

**City Council Simulation:
Should the Dogwood City Public Library Be Closed Due to a Budget Deficit?**

Overview

In this experiential activity, ideally conducted during a visit to the public library, students will gain an understanding of the role of city councils, the responsibilities of council members, and the relevance of council decisions to individual citizens. Assuming the roles of city council members or special interest groups, students will participate in a city council simulation in which council members must decide whether or not to close the fictional Dogwood City Public Library due to a budget shortfall.

Grades

8-12

Essential Questions

- What is the role of a municipality's city or town council?
- What are the responsibilities of council members?
- What factors do policy makers consider when making decisions?
- How do the decisions of council members affect individual citizens?
- How can individual citizens play a role in the decisions made by their city council?
- What are the various ways in which public libraries are funded?
- Why are public libraries important to the community?

Materials

- City Council Instructions, attached
- Stakeholder Instructions, attached
- Dogwood City Government Meeting Agenda, attached
- Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library
- Local councilmember or city official (optional but highly recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Create a Poster and Create a Bumper Sticker, assignments attached
- OPTIONAL: A reading on the role of city councils, such as *Local Government in NC* (optional), available [here](#).

Preparation

This activity can be done in class or, preferably, during a trip to your local library. If teachers plan on completing this activity at the local library, contact the library staff several weeks before visiting and share this activity with them.

Teachers will ideally invite a local government representative (such as an actual city council member) to participate in the activity. Contact the local government official several weeks in advance to explain the activity and to ask for assistance in providing the students knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of city council. (It is important this person does not come to give a "speech," but rather is prepared to engage with the students as they prepare for the simulation and participate in dialogue with the class about his/her role in local government decision making). Including an actual council member or city official allows for his/her expertise to be relied upon, but also to gives students a chance to directly interact with a local government official.

Ideally, students will have a basic knowledge of city councils, their roles, and procedures before conducting this simulation. Teachers may want to assign a reading prior to this lesson on city councils, such as Chapter 2 of *Local Government in North Carolina*, available in PDF format at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/publications/books/local-government-north-carolina-fourth-edition-2012-0#/>

Duration

60-90 minutes

Procedure

Introductory Discussion: Exploring Public Libraries and Local Government

1. As a warm up, facilitate a discussion of the public library:
 - What services do libraries provide? What types of things do people do at the library?
 - Ask follow up questions to encourage students to consider services such as providing books for check out, access to the Internet, classes, public space for diverse people to meet and interact, special events, community conversations, etc.)
 - Who can utilize the public library and why is this an important aspect of its services?
 - How are public libraries funded?
 - Even though all public libraries are funded by some combination of local, state and federal dollars, the mix is unique. State and federal governments typically provide supplementary funding through state aid programs, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and E-Rate. Many libraries also receive private donations and grants, and some have their own foundations (i.e., <http://chplfoundation.org/>.) Ideally, teachers will get the specific funding information for their local public library to share.
 - What local governing bodies determine how much local funding is provided for the public library?
 - The city or town council makes decisions for the municipality, carries out those decisions, manages a budget, and has authority to levy taxes. In counties, these duties fall to a board of county commissioners.
 - What do you already know about your local government officials (city council or county commissioners?) How does their work impact each of us?
 - Have you ever interacted with a local government official such as a city council member or county commissioner? If so, for what reason? What opportunities do citizens have for letting their local government officials know their opinions on local issues?
2. If a resource person is joining your class for this activity, introduce him/her them to speak briefly about their occupation. Let students know they will have the opportunity to work with this person in the following activity as well as ask specific questions later.

Preparing for the City Council Simulation

3. Tell students that they will be exploring all of these issues more by participating in a city council simulation. Pass out the attached “Dogwood City Government Meeting Agenda” and the “Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library.” Tell students they are to imagine that they currently live in the fictitious Dogwood City. Unfortunately, due to a projected budget deficit of \$601,000 in the city’s upcoming fiscal year, the Dogwood City Council must find a way to save costs or increase revenues (i.e., raise taxes.) One idea being considered by city council is closing the Dogwood City Public Library, which would result in a savings of \$660,000 per year. Tell students they will spend the next 15 or more minutes preparing to participate in the city council meeting, either as council members who must make the decision regarding what to do about the library, or community members with strong opinions regarding what council members should do.

