

Putting **MEANING** to the Numbers

Getting to a **reasonable compromise**

The Library made promises to our community when the voters passed the 2023 Library Levy by 52%. Losing any mills will impact the Great Falls Public Library's ability to fulfill promises made.

Currently, the Library is discussing two options.

1

The Library's proposal to permanently lose 2.5 mills. Giving back over \$301,000 annually to support other city priorities.

-or-

2

The City's proposal to take 3.5 mills for two years and then take all 7 mills permanently. Costing the Library \$421,400 and then \$842,800 yearly.

The Library Renegotiation Committee has been working in good faith for the past five months, knowing that the City of Great Falls is facing some budget shortfalls.

The Library knows that 2.5 mills will be a sacrifice to sustain services, but it is the most reasonable solution under the circumstances. Having 3.5 and then 7 mills taken and absorbed into the general city budget will have severe consequences, including layoffs, reduced hours, and reduced or eliminated services—all clearly in opposition to the voters' will.

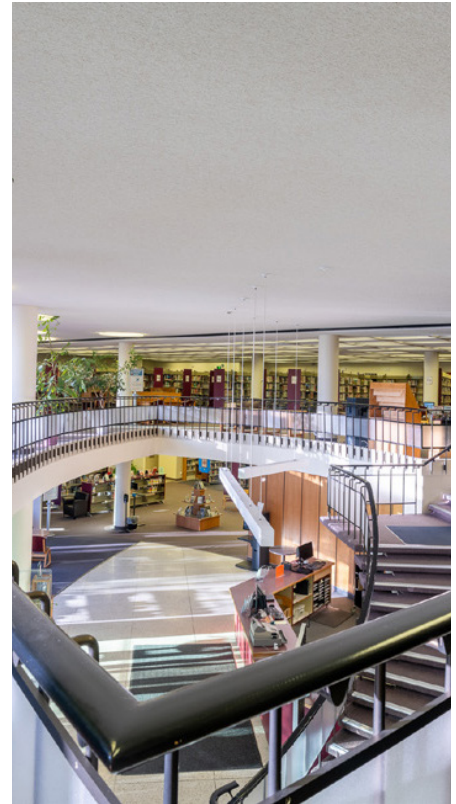
This document details the impact of each level of lost mills.

Current Approved Library Budget

WITH NO CHANGES

This budget was approved and follows through on the Library's commitment to the public during the mill levy effort in 2023. It allowed the Library to:

