



## Library Improvement Plan: About the May 8 Ballot

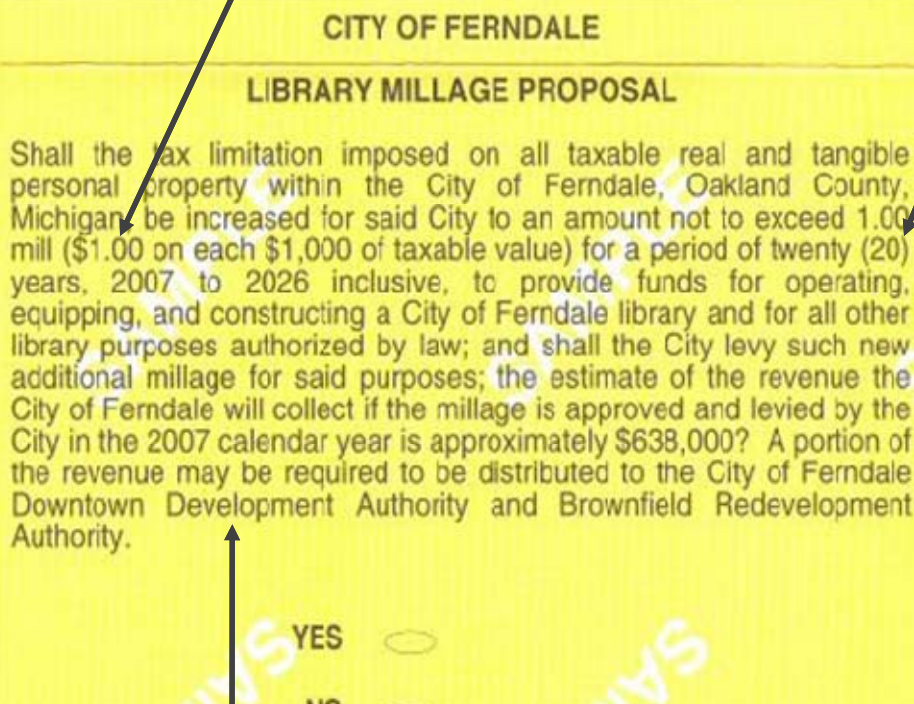
On May 8, 2007 Ferndale voters will go to the polls to vote on a 1-mill funding proposal for the Ferndale Library Improvement Plan. What do citizens need to know about the ballot?

*How much will this cost?*

As the ballot says, 1.00 mill amounts to \$1 on every \$1,000 of taxable value. *Taxable* value, however is only ½ of a house's *actual* value. For example, the average house in Ferndale is valued on the market at about \$130,000. The *taxable* value is half of that: \$65,000. The mill will therefore cost the homeowner \$65 per year or \$5.41 per month. Another way to look at it is that the mill represents an additional property tax payment of 2.2%, or 2 cents on every dollar.

*Why 20 years?*

A long term millage is necessary to provide the stability of funding that is necessary for effective long-term planning and efficient use of resources. The 20-year period will also allow the library to spread out payments on its construction project and therefore to permit the kind of expansion demanded by Ferndale residents in surveys



*Why does the ballot mention the Downtown Development and Brownfield Development authorities?*

Michigan law provides for a small amount of tax revenue (based on a strict formula) to be "captured" for the purposes of environmental and economic development. As Ferndale complies with state law, this means that just under one-fortieth (2.4%) of the 1 mill will go to the DDA and BDA for the purposes of environmental remediation and development of the downtown area. The DDA in particular has been extremely supportive of the library and already uses some of its funding to develop the area in which the library is situated.

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