

# Library Privatization: The Hidden Costs to Taxpayers

**T**he Santa Clarita City Council voted to privatize their libraries and turn them over to a private company on July 1, 2011. Despite the concerns and questions of thousands of residents, the city council said they were doing this to save money. As reported in Santa Clarita's local paper *The Signal*, the numbers don't lie. Currently, the city council stands by a decision that will cost taxpayers millions of dollars while at the same time losing almost \$1.5 million in revenue.



## A snapshot of additional costs in privatizing Santa Clarita, California's three public libraries:

- \$1,500,000** = Loss of property tax revenue from pulling out of the LA County library system.<sup>1</sup>
- \$752,100** = New renovation costs that Santa Clarita had to absorb once they decided to pull out of the LA County Library System.<sup>2</sup>
- \$93,000** = Joining the Inland Area Library Network comprised of mainly LSSI libraries to borrow materials.<sup>3</sup>
- \$436,000** = Cost of replacement of books and materials needed after leaving the LA County library system.<sup>4</sup>
- \$135,000** = LSSI fee to assist Santa Clarita officials in the transition to a stand-alone library.<sup>5</sup>
- \$20,000** = Cost of polling residents to see if they would be willing to pay a new library tax.<sup>6</sup>
- \$1,300,000** = On March 22, the City Council voted to give LSSI funds for books and furnishings for the three libraries.<sup>7</sup>
- \$8,000,000** = Purchase of the Valencia and Newhall Libraries including furnishings and material from Los Angeles County.<sup>8</sup>

**\$12,236,100 = Total Costs for Santa Clarita Residents**  
(as of June 15, 2011)

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### Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> Everett, Natalie. "Library Tax Poll Under Way." *The Signal on the Web* 15 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/37925>>.
- <sup>2</sup> Everett, Natalie. "Library Renovation Set to Start Again." *The Signal on the Web* 8 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/37603>>.
- <sup>3</sup> Signal Staff. "City Sets Aside \$93K to Share Books for Libraries." *The Signal on the Web* 13 Jan. 2011. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/39051>>.
- <sup>4</sup> Everett, Natalie. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/37603>>.
- <sup>5</sup> Everett, Natalie. "Library Details Emerge." *The Signal on the Web* 21 Oct. 2010. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/35369>>.
- <sup>6</sup> Everett, Natalie. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/37925>>.
- <sup>7</sup> Dixon, Laura. "City OKs Library Spending." *The Signal on the Web* 23 March 2011. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/42239>>.
- <sup>8</sup> Dixon, Laura. "Council Approves Library Purchase." *The Signal on the Web* 25 May 2011. <<http://www.the-signal.com/section/36/article/45553>>.