

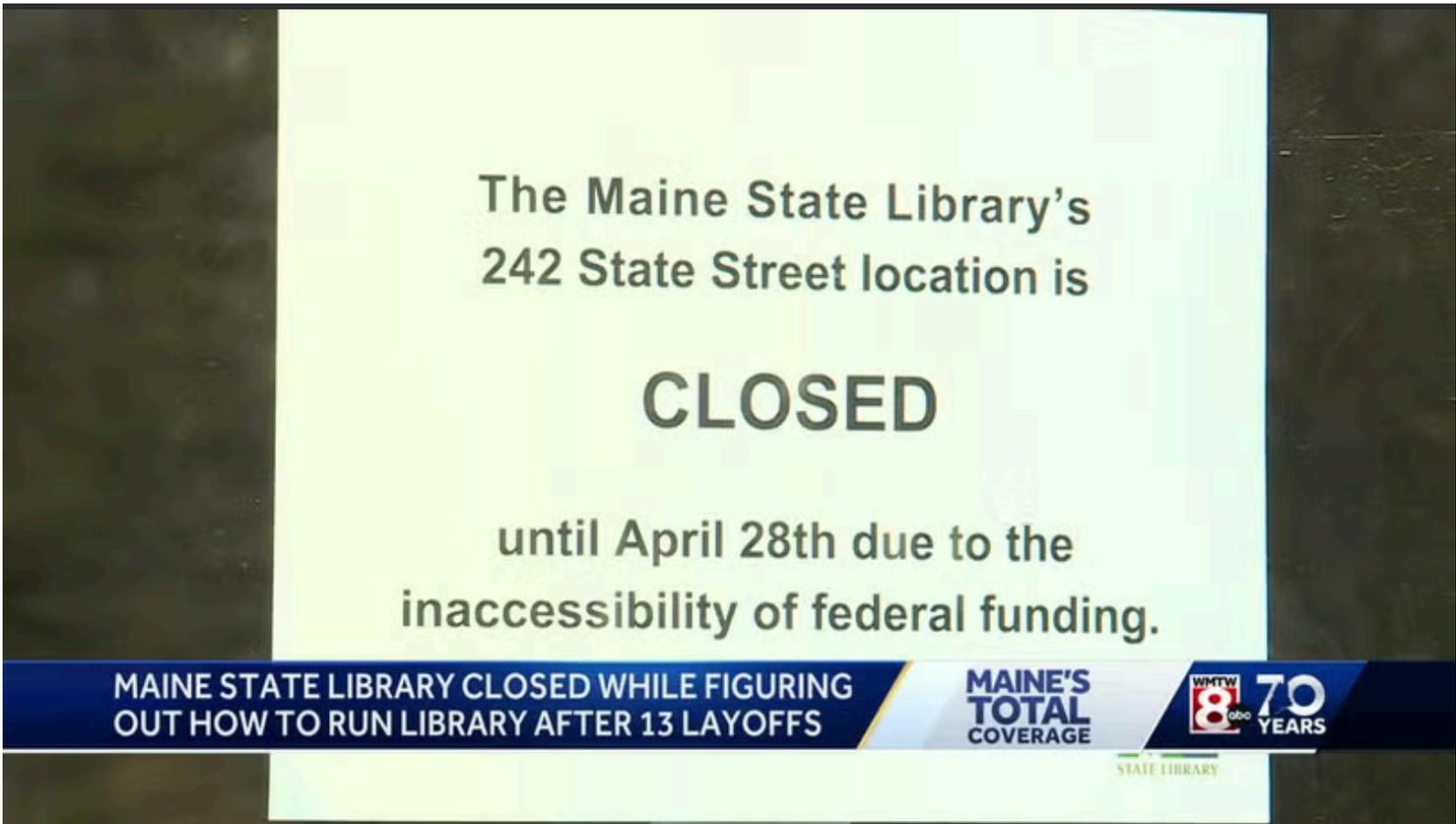
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More than a dozen Maine State Library employees receive layoff letters, union says

The State Library is now closed until late April.

Updated: 10:31 PM EDT Apr 10, 2025

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Bonnie Bishop

Reporter

AUGUSTA, Maine — A union representative tells Maine's Total Coverage that 13 workers at the Maine State Library received layoff letters on Wednesday.

Maine Service Employees Association SEIU Local 1989 field representative Katrina Ray-Saulis said those letters informed those employees their positions would be terminated April 24.

The library temporarily closed on Thursday. Ray-Saulis said it'll be closed for two weeks to reconfigure how they will run the library.

Ray-Saulis said some of the jobs that are being laid off include librarian generalist, librarian core services, librarian specialist services and interlibrary loan coordinator.

"These are not just state workers, these are people with families and children and they're committed to these jobs that they've been doing, in some cases for 20, 25 years," Ray-Saulis said.

The Maine State Library has 44 total employees. Amy Cummings is one of those employees. She's also one of the 13 that will lose their job.

"I've always loved this job, so to say goodbye is really hard," Cummings said.

Cummings thought she was going to be working in a library for the rest of her career.

"You don't do this job because it's a big money maker, you do it because you love it, you love books you love serving the public," Cummings said. "It's not just losing a job, it's a career."

Maine's Total Coverage spoke with Librarian Generalist Sarah Duggan before she knew she was laid off. She said she was worried the people she cares for will have to go without vital services.

"If we're cut off, that's just going to cut off their connection to these services," Duggan said.