This lesson plan was created by [Carolina K-12](#) and the [Chapel Hill Public Library](#) as part of the “Doing Democracy: Civic Engagement & Education at the Public Library” project, made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-00-17-0034-17).

2. Divide students into five groups. Group One should include an odd number of students (i.e., 5 students); this group will be assuming the role of Dogwood City’s Mayor and Council members. The remaining four groups can consist of any number of students; these groups will be assuming the roles of various community stakeholders who hope to influence the council’s decision. Give groups the appropriate attached handout and give students a few minutes to read their instruction sheets silently. (In the group of student’s serving as city council members, make sure to choose one student to serve as the Mayor and provide that student with guidance on how to lead the meeting.)

3. After a few minutes of quiet review, summarize the process, accepting any questions students may have once you are finished:
 - **City Council:** Under the Mayor’s leadership, you will spend the next 15 minutes preparing for your City Council meeting. First, review the “Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library” to familiarize yourself with the city and its public library. Then, review the Dogwood City Government Meeting Agenda, which notes all the groups presenting to you today. As a council, work together to create 2-3 follow-up questions you might want ask each group after their presentation. (The questions you want to ask might change based on the information shared in the presentations, but you will have these to fall back on if needed.) If a resource person such as a city council member has joined you for the day, he/she should work with the city council group to help them prepare and share insight regarding actual meetings.
 - **Community Stakeholder Groups:** You will spend the next 15 minutes developing a presentation to the city council in which you share your views on the future of the Dogwood City Public Library. Begin by reviewing the “Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library” to familiarize yourself with the city and public library. Your group must then create an organized, creative, and motivational presentation that will convince the council to vote according to your beliefs as described in your instructions. Also, you should spend some time reviewing the Meeting Agenda and considering what you think the stance of other presenting groups will be. Try and be prepared to address predicted counter views in your presentation. After your 3-5 minute presentation, councilmembers will ask follow up questions, so you need to be prepared to “think on your feet” to answer.

4. Review your expectations for respectful group work and allow the students to prepare for the simulation in their groups. This simulation is designed to be entirely student lead, so teachers should have one student in the city council group assume the role of Mayor and lead the simulation. During the preparation phase, start by checking in with the city council group, select the student who will be the Mayor and provide the following additional instructions to that student:
 - Once all groups are finished preparing, the Mayor will call the meeting to order by greeting the council members, welcoming the community members in attendance and summarizing the meeting’s purpose.
 - Next lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Finally, following the meeting agenda provided, call each group up to present. Each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions to the Council.
 - After each presentation, you will open the floor for questions from council members of that presenting group. You and the Council may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard.
 - Once all groups have presented, as the Mayor, thank all presenters for their time, and begin an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate what to do about the public library. If you are unable to come to consensus in the time provided, the teacher will signal the Mayor to make a motion to “continue the discussion at the next council meeting.”

- The visiting local government official will stay with the council members and coach them on realistic procedure and council member behavior, as needed.
5. Once the teacher has ensured the city council group is clear on what to do, circulate around the room to assist groups as they prepare, giving periodic time warnings, as well as offer advice on the presentations they are preparing and the types of things council members like to hear and see.

Conducting the Simulation

6. The simulation is designed to be entirely student lead, with the student playing the Mayor leading the simulation. During the simulation, assist this student in moving things along when needed, but try to allow the students to have control of the simulation as much as possible. Once all groups are ready, try and arrange the room to mirror a town hall set up, with the Mayor and Council members at a table up front facing the groups of presenters/audience. Teachers may even want to create name placards for each council member.

