

Q&A

YOUR COLUMBIA LIBRARY HAS A LEVY ON THE MAY 6 BALLOT

What is the Columbia library levy?

The levy on the May 6 ballot is not a new tax. It is a replacement of the current 1.74 mill levy which originated in 2010 and most recently passed in 2019. 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 96% of the operating revenue** and is essential to maintain the current level of service and staff.

What will this levy cost me as a homeowner in Columbia?

The levy will cost the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 \$61.00 per year or \$5.08 per month.

Are the funds raised by this levy only used to operate the Columbia Branch?

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

What will the library provide if the levy passes on May 6?

- Purchases of library materials will be maintained so that the current collection of books, magazines, DVDs and CDs will be available for library patrons.
- The current hours of service will be maintained, including morning, evening and Saturday hours.
- Programming for all ages will be continued, including early childhood development programs and programs specifically for seniors.
- 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, these cuts will include:

- Significantly reduced hours, including the elimination of some evening and morning hours.
- Substantially cutting the materials budget, resulting in fewer purchases of new books, DVDs, ebooks, audiobooks and CDs.
- Eliminating ALL programming, including story times and senior programs.
- Limited availability of our free meeting room space due to reduced hours.

Even with these cuts, the Columbia Branch budget will have deficits over the five-year period 2026 to 2030 and additional cuts will have to be identified by the Library Board of Trustees.