



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: October 5, 2020

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager  
Cathleen A. Russ, Library Director  
Jenna Fillmore, Marketing Specialist

Subject: Library Millage Community Engagement Update

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### History

- Voters approved a five-year, 0.7 mills dedicated Library millage on August 2, 2011 and again on November 3, 2015.
- The current Library millage will fund the Troy Public Library through June 30, 2021.
- Voters must renew or replace the Library millage in order for the City to continue operating and maintaining the Library after June 30, 2021.
- City Council held a special meeting to discuss Library funding on June 8, 2020.
- On August 10, 2020, City Council approved wording for a November 2020 ballot question for a rate of 1.1 mills and a ten-year term.

What follows is the most recent update of the community engagement plan first shared with City Council on July 13, 2020. The community engagement plan was divided into two phases. Phase 1 was completed when City Council approved ballot language on August 10. Phase 2 began on August 11 and continues until Election Day on November 3.

### Phase 2

The second phase is intended to provide the public with information regarding the ballot proposal consistent with the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Week of September 14: City staff began receiving and answering millage-related question via email ([LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org)). R. Bruner and C. Russ have answered dozens of questions from more than a dozen residents at the time of this writing. Copies are attached. A press release with millage Town Hall meeting information was distributed to local press. An infographic was posted on City and Library social media channels. The Troy Public Library Update (weekly newsletter sent to patrons) featured a headline article regarding the Library millage and promotion of the Town Hall meetings.

Week of September 21: City staff conducted a virtual town hall meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, September 23 at 7 pm. Thirty-five (35) people attended. The meeting was broadcast live on Government Access TV (WTRY) and streamed live on YouTube. It will be replayed on WTRY in rotation with regular programming on Wednesdays at 3 pm, 7 pm and 11 pm; and Fridays at 9 pm. It can also





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be viewed on the City's YouTube channel. R. Bruner and C. Russ spoke to the Troy Democratic Club about the library millage on Thursday, September 24 at 7 pm. The City Clerk's Office began distributing absentee ballots this week. Voting began.

- Week of September 28: The City Clerk's Office begin mailing absentee ballots this week. R. Bruner and C. Russ spoke to the Troy Rotary Club about the library millage on Wednesday, September 30, at noon. City staff conducted a second virtual town hall meeting via Zoom on Thursday, October 1 at 7 pm. Twenty-two (22) people attended. The meeting was broadcast live on Government Access TV (WTRY) and streamed live on YouTube. It will be replayed on WTRY in rotation with regular programming. It can also be viewed on the City's YouTube channel.
- Week of October 5: Press release with millage information distributed to local press. City newsletter sent to Homeowners' Associations with information regarding the Library millage and upcoming election.
- Week of October 12: City newsletter sent to all residents with information regarding the Library millage and upcoming election.
- Week of October 19: Troy Public Library newsletter sent to patrons with information regarding the Library millage and upcoming election.
- Week of October 26: Educational millage information post on Library social media channels.



**Bob Bruner**

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** 'Harold Dallou'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Millage  
**Attachments:** FS PA 269 with Plus.pdf

Good question. Thanks for asking!

Section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act limits how the City can use public resources (facilities, money, staff time, etc.) to campaign for ballot questions. Generally speaking, the City can use public resources to communicate factual information regarding the ballot question, and the effect of its approval or disapproval. We cannot use public resources to expressly advocate a vote for or against the ballot question. In other words, we can't say "Vote yes" or "Vote no" on the ballot question. Accordingly, we are educating the community about the new millage rather than "persuading" voters to approve it. Attached is a Fact Sheet about this topic from the Michigan Municipal League.

That said, the City and the Library are working hard to provide factual information on TPL's millage page ([troypl.org/2020millage](http://troypl.org/2020millage)) including a Library Millage Estimator, intended to help voters in their self-guided research. Troy residents have also been sent a postcard with factual information about the new library millage and similar information will be shared across our social media channels in the coming weeks. Additionally, we will be hosting two virtual Troy Public Library Millage Town Hall sessions on September 23 and October 1 to answer questions from the public. The next issue of TPL's newsletter will also include information about the millage.

Thank you for your interest and please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold Dallou [mailto:[hdallou@yahoo.com](mailto:hdallou@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:59 PM  
To: Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
Cc: [hdallou@yahoo.com](mailto:hdallou@yahoo.com)  
Subject: Millage

What will be the strategy of persuading the citizens to approve the new millage?



# Campaigning by Public Officials/PA 269 Dos and Don'ts

## Introduction

U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara accepted an agreement between the Secretary of State's office and local governments and school groups, permanently keeping the Secretary of State from enforcing a law that prevented local officials from providing factual information on local ballot proposals. O'Meara's order, entered April 28, 2016, references his previous temporary injunction against enforcement of the law, saying that the local governments had "demonstrated a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their claim that (the law) is unconstitutionally vague and thus void." The gag order was part of a larger campaign finance bill that passed the Legislature with little debate in the final days of 2015's legislative session and was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, becoming Public Act 269 of 2015.

Section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act limits how a public body can use public funds or property when it comes to campaigning for ballot questions or candidates.

## Campaign Finance Act—Permitted Activities

Generally, public officials can issue communications to voters using public dollars if the communications contain factual information regarding the election, the proposal, and what impact either its passage or defeat will have on the public body. Moreover, the prohibition on using public monies to support or defeat a ballot proposal does not prevent certain high level officers and employees from expressing their opinions. For example, nothing prevents a municipal official from standing up at a public meeting and telling the gathering that, in his or her opinion, the municipality needs to ask for a millage increase and the voters need to support it.

Although there are opportunities to carefully use public time and money to further educate the electorate on a proposal, public employees and officials should also keep the following additional guidelines in mind:

- 1) Non-policy making staff may not take "official" time (i.e., time during their regular jobs) to participate in campaign committee activities, as this would constitute an inappropriate expenditure of public funds. Nothing would restrict the ability of these individuals to work in any way on the campaign on their own time.
- 2) A public body may provide information to individuals and/or a campaign committee that is publicly available in the same manner as it would provide information to anyone else requesting the information.
- 3) Campaign committees may meet at public facilities only to the extent that, and on the same terms as, any other group is permitted to use the same facilities. If the public body incurs any expense in providing meeting space to the committee, the committee must reimburse the public for that expense.

## Campaign Finance Act Don'ts

- 1) Don't use city or village funds, municipal-owned office space, or other property to expressly advocate a vote for or against a candidate or ballot question. "Expressly advocate" means to state support for the passage or defeat of a ballot question or the election or defeat of a candidate—in other words, to say "Vote yes for" (or no) or "Support" (or defeat) a candidate or ballot question.
- 2) Don't put links on your municipal website to sites that expressly advocate only for or against one candidate, one slate of candidates, or one side of a ballot question.
- 3) A city or village council cannot authorize or use public resources for a payroll deduction plan to collect for a campaign committee.



## Appendices

### Appendix I USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES, FUNDS, ETC. PROHIBITED

*An injunction issued on February 5, 2016 by U. S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara, from the U.S. District Court in Ann Arbor prevents the enforcement of PA 269 of 2015 as it affects Section 57 of the MCFA only.*

*PA 269 of 2015 signed by the Governor in January of 2016 with immediate effect made changes to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act relative to the use of public funds for communications prior to the election. See PA 269 of 2015 for details.*

Section 57 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) stipulates a public body or person acting for a public body **must not use or authorize the use of public funds or resources** to make a contribution or expenditure to further the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of a ballot question. The inclusion of Section 57 in the MCFA does not restrict the constitutionally protected right to associate or to engage in political speech. It is intended to prevent those who control public resources from using those resources to influence the outcome of an election. It is up to the people and not public bodies to decide elections. This means that a public body is prohibited in participating in elections for:

- State and Local Ballot Questions
- Federal Candidates
- State Candidates
- Local Candidates

This means that a public body cannot contribute to or make expenditures on behalf of committee's registered to support or oppose candidates and ballot questions. This prohibition includes Candidate Committees, Ballot Question Committees, PACs, SuperPACs and Political Party Committees.

#### A public body is:

- A state agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, council, authority, or other body in the executive branch of state government.
- The legislature or an agency, board, commission or council in the legislative branch of state government.
- A county, city, township, village, intercounty, intercity, or regional board; a council, school district, special district, or municipal corporation; or a board, department, commission, or council or an agency of a board, department, commission, or council.
- Any other body that is created by state or local authority or is primarily funded by or through state or local authority, which body exercises governmental or proprietary authority or performs a government or proprietary function.

#### EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED USES

The prohibition includes, but is not limited to the use of personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, provide volunteer personal services or other public resources.

- A public body is prohibited from displaying political signs, brochures, pamphlets, etc in any governmental building or government property.
- Public officeholders and other public bodies are prohibited from using their office email and phones for campaign purposes.

#### Payroll Deduction Prohibition

The prohibition includes using or authorizing the use of public resources to establish or administer a payroll deduction plan to directly or indirectly collect or deliver a contribution to or make an expenditure for a committee. Advance payment or reimbursement to a public body does not cure a use of public resources.

#### EXEMPTIONS

The prohibition does not apply to any of the following:

- The expression of views by an elected or appointed public official who has policy-making responsibilities.
- The production or dissemination of factual information concerning issues relevant to the function of the public body.
- The production or dissemination of debates, interviews, commentary, or information by a broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or publication in the regular course of broadcasting or publication. This exemption does not apply to the dissemination of an advertisement of a candidate.
- The use of a public facility owned or leased by or on behalf of a public body if any candidate or committee has an equal opportunity to use the public facility.
- The use of a public facility owned or leased by or on behalf of a public body if that facility is primarily used as a family dwelling and is not used to conduct a fund raising event.

On September 20, 2017, 2017 implements a num (MCFA). Click here to v

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STATE COMM  
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- An elected or appointed public official or an employee of a public body who, when not acting for a public body but is on his or her own personal time, is expressing his or her own personal views, is expending his or her own personal funds, or is providing his or her own personal volunteer services.

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#### Special notes:

- The mere act of voting on a resolution that encompasses matters at a meeting does not constitute a misuse of public resources within the meaning of Section 57. A public body may record the resolution in the meeting minutes as required by the Open Meetings Act and may disseminate copies of those minutes in its regular course of publication.
- Public facilities that are rented to committees for use, may display the committee function on the facility marquee without violating section 57 as long as any candidate or committee has an equal opportunity to use the facility and the marquee is use equally for all events.
- Public facilities and resources can be used for public forums and public education on candidate elections and ballot questions provided the public resources are not used to influence the outcome of the election and views of all candidates and views of both supporters and opponents of a ballot question are treated equally.

#### Appendices:

☒ Include TOC

## PENALTIES

A person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if the person is an individual, by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both, or if the person is not an individual, by one of the following, whichever is greater: (a.) A fine of not more than \$20,000.00 or (b.) A fine equal to the amount of the improper contribution or expenditure.

## OTHER PROHIBITIONS OF THE MCFA

For a more complete listing of prohibitions covered under the MCFA see Appendix O; Prohibited Contributions.

## COMPLAINTS

If you believe a violation of any provision of the MCFA has occurred, the law provides for a specific process that can be followed to file a complaint. A Complaint Process Form has been created to assist you with filing a complaint.

