

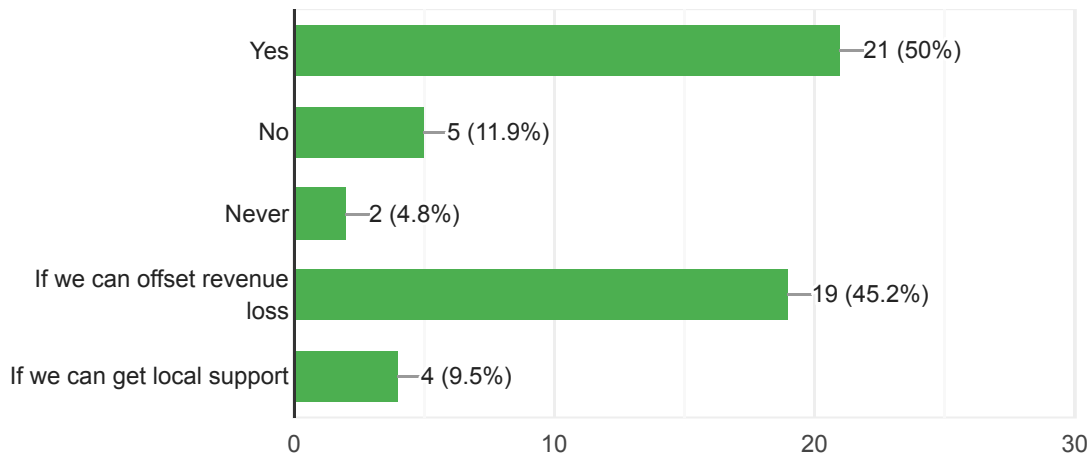
PINES Fines Free Survey

42 responses

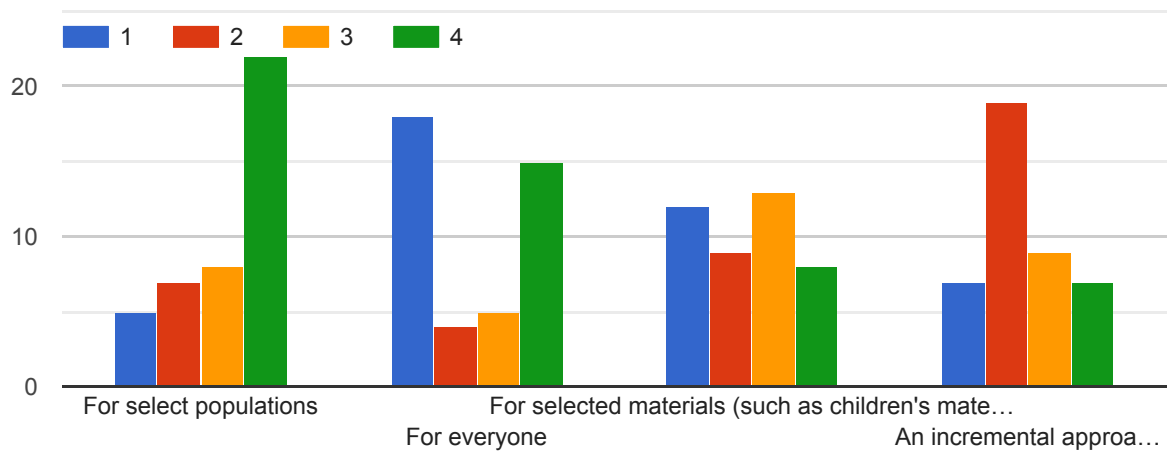
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Are you interested in fines free options?

42 responses



If so, are you interested in fines free cards? Please indicate your order of preference (1=highest preference) for the following options.



What makes you in favor of your first choice?

42 responses

Removes barriers, encourages all users

I would be in favor of no fines on children's books that are checked out on children's cards. It is not a child's fault that an item is overdue.

I feel that if fines are taken away, you take away the patron's accountability. This coupled with the fact that many of our libraries rely on those fines collected to help offset their funding and materials money. Currently I just do not favor this as an option.

