



Cobb County
Public Library



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director

2

About Cobb Library

3

Executive Summary

4

Fostering a Culture of Lifelong Literacy in Cobb

6

Connecting and Inspiring through Programs and Events

8

Strategic Outreach and Direct Community Support

10

Strengthening Impact through Key Collaborations

12

System-Wide Innovation and Notable Achievements

14

Library and County Leadership + Cobb Library Foundation

16

In Lasting Tribute

19

Reflecting on 2025, I am deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners for the vital role you all play in making Cobb County Public Libraries essential community gathering places. Your devotion, innovation, and passion have brought our community together, and we are proud to celebrate the year's accomplishments with you.

The energy, optimism, and dedication surrounding your public libraries in 2025 is clearly evident as we review the year's accomplishments. This report underscores how we are building on the successes of 2025 to guide us as deeply committed public servants. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such an inspiring team.

This report reflects a record of service in promoting literacy and lifelong learning, health and wellness, economic and workforce development, and playful learning activities. Every day, there are countless moments of Cobb residents making meaningful “third place” connections at the libraries, with both our staff and with each other. We are a civic beacon, enriching individuals through the wealth of opportunities we provide.

It is our privilege to serve this incredible county. Thank you for empowering connection, fueling growth, and joyfully building community along with us.

Keith Schuermann

Director of Cobb County Public Library



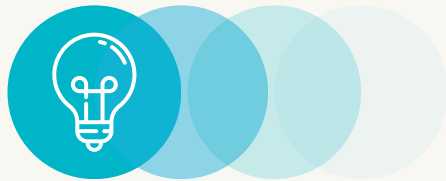
**The only thing that you
absolutely have to
know is the location of
the library.**

– Albert Einstein

About Cobb Library

Cobb County Public Library consists of 15 libraries plus a Bookmobile and is headquartered in Marietta, Georgia, where its staff serves a diverse population of nearly 800,000 people. The library is dedicated to being a resource center in the community by providing equal access to information, materials, and services.

At Cobb County, everything we do focuses on our core values: commitment, diversity, integrity, and teamwork. These values are for our community and to leave a legacy for generations to come.



VISION

To move beyond traditional library services by strategically integrating new technology services, creating engaging community centers, and providing life-enriching library and cultural experiences for all who enter our doors.



MISSION

Cobb County Public Library is committed to being a vital resource center, providing equal access to information, materials, and services to enrich people's lives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) expanded its role, becoming a vital, multi-faceted center for community success. We redefined our commitment to literacy through research-backed initiatives, including the Science of Reading, and achieved milestones such as 2.7 million minutes read during the Summer Reading Program.

Cobb libraries fostered social cohesion through record-setting, large-scale events such as Family STEAM Night with over 700 attendees and “Noon Year's Eve” with over 1,000 attendees; in addition to celebrating diverse heritage through a range of cultural festivals.

CCPL delivered essential support through strategic outreach by providing health, wellness, and basic needs resources via programs, including Care Cabinets that provided over 500 personal hygiene items and the Vision To Learn partnership, which provided 669 free eye exams and 454 free eyeglasses to students in Cobb.

Through innovative programs like the Perks Program, the launch of the Cobb Library Shop, and key collaborations, from the Seed Library to workforce development classes, we generated direct economic and educational value for Cobb County, solidifying the library as a forward-thinking, high-impact institution dedicated to the success of every community member.

