



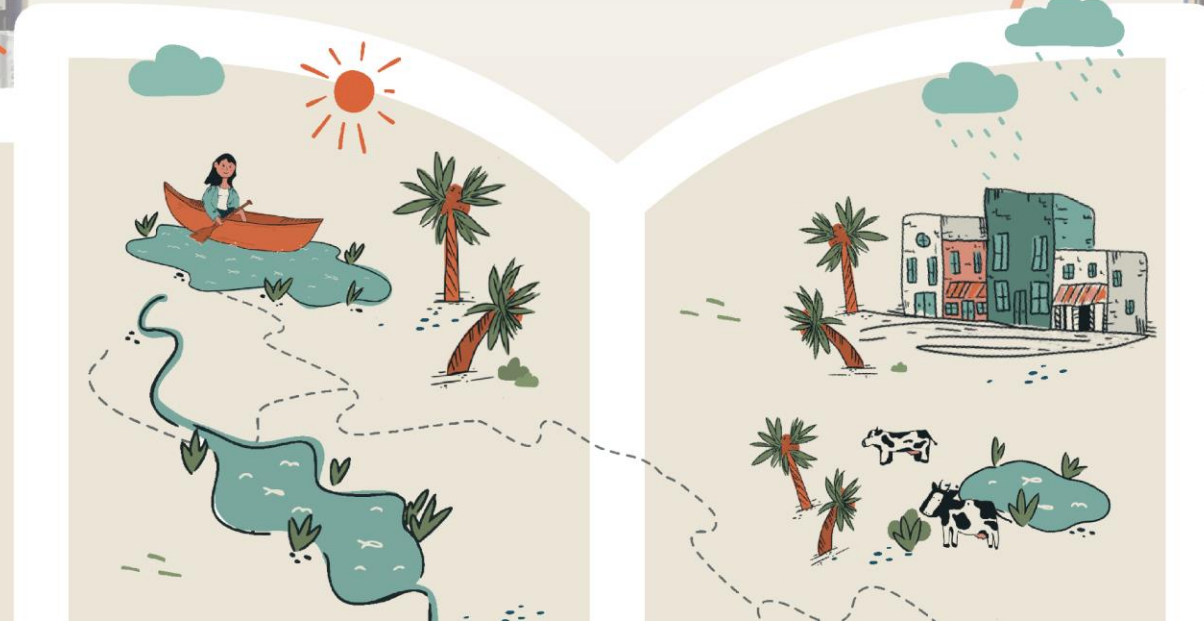
Board of County Commissioners

June 23, 2026 Presentation



HERNANDO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MASTER PLAN



Project Timeline



Purpose of this Master Plan

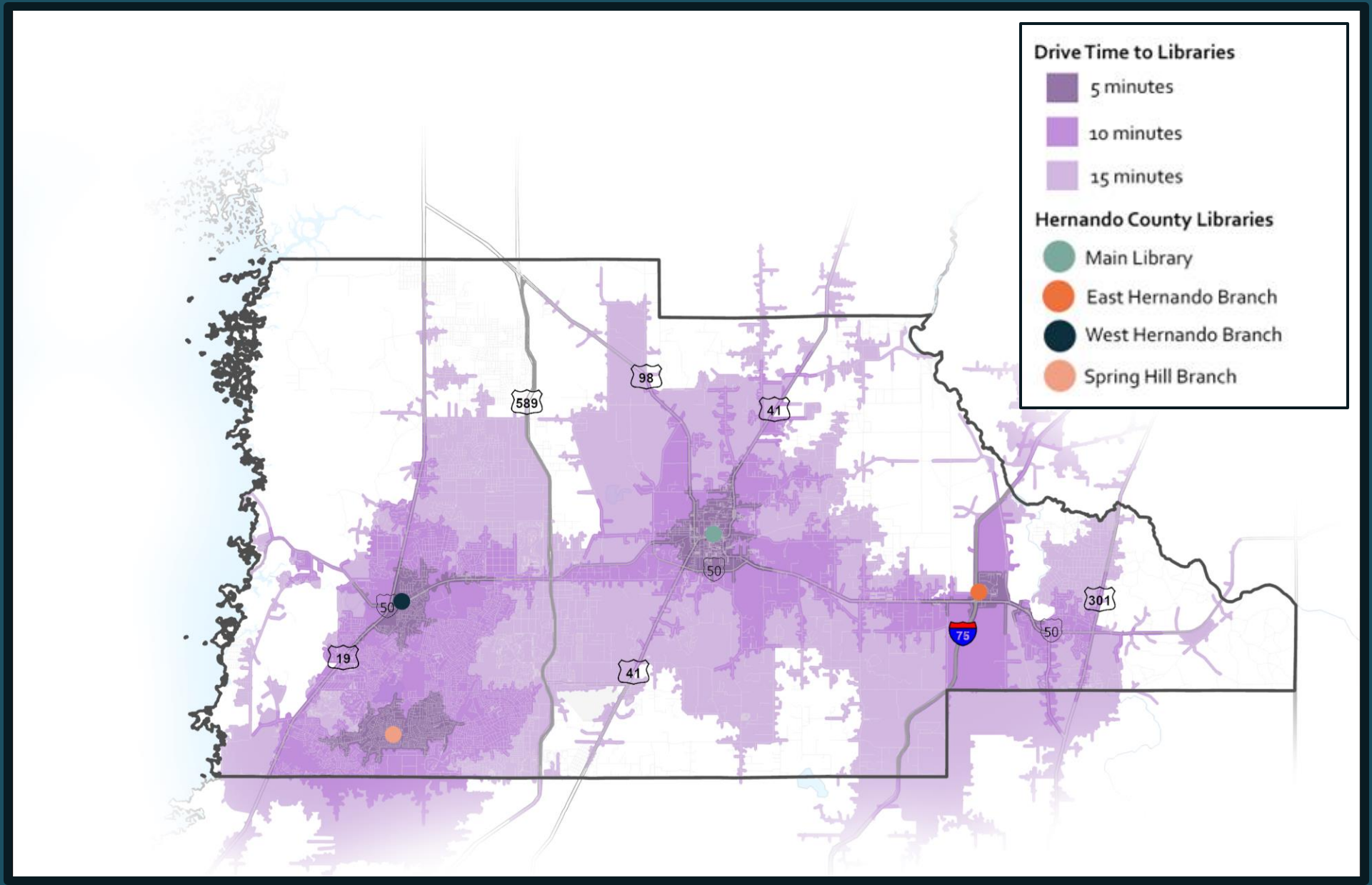
- Assess current assets and operations
- Identify gaps and opportunities
- Benchmark against other communities
- Establish a roadmap for the future



Goals & Objectives

- Maintain reputation as customer-focused
- Strengthen partnerships with the community
- Expand service access
- Create a hub for knowledge, education, and lifelong learning
- Provide a welcoming space for gathering, culture, and civic engagement
