


LIBRARY MILL LEVY

FACT SHEET




After years of hearing from the community about wanting more services, improving programming, and increasing hours, in 2023, the Great Falls Public Library listened and put a question to the voters about what it would take for the Library to meet their needs. The voters were clear in their support of the Library. They understood that a thriving library is critical for a well-connected community and voted to pass the levy even under tough economic times.

Promises Delivered

In our campaign to pass a levy, we made promises to voters and our community about what we would do with these valuable resources, and we are delivering on them.

- We've already improved access by making Library parking free.
- We are providing more educational programming and providing access to more digital resources—including eBooks, language resources, and FREE online classes for job seekers and local business owners.
- The Library is now open seven days a week, and the book mobile provides service six days a week.
- We restarted our homebound service for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- We are providing more educational programming for children and families.



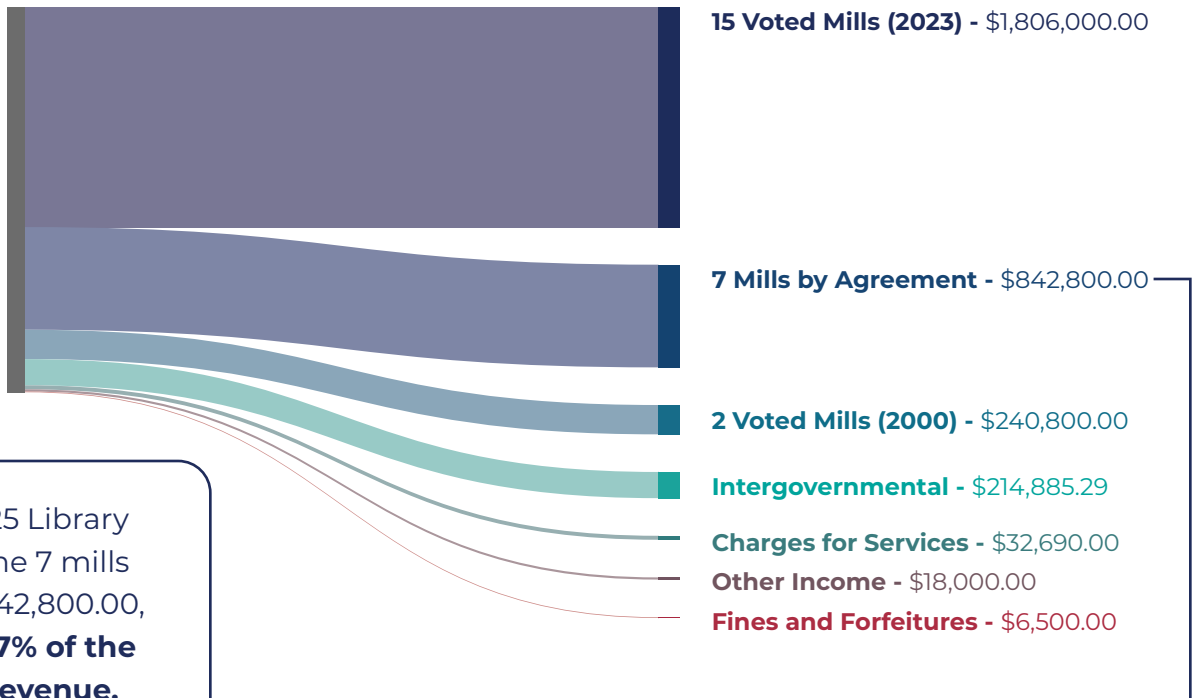
The Library has a **legal and moral obligation** to follow the will of the voters and provide these essential services.

Paris and Valeria Gibson created the first library in Great Falls when they founded our city. For 130 years, the City of Great Falls has provided funding for the Library because our community understands the importance of literacy and access to information. Last year, we worked with the Commission to put a levy before the voters that would create enough revenue to hire new staff to provide expanded library services. That plan included the additional 15 mills and continued funding from the City at 7 mills. It also called for the existing Library's \$350,000 general fund subsidy to be reallocated to support other City priorities.

If the Commission goes back on its commitment to continue City financial support of the Library, it will be negating what the voters wanted and going against the will of the people.

The Library must keep our promises and make critical investments in the future of our city.

**Anticipated
FY2025
Revenue**
\$3.16M



In the FY25 Library budget, the 7 mills provide \$842,800.00, which is **27% of the budget revenue.**

<p>Public Safety Levy Ask</p>	<p>103.75 mills per year to raise approximately \$13,675,910.</p> <p>The estimated FY2025 revenue from the Library's 7 mills by agreement is \$842,800, less than 6% of the funds requested in the Public Safety Levy.</p>
<p>Library Levy Ask</p>	<p>15 mills per year to raise approximately \$1,594,500.</p> <p>With the increase in property values, in FY2024, the 15 mills raised \$1,889,670, which is \$211,543 more revenue than initially estimated. Library expenses also increased significantly from the original estimates.</p>