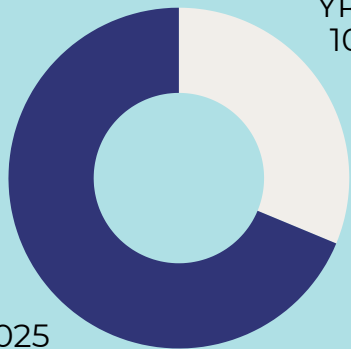


438,241

Total Number of
Library Cardholders



Cobb County
Public Library



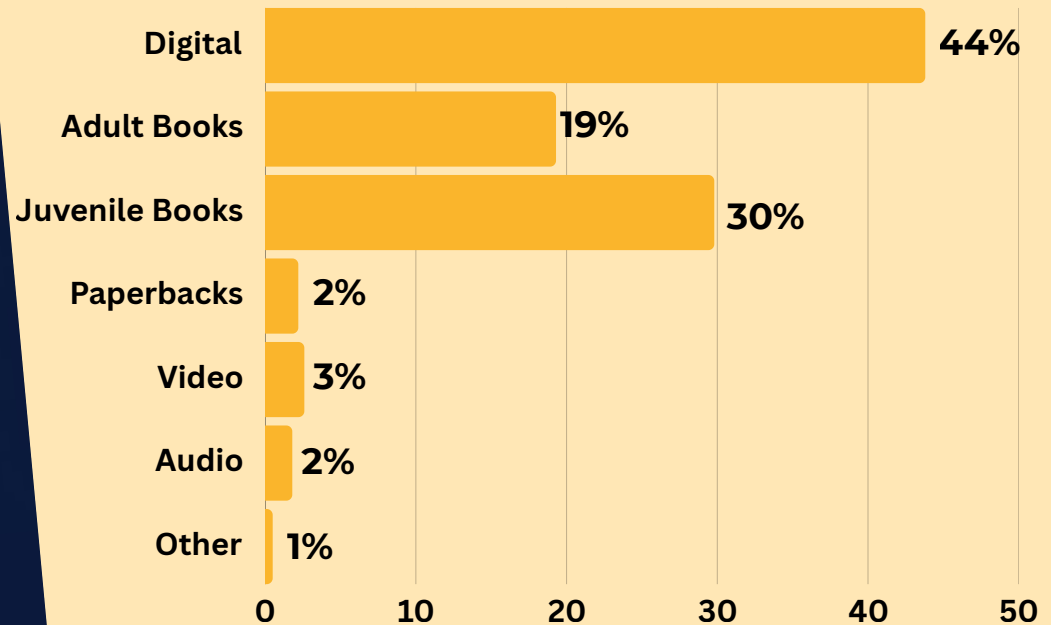
YR 2024
10,937

24,042
New Library
Cardholders

YR 2025
24,042

3,049,722

Items Checked Out



724,128

Reference Questions Answered

444

Questions via Facebook &
Instagram Direct Messages

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LITERACY IN COBB

The Science of Literacy

Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) is an early literacy leader with support from the Rollins Center for Language & Literacy, the Wellstar Small TALK pediatric program, Cobb Collaborative, and others engaged in promoting science of reading-informed best practices. A 2025 milestone is the Cobb Library Cox Campus Team creating the Science of Reading Action Group program for community volunteers and caregivers of the youngest learners.

Furthering our commitment to inclusive literacy, South Cobb Regional Library hosted the Prime Time Family humanities-based reading program. As one of Georgia’s leading bilingual reading initiatives, it served 97 individuals, over half of whom represent Spanish-speaking bilingual households. This evidence-based foundation ensures our programs are rooted in proven academic success.

Community Impact & Results

This foundational work is complemented by a vibrant series of community events that showcase the joy of reading.

Highlights from the year include:

- **The Summer Reading Program (SRP):** CCPL directly addressed summer learning loss by its community’s completion of 2.7 million minutes read across all age groups.
- **Monthly Engagement:** The Library’s Beanstack team drove year-round engagement through monthly digital challenges, featuring 'Dino-vember,' a signature program originally from Switzer Library.
- **Author Events:** The North Cobb Regional Library’s Young Adult Author Fest, Powder Springs’ "One Book, One City" collaboration, and the Third Annual Local Author Fair at Switzer Library connected dozens of authors with many community members.

Supported by strong partnerships with local schools and non-profits, these diverse initiatives, ranging from scientific instruction to high-profile author engagements, ensure that the library remains an essential engine for economic mobility and lifelong learning for every segment of our community.

