

Library Millage Facts

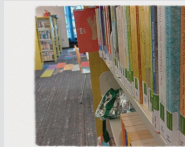
Proposals on Aug. 4 to support current operations and maintain and update library infrastructure



The Library Board is proposing a combined 3.81-mill levy for 10 years (2027–2036). This includes renewing the existing 2.81 operational millage and adding up to 0.50 mills (3.31 total) to fund library services and daily operations, plus a new 0.50-mill capital assets levy dedicated to building and technology upkeep.

Operational funds support:

- Library programming
- Collection development
- Staffing/salary
- Supplies
- & more



Capital asset funding will:

- Increase value/accessibility/lifespan of the library
- Replace the HVAC system (installed in 2010)
- Repair/replace roofing & siding (installed in 2010)
- Replace flooring (sustaining hundreds of daily visitors)
- Update Ethernet capacity (installed in 2011)

FYI

Since the passage of our last millage (in 2016):

- **Annual in-person visits average ≈ 112,000**
- **Visits over this 10-year period ≈ 1.1 million**
- **Annual Computer Sessions average ≈ 115,000**



Learn More



Election Day is August 4

The new millage would cost the average Ferndale homeowner about:

- \$448/ or \$37/month

The current rate is 2.81 mills, or:

- \$338/year or \$30/month

If approved, roughly 8 cents of every tax dollar in Ferndale will go to the library.



FYI

Library patrons who borrow even just a few items per month can save \$300–\$600 annually!

*ALA valuation models

Flashback to: FADL's 2016 Millage



By 2016, library usage had increased dramatically (roughly 400% since 2005), even while revenue had declined due to falling property values (post-recession).

Over the last decade, this renewed funding allowed the library to restore and expand open hours (open 7 days a week), strengthen staffing, increase programming, grow collections and digital resources, and upgrade technology.

Forward to: 2026 Proposals

Our 3.5-mill rate from 2016 has been rolled back to 2.81 mills due to Michigan's Headlee Amendment. Headlee prevents property tax revenue from automatically increasing when property values rise. → As Ferndale property values grew, the millage rate was lowered to keep our revenue within the original voter-approved limits.

The ballot may look like an increase, but the intent is just to restore the levy to the originally approved level.

In other words. It's not new revenue, because the library's share of property taxes had actually decreased, due to Headlee's limitations.



Unlike many libraries, the Ferndale Area District Library actually owns its building, and that means expenditures on maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to keep the facility safe, accessible, and comfortable for the 120,000+ visitors who use it each year.



- This additional millage is also intended to ensure:
 - Exceptional accessibility and comfortable spaces for all visitors
 - Reliable technology and internet with no downtime
 - Safe, well-maintained facilities for programs, study rooms, and community events

Find more info on our website: fadl.org/millage