- Offer access to government services and economic tools
- Remain a center for child and teen literacy
- Implement long-term strategies to sustain challenges





Current Drive Time to Libraries



DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

209,629

Estimated Population, 2024



252,200

Forecasted Population, 2050

Hernando County's daytime population of 190,505 plays a key role in shaping library services for both residents and workers.



66,210

Workers



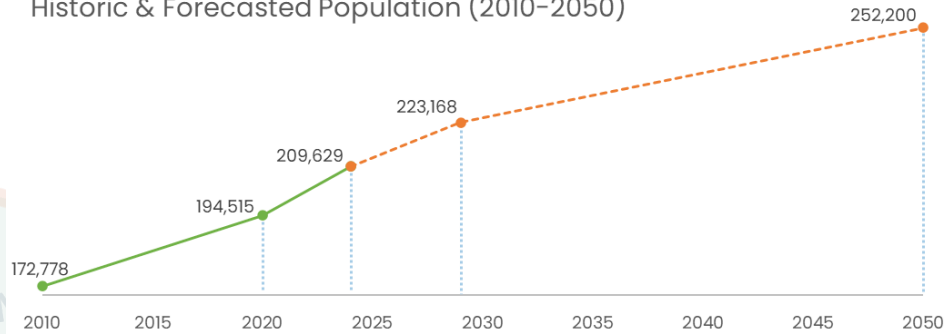
124,295

Residents

+21%

Population Increase Since 2010

Historic & Forecasted Population (2010-2050)