15
Challenges on Beanstack

5,506,138
Minutes read in total

2,718,595
Minutes from Summer Reading Program



12,046
Participated in a Beanstack Challenge



4,291
Participated in the Summer Reading Program



729
Children registered for 1000 Books B4 Kindergarten



48
Completed 1000 Books Before Kindergarten



**“My favorite part at Prime Time
is reading all the books I have
seen and not seen.”**

-Neomi, South Cobb Library



CONNECTING AND INSPIRING THROUGH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Large-Scale Community Participation

The library significantly expanded its community footprint through large-scale programming that directly enhanced local quality of life and social connections.

The Summer Reading Program kicked off with a celebration with over 1200 participants. North Cobb Regional Library set a bar for engagement with its Family STEAM Night, drawing over 700 attendees, alongside Minecraft and Trunk-or-Treat events that brought hundreds of neighbors together. Demonstrating the library's competitive appeal, Gritters Library successfully hosted an Egg Hunt for 255 participants

despite other local venues holding similar events simultaneously.

This momentum extended to specialized programming, where the Georgia Room broke its own all-time attendance records twice in 2025, peaking with over 100 attendees for Ann Hite's book release for "I Am a Georgia Girl: The Life of Lucille Selig Frank" and Untold Stories about Kennesaw Mountain. By drawing record crowds and thriving even as people have many other options, these events show that the library is a vibrant, essential space for social connection and community liveliness, a core goal of the library.

TOTAL VALUE OF PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION # BY AGE GROUP

\$997,328.70

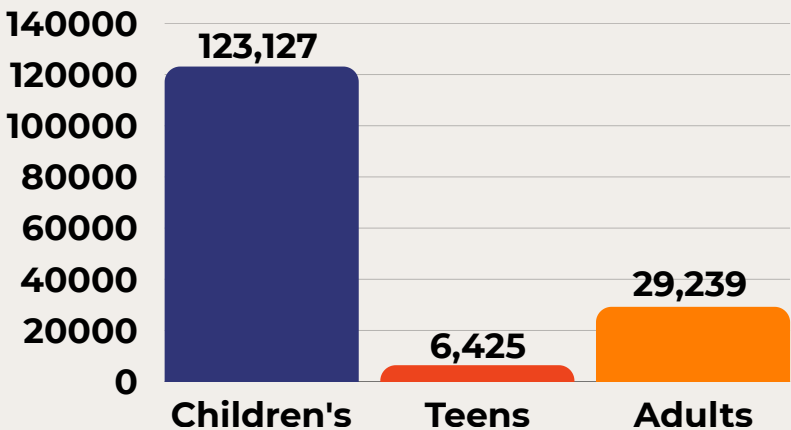
Children's

\$76,136.25

Teens

\$456,128.40

Adults



29,080

Total Online Course Enrollments

Beyond library programming, resources including LinkedIn Learning and Gale Courses enhance career, academic, or personal skills.

Cultural Enrichment

Literacy and culture are central to our mission, fostering deep connections through inclusive, immersive experiences. Cultural enrichment flourished across the Mountain View Region as staff at the East Cobb, Gritters, Mountain View Regional, and Sibley libraries celebrated our community's diverse heritage. Highlights included an immersive virtual Black History and Art Walk, the 4th Annual Diwali Celebration, Lunar New Year celebrations, and the Holi Festival of Colors at Mountain View Regional. This commitment to global traditions was further bolstered by the Multicultural Services Committee, which successfully launched the inaugural "Colors of Spring Festival" at Sewell Mill Library. Together, these programs transform the library into a global gateway, ensuring every member of our community sees their story valued and heritage celebrated.

Skill Development and Personal Growth

The library has become a space for practical skill-building, evidenced by the highly popular "Getting Started with Sourdough" program at West Cobb Regional Library, which drew over 100 people and was successfully replicated at several other locations, including East Cobb Library. Additionally, the Accessibility Services Department introduced "Improv-4-Anxiety" and "Paws to Read for Adults," providing unique therapeutic and social skill-building opportunities for patrons.



STRATEGIC OUTREACH AND DIRECT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Educational and Student Pipelines

Outreach efforts effectively promoted library services and provided essential resources directly where they were needed most, significantly expanding the community footprint.

The Helen Poyer Cobb Library Bookmobile expanded its impact by adding 23 new locations, engaging over 8,700 students and educators across Cobb County through a combination of new and existing service sites.

