



## RENEWAL OF DISTRICT LIBRARY OPERATING MILLAGE TO BE ON GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

JACKSON COUNTY, MI - Jackson County voters will be asked to consider an eight-year renewal of the Jackson District Library's operating millage during the general election Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The proposed 1.7411 millage renewal accounts for roughly 90 percent of the library district's revenue and collects about \$9 million annually. The remaining revenue sources include state aid, penal fines, grants, and donations. Voters in every municipality in Jackson County approved JDL's operating millage in 2016, with a total of 66 percent approval county-wide.

"Library use and support is high and we expect it to continue to grow," JDL Director Liz Breed said. "We have more than 1,000 people visit one of our 13 locations every day, we had nearly 1.5 million items checked out by patrons in 2023, and we had more than 30,000 people attend a program or event last year."

Library officials promised to renovate JDL locations and expand collections when lobbying for the 2016 millage, and JDL Board of Trustees President Stephen Rajzer said the library has not only followed through on its promises, but did so without the need to raise the millage rate this time around.

"Since our millage passed in 2016, we've renovated and refreshed a number of our locations including the Brooklyn Branch, the Spring Arbor Branch, the Henrietta Branch, and the Eastern Branch, among others," Rajzer said. "We want to continue that work, and we want to continue being good stewards of taxpayer dollars by simply asking for a renewal and not a millage increase for the next eight years."

The average Jackson County homeowner should expect to continue to pay roughly \$113 per year if the millage passes, or about 30 cents per day. The average Jackson County home has a taxable value of \$65,000 and a value of about \$130,000.

JDL currently staffs more than 140 people, maintains 13 libraries across Jackson County and the administration building, maintains a bookmobile, and serves all Jackson County municipalities. Officials warn that without a renewal of the operating millage, tough decisions would need to be made moving forward.

"Without 90 percent of JDL's funding, you can expect serious changes to how and where the district operates," Breed said.

For more information, visit JDL's Millage Renewal Information Page on their website at [www.myjdl.com/millage](http://www.myjdl.com/millage).



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