

Five things YOU can do to save Oakland's public libraries

1. **Tell your friends and neighbors about the devastating funding cuts to libraries**
Ask 10 of your friends to call or write the mayor and city council to support our libraries. Tell them that Oakland **could lose 14 of its neighborhood libraries**, including César Chávez Branch, Asian Branch and the Tool Lending Library. Make sure that everyone at your church, union, school, or job knows about the threat to libraries. Tell your friends. Post why the Oakland Public Library is important to you on social media you use. Like the Save Oakland Library page on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/saveopl>.
2. **Share your library experiences with city officials**
Make sure that Oakland's mayor, city manager, and city council know what libraries mean to you and your community. Personal stories are best, but a form letter is okay. Find out who your city council member is by going to: <http://gismaps.oaklandnet.com/councils/>
3. **Attend Oakland City Council meetings**
We need a big turnout. Bring signs supporting libraries. Bring children who love libraries. Request to speak. Speaker cards can be requested online one week in advance at: http://www.oaklandnet.com/cityclerk/speaker_instructions.htm.
4. **Contact newspapers, radio stations, TV stations and local blogs**
Call the media and ask if they are covering the proposed Oakland library closings. When you read related news coverage, write a letter to the editor with thanks and a message about why Oakland's public libraries are needed.
5. **Organize - Gather petition signatures and distribute informational fliers**
These activities must happen outside the library locations--near branches or at community events. Please visit our website for details, including the downloadable petition and fliers. Check our volunteer page for an activity near you.

Possible Messages

- Keep libraries open. Don't close branch libraries.
- Don't violate the public trust by throwing away Measure Q funds
- Closing libraries hurts all of Oakland's citizens.
- Libraries give everyone, regardless of income, free access to books and the Internet.
- Libraries have already sacrificed by limiting service to 5 days/week at all of the branches.
- These cuts are unfair. The Library represents only 2% of the general fund monies but the "All Cuts" proposal calls for 198 full time library jobs to be eliminated out of 367 citywide. The library's share of jobs lost equals more than 52% of the total positions eliminated.
- Measure Q supplies the library's entire budget for buying books, DVDs, CDs, downloadable audiobooks and e-books, and other popular materials. Locations which remain open will not have new materials to offer the public.
- The "All Cuts" budget proposal suggests that there will be limited or no programs, including adult literacy, children's storytimes and the Summer Reading Game.