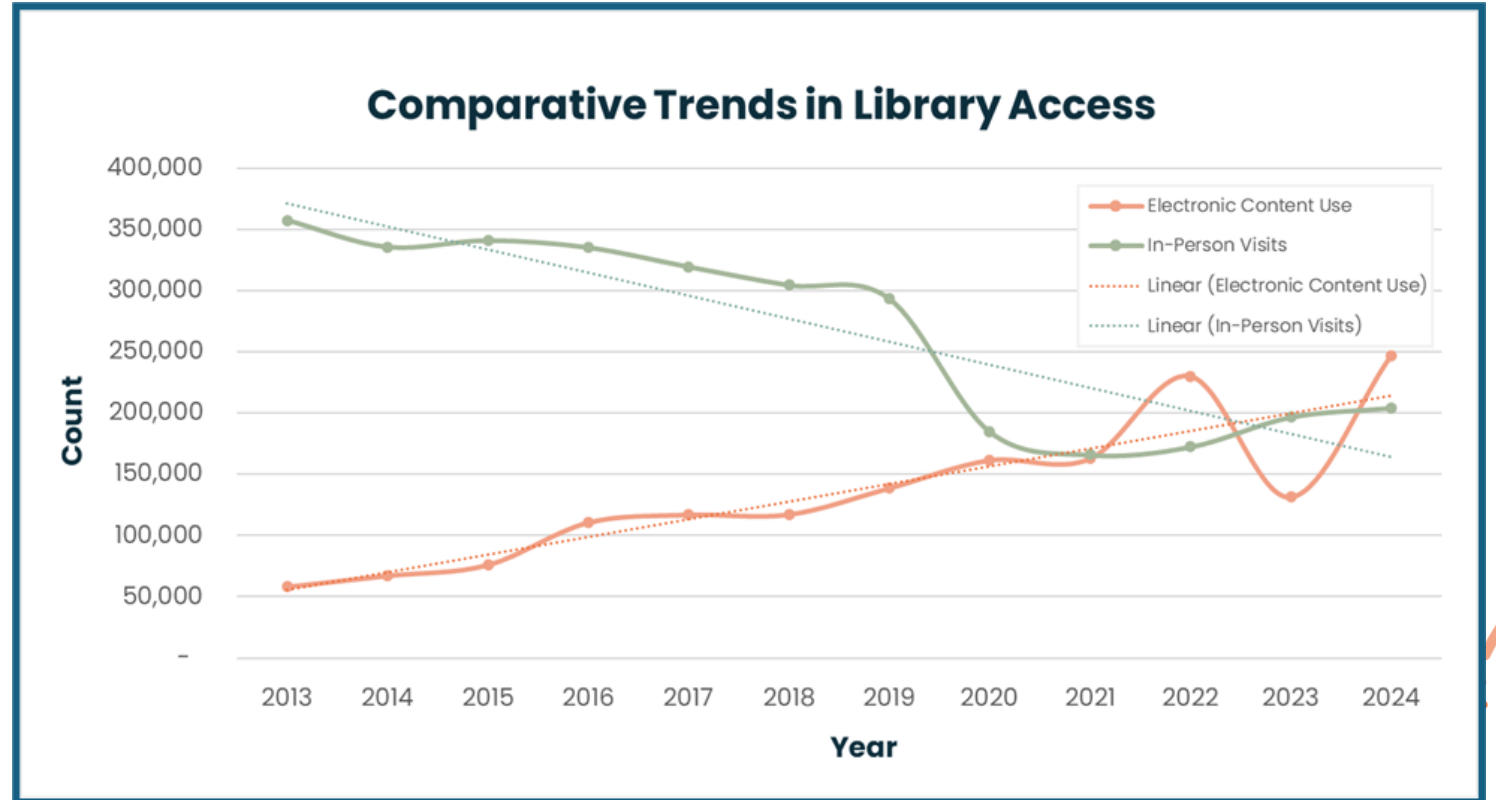


Source: ESRI Data and BEBR Medium Population Projection.

Age Structure, 2020	0 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 54	55 to 74	75+
49.7	9.3%	11.1%	36.4%	30.7%	12.5%
Median Age					
Race & Ethnicity, 2024			Income, 2020		
76.1%	White Alone		\$65,341	\$35,468	
17.1%	Hispanic Origin (Any Race)		Median Household Income		Per Capital Income
11.5%	Two or More Races		94,958		
5.7%	Black Alone		Households		
Educational Attainment, 2024					
33.4%			89.95%		
<u>Associate's Degree</u> or Higher			High School Degree or Higher		