7. Explain the meeting format:

Mayor calls meeting to order and gives overview	1-2 minutes
Presentation from Dogwood’s Friends of the Library	up to 5 minutes
Follow-up questions from City Council	2 minutes
Presentation from Dogwoodians for Fiscal Responsibility	up to 5 minutes
Follow-up questions from City Council	2 minutes
Presentation from Civil Liberties Union of Dogwood City	up to 5 minutes
Follow-up questions from City Council	2 minutes
Presentation from BiblioTech	up to 5 minutes
Follow-up questions from City Council	2 minutes
Mayor leads open deliberation of City Council (time permitting)	up to 10 minutes

8. The teacher should review expected behavior for the simulation, noting expectations such as:
- Remain respectful at all times and encourage one another.
 - Try your best and take the simulation seriously.
 - Listen when others are speaking. Do not discuss your presentation while other groups are presenting.
 - Maintain order and professionalism throughout the hearing, whether you agree with what is being said or not.
 - Have fun!
9. Once the expectations are clearly defined, ask the Mayor to call the meeting to order and conduct the simulation.
10. After all groups have presented and been questioned by council members, and if time permits, the Mayor can call a brief 3 minute break, in which presenting groups can discuss and prepare a 1-2 minute closing statement/summary. If time does not permit, the Mayor should thank all presenters for their time and close the public comment section of the meeting. At this point, there are several options on how to end the simulation:
- Ideally: The Mayor can lead the Council in an open deliberation. Each Councilmember would state their current opinion of what to do about the library, discussing which of the presenters impacted their opinion. Presenting community groups should only listen at this point.

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- If time is short: Without any discussion, the Council members can take a vote on where they currently stand regarding whether to close the library, offering a quick statement as to why they are voting this way.

Debriefing the Simulation

11. After the simulation has ended, have students applaud themselves for their hard work and debrief, making sure to ask the visiting local government official to weigh in on what he/she saw and heard, and how this meeting may have played out in reality.
 - What is your opinion of the Council’s decision? Explain. How would you have voted and why?
 - Were any of you representing opinions that you did not agree with? Explain.
 - What role (and/or should) a public library serve in our community?
 - How do libraries interact with other local government entities (such as city council or county commissioners, as well as other departments?)
 - City Council, what led you to make the decisions you made? What factors influenced you? Is there anything anyone could have done differently that would have changed your mind?
 - Imagine this decision was made by your own City Council for implementation in your own town. Would you support it? Why or why not?
 - Those of you who presented to City Council, what do you think the best part of your presentation was and why? How would you change your presentation to improve it for next time?
 - What skills are important when presenting to City Council members? (*Discuss presentation skills such as being prepared, speaking clearly, being brief and concise, etc.*)
 - Consider the process you went through to prepare a presentation for City Council. Why is it important to be prepared, organized, and practiced before your presentation? Were you preparing an actual presentation to present to our real City Council, what other steps might we need to take in preparation? For example, why might we want to research members of City Council and have an understanding of their backgrounds and areas of interest?
 - Why is it important to consider what the opposite view might be when preparing a presentation for city council?
 - If you were actually serving on City Council, what other factors might influence you that were not necessarily represented in this activity?
12. Discuss with students how it is often the local level of government that has the most direct impact on our lives (local government agencies pick up our trash, provide places for recreation, has council members that set the ordinances we must abide by, etc.) Yet, local elections in North Carolina often have very poor turnout, ranging between 10%-13% on average! Discuss with students (again, asking for the visiting official to weigh in):
 - Why is it important for citizens to participate in the election process of their city council members?
 - Why is it important to be aware of the decisions your local elected council members are making?
 - In what ways may citizens participate in their local government?

Explain to students that citizens and community members can be very important factors in the decision-making process of their local governments. Tell them that part of their responsibility is to voice their opinions on issues of public concern. Through letters, phone calls, petitions, blogs, visits to representatives, etc., citizens’ voices *can* be heard. Instruct students to return to class the following day with a brief letter to the city council proposing some sort of change in their city. Encourage them to read that day’s newspaper or look at pending legislation of their city’s website for ideas.

