

Library Millage 2026

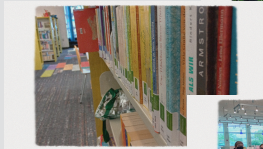
Proposals on Aug. 4 to support current operations and maintain and update library infrastructure



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 average Ferndale homeowners roughly:

- \$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 significantly (approximately 400% since 2005), while revenue had declined due to post-recession decreases in property values.

Over the last decade, funding has supported expanded operating hours (including 7-day service), staffing, programming, collections, digital resources, and technology updates.

Forward to: 2026 Proposals

The library's 3.5-mill operating rate approved in 2016 has been reduced to 2.81 mills due to rollbacks required under Michigan's Headlee Amendment. Headlee rollbacks adjust millage rates as property values change to remain within voter-authorized revenue limits.

As property values increased, the operating millage rate was reduced accordingly. The 2026 proposal would restore the operating millage to a rate comparable to the level previously authorized by voters.

The proposal would also include an additional 0.5-mill capital asset levy for building infrastructure and facility-related costs.



Unlike many libraries, the Ferndale Area District Library owns its building and is responsible for ongoing maintenance, repairs, and facility upgrades for a building used by more than 120,000 visitors annually. Proposed uses of the additional capital millage include:



- Accessibility-related improvements
- Technology and network infrastructure updates
- Building maintenance and facility repairs
- Improvements to spaces used for programs, study rooms, & community events

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