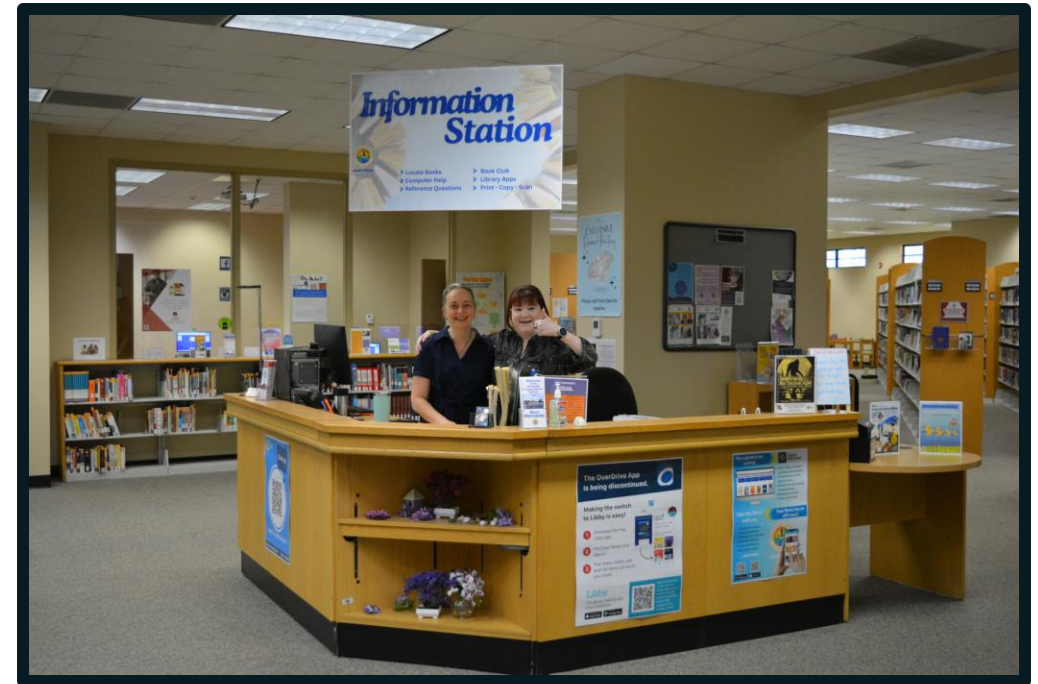
Needs and Priorities Assessment: Performance and Trends

- In-person visits down
- Digital use increased
- Cost effective funding
- Growth potential



Needs and Priorities Assessment: Benchmarking

- Peer County Comparison
 - Sumter
 - Citrus
 - Clay
- Aspirational
 - Pasco County
- Other Contextual Counties
 - Charlotte
 - Leon
 - Okaloosa
 - Marion
 - Lake



Jurisdiction	PHYSICAL ITEMS IN COLLECTION		BOOKS		E-BOOKS		AUDIO (ELECTRONIC)	
	TOTAL	PER USER	TOTAL	PER USER	TOTAL	PER USER	TOTAL	PER USER
Sumter County	80,616	1.39	64,494	1.12	15,266	0.26	8,946	0.15
Citrus County	196,940	3.60	181,299	3.31	28,523	0.52	4,743	0.09
Charlotte County	193,998	2.38	144,767	1.78	33,962	0.42	29,467	0.36
Hernando County	116,227	1.64	105,307	1.49	29,395	0.41	10,335	0.15
Clay County	190,619	2.16	168,566	1.91	18,948	0.21	27,448	0.31
Leon County	306,331	2.19	257,157	1.84	40,844	0.29	33,014	0.24
Okaloosa County	290,931	7.43	239,821	6.13	15,110	0.39	23,982	0.61
Marion County	583,354	2.45	532,133	2.24	349,608	1.47	10,082	0.04
Lake County	682,486	5.01	569,379	4.18	23,989	0.18	8,317	0.06
Pasco County	226,487	0.61	203,975	0.55	533,652	1.43	215,670	0.58
State of Florida	26,307,630	1.13	22,170,000	0.95	19,310,000	0.83	9,280,000	0.40
United States of America (2023)	748,712,157	13.5439	651,090,700	1.94	1,498,165,066	4.46	794,426,104	2.36



Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- ✕ **Library Staff Workshop #1**
 - *December 2025*
- **Pop-Up Event**
 - *Holiday Parade – December 2025*
- **Online Survey**
 - *November 2025 – February 2026*
- **Stakeholder Meetings**
 - *Includes County Facilities, Local Home School Groups, Elections, County Emergency Management, Friends of the Library, Library Advisory Committee*
- **Library Staff Workshop #2**
 - *February 2026*





Online Survey Results

- **531** total responses
- **98%** of respondents live in Hernando County
- **26%** of respondents use multiple library locations
- **22%** of all respondents recorded that they use Spring Hill branch the most

Complete our Community Survey today and help prioritize how Hernando County Public Library can best serve you and the residents of Hernando County.

Scan the QR Code below.