## FAQs

### What is a public body? A public body is:

- A state agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, council, authority, or other body in the executive branch of state government.
- The legislature or an agency, board, commission or council in the legislative branch of state government.
- A county, city, township, village, intercounty, intercity, or regional board; a council, school district, special district, or municipal corporation; or a board, department, commission, or council or an agency of a board, department, commission, or council.
- Any other body that is created by state or local authority or is primarily funded by or through state or local authority, which body exercises governmental or proprietary authority or performs a government or proprietary function.

**What activities are exempt from Section 57?** Section 57 is not intended to squash the constitutional right to free speech by public officials or public bodies, but rather ensure that public resources are not used to influence elections. That decision must be left to the voters. Therefore, the prohibition does not apply to any of the following:

- The expression of views by an elected or appointed public official who has policy-making responsibilities.
- The production or dissemination of factual information concerning issues relevant to the function of the public body.
- The production or dissemination of debates, interviews, commentary, or information by a broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or publication in the regular course of broadcasting or publication. This exemption does not apply to the dissemination of an advertisement of a candidate.
- The use of a public facility owned or leased by or on behalf of a public body if any candidate or committee has an equal opportunity to use the public facility.
- The use of a public facility owned or leased by or on behalf of a public body if that facility is primarily used as a family dwelling and is not used to conduct a fund raising event.
- An elected or appointed public official or an employee of a public body who, when not acting for a public body but is on his or her own personal time, is expressing his or her own personal views, is expending his or her own personal funds, or is providing his or her own personal volunteer services.

**Can a public official use the office telephone for campaign purposes?** No. A public official should not use his public office telephone or any phone paid for with public funds to campaign or advertise it as a way of contacting the public official for campaign purposes. Any time spent answering campaign phone calls diverts attention for the ordinary business of the public body and is permanently lost. Additionally, any staff time answering and transferring campaign related phone calls also causes the loss of time to the county. Any of this activity would result in a prohibited expenditure of public resources.

**Can a public official use the office email for campaign purposes?** No. A public official should not use his public office email system paid for with public funds to campaign or advertise it as a way of contacting the public official for campaign purposes. Any time spent answering emails calls diverts attention for the ordinary business of the public body and is permanently lost. Additionally, any staff time reading, handling or transferring campaign related emails also causes the loss of time to the county. Any of this activity would result in a prohibited expenditure of public resources.



**Can a public official use pictures taken in the public office and/or wearing their official uniform?** Maybe. A public body violates the MCFA by expending its resources for prohibited campaign activity. The expenditure of public funds must have “ascertainable monetary value” in order to meet this threshold. There is no ascertainable monetary value in connection with a picture being taken in a public office. In addition, section 57 of the MCFA contains an exception that allows the use of a public facility if any candidate has the same opportunity to use that facility.

**Can a public official campaign in their uniform?** Maybe. A public body violates the MCFA by expending its resources for prohibited campaign activity. The expenditure of public funds must have “ascertainable monetary value” in order to meet this threshold. There is no ascertainable monetary value in connection with a public official wearing a uniform. In addition, some public officials are asked to purchase their own uniforms. In this case, no public resources are involved.

**Can a public official campaign using a publicly funded vehicle such as a patrol car?** No. A publicly funded vehicle such as a patrol car must not be used to campaign. The prohibition would extend to attending campaign events, transporting campaign materials or any other exclusively campaign related use.

**Can a public official campaign while on publicly paid time?** No. At no time can a public official campaign when being paid to work. A public official must use personal time or accrued leave time to campaign during working hours. Public officials that are on call, but not actively working and not being paid are considered to be on personal time unless and until they are called to duty.

**Can a public official use official letterhead for campaign purposes?** No. A public official cannot use official letterhead of the public body to campaign for himself/herself or any other candidate.

**Can a public official endorse another candidate?** Yes. An endorsement in and of itself has no value. However, the public official cannot use public resources to promote or advertise the endorsement of himself or any other candidate.

**Can a public official use public resources if the cost is reimbursed to the public body?** No. A violation of the MCFA occurs at the point that the resources are used and reimbursement to the public body does not cure the violation.

**Can campaign signs be placed on public property or displayed in public buildings?** No. Campaign signs should not be placed on public owned or leased property. This extends to placing brochures in a public building.

**I see signs on public property, can I take them down?** No. You do not have the authority to remove signs from any property that you do not own or do not have permission to remove the signs from by the owner.

**Can a public facility be used for a candidate meet and greet or ballot question informational meeting?** Yes. Public facilities and resources can be used for public forums and public education on candidate elections and ballot questions provided the public resources are not used to influence the outcome of the election and views of all candidates and views of both supporters and opponents of a ballot question are treated equally.

**I think a violation has occurred, can I file a complaint?** Yes. If you believe a violation of any provision of the MCFA has occurred, the law provides for a specific process that can be followed to file a complaint. A Complaint Process Form has been created to assist you with filing a complaint.

**Do I need evidence of the violation to file a complaint?** Yes, a complaint that is not substantiated with evidence will be dismissed. Evidence can be in the form of pictures, videos, receipts or vouchers or anything else that substantiates the allegations.





# CAMPAIGNING WITH A PURPOSE

Public Employees/  
Officials Support  
of Ballot Proposals

By Christopher Trebilcock

On August 5, 2014, Oakland County saw 45 ballot proposals, primarily for millage renewals or increases. Ten proposals failed to pass. Ingham County had ten ballot proposals. Two failed to pass, including the Fowlerville School Millage by one vote out of the reported 13 cast. In Kent County, voters cast ballots on 13 different proposals. All 13 proposals passed.

In general, ballot proposals are more likely to succeed if there is an

active campaign within the community voicing strong support for the measure. These campaigns typically include the traditional “yard sign” wars, direct mailers, and other direct voter contact. Often, leading public officials in the community who are supporting the proposal are asked or seek to take all steps necessary to ensure the passage of the proposal. When this happens, any public employee or official must proceed cautiously to ensure that he or she does not violate the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Until 1995, there were no statutes that expressly prohibited using public funds to support or oppose ballot proposals or candidates. Without statutory guidance, questions related to the use of public funds in election proposals were often referred to the attorney general of the state of Michigan. In 1987, the attorney general issued an opinion addressing a series of questions regarding the permissible interactions between a school district and independent political ballot or candidate committees relating to election proposals.<sup>1</sup> The following



year, the attorney general opined that a governmental unit “can expend public funds to inform their electors in a fair and objective manner of the facts surrounding an upcoming ballot proposal.”<sup>2</sup>

## LEGISLATURE ADDRESSES PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

In 1995, the Michigan Legislature amended the Campaign Finance Act to prohibit a public body from using public funds or resources to make a contribution to an individual candidate or a ballot question campaign. In 1996, the statute was amended to clarify what is permissible under the law by adding a list of activities that can be done without violating the Campaign Finance Act.

In essence, these Campaign Finance Act amendments codified much of the content of the old attorney general opinions. Section 57 of the Campaign Finance Act prohibits public employees from using funds, personnel, office space, computers, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure for political purposes. This prohibition, however, explicitly exempts opinions of public employees with policy making duties, the production of factual information regarding city services and



“...public officials can generally issue communications to voters using public dollars if the communications contain factual information regarding the election, the proposal, and what impact either its passage or defeat will have on the public body.”

functions, the leasing or use of public space by candidates provided that all candidates are given equal treatment, and public employees who engage in political activities during his or her personal time. To encourage compliance, Section 57 imposes significant fines and criminal penalties to individuals and public bodies for violations.

At first blush, the language above suggests that public officials are virtually banned from most campaign activities. However, public officials seeking to advocate for a proposal can find solace in the fact that “specifically excluded from the definition of expenditure is any expenditure on a communication on a subject or issue if the communication does not support or oppose a ballot question by name or clear inference.” MCL 169.206(2)(b). The secretary of state has consistently reaffirmed that it is required to “apply the express advocacy test to communications financed by public bodies.” *Interpretive Statement to David Morley* (Oct. 31, 2005). Under this test, com-

munications are outside the reach of regulation by the secretary of state unless it urges votes to “vote yes,” “vote no,” “elect,” “defeat,” “support,” or “oppose” a ballot question. The secretary of state will look solely at the substance of the communication and not examine the broader context or implication of the communication.

## DOS AND DON'TS

Public officials can generally issue communications to voters using public dollars if the communications contain factual information regarding the election, the proposal, and what impact either its passage or defeat will have on the public body. Moreover, the prohibition on using public monies to support or defeat a ballot proposal does not prevent certain high level officers and employees from expressing their opinions. For example, nothing prevents a city council member or city manager from standing up at a public meeting and telling the gathering that, in his or her opinion, the city needs to ask for a





millage increase and the voters need to support it.


Although there are opportunities to carefully use public time and money to further educate the electorate on a proposal, public employees and officials should also keep the following additional guidelines in mind:

**A** Non-policy making staff may not take “official” time (i.e., time away from their regular jobs) to participate in campaign committee activities, as this would constitute an inappropriate expenditure of public funds. Nothing would restrict the ability of these individuals to work in any way on the campaign on their own time.

**B** The public body may provide information to individuals and/or a campaign committee which is publicly available in the same manner as it would

provide information to anyone else requesting the information.

**C** The campaign committees may meet at public facilities only to the extent that and on the same terms as any other group could use the same facilities. If the public body incurs any expense in providing meeting space to the committee, the committee must reimburse the public for that expense.

**D** The public body should not place links to campaign-related websites on its website. 

*Christopher Trebilcock is a principal attorney with Miller Canfield. You may contact him at 313-496-7647 or [trebilcock@millercanfield.com](mailto:trebilcock@millercanfield.com).*

1 OAG Opinion No. 6423 (February 24, 1987).

2 OAG Opinion No. 6531 (August 8, 1988).



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## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 4:16 PM  
**To:** 'Dien-Tse Tsai'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: TPL millage decision

Hi,

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage. You vote on the November 3, 2020 ballot. You do not need to send the mail piece anywhere. Please recycle it.

If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troypl.org/LibraryMillageEstimator>.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bruner  
Assistant City Manager | City of Troy

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Bruner  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:02 AM  
To: 'Dien-Tse Tsai' <blackjacky2k@hotmail.com>  
Cc: Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
Subject: RE: TPL millage decision

Hi,

We received your email and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today. Thank you for your interest and patience.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner

-----Original Message-----

From: Dien-Tse Tsai [mailto:blackjacky2k@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:27 PM  
To: Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
Subject: TPL millage decision

How do I vote No? Do I send the mail piece in anywhere?? Is it going to be on the ballot in November?? Thanks.

Tim Tsai

Sent from my  iPhone  - please excuse any typos



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** hubercommerce@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** Bob Bruner  
**Subject:** RE: Troy Public Library 2020 Millage

Thank you!!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 4:06 PM, Bob Bruner  
<Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov> wrote:

Hi,

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q: What did the library do with the money we have been charged the last few years?

A: The funding from the millage has been used to operate and maintain TPL.

Q: What will the library do with the money if the millage passes this time?

A: The Library will open on Fridays again (TPL has been closed Fridays since 2010); take care of necessary building maintenance, such as new windows (current windows are from 1984); a new HVAC system (nearing the end of its life) and maintenance that has been deferred due to lack of funds. The Library will also be able to upgrade the facility by purchasing new furniture (current furniture is from 1971 and 1984); creating a Teen Space, a Maker Space and install study rooms, all of which have been frequently requested by library users.

