



Allegany County Library System  
31 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Title: **Allegany County Library System Advisory Committee Progress Update**

The Allegany County Library System (ACLS) Advisory Committee continues its work toward sustaining cost-effective operations for FY2026 and beyond. Established to provide recommendations to the Library Board of Trustees by January 15, 2025, the committee consists of community members representing a broad cross-section of Allegany County.

The committee held its first meeting on August 8, 2024, at the LaVale Library, where members were introduced to their charge and provided with essential background on ACLS's challenges. ACLS leadership outlined the committee's purpose: to develop actionable recommendations that will help the library system navigate budgetary constraints in future fiscal years. The discussion also touched on the origins of these challenges, including the Allegany County Commissioners' decision in May 2024 to approve a 10% budget cut for ACLS, which amounted to a \$122,000 reduction in funding for FY2025. This short-notice cut left little time for the library to explore alternatives for the current budget year. Additionally, the committee reviewed statistical reports on ACLS's operations to better understand the library's performance and community impact.

The second meeting, held on September 5, 2024, continued with a look into ACLS's financial situation. Committee members reviewed detailed financial reports outlining ACLS's income and expenditures, gaining insight into the challenges the library system faces. It was highlighted that ACLS remains one of the least funded library systems in Maryland per capita, which has significantly impacted staff wages, retention, and overall service limits. The discussion also focused on the growing challenges ahead, particularly for FY2026, with concerns about inflation and the fact that many staff wages have fallen below living wage levels.

All meeting documents, including agendas, minutes, and full-length recordings, are available on the Advisory Committee page on the library's website. In addition, supplemental materials, such as further statistical reports, county economic outlooks, and reviews of facilities and current staff roles, are accessible to the public. The Allegany County community is encouraged to stay informed and follow the committee's progress through these available resources.

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The next meeting is set for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 3 in the LaVale Library Conference Room. While meetings are open to the public, no public comments are taken during the sessions to ensure efficient discussions.

For more information, visit the Advisory Committee page on the library's website at [www.alleganycountylibrary.info/fy26advisorycomm/](http://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/fy26advisorycomm/).

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