

residents contacted us with reference questions 267,704 times, and people accessed our government documents collection over 9,000 times.

Most notably, SLRC provides a high speed internet network, IT infrastructure, and accessibility to many statewide public libraries, municipal governments, and educational institutions at no charge.

SLRC has been flat funded for FY 2026 and FY 2027, and we have already been making difficult cuts where we can. In FY 2025 we fully utilized the \$12,760,847 in the state allocation and supplemented costs with \$1,790,000 from the Enoch Pratt Free Library's general fund in order to maintain essential services. The City of Baltimore and the Enoch Pratt Free Library cannot maintain this level of support. While we have not yet had to cut interlibrary loan services, we have had to cut back the staffed hours of some of our public service departments. It pains us to turn people away, but a few of our departments have become appointment-only out of necessity. In addition, the cost of electronic resources continues to skyrocket, as does building maintenance and other major expenses.

Please vote in favor of the small incremental increases that will allow us to continue to serve Maryland residents and libraries with the level of service they deserve. A very small increase to us will truly have an exceptional impact on lives throughout our state.

Very sincerely,



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