Q: Why won't the city even CONSIDER funding even a small portion of the library costs?

A: The City has funded Library capital expenditures. The Capital Projects Fund, not the Library Fund, funded approximately \$1.2 million for renovations and roof replacement in fiscal year 2019-2020. The City funded these projects because the Library Fund Balance could not cover the cost.

Q: Why is there no accountability for the money the library already receives?

A: There is accountability. Voters elect the City Council, the City Council appoints the City Manager, and the City Manager is responsible for directing the administration of the City government (including the Troy



Public Library). The City Council adopts the City's budget each year (including the Troy Public Library) each year, after holding a public hearing on the proposed budget. You can learn more about the budgeting process here: [https://troymi.gov/departments/city\\_manager/financial\\_services/index.php](https://troymi.gov/departments/city_manager/financial_services/index.php)

Q: How will the library be held accountable for the money they would receive in the future?

A: See above.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troymi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,



**Robert J. Bruner**  
Assistant City Manager |

**City of Troy**  
O: (248) 524-3326

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 9:01 AM  
**To:** 'hubercommerce@yahoo.com' <hubercommerce@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
**Subject:** Troy Public Library 2020 Millage

Hi,

We received your email about the library millage and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today. Thank you for your interest and patience.



Sincerely,

Bob Bruner



**Robert J. Bruner**  
**Assistant City Manager |**

**City of Troy**  
O: (248) 524-3326  
[f](#) [@](#) [t](#) [v](#) [in](#)



## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** 'Dale Williams'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Millage  
**Attachments:** 2020\_LM\_Michigan\_Public\_Statistics\_Operating\_Income.pdf

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q1. 61% tax increase on library millage is stiff ( $\$137 - \$85$ ) /  $\$85 = 61\%$ .

A1. I will not argue with your math but I will encourage you to visit the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troy.mi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. It explains the City's millage rates in more detail and will estimate how much more you will pay if the new library millage is approved. Also keep in mind the new millage will allow us to increase library services.

Q2. The flyer failed to point out Troy currently spends \$85 per residential property. This is taken from troypl.org website.

A2. Yes, good point. We developed the flyer before we developed the graphic on the website. We are constantly looking for new ways to provide information.

Q3. What is the total funding for all the municipalities mentioned? Looks like Bloomfield and Birmingham spend a lot, but they lack the industry base of Troy.

A3. See attached. The Bloomfield Township Public Library has 313% more operating income per capita than The Troy Public Library. The Baldwin Public Library (serving Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and others) has 185% more operating income per capita than the Troy Public Library. Of the municipalities on the Troy Public Library 2020 Millage webpage ([https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php)), only the White Lake Township Library (\$41) has less operating income per capita than Troy Public Library (\$44).

Q4. Are you able to identify maintenance and upgrades and their cost?

A4. I can identify some of the maintenance and upgrades, but not the costs because the City has not solicited bids yet. Maintenance includes replacing the windows and repairing the elevator. Both are original equipment dating back to 1984. In addition, the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems also need to be replaced in the next few years. Some of the most frequently requested upgrades include things like replacing the furniture (also original equipment dating back to 1971 and 1984). Other examples include providing study rooms, creating a dedicated teen area, and establishing a maker space.

Q5. How much goes to Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority?

A4. Approximately \$5,275. This is required by state law. State law required disbursement of the current library millage (approved in 2015) to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA). State law has changed since then so the City is able opt-out of the DDA and LDFA tax capture but not the BRA.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager



---

**From:** Dale Williams [mailto:dale.e.williams.jr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 9:23 AM  
**To:** Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: RE: Millage

Bob - It will be appreciated. My wife and I are on the fence with this. The past votes were easy “yes” for us.

Sent from myMail for iOS

Friday, September 18, 2020, 9:02 AM -0400 from [Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov) <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)>:

Hi,

We received your email and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today. Thank you for your interest and patience.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Dale Williams [mailto:dale.e.williams.jr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 8:48 PM  
**To:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
**Subject:** Millage

Received the flyer today and also reviewed the website. A few things:

1. 61% tax increase on library millage is stiff  $(\$137 - \$85) / \$85 = 61\%$ .

2. The flyer failed to point out Troy currently spends \$85 per residential property. This is taken from troypl.org website.



3. What is the total funding for all the municipalities mentioned? Looks like Bloomfield and Birmingham spend a lot, but they lack the industry base of Troy.

4. Are you able to identify maintenance and upgrades and their cost?

5. How much goes to Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority?

Some full disclosure please.

Sent from myMail for iOS



### 2018-2019 Operating Income

Location	Total Operating Income	Total Population Served	Total Operating Income Per Capita
Bloomfield Township Public Library	\$7,493,797	41,070	\$182
Baldwin Public Library	\$4,453,438	35,350	\$126
Southfield Public Library	\$7,671,843	75,814	\$101
West Bloomfield Township Public Library	\$5,740,768	71,755	\$80
Farmington Community Library	\$6,501,669	90,112	\$72
Orion Township Public Library	\$2,429,307	35,394	\$69
Clarkston Independence District Library	\$2,030,230	35,563	\$57
Troy Public Library	\$3,574,174	80,980	\$44
White Lake Township Library	\$1,244,010	30,019	\$41

Source: 2019-2020 Michigan Public Library Statistics provided by the Library of Michigan

[https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381-88855\\_89735\\_61707---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381-88855_89735_61707---,00.html)



## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** 'Gene Ryder'; Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: USE OF LIBRARY FUNDS  
**Attachments:** 2020-2021 Library Budget.pdf

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q: True or false? When a trucker is ticketed for being overweight, the fine money goes to the Troy Public Library.  
A: True. Since 1835, Michigan's Constitution has contained a provision stating that income from penal fines shall be used for the support of public libraries. State statutes require that penalties collected for violations of the state penal laws be paid to the county treasurers. Therefore, penal fines are local funds, collected within each county, distributed to public libraries serving residents of the county. However, penal fines account for less than 5% of Library revenue under normal circumstances and have decreased 19% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: What was the budget given to the Troy Public Library for 2020?  
A: Budgeted revenues are \$3,734,800 and expenditures are \$4,127,518. The \$392,718 shortfall will reduce the Library Fund balance to \$27,209. The 2020-2021 library budget is attached for more information.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troypl.org/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Bruner  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 10:17 AM  
To: 'Gene Ryder' <jugeryder@gmail.com>; Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
Subject: RE: USE OF LIBRARY FUNDS

Hi,

We received your email and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today. Thank you for your interest and patience.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner

-----Original Message-----

From: Gene Ryder [mailto:jugeryder@gmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6:44 PM  
To: Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
Subject: USE OF LIBRARY FUNDS



It is my understanding that when a trucker is ticketed the fine money, for being over weight, goes to the Troy library. Would this be true or false? The Troy Times had an article showing a trucker receiving a ticket some time ago. It was indicated that the fine money would be given to the Troy library. Further, what was the budget given to the Troy library for 2020?





## Library

# Library

Library Director.....Cathy Russ

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Troy Public Library is to be the community's collection of knowledge and entertainment, a personal resource for lifeline learning, and a vibrant space for all.

## DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS

### • *Technical Services*

- √ Orders and invoices new materials
- √ Catalogs materials
- √ Processes materials
- √ Maintains and updates inventory
- √ Runs acquisition and fund reports
- √ Monitors collection budget spending
- √ Acquires supplies and equipment and maintains AV equipment
- √ Cleans and repairs print and AV material
- √ Discards and recycles library materials
- √ Receives and routes deliveries

### • *Circulation Services*

- √ Collects and reports statistics
- √ Administers the automation system
- √ Circulates materials
- √ Collects fines from patrons
- √ Registers borrowers
- √ Staffs telephone reception desk
- √ Coordinates statewide delivery service
- √ Acts as concierge for library services

### • *Administrative and Support Services*

- √ Prepares and administers the department budgets
- √ Recommends and implements policies
- √ Coordinates and evaluates activities of staff
- √ Develops programs and priorities
- √ Coordinates and administers grants
- √ Serves as liaison to Friends of the Library
- √ Represents, promotes and markets the library to the community
- √ Implements new collections, programs and services
- √ Compiles, maintains, and analyzes statistics
- √ Serves as liaison to the Suburban Cooperative
- √ Serves as a liaison to City departments
- √ Coordinates staff development
- √ Provides bookkeeping service for library accounts
- √ Collects and reports statistics





## Library

### • **Youth Services**

- ✓ Maintains a current collection of print and AV material for children
- ✓ Advises patrons in choosing materials
- ✓ Assists students in locating materials
- ✓ Teaches basic research methods
- ✓ Oversees the youth computer area and Tech Farm, offering search strategy instructions
- ✓ Plans and presents a variety of programs for children and families
- ✓ Develops cooperative programs with schools and community groups, providing visits to schools for storytelling and tours of the library
- ✓ Creates bibliographies and displays
- ✓ Implements a summer reading program
- ✓ Compiles list of recommended titles to feature on library's website
- ✓ Manages the special needs collection
- ✓ Shelves all materials
- ✓ Collects and reports statistics
- ✓ Extends volunteer opportunities for students
- ✓ Educates patrons on use of databases and research methods

### • **Teen Services**

- ✓ Performs reference and information retrieval
- ✓ Educates patrons on use of databases and research methods
- ✓ Coordinates teen multicultural services
- ✓ Advises patrons in selection of print and AV materials
- ✓ Manages teen social media
- ✓ Serves as liaison with high schools, vocational schools, colleges and the Teen Advisory Board
- ✓ Plans and conducts teen programming
- ✓ Creates displays and shelves materials
- ✓ Performs collection management
- ✓ Compiles lists of recommended titles to feature on library's website

### • **Adult Services**

- ✓ Performs reference and information searches for patrons in person, electronically, and by telephone
- ✓ Maintains a current collection of print and audiovisual materials for adults
- ✓ Teaches patrons how to access downloadable digital resources (eBooks, magazines, music)
- ✓ Plans, coordinates and promotes adult programs
- ✓ Advises patrons in choosing materials
- ✓ Coordinates book discussion groups
- ✓ Performs collection management
- ✓ Shelves materials
- ✓ Creates displays
- ✓ Maintains periodicals
- ✓ Coordinates inter-library loans
- ✓ Coordinates adult multi-cultural services and the international collection
- ✓ Provides outreach services to homebound patrons
- ✓ Educates patrons on use of databases, software, and research methods
- ✓ Compiles list of recommended titles to feature on library's webpage
- ✓ Manages public Internet access and database use
- ✓ Maintains public events calendar
- ✓ Assists public in reserving meeting rooms
- ✓ Promotes electronic resources
- ✓ Troubleshoots library and patron computer hardware and software issues
- ✓ Assists visually-impaired patrons
- ✓ Coordinates Adult Services volunteers





## Library

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Performance Indicator	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Projected	2020/21 Budget
Annual Library Visits	406,455	377,100	425,137	430,000
Items Circulated	1,190,812	1,264,109	1,300,000	1,325,000
Program Attendance	28,560	28,490	42,168	43,000
New Library Cards Added	9,344	15,691	22,023	20,000
Total Number Library Cards	58,598	52,282	58,000	60,000
Electronic Resources Usage	100,810	107,920	110,000	115,000
Annual Visits/Capita	5.02	4.66	5.25	5.35
Annual Circulation/Capita	15	16	16	16
Hits on Library Website	464,853	541,703	550,000	575,000
Social Media Followers	4,889	5,241	6,000	6,250
Number of Library Volunteers	175	175	175	175

**Notes on Performance Indicators**

- EBook circulation, AV streaming, and use of electronic resources from home and mobile devices is increasing; in person visits slightly decreased last year due to the popularity of eResources and the popularity of the drive up materials return. However, foot traffic has increased this year. Program attendance is fairly stable, with over 5,000 people attending Winter Wonderland.
- Number of new library cards increased this year, perhaps in part to the "use your library card and save" program offered every September, as well as the ConnectEd initiative with the Troy Schools, which allows students to use their Student Id number to access and use TPL's electronic resources.