13. End by allowing students to engage in a Q & A with the visiting local government official, and thank him/her for their time.
14. As an optional culminating activity, have students create a bumper sticker or poster expressing their individual opinion of public libraries and their importance to the community. (See the attached project descriptions and rubrics.)

City Council Instructions

Instructions:

Due to a projected budget deficit of \$601,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, the Dogwood City Council must find a way to save costs or increase revenue (i.e., raise taxes.) One idea being considered is closing the Dogwood City Public Library, which would result in a savings of \$660,000 per year.

Before making this decision, you and your fellow council members are hearing from various groups of community members to determine whether to:

- close the Dogwood City Public Library (in which case the community would utilize the neighboring county library instead)
- keep it open and find another way to address the deficit
- figure out some other alternative to solve the problem

Today, as you listen to opinions, your responsibility is to make a decision for the common good of Dogwood City.

1. Review the “Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library” to familiarize yourself with the city and its public library. Discuss your first impressions of the budget deficit and whether closing the library is a responsible way to address the situation.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group’s stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting, the Mayor will call the meeting to order, lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and review the purpose of today’s meeting. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions regarding the Dogwood City Public Library.
4. After each presentation, the Mayor will open the floor for you and fellow council members to question the presenting group. You may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard in the presentation. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision.
5. Once all groups have presented and if time permits, the Mayor will lead you in an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate regarding what to do. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus the Mayor will make a motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

Dogwood City Friends of the Library

About: You represent the **Dogwood City Friends of the Library**, an association of people who believe in the importance and power of public libraries in general, and are committed to furthering the excellence of the Dogwood City Library in particular. Dogwood Friends of the Library works with the library to host community events and classes for adults and children, as well as raises money for library needs. (In the 2016-2017 year, Friends of the Library raised just under \$100,000 in funds to supplement the city's allocation to the Dogwood Public Library.)

Your group believes that libraries aren't just about books, though that is certainly important. They are a community space where the public can come to interact, participate in events and civic dialogue about controversial topics, engage with people who are different than them, and ultimately connect with the community at large. Closing the Dogwood Library would be catastrophic to the community.

Your goal is to convince City Council to NOT close the Dogwood City Public Library, under any circumstances.

Instructions:

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a) Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed closing of the Dogwood Public Library. Using the above information as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed closing.
 - b) Answer the following questions in your presentation:
 - Why do you want council members to keep the library open? Why is the library and its services and functions important to the community?
 - How will closing the library negatively impact Dogwood City's community members and economy? What consequences may be faced if the library is closed? Why is the county library NOT a good replacement for keeping the city library open?
 - Why should council members vote according to your beliefs instead of those opposing you? (What's wrong about opposing group's stances?)
 - End with a convincing, memorable and/or inspirational conclusion.
2. As you develop your presentation, you will want to discuss predictions of what the other presenting groups might argue in their presentations. Be prepared to defend why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer. (Since you don't know for sure what will be asked, you'll need to be prepared to "think on your feet!")
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **keep the Dogwood City Library OPEN**. Good luck!

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Civil Liberties Union of Dogwood City

About: You represent the **Civil Liberties Union of Dogwood City (CLU-DC)**, a community organization dedicated to defending the civil rights and civil liberties of all people, ensuring every community member has equal access to Dogwood’s resources and services. CLU-DC believes that:

- *Libraries sustain democracy.* They provide equal access to information and multiple points of view so that people can make knowledgeable decisions.
- *Libraries break down boundaries.* Libraries offer all kinds of services/programs for readers with little/no English skills, children, seniors, impoverished individuals, and persons with disabilities.
- *Libraries level the playing field.* By making access to information and technology available to all, regardless of income, class, or background, a public library’s equal access helps close the gap between the rich and the poor. Libraries unite people and make their resources available to everyone in the community.

