

Library Millage Renewal Vote August 7

White Lake Township Voters will be asked to renew the Library's expiring operating millage during the primary election on Tuesday, August 7.

The proposition is a renewal and is not a tax increase.

What happens if the millage renewal passes?

A renewal of the library millage will ensure the Library:

- Maintains its current hours of operation
- Continues to provide quality materials, classes, and technology for all ages
- Has money to maintain our new library building scheduled to open in late Spring 2019



What happens if the millage renewal fails?

The Library will need to reduce or eliminate:

- Hours and days of operation
- The number of books, dvds, audio books, electronic books and magazines, interlibrary loans, online resources, magazines and newspapers for children, teens and adults
- The number of youth, teen & adult programs offered - including story time, summer reading, book clubs, movie showings, concerts, author visits, and programs about technology, history, art, crafting, finance, nature and more
- Librarians available at the Library, by phone, online and email who provide in depth expertise and help to patrons
- High speed public internet computers, printing and wireless access
- Outreach services to schools, pre-schools, Dublin Senior Center and community groups

How is the Library Funded?

Over 95% of the Library's revenue comes from property tax. The August 7 Millage renewal request of 0.3861 mils, makes up 38% of property tax levied to support the Library's daily operations. Other sources of revenue include state aid, penal fines and interest from investments.

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How much will it cost?

If approved, the operating millage will renew at its current rate of 0.3861 mills and generate funds for the Library for eight years. A mill is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value which is generally equal to half the property's market value. If the millage renews, an owner of a property with a taxable value of \$100,000 (\$200,000 market value) will continue to pay \$38.61 per year towards support of library service.

Altogether, the Library levied 1.03 mills in 2017. The other property tax revenue is from a perpetual operating millage of 0.2041 and a 0.4373 operating millage scheduled to expire in 2022. If this operating millage renewal passes the Library will levy the same 1.03 mills in December, 2018.

What is the Actual Millage Language on the Ballot?

Library Millage Renewal Proposal

“Shall the previously authorized increase in tax limitation on all taxable property in White Lake Charter Township, Oakland County, that expired in 2017 be renewed and the Township be authorized to levy an amount not to exceed 0.3861 mills (\$0.3861 on each \$1,000 of taxable value against all taxable property for a period of eight (8) years, 2018 to 2025, inclusive, for the purpose of operating the White Lake Township Library or any other purpose authorized by law for library service? The estimate of the revenue the Township will collect in the first year (2018) if the millage is approved and levied by the Township is approximately \$429,000. By law, revenue from this millage will be disbursed to the White Lake Township Library.”

Other Important Information

The elected autonomous six-member Library Board oversees the budget that is audited annually by an independent CPA.

By law, the existing Library funding and the proposed Library millage renewal are for library services only – they cannot be used for other Township operations such as police, fire or other General Township services. The Library does not receive funding from the White Lake Township General Fund.

What happens if property values go up? The Library can receive at most 5% additional tax revenue a year. In 1994, Michigan voters passed Proposal A, which amended the state's constitution to place a “cap” on property taxes. Beginning in 1995, property taxes were calculated on the taxable value, which could only increase by the lesser of 5% or the rate of inflation, regardless of the change in assessed value.

White Lake Township residents with questions about the ballot proposal should contact Library Director, Denise Stefanick at dstefanick@whitelakelibrary.org, (248) 698-4942 ext. 5.