## Library

## SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

### • Significant Notes - 2020/21 Budget Compared to 2019/20 Budget

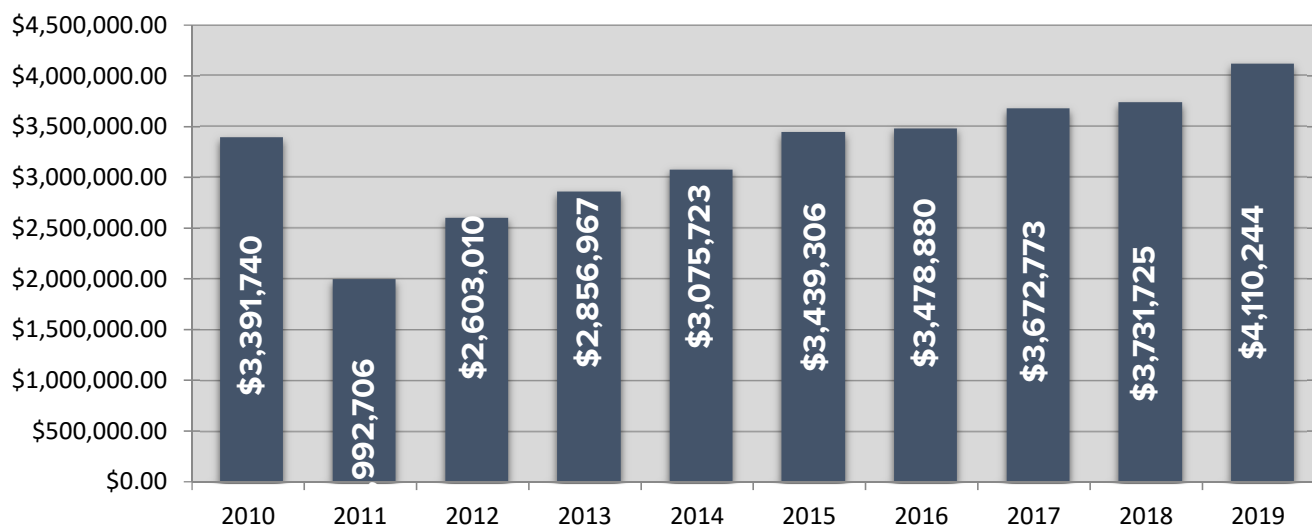
- FY20-21 is the last year of the Library's 5-year millage. The current millage expires June 30, 2021.

### Personal Service

Personal Service increases are largely due to the ongoing yearly increase in the minimum wage, as well as longevity of many full time staff members and full marketing position.

Personnel Summary	2018 Budget		2019 Budget		2020 Budget		2021 Budget	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Library	10.5	30.9	10.5	31.1	12.5	27.3	13	27.1
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27.1</b>

### • Operating Budget History






**SPECIAL REVENUE**  
**Recreation And Culture**

## Library Fund

	2018 Actual Amount	2019 Actual Amount	2020 Estimated Amount	2020 Amended Budget	2021 Proposed	% Change	2022 Proposed	2023 Proposed
<b>Fund: 271 LIBRARY FUND</b>								
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>								
Taxes	\$ 3,179,008	\$ 3,280,407	\$ 3,403,431	\$ 3,407,000	\$ 3,452,000	1.32%	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 4,000,000
Grants	86,052	64,908	32,767	30,000	33,000	10.00%	33,000	33,000
Contributions From Local Units	170,772	175,217	173,967	176,000	169,000	-3.98%	169,000	169,000
Charges For Services	22,983	20,369	18,000	18,150	17,800	-1.93%	17,800	17,800
Fines And Forfeitures	83,987	49,427	52,000	45,000	50,000	11.11%	50,000	50,000
Interest & Rent	5,798	60,524	9,500	6,000	8,000	33.33%	5,000	5,000
Other Revenue	1,777	6,466	23,040	5,000	5,000	0.00%	5,000	5,000
<b>Department Total: Revenue</b>	<b>3,550,376</b>	<b>3,657,318</b>	<b>3,712,705</b>	<b>3,687,150</b>	<b>3,734,800</b>	<b>1.29%</b>	<b>4,179,800</b>	<b>4,279,800</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>								
<b>Department: 790 Library</b>								
Personal Services	1,977,777	2,091,085	2,193,240	2,310,950	2,428,260	5.08%	2,484,150	2,541,700
Supplies	127,209	114,920	136,600	142,600	111,500	-21.81%	118,000	118,000
Other Service Charges	852,827	986,411	993,481	965,720	992,758	2.80%	999,995	1,010,625
<b>OTHER FINANCING USES</b>								
Other Financing Uses	773,912	917,827	595,000	595,000	595,000	0.00%	595,000	595,000
<b>Department Total: Library</b>	<b>3,731,725</b>	<b>4,110,244</b>	<b>3,918,321</b>	<b>4,014,270</b>	<b>4,127,518</b>	<b>2.82%</b>	<b>4,197,145</b>	<b>4,265,325</b>
<b>Surplus (Use) of Fund Balance</b>	<b>(181,349)</b>	<b>(452,926)</b>	<b>(205,616)</b>	<b>(327,120)</b>	<b>(392,718)</b>	<b>20.05%</b>	<b>(17,345)</b>	<b>14,475</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,259,817</b>	<b>1,078,468</b>	<b>625,543</b>	<b>625,543</b>	<b>419,927</b>	<b>-32.87%</b>	<b>27,209</b>	<b>9,864</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,078,468</b>	<b>\$ 625,543</b>	<b>\$ 419,927</b>	<b>\$ 298,423</b>	<b>\$ 27,209</b>	<b>-90.88%</b>	<b>\$ 9,864</b>	<b>\$ 24,339</b>



## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:58 AM  
**To:** 'Kathleen Brett's'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Library mileage

Yes, we will try to make that clear without making it sound like a threat. People don't respond well to threats. We're trying to focus on the positive rather than the negative but this question is asked frequently so we will address it.

Thanks again,

Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Kathleen Brett's [mailto:kjbrett35@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 6:48 PM  
**To:** Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Library mileage

Will you be making that known at the Town Hall meetings coming up the 24th & 31 st? Some people may not realize that.

Kathleen Brett

On Sep 21, 2020, at 3:46 PM, Bob Bruner <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)> wrote:

The Library will likely close if the new library millage is not approved. The current 0.6805 mills dedicated library millage generates approximately \$3.5 million and it is unlikely the City could reduce General Fund spending to replace it. That is why the first dedicated millage was approved in 2011.

Thanks,

Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Kathleen Brett's [mailto:kjbrett35@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 6:04 PM  
**To:** Bob Bruner <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Library mileage

We would like to know, what happens if this millage does not pass? Don't you think you should let voters know that? By June 30th, there will be no millage, since the .7 will be gone, as I understand. Thank you.

Kathleen Brett

On Sep 18, 2020, at 4:11 PM, Bob Bruner <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)> wrote:

Hi,



Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage. I encourage you to visit the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troy.mi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. It explains the City's millage rates in more detail and will estimate how much more you will pay if the new library millage is approved (about \$4).

If approved, the new library millage (1.1 mills) will replace the old library millage (0.6805 mills) that ends next year. In addition to the current library millage, the City's debt millage (0.3800 mills) also ends next year so the City's total millage rate will be reduced by 1.0605 mills (0.6805 + 0.3800). Replacing 1.0605 mills with the new library millage (1.1 mills) will increase the City's total millage rate by 0.4%.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

<image002.png>

**Robert J. Bruner**  
**Assistant City Manager I**  
**City of Troy**  
O: (248) 524-3326

<image004.png>

<image006.png> <image008.png> <image010.png> <image012.png>

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**From:** Bob Bruner

**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 8:43 AM

**To:** 'kjbrettp35@gmail.com' <kjbrettp35@gmail.com>

**Cc:** City Council Email <CityCouncilEmail@troy.mi.gov>; Library Decision 2020  
<LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>

**Subject:** Library mileage

Ms. Brett,

We received your email about the library millage and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today and yours is on the top of the list. Thank you for your interest and patience.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner

<image019.png>

**Robert J. Bruner**  
**Assistant City Manager I**  
**City of Troy**  
O: (248) 524-3326

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## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** 'Michael Schafran'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Current mill moneys

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q: What is the current millage that ends on June 30th 2021?

A: Voters approved a five-year, 0.7 mills dedicated library millage on November 3, 2015. However, the current library millage was reduced by Head lee rollbacks as follows: 0.6974 in 2015; 0.6989 in 2016; 0.6934 in 2017; 0.6884 in 2018; 0.6841 in 2019; and 0.6805 in 2020.

Q: Why did you close the library on Fridays when you already have a Millage?

A: Service was reduced from seven to six days a week in July 2010, BEFORE voters approved the first dedicated library millage on August 2, 2011. The 0.7 mills dedicated library millage was never intended to provide funding for seven-day service.

Q: Operating costs in 2020 must be lower than expected what are you doing with those savings?

A: While TPL has had some reduction in staff costs, utilities and office supply costs, it has seen a significant increase in cleaning/custodial costs due to COVID-19. TPL has also needed to purchase shields and other materials needed to keep staff and patrons safe, in addition to the ongoing purchase of personal protection equipment. So, while TPL has saved some money in some areas, it has had unforeseen expenses in others.

Q: What is the city budget for the troy library without a millage?

A: There is no budget for the Troy Public Library without a dedicated library millage. The current 0.6805 mills dedicated library millage generates approximately \$3.5 million and it is unlikely the City could reduce General Fund spending to replace it. That is why the first dedicated millage was approved in 2011.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troymi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Bruner  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 3:37 PM  
To: 'Michael Schafran' <[smschafran@aol.com](mailto:smschafran@aol.com)>; Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
Subject: RE: Current mill moneys

Hi,

Thank you for your email. We received your questions and are working on answers. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,



Bob Bruner

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Schafran [mailto:smschafran@aol.com]

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 6:41 AM

To: Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>

Subject: Current mill moneies

#1. what is the current millage that ends on June 30th 2021?

#2. Why did you close the library on Fridays when you already have a Millage?

#3. Operating costs in 2020 must be lower than expected what are you doing with those savings?

#4. What is the city budget for the troy library without a millage?

