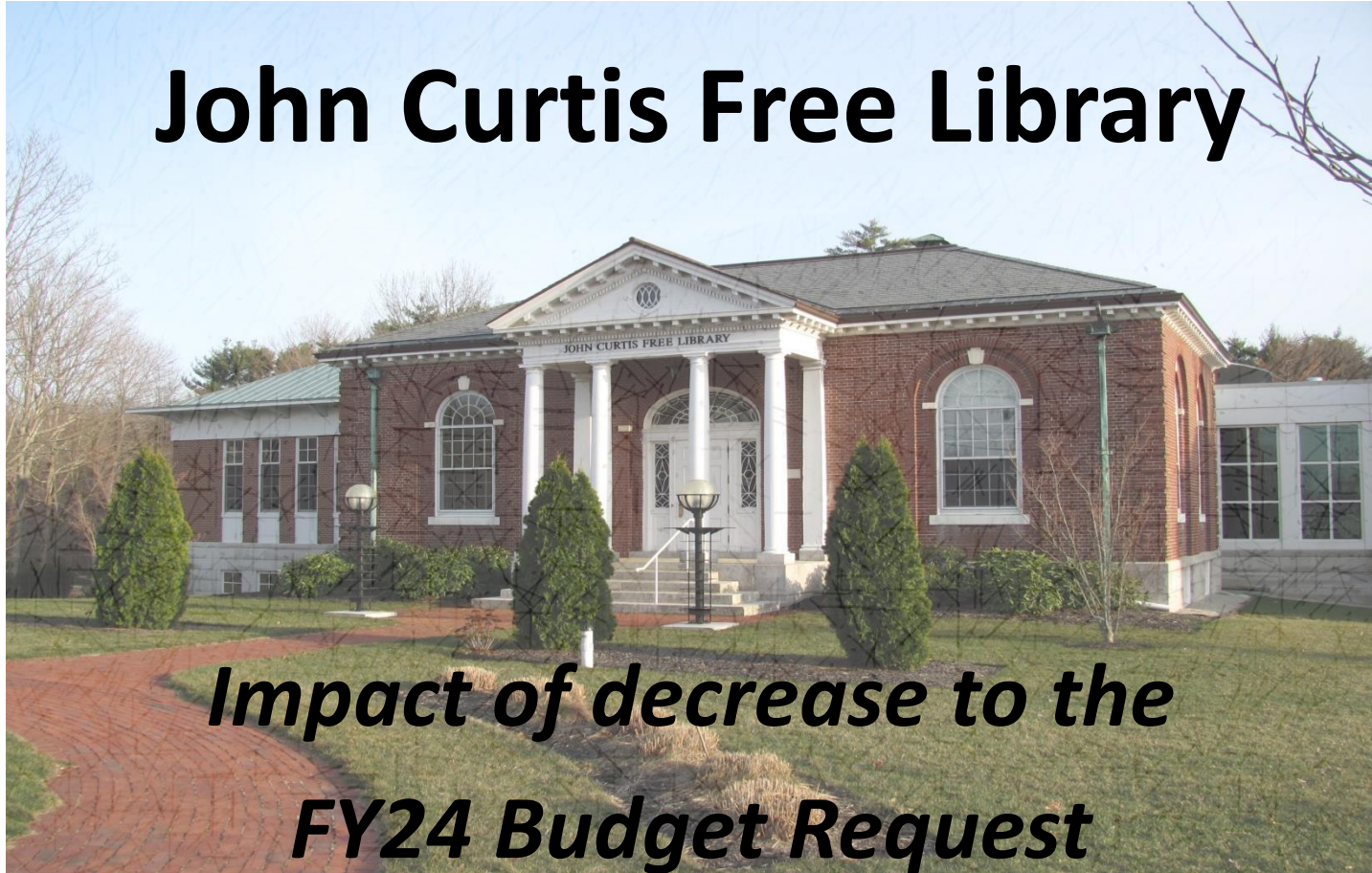


John Curtis Free Library



*Impact of decrease to the
FY24 Budget Request*

State Aid to Libraries

Massachusetts General Law ([M.G.L., c.78, s.19A](#)) states that a municipality must appropriate a figure of at least the average of the last 3 years' municipal appropriations to the library for operations, increased by 2.5%, in order to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries. This figure is known as the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR). A municipality must meet the MAR (or apply for a waiver) in order to be eligible to be certified for State Aid to Public Libraries.

The formula for MAR looks like this: $[(FYaa + FYbb + FYcc) / 3] \times 1.025 = MAR$ for FYdd. Using this formula, the FY24 budget should be **634,139**. *The Library's FY24 budget request, in the amount of \$634,276, is as close to MAR as could be made without cutting personnel.*

Hanover has had to apply for a MAR waiver for the past two fiscal years. We are in the midst of a five-year 'probation,' of sorts, to ensure that we are on an upward trend. A cut of any kind to the budget request as presented would mean a 3rd waiver. This may result in **decertification** by the state. This is a five year forfeiture of State Aid. After that, Hanover may petition to rejoin the program.

What does DECERTIFICATION mean?

Hanover becomes a Library “island” for a five year period. Residents may only borrow Hanover items. Other libraries will not allow holds or lend to patrons of decertified Libraries; that is network policy.

Hanover loses approximately \$100,000 in State Aid monies over that period.

The loss of State Aid will mean a reduction in materials and services. The following items will no longer be available, or will be extremely limited in number:

- Museum Passes
- In-Library WiFi
- Hot Spots (circulating WiFi)
- Teen and Adult Programming
- Kits / Outdoor Games

Of course, in the short term, it also means fewer new materials on our shelves, as the materials line is what will be cut. What funds remain in the budget may have to be reallocated; for example, more funds will be spent leasing enough copies of best-sellers to fill our holds.

