

# Q&A

## YOUR LORAIN LIBRARIES HAVE A LEVY ON THE MAY 4 BALLOT

### What is the Lorain library levy?

The levy on the May 4 ballot **is not a new tax**. It is a renewal of the current 5.95 mills passed in 2016. The levy expires every five years.

### What kind of funding does this mean for the library?

The library levy is essential in providing funds to maintain library operations. The current levy makes up **95%** of the operating revenue for both the Main Library and South Lorain branch and is necessary to maintain the current levels of service and staff.

### What will this levy cost me as a homeowner in Lorain?

The levy will cost the owner of a home in the Lorain City School District valued at \$100,000 \$15.87 per month, the same as it has for the past five years.

### Are the funds raised by this levy only used to operate the Lorain branches?

Yes. By law, all funds raised by the Lorain library levy must go directly to support the operations at the Lorain branches.

### What will the library provide if the levy passes on May 4?

- Programming for all ages will be continued, including early childhood development programs and programs specifically for seniors.
- The current hours of service will be maintained, including morning, evening and Saturday hours at both branches and seasonal Sunday hours at the South Lorain branch.
- Regular purchases of new library materials so that the current collection of books, magazines, DVDs and CDs will have the most up to date items available for library patrons.
- Computer access and Internet resources will be maintained as well as individual technical assistance and assistance for those seeking employment.
- Expanded outreach to the community.

### What will happen if the levy fails?

If the levy fails, **drastic cuts** will have to be made. Due to having to reduce staff and operating hours, these cuts will include:

- Eliminating ALL library programming including story times and senior programs.
- Availability of our free meeting room spaces at both branches will be limited due to reduced hours.
- Some evening and some morning hours will be eliminated.
- Cutting the library materials budget, resulting in fewer purchases of new books, new DVDs, new audiobooks and new CDs.
- Even with these cuts, the budget for the two Lorain branches will have deficits over the five-year period 2022 to 2026 and additional cuts will have to be identified by the Library Board of Trustees.