

From: [Jim Haney](#)
To: [Clerkoftheboard](#); [Jim Hanney](#); [Rachel Poutasse](#); [Heather Lanctot](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #24 - General Fund Reduction- Country Archives
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026 6:40:32 PM

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SUBJECT: Proposed Reductions to General Fund - Yolo County Archives,

As a conservative I am generally in favor of reducing government spending when ever possible! However, I feel the proposed cuts to the very small Archives staff would seriously impact their ability to provide the citizens of Yolo County with even the most basic services required from the archives staff.

For the past four years I have had the privilege of working as a volunteer in the Archives assisting with sorting, organizing, and preserving materials in the archives. As a volunteer I have been tremendously impressed with the massive amounts of data and materials the the small staff is responsible for collecting, preserving, storing and researching in the Archives. As a retired government official with 32 years of experience, I am capable of evaluating and assessing governmental functions. The service that the two staff members now working in the Archives, I can state with certainty that the County is getting its moneys worth and far more from the Archives staff.

The two staff members are responsible for the screening, training and supervision of volunteers. They are "Force Multipliers" in that the training, direction and encouragement that they give each volunteer allows them to accomplish significant more than they could do with the small paid staff in the Archives.

Normally I would not use the qualities of an incumbent to justify the continuing expenditure of taxpayers funds as justification for staffing, however the current Assistant Archivist, Rachel Poutasse is an exception to this rule. Rachel is an outstanding employee who consistently contributes more to Yolo County than she receives in benefits. She is an excellent teacher, guide and researcher. Her interactions with the public and colleagues is exceptional. Her knowledge of the Archives and its holdings are very remarkable and the public is the direct beneficiary of her personality, skills and knowledge.

In lieu of reducing a staff position by 25% I'd suggest that you begin charging the public for research work conducted by staff. An hourly charge for research would make a significant contribution to the Country and it would retain the current outstanding staff.

I am currently out of the state and I am limited in the information I can provide to you, but would be happy to discuss this information with a Board staffer after I return to California next week.

I can be reached at 530-304-9173, or at jim_hanney@yahoo.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information relevant to your important work on the budget.

Sent from my iPad