As part of this outreach, the Bookmobile's Books2Keep program distributed approximately 3,200 books during the summer to ensure students have permanent access to reading materials at home.

This mobile success was matched by high-visibility outreach, such as a three-day Back-to-School Expo where Gritters Library staff reached about 2,100 students and Sweetwater Valley Library's 200 attendees at a Clarkdale Elementary School PTA Literacy Night, which they hosted.

North Cobb Regional Library strengthened our presence on campuses by engaging over 400 college students at the KSU Volunteer Fair and hosting 80 college-bound teens at the North Cobb Mini College Fair, with long-lasting relationships created with educational institutions in the area.

By reinforcing our role as an active academic partner, these interactions ensure that students of all ages have the tools and support necessary for educational success.

3,200+
Free Books
Given Out

165
Scheduled
Stops

1,887
Book
Checkouts

20,549
Patron
Visits

23
New Stops
Added



Health, Wellness, and Essential Services

In a powerful display of community support, South Cobb Regional Library initiated the "Care Cabinet" program by soliciting community donations and providing over 600 hygiene kits and items to those who needed them. The service has been replicated at Switzer Library. Stratton Library provided digital literacy training and "We Care Kits" for the unhoused, helping one patron secure two jobs through library resources.

This commitment to well-being was further demonstrated by the system-wide partnership with Vision To Learn, which provided 669 free eye exams and 454 free pairs of glasses to local children.



600+ Hygiene Kits and Items

669 Eye Exams

454 Glasses

STRENGTHENING IMPACT THROUGH KEY COLLABORATIONS

Cultivating Community & Local History

Forging strategic collaborations allowed the library to expand its capacity and address complex community needs through shared resources and expertise.

The Adult Services Programming Group partnered with the Master Gardeners volunteers of Cobb County and Keep Cobb Beautiful to launch a Seed Library, which distributed over 3,000 seed packets and successfully drew new patrons to branches they had never visited before.

This spirit of collaboration extended to unique community programs, such as the Georgia Room staff's monthly participation in Marietta History Center's Family Pop-ins, as well as staff providing special history lectures at the center.

Workforce Development & Civic Literacy

Workforce development and civic literacy remained priorities, as Powder Springs Library partnered with

the Cobb County Adult Education Department to host regular ESL classes, while Stratton Library collaborated with Cobb Works to teach essential digital literacy skills. Adult Basic Ed ESL classes also were hosted throughout the year at Switzer and Sibley libraries.

Local Business & Academic Partnerships

Our ties to local businesses were further strengthened through programs such as the Creative Journaling Classes led by The Book Worm Bookstore at the Powder Springs Library and North Cobb Regional Library. The Georgia Room had extensive work with Kennesaw State University on oral history transcriptions and hosted trivia nights at Horned Owl Brewing and Reformation Brewery.

East Cobb Library's initiative with Giga Bites Café to engage a new segment of the community through Magic & Dragons Storytime for younger children and the Magic & Dragons event for adults and teens. The Café also featured the library as an excellent venue for tabletop gaming with friends in a video they produced with their mascot.