Less than a week ago, **Maine joined 20 other states in a lawsuit** against the Trump administration to prevent three federal agencies from being dismantled, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The lawsuit was in response to President Donald Trump's executive order that continues to reduce the federal workforce. According to [the executive order](#), the Trump administration will reduce elements of the federal government that the president deems to be unnecessary.

The IMLS, which provides funding for the Maine State Library, placed a large amount of staff on administrative leave as a result of Trump's order. Grant money is also at risk.

Last fiscal year, Maine State Library received more than \$1.5 million from the government. Without that money, the library will have to restructure.

Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey said dismantling the IMLS, Minority Business Development Agency and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service will have devastating effects on communities throughout the state.

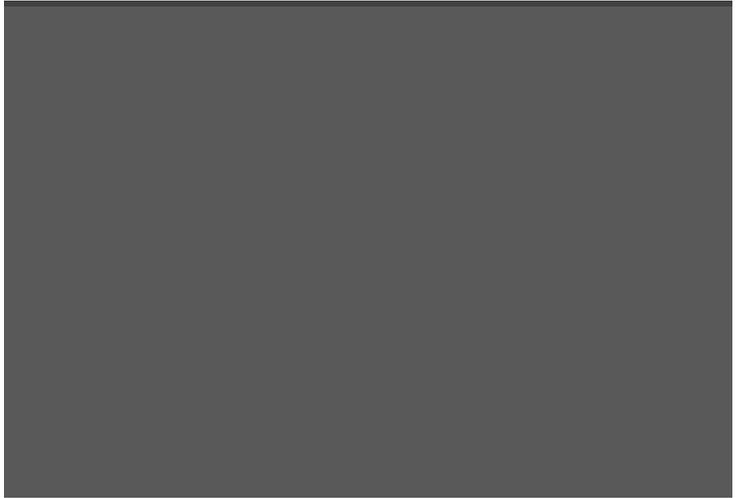
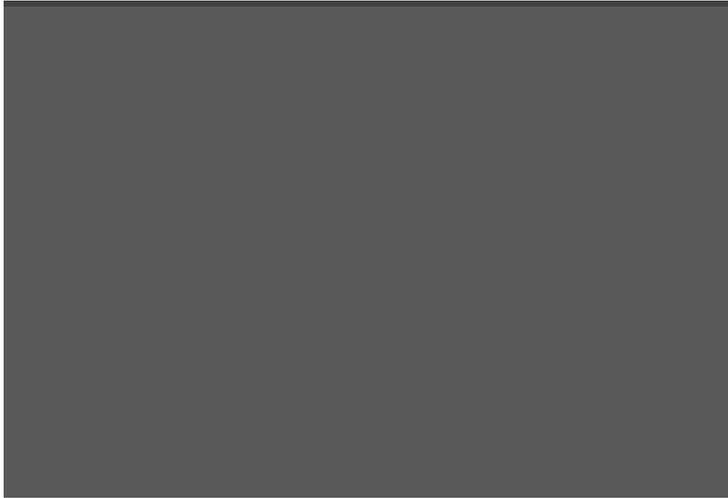
Following the layoffs announcement, the Maine State Library says they will serve all of their patrons to the best of their ability.

Previous coverage:



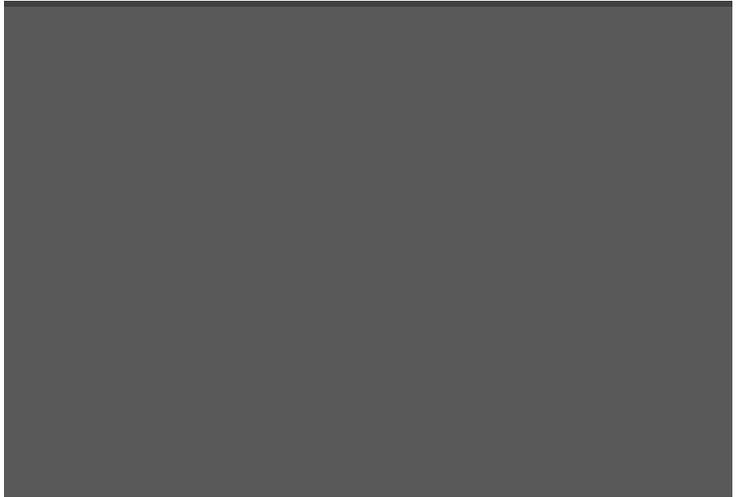
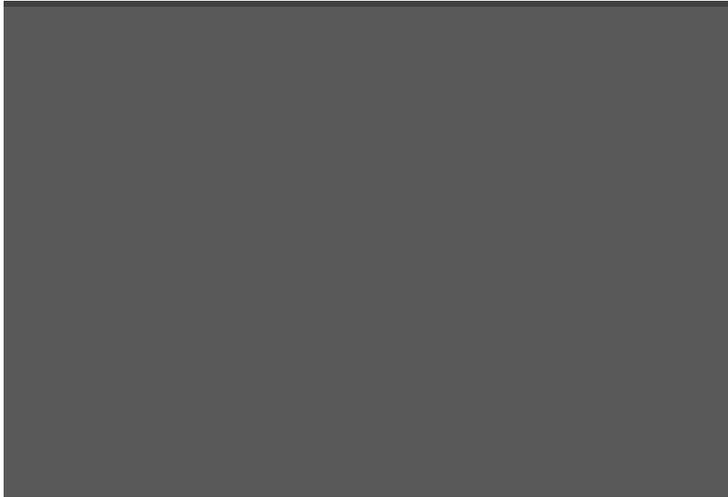
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