



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[HTTP://FERGUSON.LIB.MO.US/LEVY-FAQ/](http://ferguson.lib.mo.us/levy-faq/)

## VOTE



## APRIL 3 2018

### WHAT IS THE LIBRARY PROPOSING?

The Ferguson Municipal Public Library District Board of Trustees have placed levy funding request on the April 3, 2018 ballot in Ferguson, MO. to increase the library levy by \$0.18 per \$100 assessed valuation over the current rate of \$0.22, bringing it to \$0.40. For example, owners of a house with market price of \$50,000 will see their property taxes increase by about \$17.00.

### WHY IS THE LIBRARY PROPOSING THIS LEVY INCREASE?

The Board of Trustees for the Library has identified the need for sustainable, ongoing levy funding to replace one-time donation support from 2014. This will help avoid significant reductions in services and allow the library to better meet the its mission of lifelong learning, cultural literacy, and bringing the community together.

### THE LIBRARY RECEIVED DONATIONS? WHAT DID THE LIBRARY DO WITH THAT MONEY?

In 2014, the library received \$450,000 in donation monies from local residents and other generous donors across the country. The library's Board of Trustees immediately made a plan to make sure every penny was accounted for and used in ways that would most efficiently improve the library's long-term ability to be welcoming and responsive to patron needs.

The library made improvements to the building that were a decade overdue, including installing automatic sliding front doors; installing new carpet; renovating the bathrooms; purchasing new library tables, chairs, and comfortable seating; replacing 20-year-old HVAC units; and upgrading sections of library shelving. Additionally, the library was able to replace and expand its aging computers, add a laptop lab, and add a SMARTboard to the auditorium space. This allowed the library to meet patrons' growing needs for Internet access and training spaces. Beyond improvements to the physical space, the library utilized donation funds to hire a full-time programming and children's librarian, radically improving the quality and responsiveness of our programming.



### WHY CAN'T THE LIBRARY RELY ON MORE DONATIONS?

The 2014 donations were a rare, unusual occurrence that cannot be duplicated. The library does fundraising each year and seeks out grants, but these are not a reliable funding source. As an unstable funding source, donations are used to add new services or to work on special projects generally outside of the library's abilities. Public libraries run on stable levy funding to serve their communities effectively. Core patron services will come and go if the library were to rely on donations to operate.



**Ferguson Municipal Public Library**  
35 N Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135  
(314) 521-4820 | [www.ferguson.lib.mo.us](http://www.ferguson.lib.mo.us)



@fergusonlibrary



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## HOW DOES THE FERGUSON LIBRARY RELATE TO THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY?

The Ferguson Library is not part of the St. Louis County Library (SLCL). Established as a municipal library in 1930, Ferguson residents voted in 1965 to keep their hometown public library as an independent community library, which could be more responsive to their needs. Residents enjoyed the library's excellent level of personalized service and wanted to maintain local control of the library.

## IS THE FERGUSON LIBRARY PART OF THE CITY OF FERGUSON?

No, the Ferguson Library is not a department of the City of Ferguson. In 1965 the Ferguson City Council ruled that the library, as a special district, was not a department of the City of Ferguson. This decision was certified by voters in April 1966, establishing the Ferguson Municipal Public Library District as a separate community organization. The library has been an independent organization and independently funded since this vote. As an independent taxing district serving the citizens of Ferguson, the library's only connection with the City of Ferguson is that the Mayor appoints new members to the library's Board of Trustees. The library does, however, enjoy a cooperative relationship with the City of Ferguson, including contracting for things like maintenance work and snow removal.

## IF PROPOSITION L FAILS, WILL THE LIBRARY CLOSE?

No, the library will not close, but it will be forced to seek out ways to reduce operating costs. This means reducing staff, cutting operating hours, providing less programming, limiting the amount of books, movies, and other library materials the library purchases, and more. All patrons, like those who depend on the library for help in finding a job, completing homework, discovering their next favorite book, or learning a new skill, will be negatively impacted. The effect on the community of Ferguson as a whole will be significant.

## HOW WOULD PROPOSITION L AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

Based on the type of property owned and the value of the property, Proposition L would make the following adjustments on a yearly basis:

	APPRAISED VALUE	ADDITIONAL YEARLY COST
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$5,000	\$9.00
	\$10,000	\$18.00
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	\$50,000	\$17.10
	\$100,000	\$34.20
	\$150,000	\$51.30

To find your property's valuation go to:  
<https://revenue.stlouisco.com/IAS/index.htm>

## WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE LIBRARY ASKED FOR A NEW TAX RATE?

The last library levy was set by voters in 1995, over 20 years ago.

## Have more questions? We're here to help! For more information:

Call the library at 314-521-4820 or visit the library's website at [ferguson.lib.mo.us/levy-fact-sheet-apr-3/](http://ferguson.lib.mo.us/levy-fact-sheet-apr-3/)



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