



### **Friends of the San Francisco Public Library: Advocating for SFPL since 1961**

Since 1961, Friends has advocated for the San Francisco Public Library at the local, state and national levels. From City Hall to Washington DC, Friends works to raise awareness of the substantial value of today's public libraries. We work publicly and behind the scenes with legislators and elected officials.

Our Advocacy efforts have helped secured stable funding for the San Francisco Public Library well for generations to come. Some of our accomplishments include (in chronological order):

- **Proposition E (1994) — Championing the Library Preservation Fund**  
The passage of Prop E established 15 years of funding by earmarking a percentage of City revenue for the Library. The Fund has had tremendous effect on our libraries; it enabled the library to increase operating hours by 53% and expanded the budget for books and materials by almost 400%.
- **Proposition A (1998) — Building a new Main Library**  
In 1998, Friends realized their long time goal of a new Main Library by championing Proposition A, a bond issue that would fund \$109.5 million to build a new Main Library, which opened its doors on April 18, 1996.
- **Proposition A (2000)—Branch Library Improvement Program**  
A \$106 million bond measure to build and refurbish 24 neighborhood branch libraries city-wide. Public bonds do not pay for equipment or furnishings inside the branches and so to meet this need, Friends' Neighborhood Library Campaign filled this gap by raising over \$14 million dollars to equip and furnish our libraries.
- **Proposition D (2007)—Renewing the Library Preservation Fund**  
Prop D asked voters to renew the Library Preservation Fund, which was due to expire in 2008-2009. In addition, Prop D grants the City the authority to issue revenue bonds to ensure that the Branch Library Improvement Program can continue to renovate San Francisco's neighborhood libraries. Prop D received 74.5% of the vote, more votes than any other proposition on the ballot. Over the next fifteen years, Prop D will bring in more than \$1.2 billion to the library - without raising taxes.
- **Benefit Study (2008)**  
Friends commissioned a study that outlines the economic benefit of the SFPL.  
<http://sfpl.org/pdf/about/commission/berkstudiesummary.pdf>