I look forward to hearing these answers.

thank you

Sharon Schafran

Sent from my iPhone



## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Cissi Lin <cissi009@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:18 AM  
**To:** Cathleen A Russ  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** Re: Library - concerns

Cathleen,

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I am sure there are so much challenges we all have to manage during this special time. We appreciate the curbside pick up service that Troy library offers, knowing it is not easy either. But the option to be able to walk into the library and surfing the books and checking them out offers so much more. I could understand the challenges all libraries facing, but if we could continue claiming Troy is a great city, these challenges should have been resolved timely. It has been almost 3 months since other library opening, it is hard to believe that these challenges got enough attentions. I am sure there are plenty of solutions available, such as opening for walking on limited days, hiring additional staff as library is doing, but we haven't seen much progress in past 3 months.

Thank you for responding.

Sincerely,  
Cissi Lin

On Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 1:37 PM Cathleen A Russ <[C.Russ@troymi.gov](mailto:C.Russ@troymi.gov)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Lin,

Thank you very much for your email. I understand why you are disappointed that TPL is not open when some other libraries in the area are open to the public.

The Library is providing services via curbside pickup, with browsing assistance provided via phone from librarians, or via chat or email if you prefer. TPL's digital library is also open 24/7.

The Library building is not currently open because the Library is experiencing an unprecedented staff shortage (over 50% in circulation and 15% overall) and does not have the staffing levels adequate to provide curbside service and be open to the public. Curbside service takes priority as it is the only way we are able to provide service to everyone: it is the only option available to those who cannot or do not wish to wear a mask, or who are uncomfortable coming into the building.

We are working on filling the open positions, and as soon as we can safely open the building and provide curbside service, we will do so.

Many thanks for taking the time to write to me with your concern. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best wishes,

Cathy Russ





**Cathleen Russ | Library Director**

510 W Big Beaver  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
248.524.3544



**From:** Cissi Lin <[cissi009@gmail.com](mailto:cissi009@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 9:06 AM

**To:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>

**Subject:** Library - concerns

Dear Troy Library,

It is very disappointing that Troy library still not open to citizens. While other libraries around us - Rochester, Birmingham opening for walkig in and pickup books since 07/06, 2 + month passed by, Troy library still not open.

Very disappointed.

Cissi Lin



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:42 AM  
**To:** 'David Schafer'  
**Cc:** Kurt Bovensiep; Paul D Trospen; Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Allocations of Funds

Mr. Schafer,

You are welcome. I'm happy I could help.

I'm also glad to hear about your positive experience with the Water & Sewer Division. I've copied Water & Sewer Operations Manager Paul Trospen ([P.Trospen@troymi.gov](mailto:P.Trospen@troymi.gov)) and Public Works Director Kurt Bovensiep ([K.Bovensiep@troymi.gov](mailto:K.Bovensiep@troymi.gov)) here to share your compliment with them.

Thanks again,

Bob Bruner

**From:** David Schafer <dschafer8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 6:45 PM  
**To:** Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Allocations of Funds

Thank you, Mr. Bruner, for the prompt and very satisfactory reply to my questions!

This is the second gratifying contact I've had this year with an area of city government. The first was with the Water Department. Together they reinforce my feeling that Troy is THE BEST city to live in!

Be assured I will 'talk up' the Library Funding proposal among my neighbors and friends. To me, supporting the local library is a 'no brainer', making our neighborhoods and communities superior places to raise families.

Again - thanks for your individual and team efforts to keep Troy such a great place to live.

Dave Schafer

On Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 4:43 PM Bob Bruner <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

I'm glad you liked the mailer. Although the new library millage is greater than the old millage, the City's debt millage (0.3800 mills) also ends next year so the City's total millage rate will be reduced by 1.0605 mills. I encourage you to visit the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troymi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. It explains the City's millage rates in more detail and will estimate how much more you will pay if the new library millage is approved (about \$4).



Question: Even though they may be preliminary, I would like to know the breakdown of the monies -- % for full service hours; % for maintenance, % for upgrades; % going Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Answer: The last part of your question is the easiest to answer so I'll start there. Approximately \$5,275 (less than 1%) will go to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. This is required by state law. State law required disbursement of the current library millage (approved in 2015) to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA). State law has changed since then so the City is able to opt-out of the DDA and LDFA tax capture but not the BRA. Regarding the first part of your question, I prepared the attached.

Question: What, in broad strokes, what will the upgrades provide?

Answer: Some of the most frequently requested upgrades include things like replacing the furniture (original equipment dating back to 1971 and 1984). Other examples include providing study rooms, creating a dedicated teen area, and establishing a maker space, which are the upgrades most frequently requested by library patrons.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 10:16 AM  
**To:** 'David Schafer' <[dschafer8@gmail.com](mailto:dschafer8@gmail.com)>; Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Allocations of Funds

Hi,

We received your email and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. We are working on answering questions today. Thank you for your interest and patience.



Sincerely,

Bob Bruner

**From:** David Schafer [<mailto:dschafer8@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:23 PM  
**To:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
**Subject:** Allocations of Funds

Your promotional flier came today. Well done. Thought the positioning against streaming service costs, and other city's rates, were valid. Wish you had noted that the rate up for approval is 57% higher than the current rate.

Question: Even though they may be preliminary, I would like to know the breakdown of the monies - % for full service hours; % for maintenance, % for upgrades; % going Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Question: What, in broad strokes, what will the upgrades provide? This could be a future 'selling point'.

Although retired and on a fixed income, I've always supported our library.

Dave Schafer

5593 Mandale Dr



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** Gopal Doraiswamy  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020; Andrew C Heuser  
**Subject:** RE: Library millage town hall - 23 Sep 2020

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q1. With considerable economic distress due to the pandemic, why is the library unable to adjust budget and spending to operate without a new millage/tax?

A2. The current library millage does not cover the full cost of operating or maintaining the Library. Fiscal year 2020-2021 budgeted revenues are \$3.7 million and expenditures are \$4.1 million. The \$400,000 shortfall will reduce the Library Fund balance to less than \$28,000. The Capital Projects Fund, not the Library Fund, funded approximately \$1.2 million for renovations and roof replacement in fiscal year 2019-2020. Another \$228,000 of maintenance was deferred in fiscal year 2020-2021 due to lack of funds.

The library millage needed to increase just to maintain 6-day service and perform building maintenance. The City conducted a survey and hosted focus groups to collect public input on the costs and benefits of a new library millage of 0.9, 1.0, or 1.1 mills. The City Council approved ballot language including 1.1 mills based on that public input. Please visit the Library's Millage Information Page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php) if you would like to view survey results, focus group feedback, and watch City Council discussions.

Q2. Why are we hiring someone to market the library to the community?

A2. TPL has had a Marketing Coordinator since 2014, a recommendation from the 2012-2015 TPL Strategic Plan. That plan was informed by feedback from the Troy community, who collectively indicated that TPL was not effectively getting the word out about all the great programs, collections and services for people of all ages. The Marketing Coordinator split responsibilities between TPL and the Troy Community Center. The community responded positively and both TPL and the Community Center have seen increases in usage. As a result of this increase in usage, the Marketing Coordinator's duties and responsibilities correspondingly increased to a level unsustainable by one person. TPL and the Community Center now each have a full-time Marketing Coordinator.

Q3. What changes in spending were implemented since Mar 2020 when Covid-19 related shutdown and changes were ordered by the State and federal government?

A3. Some library costs decreased: office supplies; some utilities, i.e. reduction in water and electricity; and a decrease in personnel costs, not due to COVID-19 shutdown so much as an unprecedented staff shortage, as many staff members resigned over concerns about working with the public. Some library costs increased: TPL must purchase PPE on a regular basis, and also had to purchase materials such as plexiglass (such as the kind you see at the grocery store) for public service desks. TPL has also seen a complete loss of revenue for overdue fines; penal fine revenue decreased by 19%; and miscellaneous revenue (sales of earbuds, faxing materials, etc.) is also at -0- for the fiscal year. Please keep in mind that staff worked (from home) during the quarantine by keeping digital services running, purchasing eBooks and other digital services, and planning and conducting virtual programs for adults, teens and children. TPL staff continues to work at all the above, as well as providing curbside pickup of items.

Q4. What is the total amount saved since Mar 2020 to the time when the library reopened?



A4. The Library closed on Thursday, March 12 and staff began working remotely on Tuesday, March 17. Some staff began working in-person on Monday, June 8 and curbside service began on Monday, June 15. There was no appreciable savings during this time. On the contrary, some costs increased because the City and the Library implemented safety measures to protect Library patrons and staff.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypil.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypil.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troy.mi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** Gopal Doraiswamy <[gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com](mailto:gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org)>; Andrew C Heuser <[Andrew.Heuser@troy.mi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Heuser@troy.mi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Library millage town hall - 23 Sep 2020

Hi,

Thank you for your email. We received your questions and are working on answers. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Andrew C Heuser  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** Gopal Doraiswamy <[gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com](mailto:gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Library millage town hall - 23 Sep 2020

Thank you for your questions on the upcoming library millage. I've forwarded them on to our Library Director and the Assistant City Manager, who will respond to these.

Thank you!

**Drew Heuser | Technology Librarian**  
510 W Big Beaver Rd  
Troy, MI 48084  
248.524.3542

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**From:** Gopal Doraiswamy <[gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com](mailto:gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 6:59 PM  
**To:** Andrew C Heuser  
**Subject:** Re: Library millage town hall - 23 Sep 2020

Please forward the questions and have them answered via email. Thank you.  
Gopal Doraiswamy



On Wed, Sep 23, 2020, 6:58 PM Andrew C Heuser <[Andrew.Heuser@troymi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Heuser@troymi.gov)> wrote:

Good evening,

Thank you for these questions! I see that you're registered to attend the Town Hall tonight. If you do attend, there will be a Q&A box in the Zoom call where questions can be asked. If you are unable to attend tonight, please let me know, and I can forward these questions to the Library Director and Assistant City Manager, who can respond to them via email.

Thank you!

**Drew Heuser | Technology Librarian**

510 W Big Beaver Rd  
Troy, MI 48084  
248.524.3542

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**From:** Gopal Doraiswamy <[gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com](mailto:gopal.doraiswamy@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 6:52 PM

**To:** Andrew C Heuser

**Subject:** RE: Library millage town hall - 23 Sep 2020

Hi Andrew

Good evening. I have 4 questions:

1. With considerable economic distress due to the pandemic, why is the library unable to adjust budget and spending to operate without a new millage/tax?
2. Why are we hiring someone to market the library to the community?
3. What changes in spending were implemented since Mar 2020 when Covid-19 related shutdown and changes were ordered by the State and federal government?
4. What is the total amount saved since Mar 2020 to the time when the library reopened?

Thank you.

Gopal Doraiswamy



## Bob Bruner

---

**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 11:17 AM  
**To:** 'J Quinn'  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020; Cathleen A Russ  
**Subject:** RE: What happens IF TPL Millage is not passed?

Thank you for that feedback. We will clearly communicate what will happen if voters do not approve the new library millage. We have received several questions about this and other topics so we plan to update the website next week and incorporate this into future communications.

The language about the Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is confusing but it is required by state law. This is another area where I can provide more information. Approximately \$5,275 (less than 1%) will go to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in 2021. This is required by state law. State law required disbursement of the current library millage (approved in 2015) to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA). State law has changed since then so the City is able opt-out of the DDA and LDFA tax capture but not the BRA.

Thanks again and please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** J Quinn <quinnjf@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 11:02 AM  
**To:** Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troyp1.org>; Cathleen A Russ <C.Russ@troymi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: What happens IF TPL Millage is not passed?