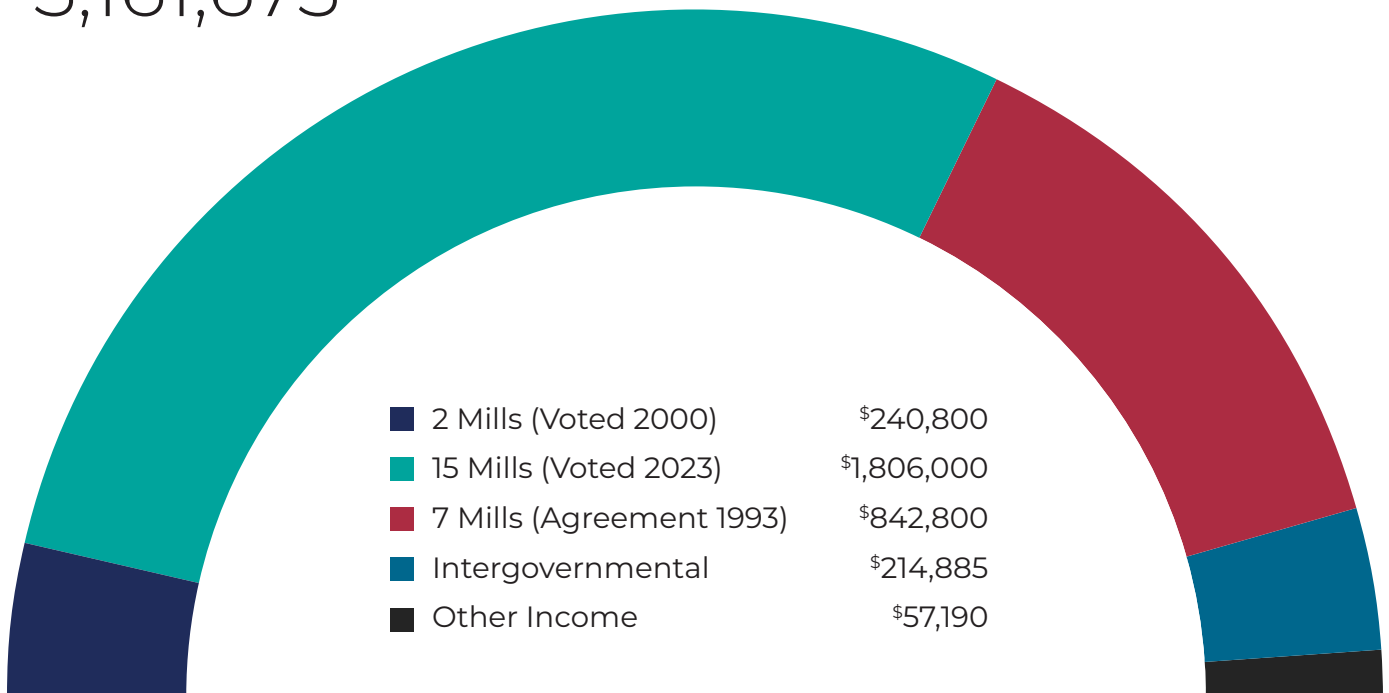
- Provide more educational programming and access to more digital resources—including eBooks, language resources, and FREE online classes for job seekers and local business owners.
- Expand hours to be open seven days a week and provide Book Mobile service six days a week.
- Provide free parking and improve Library safety.
- Restart homebound service for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.
- Expand educational programming for children and families.



Great Falls Public Library's Current Budget

Fulfilling the promises made to the community.

FY2025 Revenue
\$3,161,675



Library Budget Without 2.5 Mills

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The loss of 2.5 mills will cost the Library \$301,000 of its budget.

This will delay the implementation of some important items that will need to be addressed in future budgets. However, the Library will be able to maintain most of its promises to the Great Falls community when they voted to pass the levy, including expanded hours, free parking, homebound service, and expanded education programming. The impacts of the loss of these mills include:

- Delay in updating the disaster response plan.
- Delay in building repairs and maintenance.
- Reduce staff training.