Your group feels that assuming everyone can access the county library when the city library is closed is preposterous. There is currently no bus route that goes directly to the county library from within the city limits, meaning only patrons privileged enough to have their own transportation can utilize it. Even those people with their own vehicles could be looking at a commute up to an hour to get there, which isn’t feasible.

Your goal is to convince City Council to NOT close the Dogwood City Public Library, under any circumstances.

Instructions:

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a) Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed closing of the Dogwood Public Library. Using the above information as a guideline of your group’s views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed closing.
 - b) Answer the following questions in your presentation:
 - Why do you want council members to keep the library open? Why is the library and its services and functions important to the community?
 - How will closing the library negatively impact Dogwood City’s community members and economy? What consequences may be faced if the library is closed? Why is the county library NOT a good replacement for keeping the city library open?
 - Why should council members vote according to your beliefs instead of those opposing you? (What’s wrong about opposing group’s stances?)
 - End with a convincing, memorable and/or inspirational conclusion.
2. As you develop your presentation, you will want to discuss predictions of what the other presenting groups might argue in their presentations. Be prepared to defend why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer. (Since you don’t know for sure what will be asked, you’ll need to be prepared to “think on your feet!”)
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **keep the Dogwood City Library OPEN**. Good luck!

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Dogwoodians for Fiscal Responsibility

About: You represent Dogwoodians for Fiscal Responsibility (DFR), a non-partisan local organization dedicated to ensuring that the creation of jobs, growing the local economy, and keeping local taxes low are city priorities. DFR has long argued that a budget deficit for Dogwood was likely if the city council didn't scale back on some of the frivolous public services it funds. One area of cost-saving that DFR identified several years ago was the elimination of the Dogwood City Public Library. Given that most people utilize the Internet and e-books, libraries are becoming obsolete. There is no reason to invest so many tax payer dollars in a brick and mortar space and people to staff it, when free resources available on the web can fill the void. For those "dinosaurs" that insist on needing a library, the county library will serve them just fine.

If the money isn't there, something must go – and the library makes sense (at least over other services like police and fire.) Government spending on the library is not the way to improve our community – but having a healthy, balanced budget for the city, and a low tax rate, is. Thus, **your goal is to convince City Council to CLOSE the Dogwood City Public Library.**

Instructions:

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a) Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed closing of the Dogwood Public Library. Using the above information as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed closing.
 - b) Answer the following questions in your presentation:
 - Why do you want council members to close the library? Why is a focus on job creation, growing the economy, and low taxes more important than a brick and mortar library space?
 - What are the other ways the community can still have the same level of service without the Dogwood City Library? Why is the county library and/or online resources excellent replacements for the city library, especially when considering the yearly cost savings to tax payers?
 - What consequences may be faced if the library is allowed to stay open?
 - Why should council members vote according to your beliefs instead of those opposing you? (What's wrong about opposing group's stances?)
 - End with a convincing, memorable and/or inspirational conclusion.
2. As you develop your presentation, you will want to discuss predictions of what the other presenting groups might argue in their presentations. Be prepared to defend why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer. (Since you don't know for sure what will be asked, you'll need to be prepared to "think on your feet!")
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **CLOSE the Dogwood City Library**. Good luck!

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BiblioTech

About: You represent BiblioTech, a national for-profit company specializing in transitioning traditional libraries into 100% digital libraries. Libraries are becoming obsolete. The world is changing and with so much information available online, physical libraries are an unneeded thing of the past. It's time for Dogwood to look to an interconnected future by closing the physical location of the Dogwood City library and transitioning it to a virtual library, which will only need a small kiosk space and a few staff members. An investment of \$60,000 – a small fraction of the \$600,000 the current library has been costing Dogwood – along with private fundraising on the part of BiblioTech, will result in Dogwood City hosting North Carolina's first 100% digital public library. All collection materials will be housed online, and patrons can access the materials from their own computers, smart phones, and other electronic devices. For community members who do not have electronic devices, they can visit the kiosk to utilize computers provided there, or check out e-readers, iPads or Macbook Pros to access the web and digital materials from the borrowed devices. In many ways, BiblioTech makes the library even more accessible – citizens unable walk through its doors do to a lack of transportation or a disability can now browse everything from the comfort of their home. Libraries must continue to evolve and must continue to assess their use of space, and city councils must invest in affordable innovation.