Mr. Bruner, thank you very much for your response. That is what I inferred and feared.

In my opinion it would be beneficial to clearly state in your future TPL communications that if the new millage is not approved there is a strong likelihood that the library will be forced to close. The library is important to the citizens of Troy. That is demonstrated by the fact that many have voiced interest for some time now in the Library reopening for service every day. I imagine they would be VERY supportive of it not closing!

Again, in my opinion that is much more important than The "keeping up with the Jones" listing showing how our spending would rank compared to neighbors if the millage is passed, or how the cost compares to the cost of streaming services.

One other thing that I (and I expect other voters) am confused about is the meaning of and ramifications of the statement "State law also requires disbursement to the Troy Brownfield Redevelopment Authority" in the millage ballot question. It is not clear how that Authority is related to the Library and whether or not this means the funds will be shared between the Library and this entity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James Quinn



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**From:** Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** 'quinnjf@comcast.net' <quinnjf@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
**Subject:** RE: What happens IF TPL Millage is not passed?

Thank you for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Yes, the Library will likely close if the new library millage is not approved. The current 0.6805 mills dedicated library millage generates approximately \$3.5 million annually and it is unlikely the City could reduce General Fund spending to replace it. That is why the first dedicated millage was approved in 2011.

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Cathleen A Russ  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:43 PM  
**To:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: What happens IF TPL Millage is not passed?

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**From:** J Quinn <[quinnjf@comcast.net](mailto:quinnjf@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:28 PM  
**To:** [info@troypl.org](mailto:info@troypl.org)  
**Subject:** What happens IF TPL Millage is not passed?

All of the information you have distributed through email and the USPS clearly states what should happen if the millage is passed on Nov. 3. However, I find no mention of what happens if it doesn't. As I understand it the old millage assessment will not be continued. Does that mean the library will have to shut down?

Please clarify.

Thank you  
James Quinn



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 8:14 AM  
**To:** 'Glenjulie'  
**Cc:** Cathleen A Russ  
**Subject:** RE: questions about the millage

You're welcome! I'm glad it was helpful. I must also credit Library Director Cathy Russ for her input. We worked together to answer your questions.

Thanks again,

Bob Bruner

-----Original Message-----

From: Glenjulie <glenjulie@wowway.com>  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:34 PM  
To: Bob Bruner <Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov>  
Subject: RE: questions about the millage

Dear Mr. Bruner,

Thank you very much for the time you took to thoroughly answer each of our questions and for the links you suggested for further information. We were unaware that the millage would need to be increased anyway to maintain the 6-day service and perform building maintenance. Thank you for explaining the financial reasons behind this millage proposal. Your reasoning was helpful to understand why voting for the millage increase is essential.  
Thank you!

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Bruner  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 6:38 PM  
To: Glenjulie <glenjulie@wowway.com>  
Cc: Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org>; Andrew C Heuser <Andrew.Heuser@troymi.gov>  
Subject: RE: questions about the millage

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q1. Why in the advertising we received by mail (and see on the website) is it being stressed how much we will be paying (rank #6 from #17) instead of promoting the services you will offer? Why would we want to be higher ranked in how much we pay for library services as opposed to how many more benefits will be added?

A1. The information on the mailer and the website is intended to explain both the cost and the benefits of the new library millage. The benefits include restoring 7-day service, performing building maintenance, and implemented needed upgrades. Service was reduced from seven days a week (65 hours) to six days a week (55 hours) on July 1, 2010. More information about building maintenance and upgrades is included below (see A6).

Q2. When will the building be open again for patrons to do "grab and



go?" Among the Suburban Library Cooperative, 20 libraries are giving that service to its patrons. Only the Mt. Clemens library and Troy don't have that service, according to this website. Clinton Macomb Library also has that service. If the millage passes, will this be a service Troy residents will have?

A2: The Library is providing services via curbside pickup, with browsing assistance provided via phone from librarians, or via chat or email if you prefer. TPL's digital library is also open 24/7. The Library building is not currently open because the Library is experiencing an unprecedented staff shortage (over 50% in the circulation department, which handles checkouts, returns, library cards and curbside pickup; there are 6 part time staff members doing the work normally done by 14 part time staff members) and therefore does not have the staffing levels adequate to provide curbside service and be open to the public. Curbside service takes priority as it is the only way we are able to provide service to everyone: it is the only option available to those who cannot or do not wish to wear a mask, or who are uncomfortable coming into the building. We are working on filling the open positions, and as soon as we can safely open the building and provide curbside service, we will do so.

Q3. Why did the Council vote to increase the millage instead of keep it the same, especially in light of the higher percentage of citizens being unemployed because of COVID?

A3. The current library millage does not cover the full cost of operating or maintaining the Library. Fiscal year 2020-2021 budgeted revenues are \$3.7 million and expenditures are \$4.1 million. The \$400,000 shortfall will reduce the Library Fund balance to less than \$28,000. The Capital Projects Fund, not the Library Fund, funded approximately \$1.2 million for renovations and roof replacement in fiscal year 2019-2020.

Another \$228,000 of maintenance was deferred in fiscal year 2020-2021 due to lack of funds.

The library millage needed to increase just to maintain 6-day service and perform building maintenance. The City conducted a survey and hosted focus groups to collect public input on the costs and benefits of a new library millage of 0.9, 1.0, or 1.1 mills. The City Council approved ballot language including 1.1 mills based on that public input. Please visit the Library's Millage Information Page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php) if you would like to view survey results, focus group feedback, and watch City Council discussions.

Q4. What happens if it doesn't pass? Will the library remain at 6 days per week? Or close in June?

Q4. The current millage which funds library operations ends June 30, 2021 so the Library cannot remain open 6 days per week if the new millage is not approved. The Library will likely close if the new library millage is not approved. The current 0.6805 mills dedicated library millage generates approximately \$3.5 million annually and it is unlikely the City could reduce its annual General Fund spending to replace it. That is why the first dedicated millage was approved in 2011.

Q5. Will Troy consider paying for a special election to change the amount of the millage?

A5. City Council could consider holding a special election but Michigan election law limits those to May, August, and November. May might be an option but August or November would be too late. In any event, a special election would cost approximately \$100,000.

Q6. Please be specific about needed upgrades and building maintenance.

A6. Maintenance includes replacing the windows and repairing the elevator. Both are original equipment dating back to 1984. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems also need to be replaced.



Upgrades include furniture replacement. Most current furniture is original equipment dating back to 1971 and 1984. Other examples include providing study rooms, creating a dedicated teen area, and establishing a maker space, which are the upgrades most frequently requested by library patrons.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troy.mi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Bruner

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 2:45 PM

To: Glenjulie <[glenjulie@wowway.com](mailto:glenjulie@wowway.com)>

Cc: Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>; Andrew C Heuser <[Andrew.Heuser@troy.mi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Heuser@troy.mi.gov)>

Subject: RE: questions about the millage

Hi,

Thank you for your email. We received your questions and are working on answers. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew C Heuser

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:14 PM

To: Glenjulie <[glenjulie@wowway.com](mailto:glenjulie@wowway.com)>

Cc: Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>

Subject: Re: questions about the millage

Good afternoon Julie,

Thank you for your questions on the upcoming library millage. I've forwarded them on to our Library Director and the Assistant City Manager, who will respond to these.

Thank you!

Drew Heuser | Technology Librarian

510 W Big Beaver Rd

Troy, MI 48084

248.524.3542

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From: Glenjulie <[glenjulie@wowway.com](mailto:glenjulie@wowway.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:38 PM

To: Andrew C Heuser



Subject: questions about the millage

Thank you for holding the Town Hall on Oct. 1 and for entertaining these questions by email first:

1. Why in the advertising we received by mail (and see on the website) is it being stressed how much we will be paying (rank #6 from #17) instead of promoting the services you will offer? Why would we want to be higher ranked in how much we pay for library services as opposed to how many more benefits will be added? We'd rather see what the library will offer if we choose this higher millage?

2. When will the building be open again for patrons to do "grab and go?"

Among the Suburban Library Cooperative, 20 libraries are giving that service to its patrons. Only the Mt. Clemens library and Troy don't have that service, according to this website. Clinton Macomb Library also has that service. If the millage passes, will this be a service Troy residents will have?

<https://www.libcoop.net/wordpress/>

3. Why did the Council vote to increase the millage instead of keep it the same, especially in light of the higher percentage of citizens being unemployed because of COVID?

4. What happens if it doesn't pass? Will the library remain at 6 days per week? Or close in June?

5. Will Troy consider paying for a special election to change the amount of the millage?

6. Please be specific about needed upgrades and building maintenance.

Thank you so much.



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** Andrew C Heuser; phoebe white  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Townhall Questions

Thanks again for contacting the City regarding the new library millage.

Q: I understand the roof was leaking, how old is the roof? Does it need replacing?

A: The roof was replaced within the last year.

Q: Has anyone checked out the attic? Is there mold in the attic?

A: TPL does not have an attic.

Q: The library has a rather musty smell which could be both due to the leaking roof as well as the carpeting and possibly mold in the attic?

A: The Library is subject to water intrusion in its basement, the remedy to which has been the source of ongoing investigation and cost. TPL replaced the carpeting in the Youth Services area in January 2018 and in the rest of the Library in January 2019.

Q: Does the ventilation system need to be replaced or updated?

A: Yes! Replacing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems is one of the largest and most important building maintenance projects the new library millage would fund.

Q: Could TPL install a drive-up material return and automatic sortation system like Bloomfield Township Library?

A: The location of TPL on the Civic Center Campus is not conducive to installing a drive-up window. An automatic sortation system costs more than \$100,000, which has been cost-prohibitive during the last 10 years. It could be investigated and potentially implemented if the new library millage is approved by voters.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troypl.org/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Bob Bruner  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 12:44 PM  
**To:** Andrew C Heuser <Andrew.Heuser@troypl.org>; phoebe white <pwhitemt@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Townhall Questions

Hi,

Thank you for your email. We received your questions and are working on answers. Thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,



Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** Andrew C Heuser  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 9:36 AM  
**To:** phoebe white <[pwhitemt@gmail.com](mailto:pwhitemt@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Townhall Questions

Good morning Phoebe,

Thank you for your questions on the upcoming library millage. I've forwarded them on to our Library Director and the Assistant City Manager, who will respond to these.

Thank you!

**Drew Heuser | Technology Librarian**  
510 W Big Beaver Rd  
Troy, MI 48084  
248.524.3542

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**From:** phoebe white <[pwhitemt@gmail.com](mailto:pwhitemt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** Andrew C Heuser  
**Subject:** Townhall Questions

Thank you for this Townhall.

I understand the roof was leaking, how old is the roof? Does it need replacing?

Has anyone checked out the attic? Is there mold in the attic?

The library has a rather musty smell which could be both due to the leaking roof as well as the carpeting and possibly mold in the attic?

The carpeting holds allergens and soil. It is not healthy. The library team need to find out what is best for the health of the patrons.

Does the ventilation system need to be replaced or updated? There should be an air purifier in place.

I was against removing the homey carved wood counter and wood art piece that had a very meaningful verse. Big mistake to replace with the cheap gaudy blue Walmart looking counter with a yellow cream top that are not compatible colors!. Those old, yellowed cracks floors should have been replaced instead.

I want the library. I always vote for the library. I am a champion of the library.