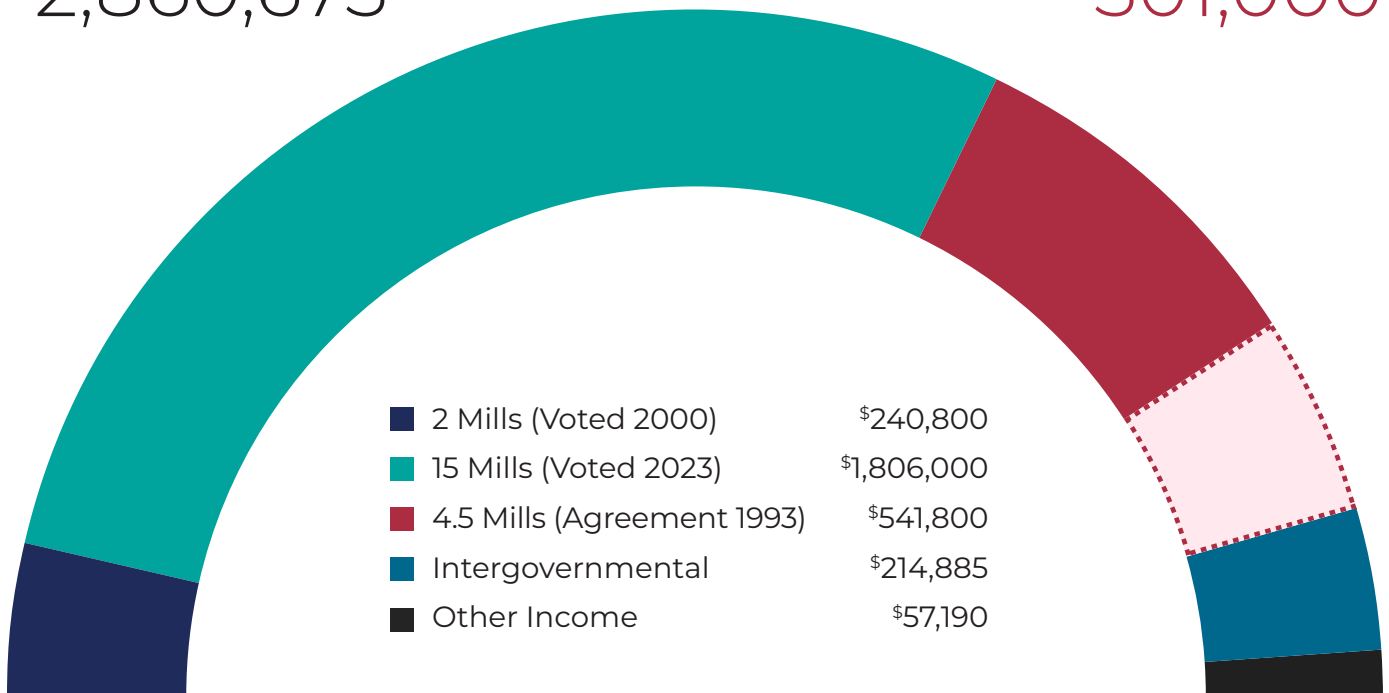


Library’s Budget if the City accepts the Library Proposal to give back 2.5 Mills

Prudent compromise to keep promises and assist the City by providing \$301,000 for other priorities

FY2025 Revenue (-2.5 Mills)
\$2,860,675

Revenue Lost
-\$301,000



Library Budget Without 3.5 Mills

STEP ONE OF THE CITY'S PROPOSED SOLUTION.

The loss of 3.5 mills will cost the Library \$421,400 of its budget.

This will delay the implementation of some important items, cause job losses, and cut services and programming. The community will feel these impacts, and it will begin to undo the excellent work promised with the passage of the mill levy in 2023. The impacts could include:

- All of the delays and reductions from 2.5 mills AND up to half of the following:
- Cut to youth services staff, reducing early literacy outreach, school-age programming, and college and life preparedness for teens. (\$60,000)
- Stop or cap Homebound Service and reduce Book Mobile Service. (\$54,000)
- Close one day a week and cutting public services staff. (\$46,000)
- Reduce IT staff, sacrificing training and support for the public, efficiency, and security. (\$82,000)
- Cut both outreach and programming staff, reducing educational programming and community partnerships. (\$130,000)
- Reduce access to eBooks/eAudiobooks. (\$16,000)

