

Focusing on our Future

preserving our past



Why should the library expand?

Trustees are charged with providing for the library's future. Since the last expansion project was undertaken 15 years ago, the library has grown and is once again nearing capacity, using 92 percent of its shelf space.

A recent community survey shows residents want more books and movies, programs and technology from their library.

Why now?

A bond issued in 1992 for the last expansion is expected to be paid off this year. That clears the way for a new bond issue, without costing taxpayers any more than they are currently paying for the present bond.

Trustees already have \$2 million set aside for the building project.

In 2002, trustees purchased property just east of the library. That property, a used car dealership, has become expensive to operate and is now in need of major repairs.

An architectural study done last year showed it would be more cost effective to raze the building than try to repair it.

What about the operating levy?

Trustees are also seeking to replace an existing 1-mill continuing operating levy that voters approved in 1992.

Replacing the levy means it would be collected at today's real estate values and will include all new valuations and new properties within the Vermilion school district.

How much will this cost me?

If approved, the library expansion project would cost a **total of about \$15 more a year** (per \$100,000 of home value).

How much am I paying now?

Residents are currently paying around \$16 a year (per \$100,000 of home value) for the **operating levy**. A replacement levy would cost around \$31 a year (per \$100,000 of home value).

The replacement levy would generate about \$436,000 a year.

The current **bond**, at a rate of .5 mill, is costing residents about \$14 a year (per \$100,000 of home value). The new bond, if approved, would cost about the same — \$14.

The new bond would be issued at .5 mill

It's been 15 years since trustees have gone to the voters.

They're asking for just \$15 more to provide for the future.

for a period of 28 years. It would generate about \$3.5 million.

What kind of expansion?

Plans include replacing the annex (the old car dealership) with a new, safe, energy-efficient addition to the main library building to the east.

Trustees are committed to preserving the classic, original entrance that has been a landmark in Vermilion since 1958.

In a series of meetings before the November vote, the public will have the opportunity to preview renderings of the addition.

What will the bigger building mean to me?

Trustees plan to:

- improve and expand public meeting space available to local groups and residents
- add more books, movies and services
- expand computer access
- provide a better space for youth
- create quiet spaces for adults

How much of the existing library will change?

Trustees are determined to make the best use of the public's money, and their goal is to maintain as much of the existing structure and interior as possible.

Doesn't the library already get funding from the state and from the Ritter estate?

The library receives about half of its annual budget, about \$600,000, from the state. Five years ago, the level of this funding was frozen and has not increased since.

The library has been receiving about one-quarter of its budget from the operating levy, currently about \$280,000. This income has supplemented the state funding and made it possible for the library to provide all the services and materials it offers. A replacement operating levy would bring in about \$436,000.

The library also receives about \$53,000, or 5 percent of its income, from the interest generated by the Ritter estate.

You Now Pay (per \$100,000 of home value)

<u>Bond</u>	<u>Operating Levy</u>	
approx. \$14	+ approx. \$16	= \$30

If both issues are approved:

You Would Pay (per \$100,000)

<u>Bond</u>	<u>Operating Levy</u>	
approx. \$14	+ approx. \$31	= \$45

a total increase of about \$15

Ritter Public Library asked for voter support for the first and only time in 1992...

... and hasn't been back on the ballot since.

Current Library Income

State funding	\$600,000	52%
Operating levy	\$280,000	25%
Other	\$200,000	18%
Ritter fund	\$53,000	5%
Total	\$1,132,000	

Trustees

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Rick Van Den Bossche, vice president

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