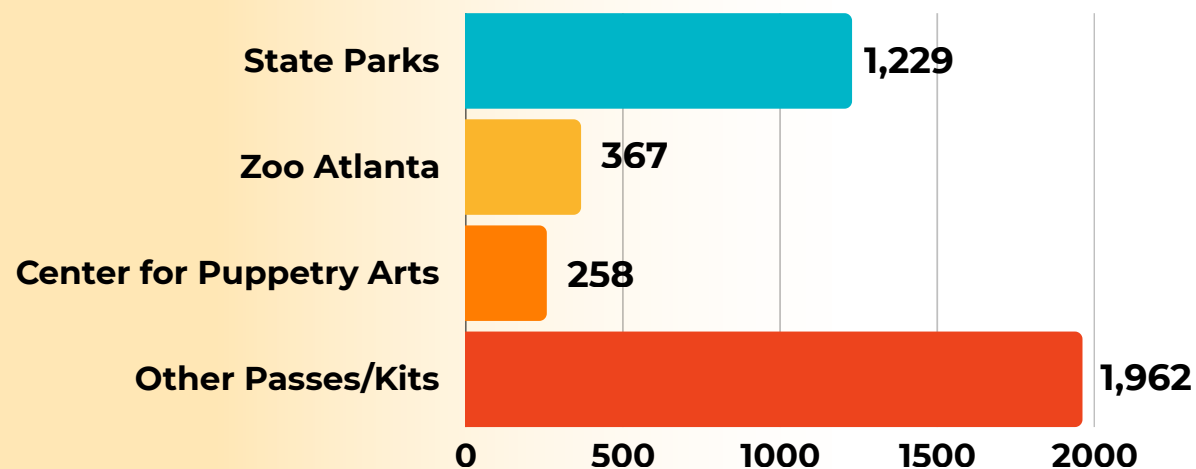
Arts, Culture, & Mobile Resources

The library also strengthened its offerings of the arts through collaborations with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and professional performances by the Discovery Stage Theater across multiple branches. By integrating these diverse collaborations, from historical preservation to workforce training, the library serves as a core center that connects residents to their community.

Annual Library Pass & Kit Usage

Our passes to various institutions and state parks, in addition to various kits, continue to be one of our most impactful tools for community equity. In 2025, the library facilitated 3,816 unique experiences through our partnership passes.

By providing these resources, we are not just lending items; we are fostering a more curious, engaged, and connected Georgia.



**Zoo pass was unavailable effective June 1, 2025*

SYSTEM-WIDE INNOVATION AND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Economic Innovation & Local Partnerships

During National Library Week in April, the library introduced the Perks Program supported by Georgia Public Library Service, which connected over 600 patrons with discounts at 31 local businesses.

Later in the year, the Cobb Library Shop, funded by the Cobb Library Foundation, was launched to fund marketing and outreach efforts.

The shop debuted with six diverse, staff-developed collections, including "Library Holiday Market" and "Bookmobile Buddies," featuring library-themed apparel and essentials branded with mascots Dewey Decimal and Rita Book.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the library's innovative approach to fiscal sustainability and its role in driving local consumer engagement.



30
Perks Partners



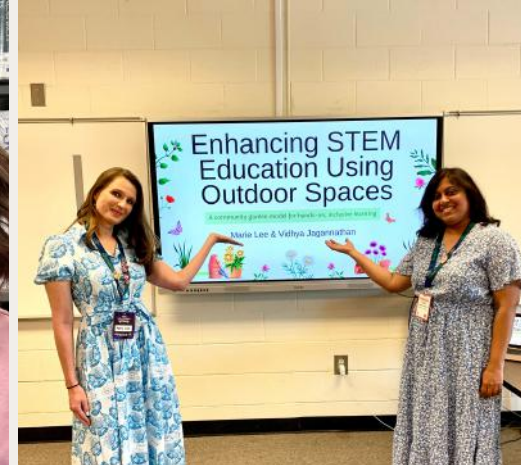
600+
Patron Opt-ins



Technological Advancement

To bridge the digital divide, we provide hardware like laptops and hotspots, along with in-house computers and Wi-Fi. Our commitment to digital equity includes computer literacy classes and SmartALEC software for printing documents from anywhere.

The library continues to modernize with new laser-cutting technology at North Cobb Regional Library and expanded 3D printing and AI classes at Switzer Library. Additionally, a new microform scanner was added in the Georgia Room, funded by the Cobb Library Foundation, and the Daughters of the American Revolution donated equipment for digitizing media at Preservation Place.



Inclusivity & Accessibility

The Accessibility Services Department expanded its impact by introducing ASL interpretation for programs and adding Braille keyboards to its specialized technology room. Its staff provided expert guidance on sensory-friendly storytimes and assistive technology for visually impaired patrons. By advising on projects like the Cobb & Douglas Public Health sensory fair, the library ensures specialized, high-impact services remain accessible to every community member.

Through the library's Books By Mail service for those with mobility barriers, 978 items were sent to over 100 current users. Other continued inclusive services include Passport Services and 6 Virtual Libraries.

