

*Friends of the Seattle Public Library*  
*2011 City Council Candidate Questionnaire - Dale Pusey*

When you reflect on the Seattle Public Library system, what three things first come to mind?

- Accessible,
- culturally inclusive
- technologically advanced

Given the myriad of essential human services provided by the City of Seattle, where do you rank funding for the Seattle Public Library? Would you put it in the top, middle or bottom tier of priorities?

I would place SPL in the middle category. The City provides many services to improve the very lives of its clients must have priority, the library system to improve the livelihood of its patrons, which, in turn, benefits the entire community

The Seattle Public Library has sustained budget cuts of nearly \$10 million from its annual budget since 2009, resulting in Friday closures at 15 branches, employee furloughs, lay-offs, and a decrease in the collections budget. Given the City revenue shortfalls projected for 2011 and 2012, what are your views on maintaining funding for Library hours, staffing, collections, programs and services?

The funding for our libraries have taken a beating over the last couple of years. If I were elected, I would work to keep this important resource fully funded. It seems that our politicians are out to get their pet projects funded while forgetting its obligations to its lower income citizens, the library being but one of them.

As the Library's new strategic plan states, "changes in how people access and use information, interact with one another, and in the resources, tools and capabilities needed to operate effectively in today's society require new approaches to the services and resources that the library provides". What is your vision for the library of the future, and how would you support SPL's evolution over the next 5 years?

I envision a library system that takes full advantage of the present technological revolution. This would be an exceptional resource for everyone, not just those who come through the doors. However, since senior citizens are a growing number of Seattle's population and frequent library patrons, we must also make it easy for them to learn and utilize the new media.