Online survey was open from November 2025 through February 2026

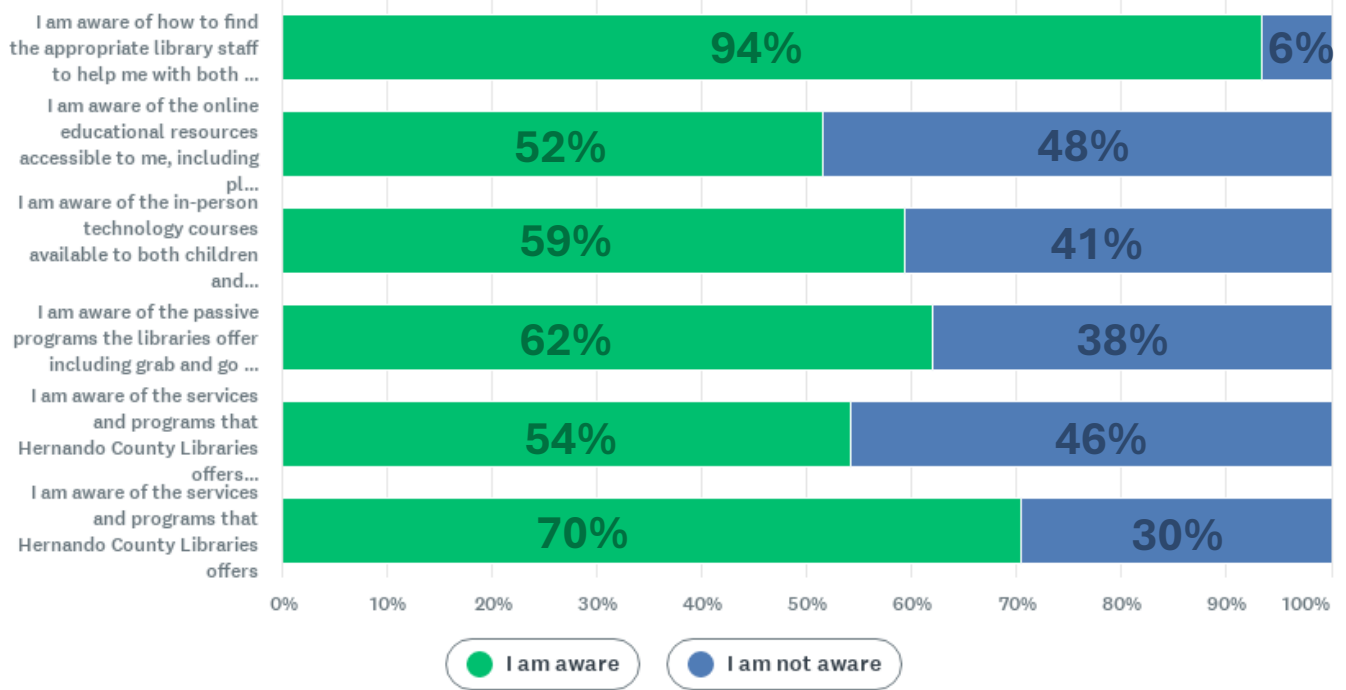
Awareness and Outreach Needs



Over 50%
of respondents are **aware of these library related services**, however a substantial amount are unaware of these services

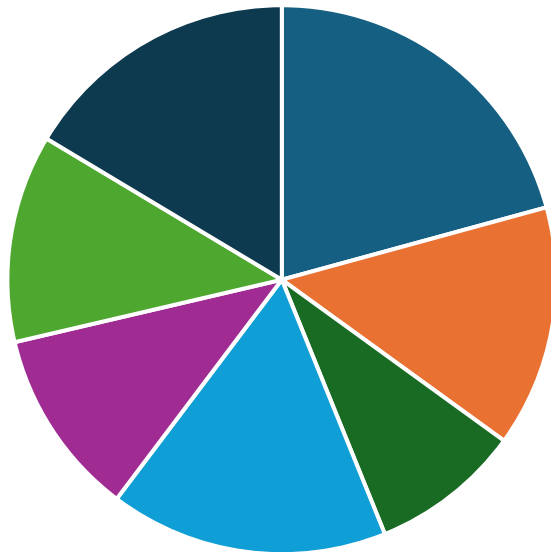
59%
of respondents who do not visit the libraries said they are not aware of the programs and services the library provides

Q7 Please rate your level of awareness with the following statements related to library services (I am aware of these services to I am not aware of these services):