Staff Excellence & Recognition

Awards & Certifications

- Cole Hale, Georgia Room: Honored with the KSU Young Alumni Service of the Year Award.
- Amy Albers, Georgia Room: Successfully earned her Genealogy Merit Badge.
- Various staff members completed certifications, including the Impactful Read Alouds in Early Literacy Microcredential from KSU Bagwell College of Education and Cobb Emergency Management Agency's Crisis Coordinator Program.

Professional Leadership & Presentations

- Vidhya Jagannathan & Marie Lee Winkler, NCRL: Presented on Enhancing STEM Education Using Outdoor Spaces at industry conferences.
- Pat Ball, Stratton Library: Led a session titled Beyond Basics: Helping Patrons Protect Their Online Information at a state conference.
- Micah Gross, Gritters & Deborah Jackson, Mountain View Region: Represented the state's LEAP Committee (Leading Engagement, Advancing Possibilities) by presenting at multiple metro library system staff day events.

The commitment to excellence extended to our volunteers, marked by Russ Clayton's 1,000-hour service milestone, reflecting the dedicated spirit of the entire library team.



3,862
Passports
Processed



978
Items Sent to
Patrons via
Books By Mail



22,640
Virtual Library
Interactions



8,312
Combined
Volunteer
Hours Worked

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Keith Schuermann, **Library Director**

Dinah Bonesteel, **Library Administrative Assistant**

Janice Lawson, **Customer Service Manager**

Kristi Scott, **Department HR Representative**

Shelley Zhang, **DivD of Technical Operations**

Sheila Jacobs, **Business Manager**

Slone Williams, **CUE/Communications Manager**

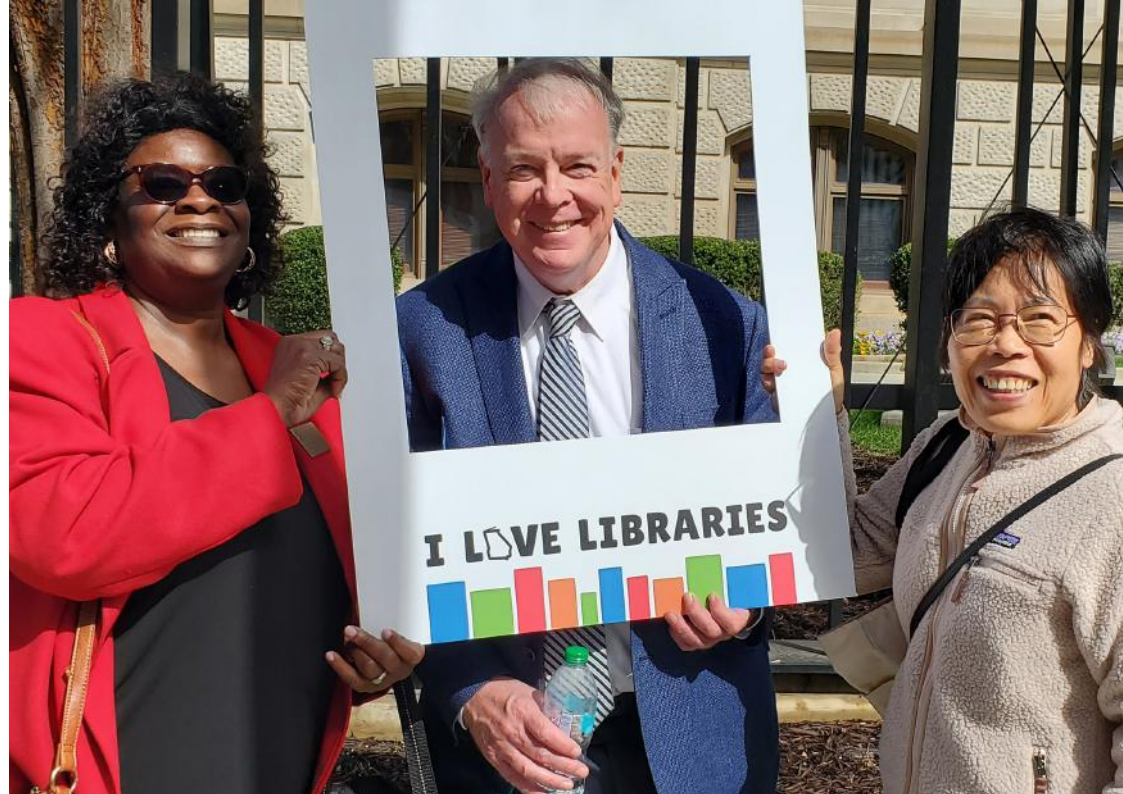
Teresa Tresp, **DivD of Branch Services**

