



CITY OF EL PASO



El Paso Public  
LIBRARIES

# Enhancing Educational Opportunities Through Policy

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# El Paso Public Library Proposes To Eliminate Late Fees

- Ordinance establishes late fees at the Library
- The present fine is **\$.15 cents/item/day** - Capped out at **\$5.00/item**
- Patrons blocked: **39,506**
- There are **177,116** overdue library items checked out by patrons
- Over the previous 5 years, the average annual revenue collected from these late fees is **\$24,963**





# Purpose of Eliminating Late Fees

- Bring back the 39,506 patrons presently blocked
- Make library services and resources more accessible to all El Pasoans
- This change would apply only to late fees
- Fees for damaged/lost materials will still apply
- Patrons *can* still be blocked for overdue items, but they do not accrue financial fines



# Practice that has been eliminated in many Library Systems across the County

- Research on the topic suggests that late fees have a tendency to cause people to avoid visiting library systems and may influence patrons not to return overdue library items
- Administrative efforts in collecting fines are resource-intensive for libraries, and the revenue collected is minimal compared to the replacement costs of outstanding items
- Libraries that have eliminated late fees have experienced an increase in library usage and a downward trend in lost library materials
- Fines also tend to disproportionately affect financially disadvantaged communities

# Fine Free Libraries in Texas

- Arlington Public Library
- Austin Public Library
- Dallas Public Library
- Ft. Worth Public Library
- Houston Public Library
- Harris County Public Library
- San Antonio Public Library
- Seguin Public Library
- Tom Green County Library
- UT System Libraries
- Others

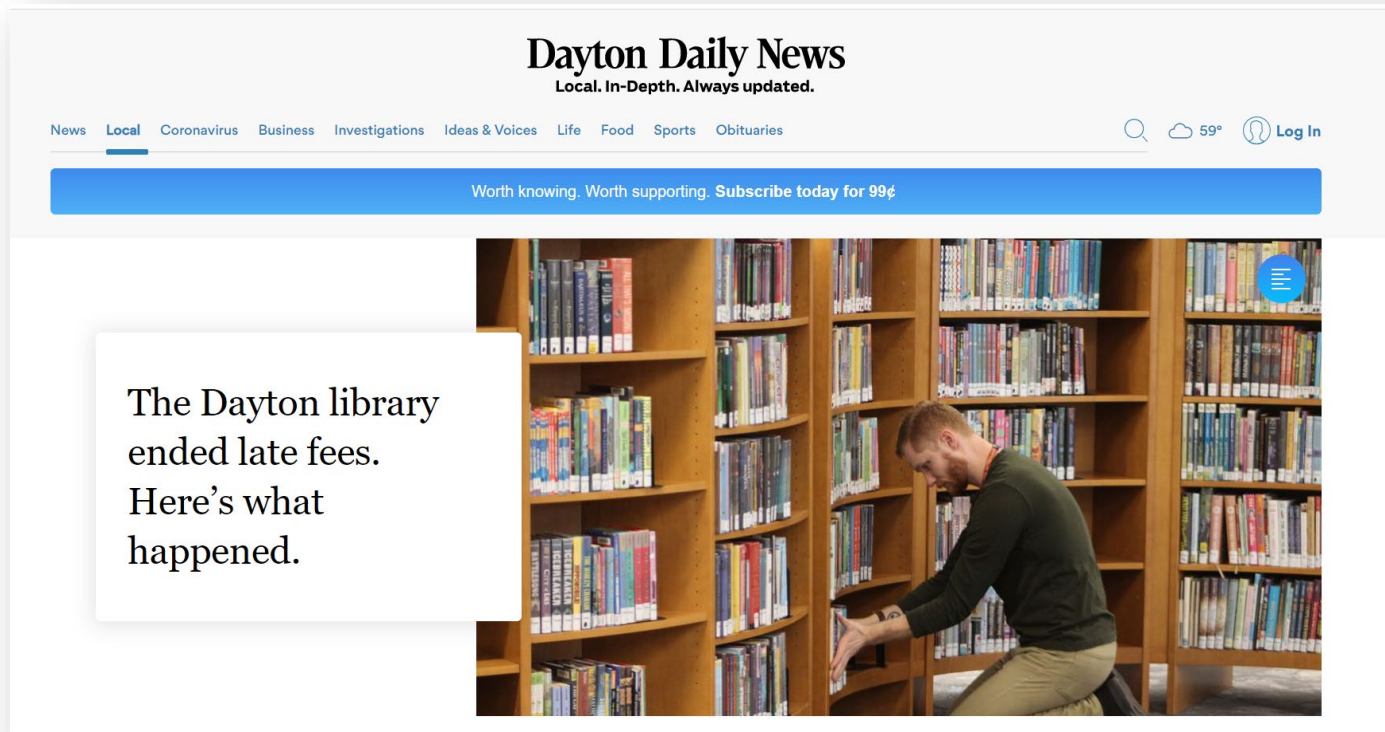


# Growing Trend



**Hundreds of Libraries Across the Country Are Now Fine Free**

# Results Can Be Surprising



**“...surprisingly, fewer borrowed materials have become overdue, and borrowers actually have returned more overdue materials than they did in 2017”, officials said.**

***...(libraries) have little empirical evidence that charging fines results in greater circulation of library materials, or indeed the return of items in a timely manner.***

**- Study by the Colorado State Library**

# Requested Council Action

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 10739 as amended by Ordinance Nos. 15658, 15167, 15006, 12909, and 12141, and amending the Budget Resolution Fee Schedule to revise the Overdue Fines for Materials charged by the El Paso Public Library to \$0.00 and forgive any outstanding fine balance for overdue materials.



# Questions



**El Paso Public Library**  
[www.elpasolibrary.org](http://www.elpasolibrary.org)



## MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

## VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government.



## VALUES

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,  
**A**ccountability, **P**eople