TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

LIBRARY MILLAGE

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

TADL MAIN Traverse City
EAST BAY Branch Library
FIFE LAKE Public Library
INTERLOCHEN Public Library
KINGSLEY Branch Library
PENINSULA Community Library

About Us

Grand Traverse County's six libraries joined together in 1983 to become the Traverse Area District Library (TADL) network.

The vast majority of TADL's funding (about 90%) comes from property taxes paid by the residents of the library service area. An additional small portion of revenue comes from overdue fines, state aid, penal fines, donations, and investment income from endowments.

Learn more about TADL at tadl.org!

TADL's Network by the Numbers

6 locations provide **301** service hours a week to **17** municipalities!

48% of service district residents have a TADL library card!

Value of items checked out in 2023: $15,826,655
A 264% community return on investment for 2023

What's available to check out?

406,393 physical items available

1.7 Million digital items available

What's available to attend?

8 programs a day (district-wide average)

56,384 people attended 3,011 programs in 2023

How many people used the library last year?

419,235 people visited a TADL library

373,806 people visited tadl.org

97,416 reference questions answered

Additional Services

The Larry Gorton Talking Book Library provides resources and services for people unable to use standard print

New in 2022 - Bookmobile library services, which logged 1,678 miles visiting daycares, schools and senior living facilities around the county. (Some schools no longer have their own libraries!)

Wifi/computers - Residents without internet can access it for free at any library, plus printers & computers.

Residents in the library service area may with questions about the millage ballot proposal may contact Library Director Michele P. Howard at mhoward@tadl.org.

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What is the actual millage language on the ballot?

TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
MILLAGE PROPOSAL
This proposal is to restore the full amount of the 1996 millage that was approved by the voters in the amount of 1.1 mills beginning with the December 2024 tax levy in order to provide funds for the Traverse Area District Library for the next 10 years.

For the purpose of providing funds for the Traverse Area District Library for all district library purposes authorized by law at an increased millage level, shall the previous voted annual tax rate which may be levied against all taxable property within the Traverse Area District Library district, Grand Traverse County, and a portion of Leelanau County, Michigan, be increased and shall the Traverse Area District Library be authorized to levy up to 1.1 mills ($1.10 per $1,000 of taxable value) as a new, additional millage annually for 10 years, beginning 2024 through 2033, inclusive?

If approved and levied in full, this millage will generate an estimated $8,020,750.00 in revenue for the Traverse Area District Library in the first calendar year of the levy (2024).

By law, a portion of the millage may be disbursed to other governmental entities that capture property taxes within their jurisdictions. These are the Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Grand Traverse County Land Bank Authority, and the Leelanau County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

- Yes
- No

For more information please visit tadl.org/millage

Specific Millage Questions

What is on the ballot?
On August 6, 2024, residents in the Traverse Area District Library service area will vote on a measure to restore the operating millage to its original amount set in 1983 of 1.1 mills.

- If residents vote "yes," the existing millage which was reduced by the Headlee amendment will be restored for 10 years at a rate of 1.1 mills.
- If residents vote "no," the current millage will expire on 12/31/25. Without millage funding, TADL will lose 90% of its funding.

Who will be voting on the millage?
Any registered voter who resides in Grand Traverse County plus the portions of the City of Traverse City that are inside the boundary of Elmwood Township (Leelanau County).

How much will the millage cost me?
If approved by voters at the rate of 1.1 mills, homeowners will pay $1.10 for each $1,000 of state equalized value (SEV) of their home. The SEV is half of the estimated market value of a home. This millage vote restores our rate back to 1.1 mills by renewing the current rate of .9044 mills along with a new additional rate of 0.1956 mills.

Cost	Benefit
The average homeowner in the TADL service area will pay $2.38 per week, less than the cost of one coffee-shop coffee for library services ($123.97 annually per household).	The average library card holder achieves a value of$6.16 per week, $320.08 per person each year in library services. Visit tadl.org/millage for value calculations.

Why does the library need money?
This is an operating millage, to keep the library functioning. Public libraries in Michigan are primarily funded through local property tax millage. Approximately 90% of the library's revenue comes from property taxes collected from Grand Traverse County.

What other funding does the library receive?
The remaining 10% of library revenues come from state aid, penal fines, investment interest, donations and endowments, and grants.

What does the millage fund?
The millage is for the purpose of providing funds for the Traverse Area District Library for all district library purposes authorized by law, including:

- All library resources including books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks, magazines, online databases, nontraditional items, and Wifi hotspots.
- Programs including storytimes, craft programs, and special presenters and authors.
- Engagement in the community at schools, senior living facilities, and local events.

What happens if the millage passes?
Approval of the millage ensures that Grand Traverse County residents can continue to have a fully operating library system. Any resident can get a card and access all library materials.

What happens if the millage fails?
If the millage fails, Grand Traverse County residents could continue to use the library with no additional cost until December 31, 2025. After that date, the library system would lose 90% of its funding.

Do people still use the library?
Yes! Today, almost half of all service residents have a library card and the Traverse Area District Library has more than 60,000 active cardholders. We welcome an average of seven new cardholders a day!

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