Tom Brooks, **Communications Specialist Sr.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Cobb County Public Library Board of Trustees is a nine-member volunteer board made up of local citizens appointed by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Each trustee serves a 3-year term and may serve successive terms. The trustees set library policy and advise on activities. The Library Board holds regular meetings at various library locations on a rotating schedule. These meetings are open to the public.

- James Coleman, **Chair**
- Peggy Holbrook, **Vice Chair**
- Rachel Gray, **Secretary**
- Jazmine Henley-Brown
- Jon Jordan
- Lisa Brown
- Martina Goscha
- Olye Davis
- Peggy Pool



COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

To make Cobb County the best place to live and work through an efficient, effective and responsive government that delivers quality services.



Lisa Cupid
Commission Chairwoman



Keli Gambrill
District 1 Commissioner



Erick Allen
District 2 Commissioner



JoAnn Birrell
District 3 Commissioner



Monique Sheffield
District 4 Commissioner



Jackie McMorris
County Manager

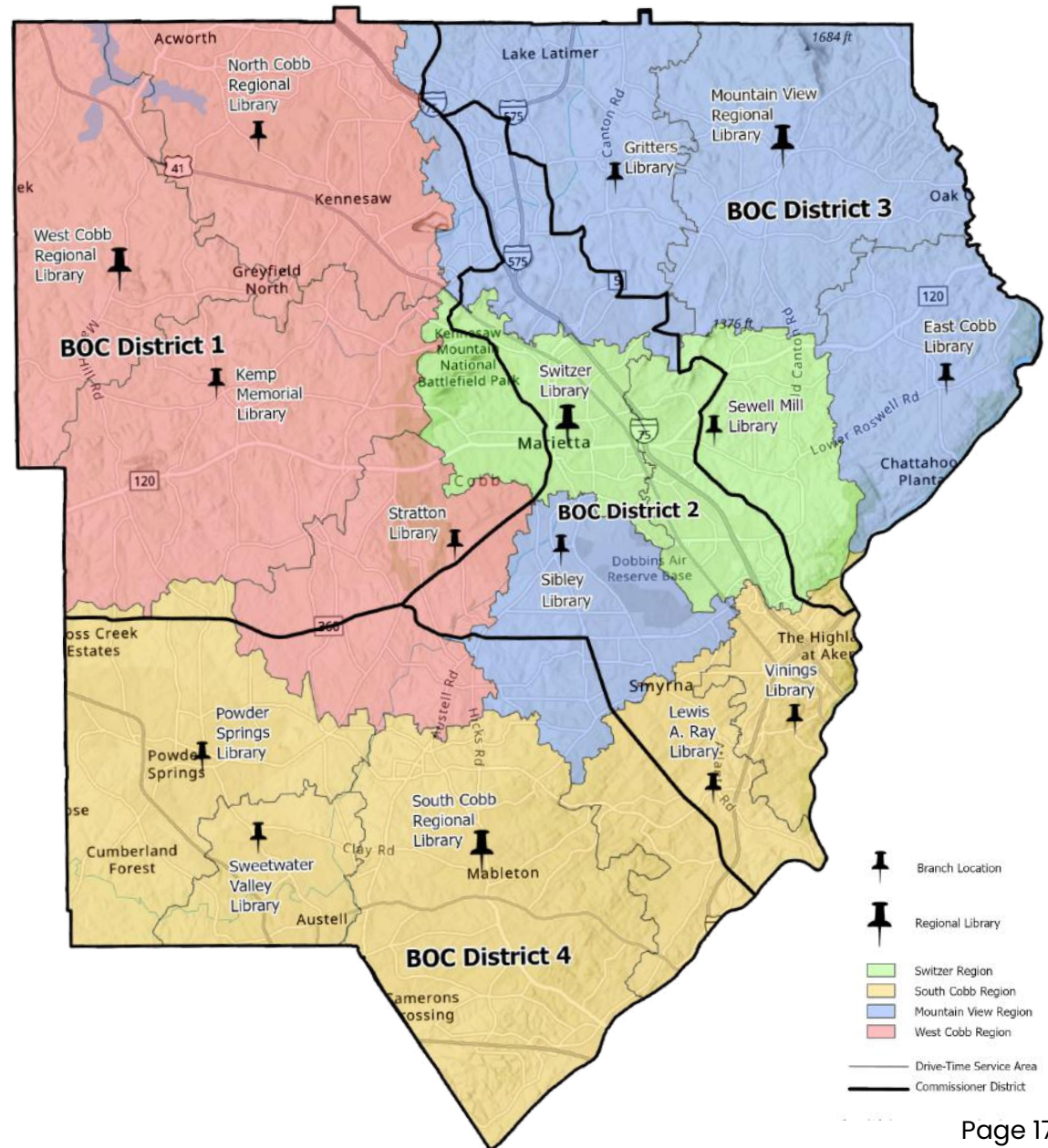


Jimmi Gisi
Deputy County Manager



Jatunn Gibson
Public Services Agency Director

Cobb County Public Library Locations by Service Area and Commissioner District



COBB LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Cobb Library Foundation (CLF) is an organization that provides support to Cobb County Public Library by raising funds and seeking other contributions from the community and business partnerships. Annual CLF events include: Booked for the Evening Gala, Library Mini-Golf, and Booked for Lunch. In 2025, CLF introduced monthly fundraisers, including a Ghost Tour, Holiday Teddy Bear Tea, and various shop for a cause events at local stores.

Foundation Officers

Nona Lacy, President
Rebecca Duvall, Vice President
Ria Thakkar, Treasurer