Maybe AFTER they fix the roof, the air and the floors, they could create a drive up drop off that is automatic like BTWP Library. The items would be checked in automatically and the employees wouldn't have to go out in the snow.

I also like to use the Troy Library computers and printers and to browse through the stacks. And I think it is particularly valuable for the students to be able to use for school. And as a a place to study.



**Bob Bruner**

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**From:** laura <llweidle@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 6:15 PM  
**To:** Cathleen A Russ; Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** Re: Library opening

Dear Ms. Russ,

Thank you so much for your reply. It was clear and despite its length, concise. Thank you for mentioning so many of the variables and staffing issues that you have had to consider in working toward safely reopening the library. I now feel reassured that our Millage approval will indeed be used wisely and well. I will be voting yes as I have for all of the library mileage votes of the last 25 years.

I will be voting yes regardless of when the library will open because I now know of the efforts to do so and the roadblocks that have arisen. Thank you for always being such a great librarian for our facility and city. Like many I love all libraries, have used regularly since a child, and always took my own children regularly to the library. The library provides a doorway to learning, perspective across cultures and times, and even introspection as it makes so many written works available to anyone.

As one who has worked straight through through this pandemic at a local hospital I do understand the fears of many in regards to working in different public spaces. Our daughter is a middle school principal and has dealt with many of the fears of both teachers and parents, These are difficult times. There are those with certain risk factors that should not be working outside of the home. They may be among those who left their jobs. I pray the right people are able to apply and stay in the job. I hope that the city administration also gives its proper support and remains flexible and responsive to the changing situation and needs.

Looking forward to an eventual reopening when it is safe to do so. I for one will be happy to use self checkout whenever possible so as to further decrease unneeded interaction with staff.

Thank you so much for all you do as our librarian,

Laura Weidle

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**From:** Cathleen A Russ <C.Russ@troy.mi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 8:06 PM  
**To:** 'laura' <llweidle@hotmail.com>; Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Library opening

Dear Ms. Weidle,

Please forgive the long answer, but I thought your email and your questions warranted additional detail about the staffing situation in the Circulation department.



TPL had 3 open positions, across departments, at the time of quarantine; two of those positions were full time and one (in the Circulation department) was part time. When we were able to return to work in mid-June, we got to work on filling those open positions. However, at the same time, many library staff members opted not to return to work over concerns over working with the public. Seven staff members, in fact. We added those positions to the list of positions for which we need to hire. We posted the open positions and began interviewing as soon as the application deadline passed (keep in mind, please, that with 10 positions open, we had to prioritize and as always opted to prioritize public service, so had to identify interview times where we had adequate staff in some areas in order to pull other staff to conduct interviews).

We filled some of the open positions. When we fill open positions, we offer the candidate(s) the position. After they accept, they have to pass a background check and a drug screen/physical, so we can make sure we aren't hiring pedophiles, criminals, or someone on drugs. When we receive the results of those checks, the person is confirmed in the job offer. Then the person often has to give notice at their current position (usually 2 weeks) and then begins work @ TPL. No new employee, no matter how excellent, walks through the door fully trained and ready to go. We have to train them, and training staff on computer/detail-oriented jobs, such as those in the Circulation department, is a difficult thing to do in the age of COVID and social distancing.

In the midst of hiring some new staff members, we lost 5 more part time staff members to full time jobs at other organizations. Approximately 90% of all TPL staff is part time, and we frequently lose people to full time jobs. This set us back even more. We once again posted the open positions. We identified 6 candidates we wanted to interview, and asked them to take the required skills test, which involves testing to make sure that they are able to alphabetize and put numbers in correct order. Of the 6 we invited to take the test, only 2 actually took the test, and of the 2 who took the test, 1 person failed. I am sure you can appreciate that I do not want to hire someone who is not able to alphabetize or put numbers in order, because that does not bode well for that person's success in such a detail oriented job, nor does it bode well for TPL's customer service to our patrons. So, of the 6 candidates which we planned to interview, we were able to interview 1.

I agree with you that this is taking a long time. The bottom line is that right now, in the Circulation department, I have 6 trained part time staff members doing the work of 14. I suspect that any organization that lost over 50% of their labor force in one department would have to change the way they do things and cut back on their output. TPL is no different. Right now, I need to make sure that those 6 people do not burn out, get sick, or leave, because if they do, even our ability to provide curbside service will be limited.

We have hired five new staff members for the Circulation department. Three have started work and are in the midst of being trained. The other two have not started work yet as they had to give notice at their other jobs. We expect them to start work next week, and will commence training them immediately.

This leaves the Circulation department 3 (of 14) positions short. We have gone through all the applicants who originally applied and have hired candidates who are good fits. We plan to repost the position in order to gain new applicants and are working with HR on that.

We are not able to use volunteers because Michigan Privacy Laws prevent any public library from giving volunteers access to anything involving patron records. In short, I cannot allow a volunteer to check materials in, check materials out, pull holds, shelve holds or issue library cards. I can't have volunteers acting as runners for curbside pickup because of the liability issues we'd face if the volunteer was hit by a car in the parking lot, tripped and fell, etc.

I could go on, but I hope this conveys an idea of the challenges that we have faced. Please believe me when I say that the staff and I are doing the best we can, and we appreciate your patience, understanding and support. We'd like to be open as much as you would like us to be open. As soon as our staff numbers permit, TPL will open its doors. I hope to have an announcement for the public on that topic within the next week.

Sincerely,





**Cathleen Russ | Library Director**

510 W Big Beaver  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
248.524.3544



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**From:** laura <llweidle@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:27 PM

**To:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>

**Subject:** Fwd: Library opening

Hello, I have read this reply before . There is no date stated for opening of library . I have heard about the shortage of staff. However there are no jobs listed as open on the city of Troy site . I haven't been able to see any jobs listed on Indeed .com... a common site for job openings . There is however a job opening listed for associate marketing position . It is great to market our library... we have one of the best libraries around in one of the best cities you could live in . However said library is still not open and there seems to be no assurance about what is being done to hire people . It is stated that there is an unprecedented shortage of workers yet there is also an unprecedented amount of people out of work . Realizing that the federal pandemic aid had disincentivized working for a while.. since the unemployment bonus has been decreased to 300/ week there is the possibility that more people may be willing to return to work. If not there are other places to advertise that these positions are open and that the library will not be opened until those positions are filled . .. including the library web site and high school, university web sites . I am a staunch supporter of our library and our wonderful city . However the library's lack of response since the beginning of July to move as quickly toward reopening as possible has been very disappointing . It is hard to think that a virtual library requires the same mileage as an open library . Please address these issues for our community .. we need more staff and less marketing at this time . Thank you for your time .

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2020, at 3:22 PM, Bob Bruner <[Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov](mailto:Bob.Bruner@troymi.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the City regarding the Library.

Q. When will the Library building reopen to patrons?

A: TPL librarians are providing remote browsing assistance via phone, email, and chat. Curbside pickup service is currently being provided five days (43 hours) a week and TPL's digital library is open 24/7. The building is not open to the public because TPL is currently experiencing an unprecedented staff shortage. More than 50% of the positions in the circulation department are currently vacant. These are the people who issue library cards and process checkouts, returns, and curbside pickup service. There are currently six (6) part-time staff members doing the work normally done by 14 part-



time staff members. Accordingly, we do not have adequate staff to provide both curbside pickup service and open the building to the public. Providing curbside pickup service is a higher priority because it is the only way we can serve everyone, including patrons who cannot or do not wish to wear a mask, and those who are uncomfortable coming into the building. We are working to fill the open positions as soon as possible and will reopen the building to the public as soon as we can safely do so.

I hope this helps. If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypil.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypil.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troymi.gov/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

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**From:** laura <[llweidle@hotmail.com](mailto:llweidle@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 1:29 PM

**To:** Library Decision 2020 <[LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org](mailto:LibraryDecision2020@troypil.org)>

**Subject:** Library opening

Curious as to when the library will open. Rochester library has been open since early July.



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Cathleen A Russ  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 3:28 PM  
**To:** Susana Wong; Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Volunteers and phase three of reopening library limited

Hi Susana,

Thanks for coming to the first Town Hall meeting! The meeting tomorrow will be the same as the one you attended, so you are not missing any new information. I have answered your questions below in blue.

Could Volunteers return to the library building when we have 7-day opening? **If voters approve the millage and TPL is able to return to 7-day service, we will be even busier, so yes! We will still need volunteers.**

When is the phase three reopening (Grab and Go, Browsing, and Computer Appointments)?  
**I don't have the answer to that question right now. I am sorry, Susana. We're working on it.**

Since the Steamers Cafe closed down in 2008, Cup and Chaucer Cafe has opened in 2009 with vending machines, study tables, and microwave when the millage passes. Will the cafeteria open in phase four?

**The cafeteria probably will not open until there is a vaccine and it is safe for people to gather again. We are working on Phase Three right now. I will be better able to answer questions about Phase Four as we get closer to that.**

Thanks for your questions! Hope you are doing well!

Cathy



**Cathleen Russ | Library Director**

510 W Big Beaver  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
248.524.3544



**From:** Susana Wong <susanawong88@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** Library Decision 2020 <LibraryDecision2020@troypl.org>  
**Subject:** Volunteers and phase three of reopening library limited

Hi Cathy and Bob,

I will not be able to do again for town hall meeting tomorrow and did this. Here are the questions that you can answer:

Could Volunteers return to the library building when we have 7-day opening?

When is the phase three reopening (Grab and Go, Browsing, and Computer Appointments)?

Since the Steamers Cafe closed down in 2008, Cup and Chaucer Cafe has opened in 2009 with vending machines, study tables, and microwave when the millage passes. Will the cafeteria open in phase four?



Thanks,  
Susana Wong



## Bob Bruner

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**From:** Cathleen A Russ  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 9:44 AM  
**To:** evalinks@aol.com  
**Cc:** Library Decision 2020  
**Subject:** RE: Upcoming Virtual Event with Author Madeline Miller & New Curbside Pickup System

Dear Ms. Veller,

I am sorry to hear of your disappointment in the Troy Public Library.

Although the building is closed to the public, the Library is providing service. TPL librarians are providing remote browsing assistance via phone, email, and chat. Curbside pickup service is currently being provided five days (43 hours) a week and TPL's digital library is open 24/7.

The building is not open to the public because TPL is currently experiencing an unprecedented staff shortage. More than 50% of the positions in the circulation department are currently vacant. These are the people who issue library cards and process checkouts, returns, and curbside pickup service. There are currently six (6) part-time staff members doing the work normally done by 14 part-time staff members. Accordingly, we do not have adequate staff to provide both curbside pickup service and open the building to the public. Providing curbside pickup service is a higher priority because it is the only way we can serve everyone, including patrons who cannot or do not wish to wear a mask, and those who are uncomfortable coming into the building. We are working to fill the open positions as soon as possible and will reopen the building to the public as soon as we can safely do so.

This is a short-term problem, which will eventually be resolved. Troy Public Library's current millage, which funds all library operations, expires on June 30, 2021, and unless that funding is replaced, which is what the library millage proposal is designed to do, TPL will cease all operations at some point prior to June 30, 2021.