Your goal is to convince City Council to CLOSE the Dogwood City Public Library and invest in North Carolina's first cutting-edge digital public library.

Instructions:

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a) Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed closing of the Dogwood Public Library. Using the above information as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed closing.
 - b) Answer the following questions in your presentation:
 - Why do you want council members to close the library and invest in BiblioTech's digital library? Why would this 100% digital library be an asset to Dogwood and its community members?
 - What consequences may be faced if the library is allowed to stay open and doesn't move to providing digital resources such as what BiblioTech will offer?
 - Why should council members vote according to your beliefs instead of those opposing you? (What's wrong about opposing group's stances?)
 - End with a convincing, memorable and/or inspirational conclusion.
2. As you develop your presentation, you will want to discuss predictions of what the other presenting groups might argue in their presentations. Be prepared to defend why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer. (Since you don't know for sure what will be asked, you'll need to be prepared to "think on your feet!")
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **CLOSE the Dogwood City Library**. Good luck!

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Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Purpose:

Due to a projected budget deficit of \$601,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, the Dogwood City Council must find a way to save costs or increase revenue (i.e., raise taxes.) One idea being considered is closing the Dogwood City Public Library, which would result in a savings of \$660,000 per year.

Agenda:

I. Welcome

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Hearing on Proposed Closing of Dogwood Public Library

- **Dogwood’s Friends of the Library Association:**

An association of people who believe in the importance and power of public libraries in general, and are committed to furthering the excellence of the Dogwood City Library. Dogwood Friends of the Library work with the library to host community events and classes for adults and children, as well as raise money for library needs.

- **Dogwoodians for Fiscal Responsibility:**

A non-partisan local organization dedicated to ensuring that the creation of jobs, growing the local economy, and keeping local taxes low are city priorities. DFR views the library as a frivolous public services, especially in the age of the Internet.

- **Civil Liberties Union of Dogwood City:**

A community organization dedicated to defending the civil rights and civil liberties of all people, ensuring every community member has equal access to Dogwood’s resources and services. CLU-DC believes that *libraries sustain democracy and break down boundaries to access and equity, helping close the gap between rich and poor.*

- **BiblioTech:** A national for-profit company specializing in transitioning traditional libraries into 100% digital libraries. They argue that brick and mortar libraries are a thing of the past and that local governments will better serve constituents with an investment in their affordable innovation.

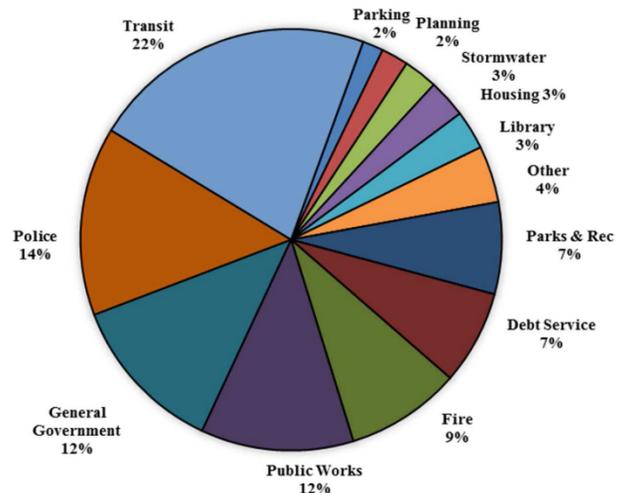
IV. Open deliberation on Proposed Closing of Dogwood Public Library

