



Department of Administration  
Budget and Management Division

**Cavalier Johnson**  
Mayor

**Preston Cole**  
Administration Director

**Nik Kovac**  
Budget and Management Director

October 17, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

To: Finance and Personnel Committee Members

From: Joan Johnson, Director of Milwaukee Public Library and Nathaniel Haack, Budget and Management Division

Subject: Sunday Hour Options

Dear Finance and Personnel Committee Members,

The Milwaukee Public Library and the Budget and Management Division would like to provide you with cost estimates for a few different options for maintaining and/or expanding Sunday hours at the Milwaukee Public Library. Below are the cost estimates and supporting information on operational impacts.

### **Option 1 – Status quo**

**Description:** This reverses the 10 positions cut in the Mayor's proposed budget and keeps Sunday hours open at Central, Tippecanoe, and Good Hope using the existing staffing model.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$755,088

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$800,000

**Operational impacts:** None

### **Option 2 – Status quo plus add Sunday hours at 2 more branches starting Mid-2026**

**Description:** This reverses the 10 positions cut in the Mayor's proposed budget and keeps Sunday hours open at Central, Tippecanoe, and Good Hope using the existing staffing model. This option anticipates opening 2 additional branches ~ July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 utilizing the existing staffing model.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$1,160,402

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$1.7 million

**Operational impacts:** Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout.

### **Option 3 – New staffing model at Central only, hopefully bring back Sunday hours at Good Hope and Tippecanoe mid-year**

**Description:** Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This



option would pilot this new model at Central and then, assuming the model is successful, expand Sunday hours to Good Hope and Tippecanoe mid-year 2026. The intention is to increase some staffing in 2027 and subsequent years instead of using AUX positions indefinitely.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$11,928

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$340,000

**Operational impacts:** This option allows MPL to experiment with staffing without a significant threat of library closures due to lack of staff availability using floating staff as the number of Sunday branches increases. If the model works and MPL is able to reopen Good Hope and Tippecanoe on Sunday, the department will likely need to use AUX employees, potentially exceeding the budgeted personnel cost adjustment and having salary overruns.

#### **Option 4 – New staffing model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe**

**Description:** Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$361,482

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$340,000

**Operational impacts:** Adding positions for this option helps to mitigate the potential strain on staffing levels and lowers the risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc.

#### **Option 5 – New staffing model plus add Sunday hours at 1 more branch starting Mid-2026**

**Description:** Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. This option anticipates opening 1 additional branch ~ July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 utilizing the new staffing model.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$518,229

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$670,000

**Operational impacts:** Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout. This option could strain staffing levels and presents a high level of risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc. The additional positions help mitigate that risk as the number of Sunday branches increases.

#### **Option 6 – New staffing model plus add Sunday hours at 2 more branches starting Mid-2026**

**Description:** Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. This option anticipates opening 2 additional branches ~ July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 utilizing the new staffing model.

**Amendment cost in 2026:** \$629,014

**Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years:** \$900,000



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**Operational impacts:** Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout. This option could strain staffing levels and presents a high level of risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc. The additional positions help mitigate that risk as the number of Sunday branches increases.

Thank you for your continued support of Milwaukee Public Library and the patrons they serve. We look forward to learning which option the council prefers to implement.

NH

Budget/2026budget/F&P questions/Sunday Hour Options\_10.16.25 Corrections