Community Investment and Support

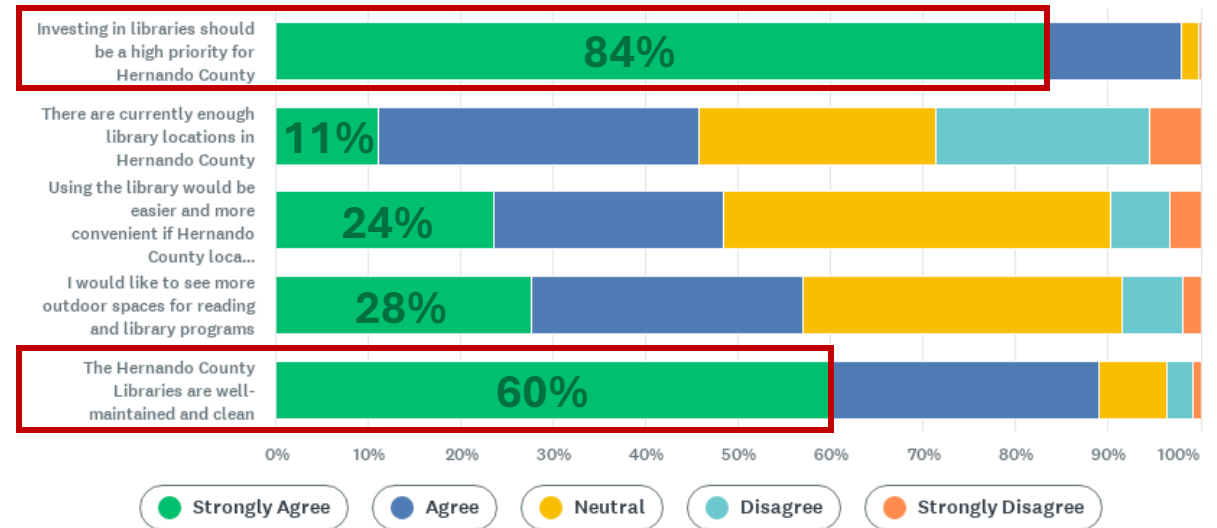
How much would you be willing to support in additional taxes for Hernando County Libraries?



84% of respondents are **willing to support additional taxes** to Hernando County Libraries

- More than \$100 per year
- \$76-100 per year
- \$51-\$75 per year
- \$26-\$50 per year
- \$11-\$25 per year
- \$1-\$10 per year
- Not willing to pay additional property taxes

Q8 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements related to library facilities (Likert scale: strongly agree to strongly disagree):



84% Agree that **investing in libraries should be a high priority** for Hernando County