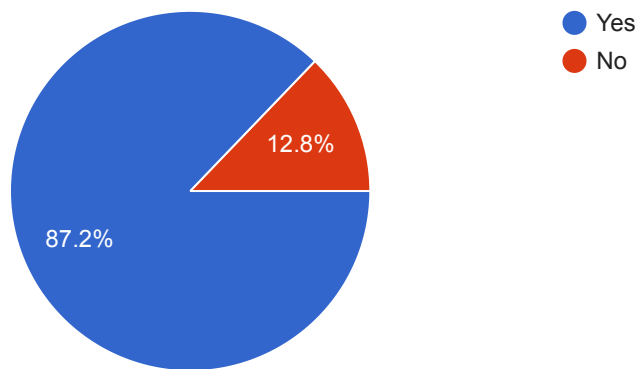
Most needed of all the possible groups

Greater access and liberty to enjoy our circulating materials, for all

Accessibility to all, in my opinion, is part of the public library mission. I respect that while fines may be essential to some libraries, the research is overwhelmingly conclusive across the U.S., that libraries do more harm to their patrons with fines than providing fines free access. Moreover, fines often impact those libraries where the need for services and materials are the greatest. This is part of a more complex issue of literacy

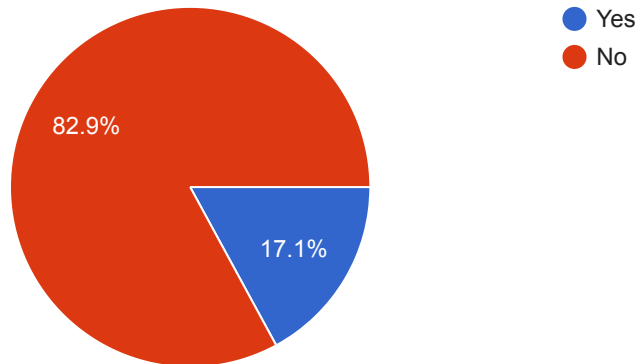
Would you be in favor of PINES expanding the fines free pilot to 5 libraries?

39 responses



Would you be interested in being a pilot site? If "yes", be sure to leave contact info below.

41 responses



Do you believe that your Board and/or funding agencies share your interest or will there need to be advocacy work?

38 responses

Advocacy work

Advocacy work would be needed. We depend on fines to meet our budgets.

Currently my board shares my view, or vice versa.

Tend to share their interest.

Yes, they would

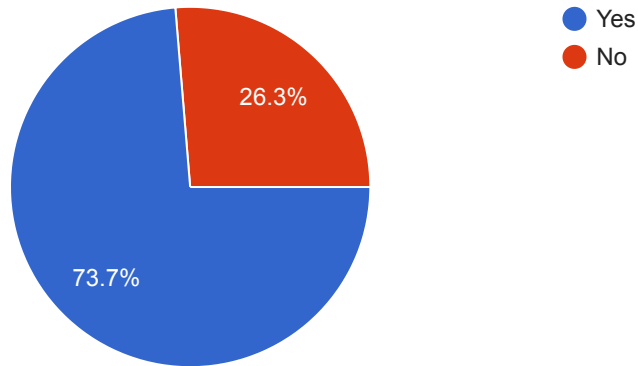
I believe my Board would be willing to support this initiative given that our community is aging up (on fix incomes) and we already have the student PLAY card. The next logical step would be to test a fines free approach. Given that we've just come off a pandemic year where very few fines were collected, it would be better to jump on the band wagon now than to give the false illusion that we are making money from fines. Truth is, we do not.

I believe there will be advocacy work.



Would you need local support to offset revenues?

38 responses



Anything you would like to add about the fines free idea?

21 responses

Would state funds to offset revenues.

Even though what we collect in fines isn't great we still need those funds.

Good thing for a public library to implement

High 5

I appreciate the willingness to have the discussion. Thanks!

I think it is coming whether we like it or not, so I'm in favor of having the pilot to work the kinks out and gather data. I think we need to be ahead of the trend before our patrons begin demanding it.

Love the idea if we can collect the data and figure out a way to do it throughout the state. I have concerns about the impact on PINES and the confusion it may create between neighboring systems who share patrons.



If you are not in favor of fines free, please tell us more about your thoughts/reasoning/opinion below.

13 responses

I'm not against fines free as long as the commitment to it is long term. I've been working in libraries for a long time and fines free as an idea has come and gone before. Usually the number of overdue items and the lost revenue prompted the return to fines. Materials returns were great to start with but then the same patterns occurred with returning items. I do think we should forgive all fines when someone turns 18.

Again I believe that you remove a patron's accountability. Obtaining a PINES card is a contractual agreement. Though it is not exactly the same, when you sign up for a credit card you are accountable for that card and any fees or fines accessed to it. I think of a PINES card as the same type of contract.

I don't believe that fines are a barrier to library usage. The patron has many reminders - checkout receipt, pre-minder, phone calls, letters, emails - warning of due date and many options - renew, renew by phone, renew online - to prevent the accumulation of fines. Cases where large amounts of fines are accumulated can be resolved case by case without having a system-wide fine forgiveness. In most cases, the max billing feature prevents the accumulation of a large amount of fines. The minimal fine can teach library users a sense of responsibility and the need to honor your word that if you borrow something and say you will return it, you should do so and return the item in the same