Mark Justice, Secretary

Board Members

Judy Boyce
Rosalind Bunn
James Coleman
Giles LaMarche
Joe Murphey

Executive Director

Sandra Morris



In Lasting Tribute

As we reflect on the progress and milestones of the past year, we pause to honor the cherished colleagues and friends who are no longer with us. Each of these individuals played a vital role in shaping the fabric of our organization.

We are profoundly grateful for the time we shared with them and for the lasting legacy they leave behind.



Laura Warner

Powder Springs
Youth Services
Librarian



William Burks

East Cobb
Part-Time Library
Technician



Pam Finley

Former Gritters
Branch Manager



James "Jim" M. Ney

Supporter &
Advocate of Cobb
Library



Lee Ann Tanks

Supporter &
Advocate of Cobb
Library



East Cobb Library

4880 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta



Gritters Library

880 Shaw Park Rd., Marietta



Kemp Memorial Library

4029 Due West Rd., Marietta



Lewis A. Ray Library

4500 Oakdale Rd., Smyrna



Mountain View Regional Library

3320 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta



North Cobb Regional Library

3535 Old 41 Highway, Kennesaw



Powder Springs Library

4181 Atlanta St, Bldg. 1, Powder Springs



Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center

2051 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta



Sibley Library

1539 South Cobb Dr., Marietta



South Cobb Regional Library

805 Clay Rd., Mableton



Stratton Library

1100 Powder Springs Rd. SW, Marietta



Sweetwater Valley Library

5000 Austell-Powder Springs Rd., Suite 100, Austell



Switzer Library

266 Roswell St., Marietta



Vinings Library

4290 Paces Ferry Rd., Atlanta



West Cobb Regional Library

1750 Dennis Kemp Lane., Kennesaw



Cobb Library Bookmobile

Instagram
@CobbBookmobile

FOLLOW US!



cobbcounty.gov/library



@CobbCountyLibrary



@CobbCountyLibrary



**Cobb County
Public Library**