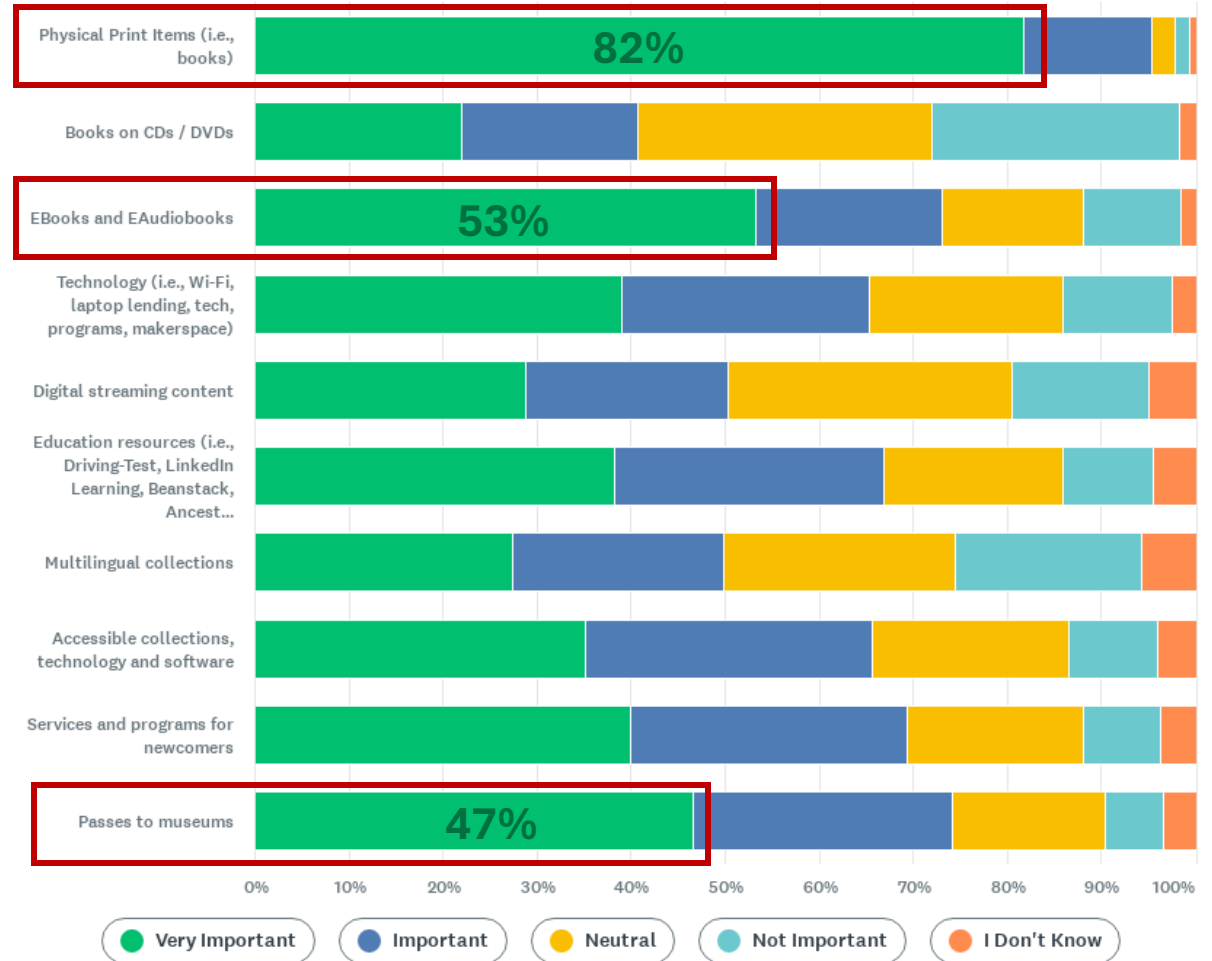


Programs and Offerings

Highest Importance

1. Physical print items (82%),
2. E-books and Audiobooks (53%)
3. Passes to the museums are most important to respondents (47%)

Q5 Please rank the following collections, programs, and services by level of importance (very important to not important, and I don't know):

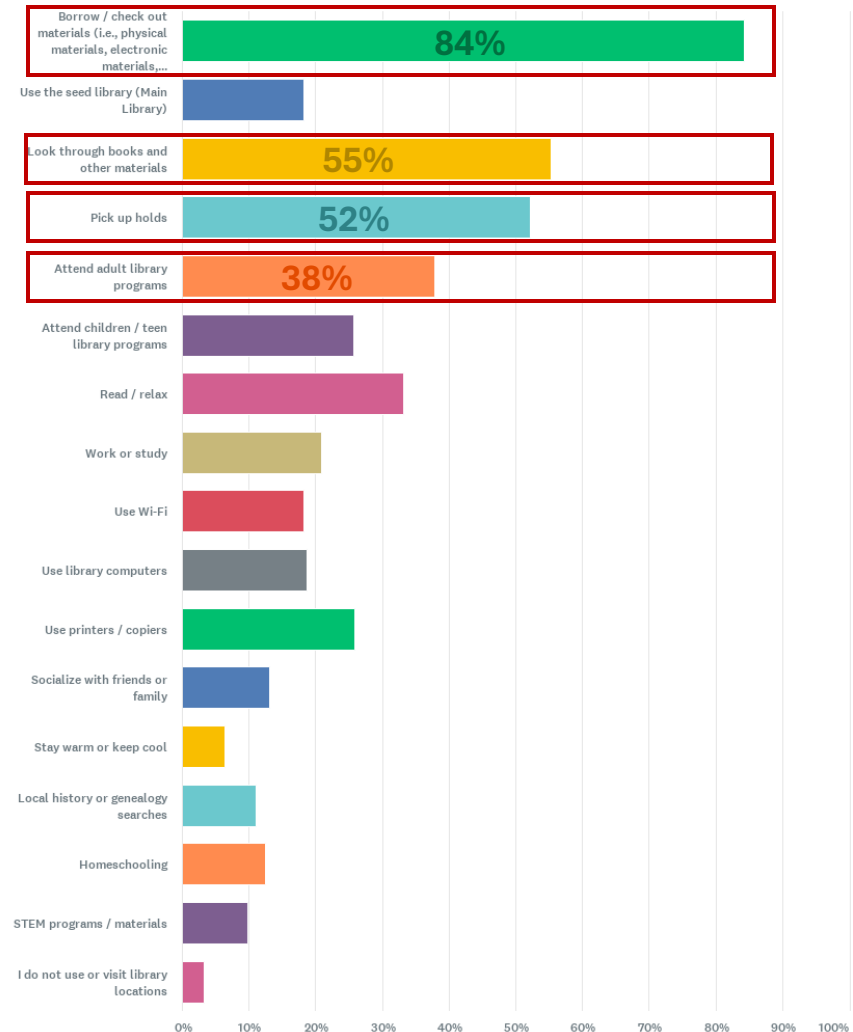


Library Services and Community Resources

x What do you like to do at the library?