Library's Budget if the City Takes Back 3.5 Mills

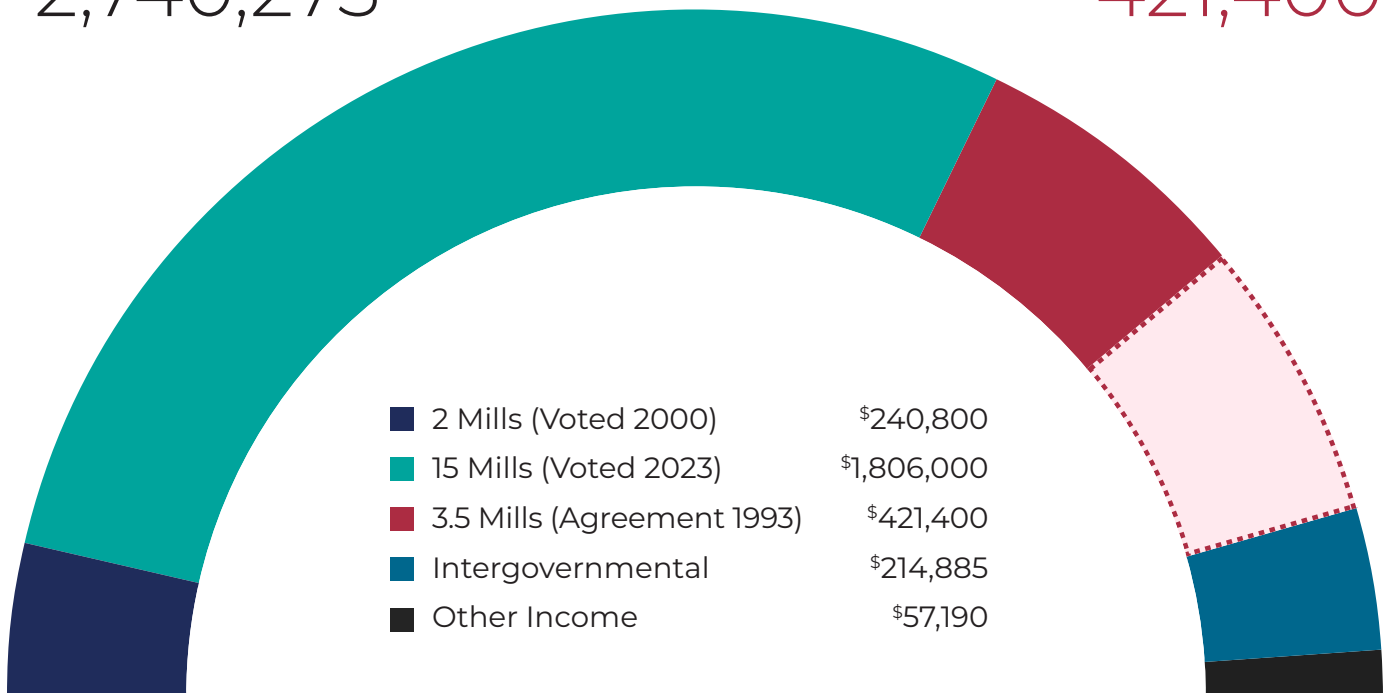
Cuts of \$421,400 will cause staff layoffs and program cuts.

FY2025 Revenue (-3.5 Mills)

\$2,740,275

Revenue Lost

-\$421,400



Library Budget Without 7 Mills

STEP TWO OF THE CITY'S PROPOSED SOLUTION - If the City takes away the 7 mills, then almost half of the funds the voters approved for the Library less than a year ago will go to other City expenses.

The loss of 7 mills will cost the Library \$842,800, which is 27% of its budget.

It will force the Library to lay off up to eight staff members and cause severe cuts to services and programming. This is the opposite of what the community voted for in 2023. The impacts WILL include:

- All of the delays and reductions from 2.5 mills AND:
- Cut two safety specialists, increasing the demand for law enforcement assistance. (\$140,000)
- Cut to youth services staff, reducing early literacy outreach, school-age programming, and college and life preparedness for teens. (\$60,000)
- Stop or cap Homebound Service and reduce Book Mobile Service. (\$54,000)
- Close two days a week and cut public services staff. (\$92,000)
- Reduce IT staff, sacrificing training and support for the public, efficiency, and security. (\$82,000)
- Cut both outreach and programming staff, reducing educational programming and community partnerships. (\$130,000)
- Reduce access to eBooks/eAudiobooks. (\$16,000)

Library's Budget if the City Takes Back 7 Mills

Losing half of the revenue from the mill levy will result in significant staff cuts and program and services loss.

FY2025 Revenue (-7 Mills)

\$2,318,875

Revenue Lost

-\$842,800

