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## How Will Libraries Fare In Gimenez's Budget?

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez is slated to reveal his proposal for next year's budget tomorrow and lots of eyes are on how much he will allocate for county libraries.

John Quick, president of Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Libraries, has fought cuts in library hours and personnel as the county is forced to dip into reserves to keep them afloat.

For Quick, \$64 million is the magic number.

"It would be to restore and enhance the library system to where it was and where it needs to be," Quick says. "That means it's open during the hours it needs to be open and would give us the programming that the library has come to be known for: early childhood literacy programs, adult literacy programs, as well as enhanced programming for digital media-type of education."

Quick realistically expects the mayor to propose an amount closer to \$40 to million. But he hopes the county commission will be able to raise that without having to increase taxes.

