

# ✓ Shaker Library Fast Facts

- Shaker Library is nationally recognized as one of America's best libraries.
- Shaker Library is a community gathering place with an 80-year tradition of providing excellent services to address the needs and interests of Shaker residents of all ages.

## **Shaker Library's CLEVNET membership blends the cost savings and collaboration of regionalism with the accountability of local control.**

- Shaker Library embraced regionalism by joining CLEVNET in 1983 and has benefitted ever since.
- CLEVNET is a resource-sharing network of 44 partner libraries in 71 cities, including 111 branches, making it one of the largest public library consortia in the world.
- A Shaker Library card provides access to almost 11 million items, including almost 800,000 e-books and e-audiobooks.
- CLEVNET is a good investment. Partner libraries receive a \$6 return on every \$1 invested.

# ✓ Levy Fast Facts

- Shaker Heights Public Library Levy
- 1.9-mill increase
- May 8, 2018 Ballot

## **Why does the library need more money?**

- Almost two-thirds of the library's revenue comes from property taxes.
- Revenue from the State of Ohio declined 19% and revenue from the existing property tax levy has declined 18% since 2008.
- The cost of living has risen 14% since 2008.
- Library facilities are in need of repair and renovation.

## **How has the library cut costs in response to the loss of state and local funding?**

In response to the reduction in annual revenue, the library has:

- Reduced its operating budget in all areas, including reduction in staff.
- Reduced its material budget for books, CDs, DVDs, and e-books.
- Reduced hours of operation.
- Delayed replacement and upgrades to computer hardware and software.
- Postponed repairs and maintenance of its facilities.

## **When was the last time the library asked for an increase in millage?**

The 2018 levy is the first request for additional millage in 21 years. (The community supported a replacement levy 10 years ago.) Shaker Library has worked hard to minimize what it asks of taxpayers. It is committed to cost containment and to maximizing the use of every tax dollar it receives.

## **What percentage of the total property tax millage does the library receive?**

Shaker Library's current 4.0 voted mills is just 2% of Shaker's total property tax millage. The additional 1.9-mill operating levy would increase the library's percentage of total voted millage to 2.64%.

## **How will this levy impact homeowners?**

For the owner of a \$100,000 home, the 1.9-mill levy will cost an additional \$67/year or \$5.58/month.

## **What will happen to the library if the levy fails?**

In 2016, the Library Board of Trustees studied seven options for the future. If necessary, the Shaker Library Board of Trustees will re-examine all options carefully to make the best decision for the community.

## **How will funds from this levy be used?**

The new levy would generate about \$1.5 million a year.

One-third of the revenue would be used for operating expenses to offset funding cuts and to improve services, including offering year-round Sunday hours at Main Library.

Two-thirds of the revenue would be used to renovate and upgrade Main Library and Bertram Woods Branch, which currently need \$4.1 million and \$1 million in repairs, respectively. Renovations would include:

- Making the library more accessible and convenient for our community.
- Improving spaces for kids and teens.
- Enhancing space for technology.
- Updating meeting and quiet study rooms.

Repairs include a new roof at Main Library and updated HVAC and energy efficiencies in both buildings.

## **Do I pay a Cuyahoga County library tax as well as a Shaker Library tax?**

No. Residents are NOT double taxed for two library systems. Shaker Library is a separate, independent library; therefore, residents' tax dollars go to support Shaker Library.

## **When will the issue be on the ballot?**

The Library Levy will be on the May 8, 2018 ballot.

12/15/2017

**shakerlibrary.org**