Information About Dogwood City & the Dogwood City Public Library

About Dogwood City

- Dogwood City has an area of 19.69 mi² and a population of 59,246 (as of 2017.) Dogwood City operates on an average of \$22,000,000 each fiscal year.
- Due to a projected budget deficit of \$601,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, the Dogwood City Council must find a way to save costs or increase revenue (i.e., raise taxes.) One idea being considered is closing the Dogwood City Public Library, which would result in a savings of \$660,000 per year.
- While Dogwood City Public Library is the only public library within Dogwood operated by the city, Tar Heel University is located in Dogwood and features several libraries for its students. (The public library asserts that it targets its services and offerings to the entire general public, rather than University students – and that it complements, rather than competes with, the nearby Tar Heel University.)
- The Cardinal County Library is 13 miles away from the Dogwood City Public Library. Pending traffic, it is typically an 18 minute drive from the location of the Dogwood Public Library. (The distance for individual Dogwood citizens to the county library will depend on their exact location and varying traffic conditions, but could range anywhere from 8 minutes for those closest to 48 minutes for those furthest away.)
- Dogwood City has a comprehensive city bus system that is free. Currently, however, there is no route that runs to the Cardinal County Library. The closest current stop is 2.3 miles away from the Cardinal County Library.

Dogwood City 2016-2017
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES



About the Dogwood City Public Library

- The Dogwood City Public Library contains 27,000 square feet of floor area.
- Total collection size for the library is 140,000 volumes. The collection includes not only traditional books but audio books, music tapes and CD's.
- Other library facilities and services include, 13 internet workstations; on-line access to the card catalog, and 2 meeting rooms that can accommodate groups up to 25 and 85 people each.
- Dogwood Library often hosts classes and community events (from public performances to discussions) and the children's department has a variety of story hours, craft hours, and other special programs.
- There are 30,030 registered patrons (as of Dec. 2017) of the Dogwood City Public Library. Total circulation of the Library in 2016-2017 was over 750,000.
- Approximately 57 percent of library patrons are Dogwood City residents. Approximately 43 percent of library use is by non-Dogwood City residents (i.e., county residents.)

This lesson plan was created by [Carolina K-12](#) and the [Chapel Hill Public Library](#) as part of the "Doing Democracy: Civic Engagement & Education at the Public Library" project, made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-00-17-0034-17).

Create a Bumper Sticker and Paragraph

Assignment: Based on your participation in the city council simulation, create a bumper sticker representing your view of public libraries and their importance to communities. The bumper sticker must contain the following:

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The bumper sticker must contain an original slogan, word, or phrase that expresses an attitude about public libraries. The slogan must be an expression that is effective and convincing to its intended audience.
- / 20 Points The bumper sticker must contain an appropriate visual image or symbol.
- / 10 Points The overall work must be creative and clearly show to its viewer that great effort was put forth in creating and completing the bumper sticker.

You must also write a paragraph explaining your bumper sticker and its goal/purpose. The paragraph must:

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The paragraph must explain why you chose the text you did as well as the visual image and exactly what the bumper sticker means.
- / 20 Points The paragraph should also explain the target audience. (Example: City Council members, local citizens, etc.)
- / 10 Points The paragraph needs to be written in legible pen or typed. You must use complete sentences that connect ideas to receive full credit for the assignment.
- / 100 Points Total Points for this Assignment**

Create a Poster

Assignment: Based on your participation in the city council simulation, create a poster representing your view of public libraries and their importance to communities. Posters should contain clear information regarding supporting or not supporting traditional libraries, a catchy slogan, and a visual image.

Poster Rubric

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The poster must contain an original slogan, word, or phrase that expresses an attitude about the public library.
- / 20 Points The poster must contain appropriate visual images or symbols.
- / 20 Points The poster should contain text that offers details or a summary of the curfew and your opinion of it.
- / 20 Points The poster must contain text that explains how and why the community should or should not support the public library.
- / 20 Points The overall work must be creative and clearly show to its viewer that great effort was put forth in creating and completing the poster.
- / 100 Points Total Points for this Assignment**

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