



PRESS RELEASE

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Library operating millage will be on the August ballot in Grand Traverse County

(TRAVERSE CITY) - The Traverse Area District Library Board of Trustees has voted to put an operating millage on the August 6, 2024 ballot. The measure is written 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.

MaryLee Pakieser is the current president for the TADL Board of Trustees. "It's important to note that this is an operating millage," Pakieser said. "The funds will be used for all district library purposes authorized by law at all six TADL libraries throughout the county." Board votes approving the millage initiative wording and ballot date were unanimous.

Example district library uses include: all library resources (books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks, magazines, online databases, nontraditional items, and Wifi hotspots); programs (storytimes, craft programs, and special presenters and authors); and . outreach/community engagement at schools, senior living facilities, and local events.

Cost

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).

*Source: American Community Survey 2020 US Census.

Benefit

Cardholders can check out over 406,393 physical and 1.7 million digital items. The average library card holder achieves a value of \$320.08 per year**.

**Download our library value sheet with the math online!

Michele P. Howard is the director of the Traverse Area District Library. She notes that timing was an issue in deciding on the August 2024 ballot. “It’s more cost-effective from an election standpoint to put the millage on a ballot during a regular general election. If we wait until 2025 TADL would have to pay all the costs of a special election.”

Howard notes that while library staff always welcome good conversation with library patrons, staff members are only allowed by law to provide factual information about the millage. Flyers with facts and figures data will be available at the libraries, and TADL has a webpage online with additional details, including the impact of Headlee rollbacks - tadl.org/millage. Exact ballot language is available online at tadl.org/millage and has been approved by Grand Traverse County for inclusion on the August 6, 2024 ballot.



tadl.org/millage

[Check our calendar](#) for the most up-to-date roster of TADL events. Press resources are available online at tadl.org/press. TADL provides dynamic resources and innovative services to stimulate intellectual curiosity, facilitate lifelong learning, promote literacy, and nurture personal enrichment. Circulating over 1,300,000 items each year, TADL provides a wide variety of services, including a broad collection of books, digital streaming and downloads, public computers, free WiFi, a Talking Book Library, and free programs for all ages.

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Images: Images of the Headlee graphs shown on tadl.org/millage are available upon request.