



West Bloomfield Township Public Library Millage Proposal

Continuing Excellence: Ensuring Library Services for the Next Decade

A millage representing nearly half of the library's revenue is set to end in 2026. The Library Board of Trustees is proposing a repeal and replacement of that millage in November 2024 in anticipation of its expiration.

Why Now?

If library administrators waited until 2025, the library would incur special election costs of approximately \$100,000, per the Township Clerk's Office. Library administrators would rather put those taxpayer dollars towards providing you with great services, programs, and collections, which is why the proposal is on the November 2024 ballot.

The Proposal

The Main Library and Westacres Branch are both nearing 25 years old and will require significant infrastructure replacements over the next 10 years. Though operating expenses are stable, capital needs are driving increased expenses in 10-year financial projections.

The previous library millage was authorized **at a rate of 0.6586 in 2010**. The new proposal would replace this millage **at a rate of 0.70 beginning in 2024 through 2033**. *The new rate will cost approximately \$8.92 more per \$100,000 of your home's taxable value in the first year.*

What to Expect...

If a Majority Votes "Yes"

- Replacement of aging building components
- Updates to technology infrastructure, including 24/7 holds pickup lockers
- Improvements to programming areas, including the Community Meeting Room and outdoor spaces
- Expanded digital collections (eBooks, eAudiobooks, etc.)
- No need to run a special election, saving \$100,000
- Continuation of excellence in services, programs, and collections

If a Majority Votes "No"

- Cuts to programs, collections, and services, including digital collections, as publishers continue to increase costs
- Possible reduction of hours of operation to offset the cost of necessary infrastructure replacements
- The library would incur the cost of a special election in 2025

West Bloomfield Loves Its Library

Library use last year outpaced national and state averages.



22
Circulations
per Capita

West Bloomfield Library circulates 4X as many materials as the average American library.



207
Visitors
per Hour
Open

West Bloomfield Library sees 3X as many visits as Michigan libraries of a similar size.



1 in 2
Households
Regularly Use
their Library Card

West Bloomfield Library has 2X as many active households as comparable libraries.

71%
Growth in
Event
Offerings

West Bloomfield Library added 71% more events last year to meet higher demand, exceeding pre-pandemic numbers.



OTE ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 Learn more at wplib.org/millage.

Ballot Language

The proposal would:

- repeal the previous library millage authorization of 0.6586 mills approved in 2010 for tax years 2012 through 2026;
- authorize the West Bloomfield Township Public Library to levy a new additional millage for library purposes permitted by law, including maintenance and operations of the Main Library and Westacres Branch for future capital improvements;
- authorize the new additional millage to be levied at the rate of 0.7000 mills (\$0.700 for each \$1,000 of taxable value) beginning with the December 1, 2024 levy, subject to future annual rate reductions required by Section 31 of Article 9 of the Michigan Constitution in 1963;
- for a period of 10 years beginning in 2024 and continuing through 2033;
- that may not be increased, renewed, or used for other purposes without voter approval.

If the new additional millage is approved, revenue will be disbursed to the West Bloomfield Township Public Library. An estimated \$3,376,817 will be collected in the first year that the millage is levied.

Should this proposal be approved?

Yes No

Information Sessions:

Saturday, September 21 at 1 PM
Main Library Meeting Room

Monday, September 30 at 11 AM
Main Library Community Commons

Monday, October 7 at 6:30 PM
Online via Zoom

Tuesday, October 29 at 10 AM
Main Library Community Commons



Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a tax increase?

Yes, it is a small increase of approximately \$8.92 per \$100,000 of your home's taxable value.

Much like your home, costs to run the library, such as utilities, maintenance, supplies, and materials, have increased since the current library millage was approved by voters in 2010. Library administrators want to maintain the library to the high standard of excellence this community expects. This small increase will allow them to do that.

Why is the library asking for more funding when local property values have grown?

The library is subject to Michigan's Headlee Rollback Amendment, which requires a local unit of government to reduce its millage when annual growth on existing property is greater than the rate of inflation. The library's millage rate is "rolled back" so that the resulting growth in property tax revenue is no more than the rate of inflation. This rollback reduces the revenue that would have been generated from increased property values.

The millage under consideration for replacement was originally approved by voters in 1997 at 0.70 mills. It was rolled back to 0.6586 mills by 2010 and renewed at the rolled back rate. This year, the millage rate has rolled down to 0.6108 mills. If the millage is replaced at 0.70 mills, it will continue to roll back each year, as well. The Township's Assessor estimates it will roll back to the 2010 rate by 2031.

Why did the library go fine free if it's seeking more revenue?

Fines were not a sustainable source of library revenue. The library estimated that it spent more than it received to collect fines due to IT costs and staff time. Due to the rise in eLibrary checkouts, automated renewals, and other factors, less than 0.5% of the library's revenue last year was from fines, whereas the current millage is responsible for almost half of the library's operating revenue (\$3.1 million). Learn more about the library's decision to go fine free at wblib.org/fine-free/.

✓ VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 Learn more at wblib.org/millage.



The nation's highest honor for libraries.

MAIN LIBRARY
4600 Walnut Lake Road
(248) 682-2120
TDD: (248) 232-2292

WESTACRES BRANCH
7321 Commerce Road
(248) 363-4022

EMAIL & TEXT
Email: wbrref@wblib.org
wacref@wblib.org
Text: (248) 648-3368

wblib.org

HOURS OF SERVICE:
Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 9 PM
Friday & Saturday: 9 AM – 6 PM
Sunday (Main): Noon – 6 PM
Sunday (Main, Summer): Noon – 5 PM
Sunday (Westacres): Noon – 5 PM

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