If you have not already, I encourage you to visit the Library millage page at [https://troypl.org/services/2020\\_millage.php](https://troypl.org/services/2020_millage.php). I also highly recommend you use the Library Millage Estimator at <http://apps.troypl.org/LibraryMillageEstimator>. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Russ



**Cathleen Russ | Library Director**

510 W Big Beaver  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
248.524.3544



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**From:** EVA VELLER <[evalinks@aol.com](mailto:evalinks@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** [info@troypl.org](mailto:info@troypl.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Upcoming Virtual Event with Author Madeline Miller & New Curbside Pickup System

Just to let you know, I am very disappointed in the Troy Library.  
For the first time ever, I will vote against the proposal in November.



Why can Birmingham Library manage to be open and not Troy?

Sad state of add affairs...

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2020, at 3:02 PM, Troy Public Library <[info@troypl.org](mailto:info@troypl.org)> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



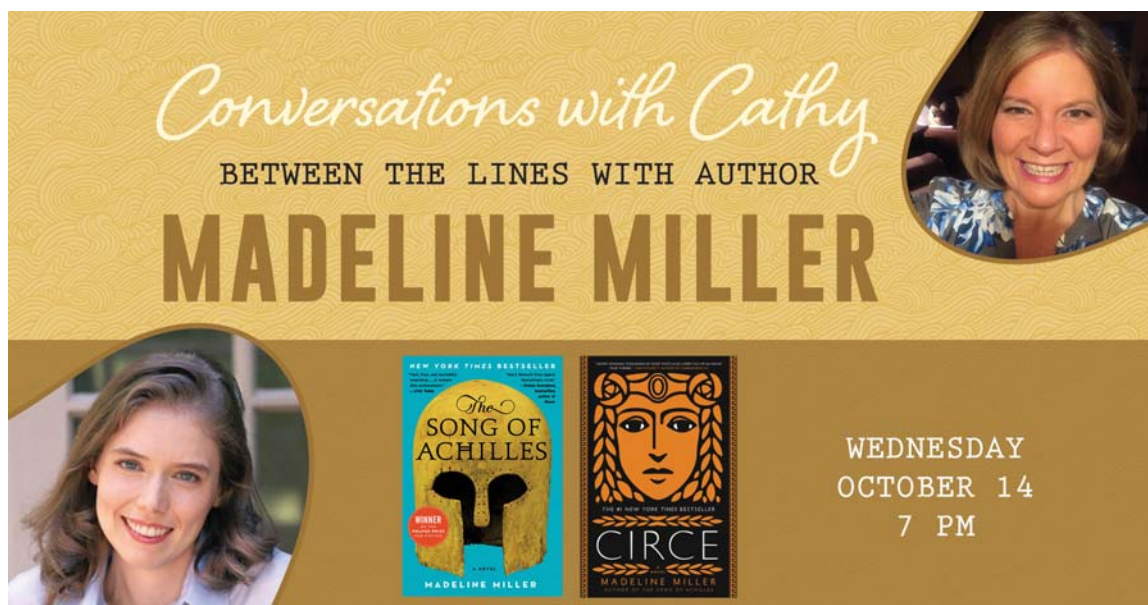


never stop learning

troy public library



## Upcoming Virtual Event with Author Madeline Miller & New Curbside Pickup System



### Upcoming Virtual Event: Conversations with Cathy, Between the Lines with Author Madeline Miller

Wednesday, October 14 | 7 pm

Click [HERE](#) or the button below to register and reserve your virtual seat!



Madeline Miller grew up in New York City and Philadelphia. She attended Brown University, where she earned her BA and MA in Classics. She has taught and tutored Latin, Greek, and Shakespeare to high school students for over 15 years.

*The Song of Achilles*, her first novel, was awarded the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction and was a *New York Times* Bestseller. Her second novel, *Circe*, was an instant number 1 *New York Times* bestseller, and won the Indies Choice Best Adult Fiction of the Year Award and the Indies Choice Best Audiobook of the Year Award. *Circe* also won an American Library Association Alex Award (adult books of special interest to teen readers). It is **currently being adapted for a series with HBO Max**.

Miller's novels have been translated into over twenty-five languages including Dutch, Mandarin, Japanese, Turkish, Arabic and Greek, and her essays have appeared in a number of publications including the *Guardian*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Telegraph*, *Lapham's Quarterly* and NPR.org. She currently lives outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**

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**New Curbside Pickup Software & System**



We are using a new software to schedule Curbside Pickup appointments!

As soon as you get a notice saying that your hold is ready, [click here](#) to schedule your pickup. It's quick, easy, and streamlined! This link and information is also posted in our [Curbside Pickup](#) section for future reference.



A few things to keep in mind:

- You will need your library barcode and PIN handy. If you've forgotten your PIN and need to reset it, please click [here](#).
- To make an appointment, you must have an item with a "Held" status on your TPL account.
- To pick up materials for family members, please put their library barcode numbers in the "Notes to Library Staff" field.
- Please make sure your scheduled appointment falls before your hold's expiration date. You can check your hold's expiration date by [logging in to your TPL account](#).

If you have questions or need help making your appointment, please give us a call at 248.524.3534.

## News & Announcements



## TPL Millage Town Hall Meeting Tomorrow



Attend Troy's next virtual TPL Millage Town Hall Meeting tomorrow evening to **learn about the Troy Public Library millage question on the November 3, 2020 ballot**. Zoom registration form is linked on the date below:

– **Thursday, Oct 1, 2020 at 7 pm**

Please Note: *This Town Hall Meeting is intended for Troy residents and contains the same agenda items as the September 23, 2020 Town Hall Meeting.*

## Saturday Service



Did you hear the news? We are now offering **Saturday service!** Saturday services include:

- Curbside Pickup
- Walk-Up Dropbox Returns
- Phone Reference

Saturday service hours are 10 am–5 pm.

*Weekday service hours and days remain the same.*

## Troy City Clerk's Office Voting Resources





The Clerk's Office is working hard on this year's Presidential Election! They want to ensure everyone can exercise their right to VOTE. Visit their [elections page](#) for special events, important dates, and voting-related forms. Follow City of Troy on [Facebook](#) or [Nextdoor](#) for updates.

*Have Questions? Call 248.524.3316.*

## Friends of the Troy Public Library

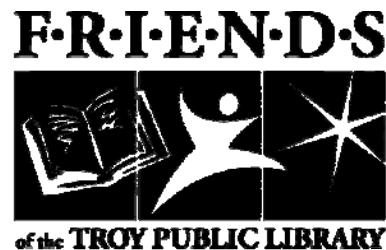
### Friends in Action: Promoting and Supporting the TPL

The mission of the Friends of the Troy Public Library has always been to promote and support the library, and that means even in the midst of a pandemic! While our shops have been closed and **we cannot accept donations**, we are still hard at work providing support for the programs and initiatives of the Library.

The Friends are proud to sponsor the new [Storybook Trail](#) to be installed at Raintree Park, and we cannot wait to walk through the pages of an amazing children's picture book. We are thrilled to be able to help bring the renowned author, Madeline Miller, to the homes of TPL patrons as she participates in a [Conversations with Cathy Zoom](#) virtual event.



These activities are possible with the revenue we've made from our shops, from memberships, and from donations. You can be a part of the legacy of the Friends and the TPL by joining us! **Consider becoming a member or donating to our mission today!** We can never have too many Friends!



## Upcoming Virtual Events

Adult

Teen

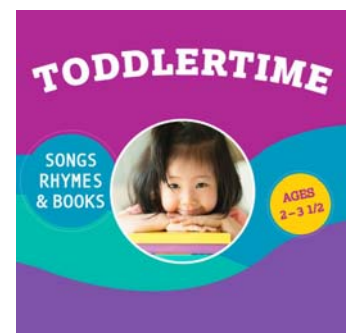
Youth



**Getting The Garden Ready For Winter**  
**TONIGHT! Wed, Sep 30, 7–8 pm**  
Master gardener Lori Smith



**Teen Murder Mystery Night**  
**Sat, Oct 24, 6–7 pm, Ages 13–18**  
A murder mystery night for



**Toddlertime**  
**Tue, Oct 6, 10:30–11 am, 24–42 Months**  
Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun!



is back to help us prepare the garden for winter. She has been a member of the St. Clair Shores Yardeners Groups since 2011, where she volunteers in the Selensky Green Farmhouse gardens. [Register Here](#)

### **A Virtual Tour of Detroit: Past, Present, and Future**

**Thu, Oct 1, 6–7 pm**

Join Jon Chezick, owner of Urb Appeal Tours, for a virtual tour of Detroit. He will be sharing photos, facts, and stories about Detroit's complex past, exciting present, and unlimited future. [Register Here](#)

### **World War II in the Mediterranean: The Fighting in Sicily and Italy with Steve Mrozek**

**Tue, Oct 6, 6:30–8 pm**

Referred to as the “soft under belly of Europe” by Churchill, the fighting on Sicily and in Italy proved to be some of the fiercest battles during WWII. This program will take a close look at the operations in the Mediterranean and explain what happened and why. [Register Here](#)

### **Cutting the Cord: Alternatives to Cable TV**

**Mon, Oct 12, 1–2 pm**

Have you been considering canceling your cable television package but aren't sure how to access your favorite content without it? This program will provide an overview of some of the most popular

teens! A body has been found and it is clear that something fishy is going on. Teens are encouraged to use their sleuthing skills by interviewing suspects and analyzing the clues to get down to the bottom of this baffling mystery. [Register Here](#)

### **Teen Introduction to Python Programming**

**Wed, Nov 4, 6–8 pm,**

**Grades 6–12**

Python is one of the fastest growing coding languages of many to not only build web applications but also to use in data analytics and data science. Join us for this introductory workshop. [Register Here](#)

### **Family FAFSA Workshop**

**Wed, Nov 11, 6–7 pm, All Ages**

Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA October 1 or as soon as possible thereafter, beginning in their senior year of high school. Come to this FAFSA workshop to learn about completing and submitting FAFSA.

[Register Here](#)

### **Teen Winter Craft Activity**

**Sat, Dec 5, All Day, All Ages**

Want to make some winter themed crafts? Join us for a virtual tutorial session from the Teen Advisory Board YouTube channel. Learn how to make DIY ornaments from everyday household items that everyone can do from home easily. [Register Here](#)

Registration is for the entire 3-week session, and opens 1 week before the first storytime of the session. [Register Here](#)

### **Preschool Storytime**

**Wed, Oct 7, 10:30–11 am, Ages 3–5**

Stories, songs and rhymes for preschoolers.

Registration applies to the entire three-week session, and begins 1 week before the session starts. [Register Here](#)

### **Bouncing Babies**

**Thu, Oct 8, 10:30–11 am, 0–18 Months**

Stories, rhymes, bounces and songs for the littlest ones and their caregivers. Registration applies to the entire three-week session, and begins 1 weeks before the session starts. [Register Here](#)

### **Autumn Bingo**

**Wed, Oct 14, 5–5:45 pm, Ages 8–12**

Join us for an autumn themed game of Bingo! Participants will be sent a link for a fully interactive online bingo card, no printing necessary. Get a bingo and win a digital badge. [Register Here](#)

### **Preschool Storybook Craft**

**Mon, Oct 19, 6–6:45 pm, Ages 3–5**

Preschoolers will create their own monster crown after a brief story 'Monster Party' by Annie Bach! [Register Here](#)



and user-friendly cable  
alternatives. [Register Here](#)

## Connect



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Troy, MI 48084

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