Top Answers:

1. Borrow/check out materials (84%)
2. Look through books and other materials (55%)
3. Pick up holds (52%)
4. Attend adult library programs (38%)

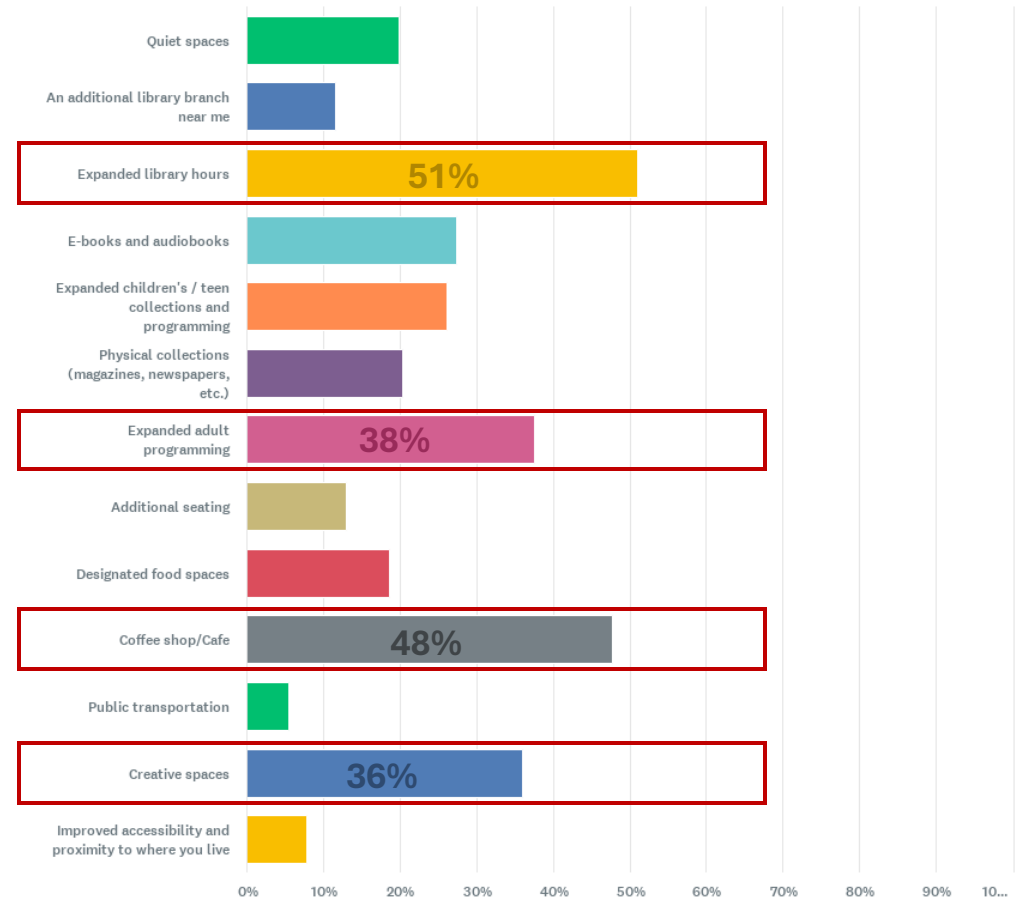


Library Services & Community Resources

x I would use the library more if it had...

Top Answers:

1. Expanded library hours (51%)
2. Coffee shop/Café (48%)
3. Expanded adult programming (38%)
4. Creative spaces (36%)



Guiding Principles from Stakeholder & Community Feedback

- **Programs** to meet the future needs of Hernando's growing population
- Optimizing **Facilities** Needs
- **Awareness**
- Create **Partnerships**
 - Minimize Operational Costs
 - Maximize Community Engagement and Support
 - Realize connections and synergies among County departments
 - Creating a framework to maximize value of Hernando county library and services provided to residents



Implementation Strategies



Takeaways:

4 Goals

66 Objectives

- Each objective includes a defined timeframe and role for the Department.
- Emphasizes:
 - Meeting residents' needs and priorities
 - Securing resources
 - Future staffing needs
 - Proactive facilities management
 - Continued Program Development
 - Seek Outside Partnerships



PROGRAMS

FACILITIES

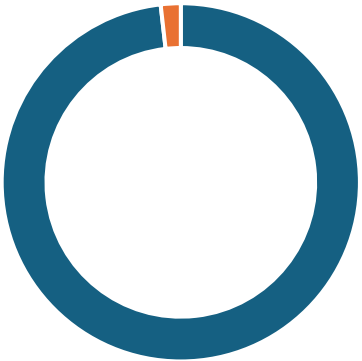
PARTNERSHIP
& FUNDING

AWARENESS



Funding

General Fund Allocation
(2025-2026)



■ General Fund ■ Library Funding

General Fund : \$245.6 Million

Less than \$4.5 million dedicated for the Libraries or 1.83%

Additional Funding Source Opportunities:

- Grants
- Fees (Return to the General Fund)
- Impact Fees
- Partnerships
 - Friends of the Library
 - Local Organizations
 - Private Sector



Project Timeline

